

The Beacon - February 14, 2017



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Volume 70 Issue 11

THE BEACON

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.



BACCHUS sponsors "Sexual Jeopardy"

Full story on pages 12 and 13

The Beacon/Jesse Chalnack

News

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

Beacon Briefs

Faculty Presentations Requested for VIP Day

The Wilkes University Admissions Office is requesting a few more faculty mini classes for the Admissions VIP Day on March 18. There are currently 27 presentations and, ideally, there will be a total of 40 mini classes offered to the prospective fall 2017 incoming class. Any faculty who may be interested in presenting a 35 - 45 minute class session during VIP Day is encouraged to email admissionsopenhouse@wilkes.edu.

The email should include the presentation title along with a brief description and a desired classroom, if preferred. If you are able to present, please respond by Feb. 14. Online registration will open on Feb. 15. VIP Day is a great opportunity for fall 2017 accepted freshman and transfer students to experience class sessions within their chosen major, meet with staff and faculty and explore campus as a Wilkes student.

If you have any questions, please contact the Admissions office at admissionsopenhouse@wilkes.edu or 570-408-4400.

Memorial Service for Brianna Smarkusky

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Brianna Smarkusky will be held on Feb. 16 at 11:15 a.m. in the Henry Student Center Ballroom. The program will include an opportunity for members of the Wilkes University community to share reflections about Brianna. Please contact Kristin Osipower, Coordinator of Campus Interfaith, if you have any questions. Her office is located on the second floor of the Henry Student Center. She can be reached at extension 5904.

Mentoring Project Funding Grant Applications

Information regarding Mentoring Project Fund grants for the 2017-2018 academic year can be found online at <http://wilkes.edu/about-wilkes/university-committees/mentoring-committee/funding-requests.aspx/> under the title Mentoring Project Funding for 2017-2018.

Applications are due to the Mentoring Committee on March 14. The Committee's goal is to complete its review of applications by April 3. Members of the Mentoring Committee are Paul Adams, Ajay Bommarreddy, Janet Frascella, Woojun Lee, Paul Reinert, Debbie Tindell and Brian Whitman.

Wilkes University Student Government notes

Staff Report

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

The Psychology Club came in for week 2 of 2 for a fund request for their trip to the Eastern Psychological Association conference in March. The conference provides networking, graduate school talks, and the most groundbreaking research. In total, the group requested \$1,296.50 for registration, parking, tolls and hotel. The motion on the table stood at \$732 for parking and registration. The motion passed, 28-1-1.

•The Geo-Explore Club came in for week 1 of 2 for a fund request for their spring break trip to California. Thirteen students and two advisers will be in attendance. More than half of this trip will be coming out of the students' pockets with the total cost at \$1,000.32 per person. For the educational trip, the group will be visiting several national parks and learning about the geology of those parks, as well as preserving them and learning about the biology of those communities. The group is requesting \$200 per student for 13 students for a total of \$2,600. The board will vote next week.

The Vagina Monologues representative came in for a non-club fund request in week 2 of 2. The performance, which took place on Feb. 10 and 11, raises awareness to women's health, reproductive rights and violence

against women. The group requested \$1,000 and was granted with the motion passing 29-0-1.

Adventures in Science representatives came in for their week 2 of 2 non-club fund request. This year 248 students from Berwick school district will be attending the April 28 event hosted by various groups on campus. The representatives requested \$2,800 to cover drawstring bags, and some of the shirts for faculty, staff and student volunteers. The board voted with the motion of allocating \$3,590 for everything the group requested plus goggles and total shirt cost. That motion did not pass with a vote of 11-17-0. A new motion was put on the table for \$2,800 for bags and shirts. The new motion passed 25-3-2.

APhA came in for week 1 of 2 for their non-club fund request. They will be attending the APhA annual conference in San Francisco, CA. This conference will have leadership training series, roundtables, sessions on opioid use and misuse, presentations, competitions and networking. The total fund request is for requesting \$8,000 to cover hotel, flights, and registration costs for the 11 undergraduates attending. The board will vote next week.

WAE came in for their week 1 of 2 non-club fund request. Over spring break, the group will be travelling to the Grand Canyon. The trip will be 4,500 miles round trip with 7

stops along the way. Their total request is for \$3,200 for transportation, gas, camping, park pass and equipment. The board will vote next week.

The Spring Fling budget was presented in week 2 of 2. The dance will be held on March 24 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Woodlands. Ticket sales start Feb. 27. This year's theme is "Whispers of the Sea". The motion on the table was \$19,811.00 with stipulation that unused funds comes back to SG. The motion passed, 18-7-5. In part two of the motion, one member motioned to increase the price of tickets to \$10 a person. The motion did not pass with a vote of 7-20-3.

Capital Projects also presented in its week 2 of 2. The total request was for \$30,223.00 for equipment for the Marts Gym. With much discussion on the allocation of funding for other university projects, the board voted on the motion of \$30,223 which passed, 24-2-4.

The treasurer's report stands as follows: All College: \$35,078.82, General Funds: \$17,423.03, Conference: \$5,000, Spirit: \$699.40 with a Student Government total of \$58,201.25.



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Norovirus takes Wilkes by stomach: Spread the word, not the germs

By Amanda Bialek
Asst. LAE Editor

A highly contagious virus is affecting millions of people across the country this winter season. The norovirus causes an infectious disease, acute gastroenteritis, which is causing some schools and companies to close.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the virus can affect anyone. There are 19 to 21 million cases of acute gastroenteritis in the United States each year. "It only takes a very small amount of norovirus particles (fewer than 100) to make you sick," reads their website.

The norovirus spreads quickly, easily and in multiple ways. Individuals can contract the disease by having direct contact with an infected person, sharing utensils or cups and consuming contaminated food or drinks.

Norovirus can remain on surfaces and objects for a significant amount of time and infect people for days or weeks, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The virus can also survive certain disinfectants making it very difficult to get rid of.

"It is important to keep any area where food is consumed or prepared clean with a Clorox-based cleaner, since many cleaning products do not kill the norovirus," said pharmacy student Felicia Snyder.

The common symptoms include nausea, stomach pain, diarrhea and throwing up. Individuals may also experience fever, headache or body aches. On average, a person typically develops symptoms 12 to 48 hours after exposure to the norovirus.

According to Health and Wellness Services, there have been approximately 10 suspected cases of norovirus on the Wilkes University campus so far.

Snyder said many of her friends and co-workers have taken some days off from school or work due to the norovirus.

"I am concerned for everyone on campus because viruses such as this can spread quickly when you have so many people in such close quarters," Snyder said.

In attempt to prevent further outbreaks of the norovirus, the university has taken action, such as emails with information about the virus and signs throughout campus reminding students to wash their hands before each meal.

"I am very impressed with the precautions the dining hall and university is taking to prevent the spread of norovirus around campus as well as making the Wilkes community more aware and alert," said pharmacy student Catherine Sarver. "I have noticed signs before entering the dining hall asking anyone eating at the dining hall to wash their hands before entering and when leaving."

The dining hall has started wrapping

fruit individually to prevent the spread of the virus. There are also hand sanitizing dispensers throughout the Student Union Building.

It is important to wash your hands properly, wash fruits and vegetables, cook seafood thoroughly, disinfect contaminated surfaces and wash laundry.

Always practice proper hand washing to prevent the spreading of germs. A good tip is to hum the "Happy Birthday" song while rubbing your hands together, scrubbing the backs of your hands, between your fingers and under your nails. Rinse your hands well under warm water and dry with a clean towel. Using paper towels or changing your hand towel frequently is suggested.

"I have been sure to wash my hands thoroughly after using the restroom, before eating and whenever I come in contact with someone who may possibly be infected," Snyder said.

Students can do their part in combating this virus by educating others around them about it.

Sarver said a fact sheet from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was placed in every resident assistant's mail box to hang up in their hall.

"Seeing the importance of precautions to prevent the spread of norovirus, I sent a picture of the fact sheet to all of my residents," Sarver said.

Every year there are 56,000 to 71,000

hospitalizations and 570 to 800 deaths because of the norovirus, according to the CDC. These numbers primarily involve children and elderly.


If a student becomes ill, "it is vital that you stay home until your symptoms resolve so you do not spread the virus to others," Snyder said. It is also suggested to limit contact with other people for a minimum of 48 hours after you have recovered.

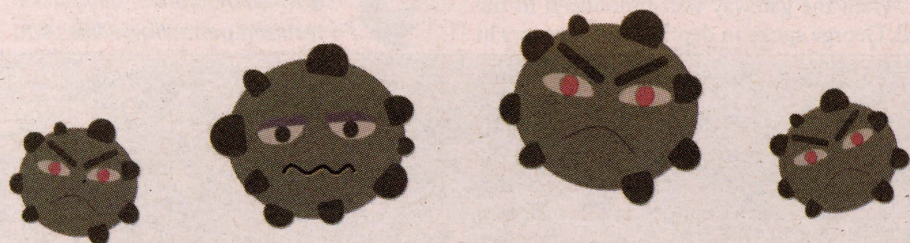
"Unfortunately, there is no specific medication that cures those suffering from the norovirus," Snyder said. "For most cases, it is recommended to rest and hydrate. You can treat the symptoms with medications such as Imodium and Pepto-Bismol."

To help the university prevent the norovirus from spreading, everyone can do their part by following the tips provided in the sidebar.

"With the semester starting to get busy, I know getting the norovirus is the last obstacle students want to face, so I want to do my part to help keep our campus healthy," Sarver said.

For more information on the norovirus, students can visit www.cdc.gov/norovirus. Health and Wellness Services encourages anyone with questions or concerns to contact them at 570-408-4730.

 @wilkesbeacon
amanda.bialek@wilkes.edu



5 Tips to Prevent Norovirus From Spreading

1. Practice proper hand hygiene

Always wash your hands carefully with soap and water—

- after using the toilet and changing diapers, and
- before eating, preparing, or handling food.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can be used in addition to hand washing. But, they should not be used as a substitute for washing with soap and water.

2. Wash fruits and vegetables and cook seafood thoroughly

- Carefully wash fruits and vegetables before preparing and eating them.
- Cook oysters and other shellfish thoroughly before eating them.
- Be aware that noroviruses are relatively resistant. They can survive temperatures as high as 140°F and quick steaming processes that are often used for cooking shellfish. Food that might be contaminated with norovirus should be thrown out.
- Keep sick infants and children out of areas where food is being handled and prepared.

3. When you are sick, do not prepare food or care for others

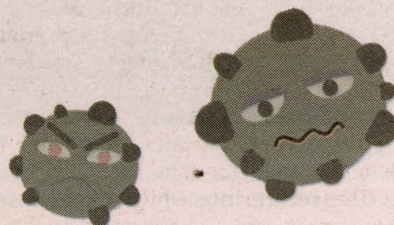
- You should not prepare food for others or provide healthcare while you are sick and for at least 2 to 3 days after you recover. This also applies to sick workers in schools, daycares, and other places where they may expose people to norovirus.

4. Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces

- After throwing up or having diarrhea, immediately clean and disinfect
- contaminated surfaces. Use a chlorine bleach solution with a concentration
- of 1000–5000 ppm (5–25 tablespoons of household bleach [5.25%] per gallon
- of water) or other disinfectant registered as effective against norovirus by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

5. Wash laundry thoroughly

- Immediately remove and wash clothes or linens that may be contaminated with vomit or stool (feces).
- You should—
- handle soiled items carefully without agitating them, wear rubber or disposable gloves while handling soiled items and wash your
 - hands after, and wash the items with detergent at the maximum available
 - cycle length then machine dry them.



\$1 million grant announced for South Campus Gateway

By Toni Pennello
Asst. News Editor

In October, President Patrick Leahy announced that Wilkes would undergo the creation of a 3.5 million dollar project, to be started in May 2017 and completed by Fall 2018.

The project would be a "South Campus Gateway," not dissimilar to the East Campus Gateway, completed in the Spring of 2016, which connects S. Main Street to the heart of Wilkes campus.

According to a press release issued by Senator John Yudichak, Wilkes will receive \$1 million from the Transportation Alternative Program, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, for the new gateway, which will connect The Henry Student Center to Stark Learning Center and then turn a corner to S. Franklin St.

At the press conference where President Leahy announced the project, he stated that it would provide safety, alleviate traffic congestion, improve aesthetics and benefit Downtown Wilkes-Barre community at-large.

"These are funds that may not otherwise come to downtown Wilkes-Barre, if not for a private institution's match," Leahy added at the conference. "I think this demonstrates, quite effectively, the continuing power of public/ private partnerships in the effort to continue to develop our fine city."

"This is a prime example of how we can harness colleges and universities to invest in our communities," said Senator John Yudichak. He stated that it would be the next "phase" of a project, which includes the first east campus gateway, that "has revitalized downtown Wilkes-Barre into an economic hub and a thriving residential community for the city and Luzerne County."

"Pennsylvania has some difficult financial choices in the coming months, but we cannot simply cut our way to a balanced budget," said Senator Yudichak. "Instead, we have a responsibility to financially support projects that will improve the local economy and help us attract and retain a new generation of students to Luzerne County."

In addition to the money granted by the program, Wilkes University will contribute \$300,000 to the construction of the gateway.

"This project makes visible Wilkes' ongoing commitment to the community surrounding our campus," Leahy said in regard to the grant. "We are pleased to be in a position to pay the match required for a TAP grant, allowing Wilkes to make investments in our city and county where we can make the most impact."

In addition to new sidewalks and lights, the grant will also pay for curb ramps and planting trees, as well as other improvements meant to enhance Wilkes campus and promote new business development in the community.



The Beacon/ Gabby Glinski

Mayor Tony George spoke in depth about the relationship between Wilkes University and the city of Wilkes-Barre at a press conference in October announcing the planning for the South Campus Gateway. In January, it was announced that Wilkes will receive a \$1 million grant from the Transportation Alternative Program, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

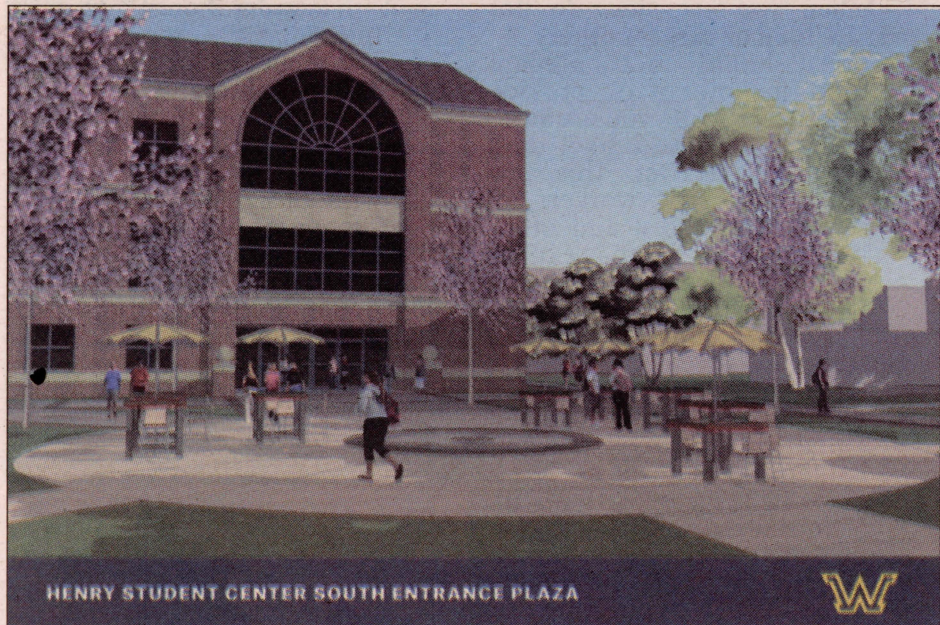
Mayor Tony George is excited about the project. "With this funding secured in the downtown, the city can continue to expand opportunities into other neighborhoods of the city so that the resurgence of the downtown will spread to every part of Wilkes-Barre," he said.

When the gateway was announced in the fall, George spoke in depth about the ways in

which the City of Wilkes-Barre and Wilkes University are codependent. He said even then that the entire city would benefit from the campus renovations.



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Courtesy of Wilkes.edu



Courtesy of Wilkes.edu

An artist's renderings of the designs of the gateway from the front of the Henry Student Center and the entrance from South Franklin Street. The renderings were posted on the Wilkes website following the announcement of the project.

Six more weeks, or six more inches of winter?

By Isaiah McGahee
Staff writer

"Six more weeks of winter," said Punxsutawney Phil, as he emerged from his nook in Gobbler's Knob on Feb. 2. Groundhog's Day is a day where Americans look to a little animal to predict the weather and other countries laugh hysterically.

There is a lesson to be learned in the aftermath of Groundhog's Day 2017, however.

Across the Northeast Region of the United States, Wednesday, Feb. 8 was a very mild, spring-like day. In Washington DC, temperatures were in upwards of 70, New York, 60, Boston and Wilkes-Barre, 50. Just when it appeared Phil was gravely wrong, Thursday proved quite the contrary. A nearly a 25 degree drop in temperature, frigid violent winds, and 6-10 inches of snow (accounting for altitude change), it appeared the groundhog triumphed again, proving rather irrevocably, that he was indeed "the prognosticator of prognosticators."

Classes across the northeast were cancelled, from elementary schools to colleges. Things were no different for Wilkes. Some students rejoiced at the prospects of sleeping in, while others weren't so happy... or informed.

Joshua King, a sophomore business major, thought the snow was rather inconvenient.

"It was cold and the snow was very inconvenient," he said.

When pressed about the inconvenience, he elaborated, stating, "Classes were cancelled; I was filled with joy... But, Towers' fire alarm rang out and we were forced to stand out in the cold at 9:30 a.m."

As many anxiously await the end of Phil's projected six-week holdout, the arrival of spring, warm days and daises, the seemingly volatile weather is taking its toll on some, more than others.

Freshman political science major, Matthew Finnegan, wasn't even aware classes had been cancelled.

"It was kind of depressing, because the day before it felt like spring, then all of a sudden you were back to not being able to go outside," he said.

Finnegan said, however, that he doesn't believe Phil's prediction(s).

"I enjoy the cold temperatures, but I'd much rather be able to go outside and play tennis."


Lack of belief in the groundhog seems to be a widely-felt sentiment. Kayla Wedlock, a freshman nursing student shared the same feelings as Finnegan about a groundhog predicting the weather.

"I think it's just a cute little fairy tale to keep people interested in the weather," she said.

Like many, Wedlock was surprised at the drastic change in weather and snow storm.

"I was shocked, usually when meteorologists say there's going to be a storm, they're usually wrong," she said.

The same can and must be said for the "meteorologist" in question, Phil. With temperatures expected to rise to the mid 40's and 50's over the course of the next couple of weeks, the question is raised: six more weeks of winter or six more inches of winter, Phil?

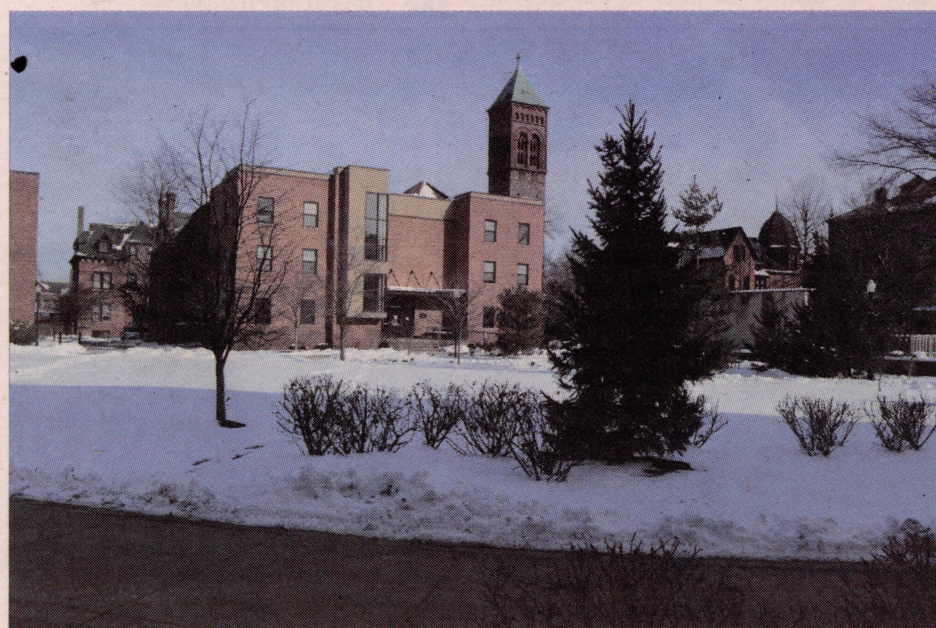
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Never go to class on a snow day again - Sign up for emergency text alerts by visiting <http://www.wilkes.edu/campus-life/safety-security/emergency-telephone-number-contact.aspx>

Black History Month Lecture: Dr. Leslie Patrick on Feb. 21

By Alyssa Mursch
News Editor

John Lewis once said, "our struggle is a struggle to redeem the soul of America. It's not a struggle that lasts for a few days, a few weeks, a few months, or a few years. It is the struggle of a lifetime, more than one lifetime."

This is one of the quotes that will frame the lecture on "Black History: Needed Now More than Ever" hosted at 11 a.m. Feb. 21 in the Henry Student Center Ballroom.

The History Department and Multicultural Student Coalition scheduled Dr. Leslie Patrick, associate professor of history at Bucknell University to present this lecture.

"The successful campaign of Donald Trump for the presidency of the United States once again unleashed an intense racial animus toward people of African descent and other non-white people," Patrick said.

"While studying and knowing history by no means explains the results that have occurred, it can be a useful guide through understanding the ignorance and malice that continues to be inflicted upon black and all people of color in the US. It is not that history repeats itself, it is that black history has always known why it must exist and be taught, especially in adverse times, of which it has known too many."

Patrick is in her thirtieth and final year as associate professor in the department of history at Bucknell University in Lewisburg.

She moved to Pennsylvania in 1986 from California, where she received a doctorate in the History of Consciousness program at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Patrick is a past president of the Pennsylvania Historical Association and has been involved with the Pennsylvania

Wenger shared her excitement for Patrick's visit, saying that, as a historian herself, she is particularly interested in her message.

"I teach American history with an emphasis on groups (African-Americans, Native Americans, women, immigrants) who in the past were systematically denied

events into context; we need to be vigilant and knowledgeable so that past injustices are not minimized or apologized for, but recognized--and that they are not repeated."


According to History.com, Black History Month began as "Negro HistoryWeek," which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator, and publisher. It became a month-long celebration in 1976, and the month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

The event is free and open to the public and will include lunch.

Following the lecture, from 1 to 2:15 p.m., the campus community is invited to continue the conversation about black history with Patrick and members of Dr. Diane Wenger's "Slavery and Abolition" class. The class will be held in room 201 of the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center.

"This lecture/discussion, "Black History Needed Now More Than Ever," hopes to involve and inspire the rising generation of students to challenge and confront the injustices that African Americans have endured," Patrick said, "Knowledge of the past, as evidenced in the quotes, is an essential foundation for understanding the present."

Anyone seeking more information can contact Diane Wenger at diane.wenger@wilkes.edu.

 [@wilkesbeacon](https://twitter.com/wilkesbeacon)
alyssa.mursch@wilkes.edu

"While studying and knowing history by no means explains the results that have occurred, it can be a useful guide through understanding the ignorance and malice that continues to be inflicted upon black and all people of color in the US. It is not that history repeats itself, it is that black history has always known why it must exist and be taught, especially in adverse times, of which it has known too many."

- Dr. Leslie Patrick

Historical and Museum Commission as a member of its Black History Advisory Committee and a scholar-in-residence.

Most recently, Patrick was a member of the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Board. Her scholarly interests focus on the convergence between crime and punishment and early African-American history.

Associate Professor of History Dr. Diane

rights. Until relatively recently, these people were not well-represented in our history books," Wenger said. "In fact, history was taught from a white, male perspective and one which celebrated America as a place of freedom and liberty for all.

"Telling the whole story of our past--warts and all, as they say-- is crucial. It is important that we as American citizens know our history in order to put current

**Do you like to write?
Interested in current events?
Want to get more involved?
Write news for the Beacon.**

Contact us!

Alyssa Mursch, News Editor, alyssa.mursch@wilkes.edu
Toni Pennello, Assistant News Editor, toniann.pennello@wilkes.edu



Life, Arts & Entertainment

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

Zach's video game review of Resident Evil 7: Bio-Hazard

By Zachary Smith
Staff Writer

There are few people out there who have not heard of the Resident Evil franchise. The original game defined the survival horror genre which would be further expanded upon in games like Silent Hill and Eternal Darkness. Resident Evil is also arguably one of the major factors that contributed to the resurrection of the zombie genre in video games. While the series has drifted away from the horror that started it all back in 1996, Resident Evil 7 has managed to bring it right back.

Plot

The game starts off with protagonist Ethan Winter driving towards a mansion in a Louisiana bayou after receiving a strange message from his wife Mia, who has been missing for three years. Shortly after arriving, Ethan is forcefully introduced to the Baker family: Jack, Marguerite and Lucas. The family is portrayed like every murderous redneck family you've seen before, down to eating people while drinking beer.

After being contacted by a mysterious woman named Zoe, your objective becomes

clear: find out what happened to Mia, rescue her, and escape from the Bakers estate. Not everything is as straightforward as it seems though, and the story takes numerous turns before finally ending with a satisfying conclusion.

Atmosphere

First and foremost, this game is beautiful. The game does an exceptional job of giving every room you explore a realistic, lived in feel to it. The work that went into the small details really stand out and make the mansion feel like you could reach out and touch it. Creatures that you encounter have a slickness to them that makes them appear as if they crawled right out of the swamp that the house was built in.

The sound quality is also top notch. You will flinch at a squeaking floor board, jump as a clock chimes and panic when you hear a door closing elsewhere in the house. The music in the game is decent, but nothing groundbreaking for the genre.

Game play


The first half of the game is spent sneaking around, avoiding the Bakers while dealing with enemies that cross your path. There are puzzles to solve, doors to unlock and secrets to find all over the place. Escaping

from and dealing with the bakers while learning more about them is definitely one of the highlights of the game. Once you get a few weapons though, you will be blowing off the heads of enemies left and right.

On the downside, there are only a few regular enemies that you will come across, and they are all generally dealt with in the same way. Also, as the game goes on, you start to gain more and more ammo, even on the harder difficulty (of which there are three) you have quite the arsenal by the end of the game, this diminishes the helplessness and fear that the early game does such a great job of building up.

Overall

It cannot be denied that Resident Evil as a series started to drift away from its horror roots starting with the excellent Resident Evil 4 and had left it almost entirely with the release of 6. I am pleased to say that with Resident Evil 7, the series has returned to those roots, better than ever. While not without its faults, I would say that this is my favorite in the series after Resident Evil 2. Do not hesitate to give it a look if you are a fan of good horror.

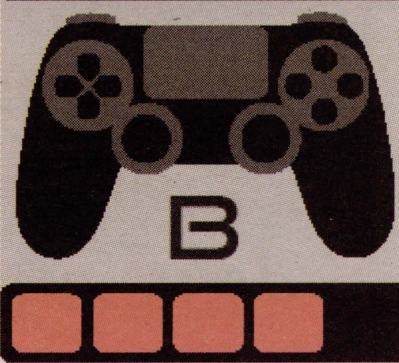
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Pros: Good story, excellent visuals, tense and scary.

Cons: Little enemy variety, loses some steam towards the end.

Grade: B

ZACH'S RATING



Attention Gamers!
Have a game review
you'd like to share?

Contact:

kimberly.hein@wilkes.edu

RESIDENT EVIL
biohazard

RECIPE OF THE WEEK: Banana Love Ice Cream

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 frozen bananas
- Milk
- Chocolate Hershey Kisses
- Whipped Cream

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Slice frozen bananas.
2. Put bananas and 1/3 cup of milk in blender.
3. After blending, pour ice cream into a festive mug.
4. Top with whipped cream and shaved Chocolate Hershey Kisses.

Enjoy!! Have a Happy Valentine's Day!



Design by Nicole Kutos

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

Submit it to Amanda Bialek, LA&E Assistant Editor

amanda.bialek@wilkes.edu

THIS MONTH, EARN UP TO...

\$250

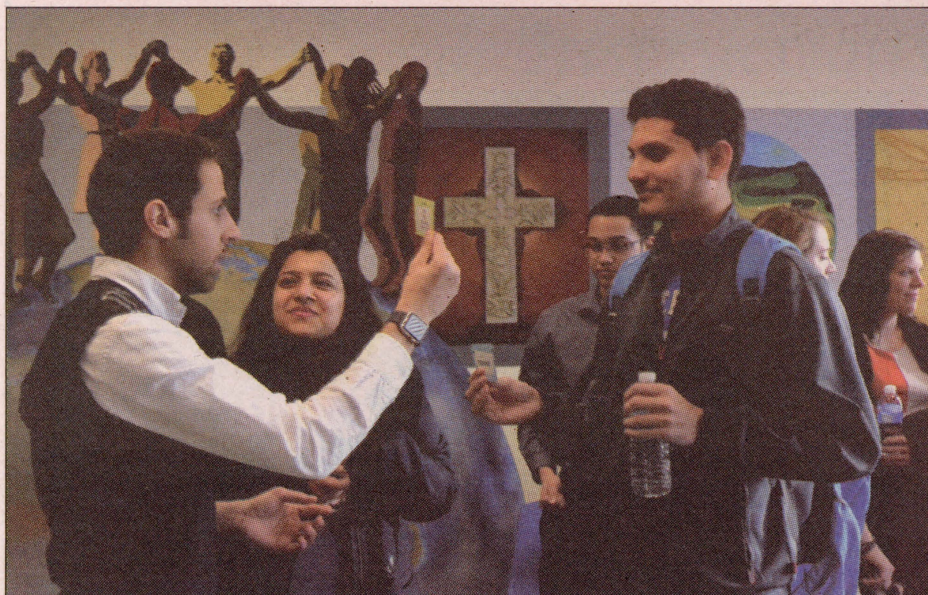
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Center for Education and Diversity hosts Global Coffee Hour

On Feb. 8, The Center for Education and Diversity hosted Global Coffee Hour in the Savitz Lounge. Students and faculty gathered to enjoy food that was made by students from different countries and cultures and well to enjoy music and games.



The Beacon/ Purvit Patel

Above, from left to right: Hussain Alrumayna, Pooja Singla and Rohitkumar gather at the event.

Below: Xuejuan Zheng and Chengyu "Simon" Chu play a game of Jenga.



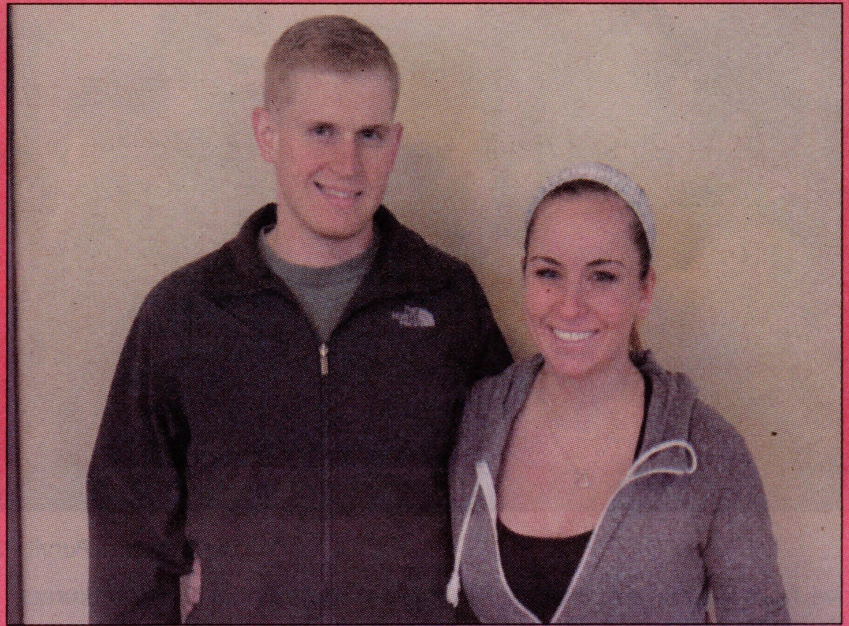
Students share dishes and snacks from various cultures.



ATTENTION off-campus students:

Please submit your updated
off-campus address:
Head to Wilkes.edu and
search "off-campus address
form"

COUPLE OF WILKES UNIVERSITY



The Beacon/Purvit Patel

"The reason our relationship works so well is that we each do our own thing and let each other have space. We understand that we're both busy and try to push each other to achieve our future goals"

**-Megan McGovern &
Jeremy Yeoman**

Visit NEPA's Only Board Game Cafe!
Gourmet Coffees & Teas
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200+ Board Games

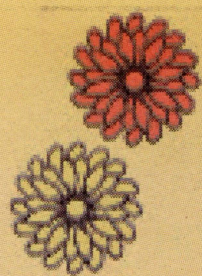
FREE Play for Wilkes Students!
Pick up your free play voucher at the
Henry Student Center Info Desk!

The Game Chateau
1112 Highway 315 - Wilkes-Barre, PA
in the 315 Plaza by Leggio's & State Farm
Insurance - TheGameChateau.com

Student groups & clubs, call (570) 855-2968 for special Wilkes group rates & reservations!

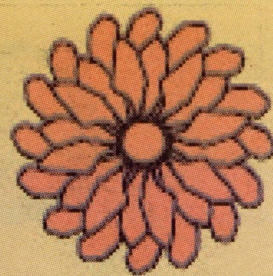
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KEEP IT PLAYFUL



Crafting with

MaryKate

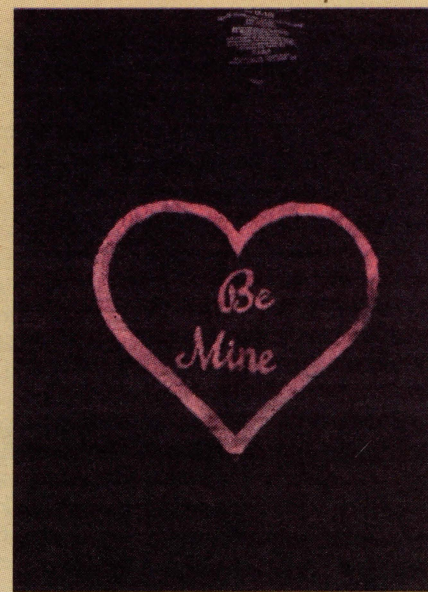


Valentine's Day DIY

What you need: Instructions:

- ♦ Pantyhose
- ♦ Embroidery hoop
- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Design
- ♦ Sharpie
- ♦ Foam Brush
- ♦ Modgepodge
- ♦ T-shirt
- ♦ Plastic Bag
- ♦ Fabric Paint
- ♦ A Small Piece of Cardboard

1. Cut one of the legs off of a pair of pantyhose, and cut down the side of the leg.
2. Stretch the pantyhose over the embroidery hoop and trim the excess
3. Place the hoop, with edges up, on top of your design. Trace your design with a sharpie.
4. Flip the hoop so the edges are now facing down and fill in the area around your design with modge podge.
5. Allow to dry overnight
6. Place a plastic bag in between the layers of the T-shirt
7. Place the hoop with the edges up on the T-shirt
8. Squirt fabric paint across the top of your design
9. Use a small piece of cardboard to drag the ink down across the design. Be sure to get all parts of the design. If you need add more fabric paint.
10. Gently remove the hoop from the shirt.
11. Allow to dry according to the directions on the fabric paint.
12. Wear your new shirt proudly, or give it as a gift!



Sexual Jeopardy

STUDENTS GO HARD AT SEXUAL JEOPARDY

By Kim Hein
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

A sexually transmitted disease (STD) is an infection transmitted through sexual contact, caused by bacteria, viruses, or parasites.

STDs are passed through sexual activity with someone who is infected. Sexual activity can include vaginal, oral, and anal sex. There are a few STDs that can also be passed by skin-to-skin (genital-to-genital) contact.

Wilkes University's Bacchus Club presented its annual "Sexual Jeopardy" game show for students looking to learn about sexual issues in a fun atmosphere on Feb. 8 in the Henry Student Center Ballroom.

Lara McQue, President of BACCHUS explained by Sexual Jeopardy is so important, "First, it's very important because college is a great way for students to experiment, considering that's what it's known for. Second, it's a way to let people know both the dangers and advantages of having safe sex or unsafe sex and also birth control for sex and women's health in general."

The club organized the evening with a jeopardy game show style format which allowed the teams of four or five to test their knowledge on categories such as anatomy and function, STDs, birth control, and current issues.

McQue mentioned that students in the past have either been both really good or really bad but it's always a good time.

"Here you're even getting tested on the little, tricky details and facts that we wouldn't think about everyday," McQue said.

Quinn Kelly was on the team titled "Sensual Seduction" and has never attended the event before but she heard that it was funny, so she was excited to attend. Her teammates were in the Biology class that was required to attend but she went for fun.

Kelly did not study or prepare for Sexual Jeopardy, but she admits to knowing "the basics" however, her team lost to another team titled "The Virgins".

Anne Holmes was the game's host and she presented all of this information in a fun and humorous way.

"I think the way she (Anne) explained the dangers of unprotected sex was beneficial," Sydney Calkins, first time attendee said.

Calkins went on to say that Anne's humor was beneficial because it made students want to get engaged in the conversations about sex.

Kelly said that she enjoyed the event because as a business student, she doesn't get to really dive into the aspects of Biology. She thinks the most important thing about Sexual Jeopardy is the knowledge students

can gain by attending the event.

To wrap up (literally) the event, the club passed out free male and female condoms, lubrication, condoms for oral sex, and brochures full of information regarding safe sex, domestic violence, and local services in the area.

McQue said that Sexual Jeopardy is fun for BACCHUS because it presents them with the opportunity to reach out to the campus as a whole.

Sexual Jeopardy took place from 9 to 10 p.m. and is an annual event.

BACCHUS does a lot of health and sexual awareness. They have two big events a year which are the Alcohol Awareness Walk and Sexual Jeopardy.

McQue explained that the club's mission is to make sure all of the students on campus are aware of their choices and can be provided with alternative choices.

If a student wants to get involved in BACCHUS, they should reach out to Lara McQue, or Gail Holby at Health Services in Passan Hall.



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HIV & other STDs
can be passed by
having vaginal,
anal or oral sex.

Humming while
giving oral sex
can increase
pleasure.

80% of the women
and 10% of the men
with gonorrhea show
no symptoms.

If you are a sexually
active female 25 years or
younger, get tested every
year for chlamydia. If left
untreated, chlamydia can
affect your ability to have
children.

30% of men in
the world are
circumcised.

Millions of
people treat
themselves for
pubic lice each
year.

Before having
sex both partners
should give
consent.

1 out of 6 people in
the United States
are likely to be
infected by herpes
and it's a lifelong
infection.

Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact the opinion editors: mark.makowski1@wilkes.edu or andre.spruell@wilkes.edu

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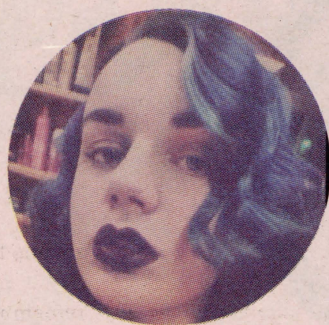
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Our Voice Living with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome



By Elyse Guziewicz
Copy Editor

When I was 6, I was convinced I would be the fastest runner in the neighborhood. Spindly and scrappy, I sprinted up and down the alley, beating my brother and my best friend every time.

That fall, my lungs stopped working, and I nearly died from an asthma attack that was minutes away from causing respiratory arrest.

That didn't stop me. Asthma resources for kids are plentiful; with consultation from my pulmonologist, I took an inhaler and a nebulizer home for bad days.

At 7, I played soccer. I wasn't very good, but I was dedicated, passionate, and fearless. One day, with a 100° fever, I begged my mother to take me to the game, where, despite being dehydrated and exhausted, I dove for ball after ball as goalie, oblivious to the cleats inches from my face.

When I was 9, I broke my arm in two places rollerblading down a hill. When I was 10, I found out I was allergic to bees after getting stung four times by a wasp and being rushed to the hospital after I started going into anaphylactic shock. None of it dampened my spirit.

When I was 11, I fell.

It was nothing. I slipped on some water on the bathroom floor. I can't really remember what happened, but I thought I landed on my chest.

Compared to some of the things I'd done to myself, a fall in the bathroom shouldn't have meant anything. I couldn't see what had happened. All I knew was that my back

hurt so badly I couldn't breathe.

Despite test after test, no one knew what had happened or why I was in pain. It took more than a year for the doctors to find the two stress fractures on my vertebrae. By then, the damage was done, and I had developed a rare neurological condition called Complex Regional Pain Syndrome.

We tried everything, but nine years ago, treatment options were few. My parents had to decide between putting me in a chemical coma to see if it would reset my damaged nervous system and subjecting me to weeks of grueling physical therapy in a hope that it would retrain my nerves.

Treatment wasn't the hard part. The hard part was getting my childhood cut off by constant pain. I was exhausted, but I couldn't sleep. I couldn't focus on anything. I couldn't run or do any of the physical activities I used to enjoy.

When you're a kid, being sick is supposed to be a temporary thing. You get wrapped up in blankets and fed soup and Gatorade, watching cartoons until the fever passes. No one tells you about the kids that get sick and never get better.

You're supposed to be thankful that you're not terminal, but some days you wish you were. No one teaches you how to lose everything you loved about your life and keep living anyway.

After a while, people get sick of sympathy. When it's been a year, two years, more, and you're not dead but you're not better, people stop sending cards and balloons and prayers.

As an adult, you can conceptualize what it means for people to forget about you and your problems – they have their own lives – but when you're young, it feels personal.

The stress of being sick and the damage to my nervous system caused my limbic response to activate constantly, leaving me anxious and depressed. I was bitter, angry at God or the universe for letting this happen to me, an active little girl with no prior history of fragility. I had almost no friends throughout my teenage years, and my personality changed from energetic to

dull and sullen.

It's hard to recover when an illness destroys your idea of yourself before you're old enough to really remember what it was like before.

I'm 20 now, and I can't remember what it feels like to be pain-free. It's a loss I mourn regularly – the loss of a childhood, of the person I was before I fell. Today, I have to structure everything around my pain. I have no idea who I'd be if I never broke my spine as a girl.


What I realized, after years of battling with anger and depression related to my illness, is that no matter what my condition takes away from me, my spirit can continue on.

The only way for me to lose everything to this battle would be to admit defeat. The value of my life, or any other sick child's life, doesn't come in what we can or can't do – it's simply what we are.

As long as I'm alive, I've beaten CRPS for another day. It doesn't matter if I spend the whole day in bed, unable to move, or if I run a 5k: my life has value because I'm living it.

Although it might feel like it, chronic illness doesn't have to be the end for kids and young adults like me.

Support, both for our physical and mental health, can make the biggest difference. I just needed to learn that surviving is enough.

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

Note: The views expressed
are those of the writer.

History or Hallmark: The meaning behind Valentine's Day

By Olivia Macdonald
Opinion Writer

With Valentine's Day being the holiday of the month, there are many couples in love that cherish the day, and several singles that see it as just another day to get through.

There are two perspectives of how Valentine's Day came to be, is it history or a made up holiday for the Hallmark Company to make a few bucks... I like to believe in the myth of St. Valentine, but Cupid is always a nice little mythical creature too.

According to history.com, the legend of Valentine's Day originates from the story of its Catholic Saint who was a man that went against the Emperor Claudius II.

In the late Roman Empire Claudius II outlawed marriage and decided that all single men must become soldiers. When Valentine heard about this he decided to marry young lovers in secret.

Once the Empire found out about his actions, he was sentenced to death. There are several other stories that try to determine how the myth of St. Valentine originated, but the secret love seems to be the most

romantic. According to Junior Glenn Weist. "In history ladies started to practice abstinence which forced their men to join together and treat all of their women better than they ever have."

Some may say that chivalry is dead but around this holiday the boys either seem to step up, or get buried in the rubble.

All that I know is that no one in this day and age will compare to St. Valentine, no matter how many roses are delivered on their girl's front porch.

Some people on this campus have a positive outlook on Valentine's Day like senior Caroline Connor explains.

"I personally don't mind it, I know some

people hate it cause they don't have a significant other and it's just the stereotypical holiday for couples, but even when I didn't have a boyfriend I liked it because I hung out with my friends and we made it a fun time.. Anything can be fun if you make it fun!"

I wish that everyone had a positive outlook on the holiday like Caroline, but sometimes it's easier to be bitter about things.

For anyone that has trouble watching all of the happy couples, just remember they may not be as happy as they appear on Instagram or Facebook.

The happiest are those that do not need 100 likes on a photo to justify their feelings for each other.


For people like Haley Coleman, Valentine's Day has been more about spending the

holiday with family rather than a significant other.

"My parents have always gotten us cool presents, make a big dinner and make sure to let us know how much they love us. It also represents when my brother Zach got his letter being accepted to the Naval Academy so it's extra special to my family," Coleman explains.

It's always great to see peers that appreciate the holiday for being with people that love them rather than making sure they get materialistic things from their significant other.

St. Valentine performed the secret marriages to unite two people for the rest of their lives because of strong love and wanting to be together. He did not get killed for girls to complain to their boyfriends about needing chocolate and stuffed animals that fuel Hallmark's bank account.

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Top 10 unforgettable Valentine's Day gifts

By Peyton Neishman
Opinion Writer

Every year on Feb. 14, we celebrate the most romantic holiday, Valentine's Day. This is a day where people go absolutely crazy trying to find the perfect gift for their significant other.

On this day, people exchange gifts to their so called "valentine." Here is a list of 10 unforgettable gift ideas that will be sure to put a smile on your valentine's face.

1.) A Dozen of Red Roses

Red roses are the symbol of true love, which makes them the perfect gift to show your love for your valentine. Red roses are also one of the most traditional Valentine's Day gifts. So make sure you stop by your local florist this week to get your valentine their special gift.

2.) A Box of Chocolate

Show your valentine how sweet you think they are by buying them a box of something sweet. Whether it be dark, milk, white, or any other variation, a box of chocolates is a gift that will definitely make your Valentine's Day sweeter in more ways than one.

3.) Jewelry

Jewelry could be purchased in all shapes and sizes. You could buy a ring, necklace, bracelet, watch or earrings. Buying your valentine a shiny new piece of jewelry is a gift that will blow them away when they open it, and have it remind them of you every time they wear it.

4.) Perfume/ Cologne

Help your loved one smell nice this Valentine's day by buying them their favorite fragrance. You could even buy them something new for them to try out or just stick to their traditional scent. Perfume or cologne is a great way to put a smile on your valentine's face.

5.) Chocolate covered strawberries

What's sweeter than a box of chocolates? A box of chocolates, only now the chocolate has a juicy strawberry inside. Chocolate covered strawberries are certain to make your valentine's heart melt when they open up the sugary gift you bought especially for them.

6.) Giant stuffed animal

A teddy bear or any other type of stuffed

animal that is about the same size as a person is the perfect gift idea for your valentine so they could cuddle with it and have it remind them of you when you aren't around. Be careful though, this gift may just replace you.

7.) Valentine's Day card

A card may not be the most expensive or stunning gift but writing a nice love note signed by you on the inside will be enough to stun that special someone. A card with a heartfelt note is also a great gift if you are trying to keep it simple.

8.) Dinner date

Steakhouse, Italian restaurant, fine dining or even a home cooked meal. A dinner date with your valentine out to eat at their favorite restaurant is a must do for Valentine's Day. Surprise your significant other by not telling them where you're taking them, and enjoy the surprised look on their face when you arrive at their favorite place to eat.

9.) Homemade gift


Nothing says "I love you" like a customized gift made by you. Homemade gift ideas may include, engraved picture frames, wood carvings, a scrapbook of memories, or even

a drawing if you're feeling artistic.

10.) Candle

Getting your valentine a scented candle for their gift is great for them to use during a relaxing night or to set a romantic atmosphere. Your valentine's face will surely light up when they open up the candle from you.



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Loveable songs for your Valentine's Day playlist

By Andre Spruell
Co-Opinion Editor

When it comes to Valentine's Day, people either enjoy it or dread it whether they're in a relationship or not respectively.

No matter what side of the fence you are on for this holiday, here are some songs across different genres that someone is likely to hear on this day more than others.

These are love classics and personal favorites to listen to from time to time.

1) "Love Song" by Sara Bareilles

The initial title of the song would lead someone to believe that this "Love Song" would be about admiration towards another but it is the complete opposite. Bareilles's point she is trying to make with the song is that she is done writing those lovey dovey songs because the person she used to write love songs about her broke her heart.

2) "A Thousand Miles" by Vanessa Carlton

Whether it be Valentine's Day or not, this timeless classic, which is now 15 years old, is a crowd favorite no matter what the setting is. What propelled this song to ultimate fame is when it was featured in a scene of the movie White Chicks where Latrell Spencer, played by Terry Crews, is in a car lip syncing the song, swaying his head to the beat.

3) "I Hate Everything About You" by Three Days Grace

Unlike Bareilles's classic hit, the title of this song is exactly what it sounds. This song discusses how whenever the significant other is reminisced about when the partners would smoke weed and have sexual intercourse. Despite that and feelings that are brought up, that significant other is still not missed, thus when that person is brought up, hate ensues.

4) "I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing" by Aerosmith

Legendary song by an even more legendary band. Aerosmith has been in the music business for what seems like an eternity, but this song will be around for eternity. This classic is all about the adoration of a significant other because it highlights all the little things that the artist adores more than the bigger, more obvious factors. The reason why this song is so easily relatable is because the lead singer, Steven Tyler, wrote the song about his daughter.

5) "I Don't Want You Back" by Eamon

If you are on the side of the fence that dreads day due to past experiences, this is the

perfect song to listen to. The premise of this song is how the artist, Eamon, got played by his significant other and after she cheated, she wanted him back. If you listen to the song, it is not hard to recognize how he feels about the situation. For the full experience definitely give the explicit version a listen.

6) "I'll Be There For You" by Method Man feat. Mary J Blige

This classic hip-hop/r&b track features two legendary artists in Method Man and Mary J. Blige so it is no surprise that this collaboration has stood the test of time. What this song implies is that no matter what the couple goes through, they are always there for each other and in order to get through life, all the couple needs is each other.

7) "Speedin'" by Omarion

This R&B track is my favorite love song and whenever it comes on while I'm driving, I just cannot resist the urge to belt out every lyric. This song talks about the artist doing whatever it takes to get back with his loved one. Since he does not want to waste any time, he is "speedin'" on his way to get back to her heart.

8) "Best Love Song" by T-Pain feat. Chris Brown

To quote T-Pain, "It's gotta be the best, the best love song she ever heard in her life." This song is an upbeat, high tempo song with lyrics that are easy to sing along to by two artists who are highly respected for their musical ability as well as for their dancing abilities.

There are some songs that had to be left because they are just too many songs out there. Especially ones dealing the matter of love.

Valentine's Day creates so many mixed emotions because love is hard and more often than not, people get hurt multiple times and may not even find "the one."

As far as what side of the fence I'm on, let's just say that this holiday is a special day for stores to sell chocolates in heart shaped boxes and giant, overstuffed teddy bears and for restaurants to create specials so couples can have a nice dinner date.

It's just another way for the public to show their true love by going all out just for people to express their love. How thoughtful.

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Have an opinion or want to write a guest column?

Contact the opinion editors:

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1 in 4

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EOE

Colonels Talk Back

Ideal Valentine's Day Date

Interviews by
Peyton Neishman
peyton.neishman@wilkes.edu

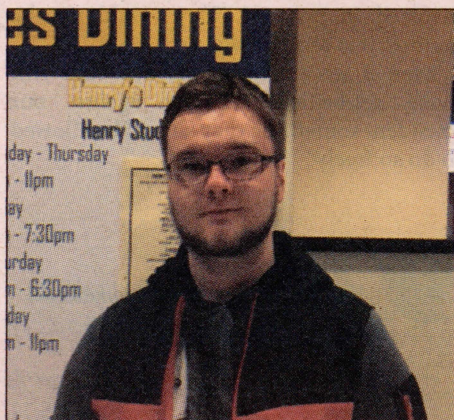
Photos by
Jesse Chalnack
jesse.chalnack@wilkes.edu

Students were asked what they would like to do this Valentine's Day. From going out this Feb. 14, to staying in, students had plenty of ideas to share with The Beacon.

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

Joe Teeple
Junior
Sociology/ Criminology

"I would like to save money this year, by staying home this Valentine's Day and watch movies and eat popcorn with my girlfriend. Make it a home movie theater night."



Yousif Almomen
Graduate student
Engineering

"I would like to go for drinks and then to a nice dinner at Olive Garden on this year's Valentine's Day."



Amanda Imbaozano
Freshman
Neuroscience

"I would like to go to a mom and pop, little Italian restaurant this Valentine's day. I really like Italian food. I would also like watch movies with my boyfriend."



Sarah Gibson
Freshman
Biology

"For my ideal valentine's date, I would like to stay in and watch movies and eat a lot of chocolate.. I would like a dozen of roses."



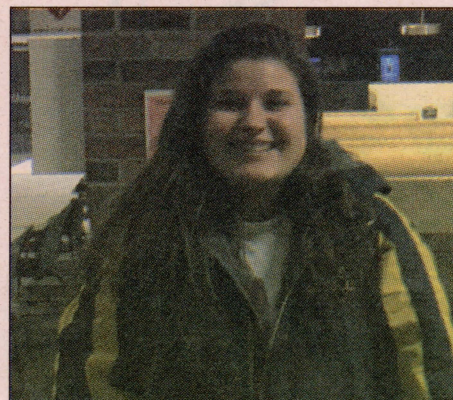
Ronald Espianosa
Senior
Nursing

"My ideal valentine's date would be dinner at a nice restaurant. I am going to the Carlisle restaurant this weekend for Valentine's Day."



Celiane Podlisney
Freshman
Nursing

"I would just like to stay home and watch movies and Netflix. I would like to get a dozen of red roses and order takeout."



Celebrities and politics: Publicity stunt or something more?

By Shannon O'Connor
Opinion Writer

Over the many decades Hollywood has been around, celebrities have been winning our hearts with wonderful movies, beautiful melodies and, for the most part, how down to Earth they can be. Many celebrities use their fame and fortune to sponsor causes they feel are close to their heart.

However, when it comes to politics, should celebrities be using their fame to convincing us to believing in their beliefs or are they simply expressing their viewpoints? Is it their place to be discussing politics at all?

In recent months following the election of President Trump, celebrity men and women have been up in arms against him. They have been disagreeing with his policies, executive agreements, and the way he presents himself.

Guaranteed, President Trump does not have the highest approval ratings, but do these celebrities have the right to bash their president so openly?

One of the most recent incidents was Meryl Streep's acceptance speech at the

Golden Globes. Streep stated, "Hollywood is crawling with outsiders and foreigners and if we kick them all out, you'll have nothing to watch but football and mixed martial arts, which are not the arts."

She continued to attack Trump throughout her speech. Most of the audience was applauding and crying with joy and agreement. However, some of the audience was on-looking in shock and horror as she publicly bashed the President.

These reactions also applied to the public when they watched her speech. Half the country couldn't be prouder of Streep, half argued with her saying she had no right to do what she had done.

Situations like these started long before Election Night and will continue throughout Trump's Presidency. Social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter have been blowing up with the debate of whether celebrities have the right to do this. Mel Gibson, Vince Vaughn and Stacey Dash fight on the minority side to support President Trump.

They face an uphill battle versing celebrities such as Alyssa Milano.

She stated, "Those that tell me not to tweet politics because I'm an uninformed

celebrity are the same people that voted for...an uninformed celebrity."

In these statement, Milano does make some very valid points, but does it make what she says OK?

Many feel it's a celebrity's job to entertain and to distract the ordinary person from their daily lives that consist of work issues, home life, politics, etc.

Seeing a celebrity on a commercial to promote a cause or on a television show to spread awareness is normal behavior to see as a regular citizen. Trace Adkins is seen advocating for Wounded Warrior Project and Kaley Cuoco for ASPCA.

Are we to blame as promoters of these celebrities using their fame to become involved in politics? They would not be famous, if it were not for us.

Even if we are to blame, does this still make celebrities' behavior against our President something they should be allowed to do so freely?



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sarah.bedford@wilkes.edu

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

Leicht: Coach of the Year; sustains Wilkes' tennis dynasty

By Pankil Chander
Staff Writer

Wilkes University's Tennis programs have constantly demonstrated winning characteristics within their squad, however, there is one word in particular that can consistently be tethered to their program, that word being dynasty. The dictionary definition for dynasty is portrayed as a succession of people from the same family who play a prominent role in a specific field.

Christopher Leicht, Head Coach of Wilkes' Men's and Women's Tennis programs has lead this particular dynasty, or to him viewed as family. Leicht has influenced the programs in a positive manner as his programs have been dominant on the court and of service to humanity off.

Leicht has recently asserted his presence in a highly competitive collegiate tennis realm as he has been named the Professional Tennis Registry Jim Verdick College Coach of the Year. It is fitting that an award named for Jim Verdick, once known as 'the winningest coach in college tennis history', goes to Leicht who has reached his own historic milestones.

Leicht is in prestigious company as this award has been honored to many influential coaches in collegiate tennis such as Coach Lin Lorig of the University of Indiana, and Brigham Young University's Brad Pearce.

"It is a very rewarding honor and anytime the Wilkes Tennis name comes up on the national scene, it is a great thing for this school and tennis program," said Leicht.

The award will be presented to Leicht at the 2017 PTR International Tennis Symposium. The registry is the largest global organization of tennis teaching professionals with more than 15,000 members in 125 countries.

The Bloomsburg University graduate has been taking the Wilkes Tennis program to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina during spring break for PTR's spring tennis fest since 2012. The event, which includes more than 40 educational presentations for tennis teachers and coaches, will be held February 15-18.

Entering his 15th year as Head Coach for the Men's team and 14th for the women's, the Danville Area High School graduate



Head coach, Leicht stands with men's team after remarkable win.

Photo courtesy of gowilkesu.com

lead the women's contingent to 10 straight MAC Freedom titles. The men have sustained nine top honors in a row with each of those conference titles giving the Colonels and Lady Colonels an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament.

Leicht has coached 49 All-Conference selections, including six Rookies of the Year, and seven Players of the Year. It's evident his leadership has produced student athletes of commendable character as many of his teams have been named ITA All-American Academic teams 18 times. Although this is not the first time he's been recognized for his influence as Leicht has accumulated 16 MAC Freedom Coach of the Year awards.

Along with leading a consistent, dominant force in the MAC Freedom, Leicht also tackles on the responsibilities of being the Director of the Recreation and Athletic Center at Wilkes University. His ability to balance an abundance of duties and maintain a purposeful focus on making a difference within the Wilkes Tennis programs has served as a testament to his philosophy of not only leading by example

but living by it.

While he guides his athletes to achieve their goals, Leicht emphasizes the significance of giving back. He believes the service to the community will supplement their already well established values.

"We always talk about representing Wilkes Tennis in the best way possible, on and off the court. Community Service is one way in which our athletes can help serve the community in a positive way. The largest service project we undertake each year is with the Special Olympics Group. We have been involved in the local area, and also on our spring break tennis trip" said Leicht.

He is proud of this international recognition, yet feels that the largest component of Wilkes Tennis' success is due solely to the players' discipline and their positive energy to achieve excellence.

"We have had really good captains over the years, and this is the single biggest reason for our success. When the younger players see the captains working very hard and prioritizing tennis, it really filters down

to the new players. I have been very lucky, including this year" stated Leicht.

A Senior on the Men's squad, Troy Haas believes Leicht's strengths are in his aptness in noticing emerging talent in recruits that have not fully flourished yet including the genuine care he directs toward his athletes. Leicht's light hearted persona allows him to be a relatable and empathetic leader.

"Coach is really great at the recruiting process and finding players with underlying potential that may be overlooked by other coaches in the recruiting process. He's been someone you can go talk to about anything. We go into his office to say hi and sometimes end up staying for 40 minutes talking about anything," said Haas.

Coach Leicht looks to continue the winning tradition of Wilkes' Tennis programs as they commence their spring semester competition on Saturday February 18th at the Drew Invitational in Madison, New Jersey.

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Wilkes lacrosse teams set the bar high going into season

By Taylor Ryan
Sports Co-Editor

As we are in the heavy midst of the winter sports programs, where the various athletic teams are fighting for their spot to continue on their season, another season is just getting ready to begin. The preseason polls are out, the practices, conditioning sessions and weight lifting has begun—it's spring here at the collegiate sport level.

Here at Wilkes University there are eight athletic teams that will be competing in the coming weeks. Those stand as: baseball, men's golf, men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, women's golf, men's tennis, women's tennis and softball.

These athletic teams have been preparing all school year to begin another season. In recent news, the men and women's lacrosse preseason polls were released. The Middle Atlantic Freedom Conference preseason poll revealed the men's lacrosse team to be selected to finish as 8th in the MAC this year. While the MAC Freedom Conference has selected the women's lacrosse team to finish 4th in their standings.

As hard as each team has been working in the offseason, it is time to prove it in season play. When preparing for this season Coach

Towey, Head Coach of the women's lacrosse team, reflects on last season, while setting expectations for the coming season. In a recent interview, Coach stated, "We are really looking forward to this upcoming season. We lost eight seniors last year, some the stats and all time leaders at Wilkes for scoring. We have a very young team but we are very driven and our 10 freshmen are working really hard to get acclimated to the college lacrosse game. Our team is a very tight knit group so the freshman have really bonded well within."

Each new season brings new challenges, new positions to fill, and a new drive from all individuals on the team.

While the Wilkes University men's lacrosse team is still fairly new to the line up, they have a passion to reach the next level.

When a new team comes about, specifically at the collegiate level, recruiting is a challenge. Newcomer, John Luna, spoke about some of his expectations going into his first season as a Colonel. Luna said, "I am most excited about just playing some lacrosse! He exclaimed with no hesitation. He continued to say, "I have been preparing for the season with a lot of weight training, endurance runs, and skill work, I'm just excited to see it all play out."

Luna's fellow freshman teammate, Connor Daly followed up with, "The team has done a lot to prepare, to make sure not only as freshman or individuals, but as a team we are ready to improve the name of Wilkes University Lacrosse, in the school, in the community, and in college lacrosse."

Both the men and women's lacrosse teams have had a large recruiting year, brining in large numbers of first year students. The men's team currently has nine freshman on their roster going into the season, while the women's team has ten incoming freshman to add to their line up.

This may seem like it could be an obstacle for the teams, carrying a younger, less experienced group. But Coach Towey doesn't see it that way, stating, "I think we are young this year so it will be a learning experience throughout each game to build consistency. I think this year we will learn and grown with each game and get a better feel for one another, how to finish as the season goes along. The only obstacle is youth right now and I wouldn't really classify that as an obstacle more like a learning curve is all. Everyone just has to learn to play on the same page, work with each other and everything else will follow suit."



Photo courtesy of gowilkesu.com
Jessyca Held, a key leader for the team.

The men's team begins their season Feb. 22, challenging Marywood University. The women's team will be following close behind, starting their season March 2, shortly before they head to Hilton Head, SC to test their skills prior to conference play. The seasons have barely just begun, but the stakes are high, as many newcomers have large roles to fill. We wish both teams the best of luck in their upcoming season.



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Wilkes Winter Sports Home Games

Men's Volleyball:

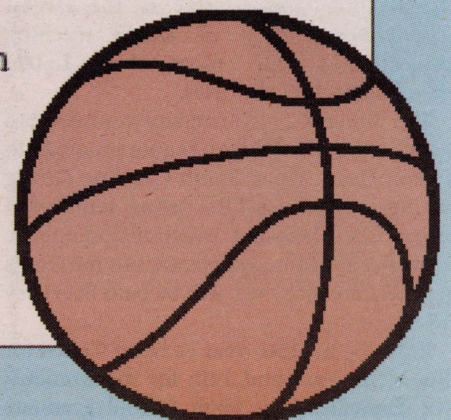
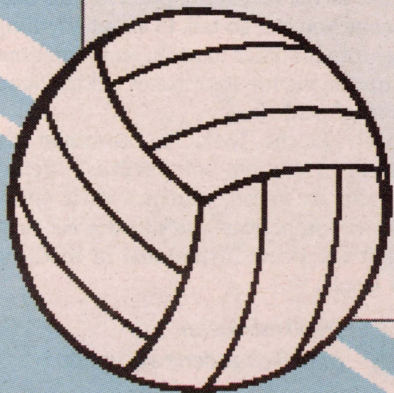
3/1/2017 Lancaster Bible 7:00 pm
3/18/17 Alvernia 12:00 pm
3/18/17 College of Staten Island 4:00 pm
3/23/17 Arcadia 7:00 pm
3/25/17 Wells College 3:00 pm
3/30/17 Medgar Evers 7:00 pm
4/2/17 Penn State Behrend 1:00 pm
4/5/17 Penn State Altoona 7:30pm

Men's Basketball:

2/14/17 King's 8:00 pm

Women's Basketball:

2/14/17 King's 6:00 pm



DeSales breaks hearts in the Marts with a late three-pointer

By Danny Van Brunt
Sports Co-Editor

In the second half of Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom play, Wilkes faced DeSales in an important game at the Marts Center. Wilkes defeated DeSales the first time in their gym, 78-74 and DeSales avenged that loss in the second match-up, 72-71.

This match was important for Wilkes because prior to the match Wilkes was sitting at the fifth seed in the MAC, and DeSales was ranked third. Wilkes and Misericordia were both tied in the MAC at 5 wins and 5 losses, yet Misericordia's season record had four more wins than Wilkes. To defeat DeSales in this game was crucial to making the playoffs considering that they have been on the outside looking in.

In the first half of the game, Wilkes came out to a great start and mounted a strong lead over DeSales. DeSales remained behind for the length of the half, and began to close in on Wilkes right before halftime started.

DeSales slowly clawed its way back into game, and managed to keep it close. Wilkes continued to play strong, but DeSales kicked their play into overdrive to conquer the lead Wilkes held the entire game.

DeSales finally tied the game in the final



The Beacon/Purvit Patel

First-year player #12 Mark Mullins looks to receive a pass from #22 Clay Basalyga. Wilkes was unable to draw the foul nor score two points to win.

For the final lead of the game following two points scored by Wilkes, DeSales found their best three-point shooter in the corner for a heartbreaking shot to win the game. There was one more opportunity for Wilkes to score with only seconds remaining, and


Wilkes was unable to draw the foul nor score two points to win. "So far this season, you can see that we have definitely grown as a team. In the beginning of the year, we lost a couple of close games. Later on in the season, we learned from those games and beat a top-20 team in the nation and also beat DeSales who was the pre-season favorite to win our league. We have

also beaten other good teams in close games," said junior Zach Brunner.

Brunner, as a junior, notices that his team has some great potential this season. On top of defeating a few highly regarded teams this season, the team has a lot to hope for because they are only graduating one senior this year. Many of the players on the team have seen a lot of time on the court, including the first-year players, which is a great sign that their younger players will be prepared to step into bigger roles for the following years.

"I decided to come to Wilkes to play basketball because the coaches and all the players really make it feel like a family. We are very close and play together, which makes it more fun both on and off the court. Being a first-year player on a team only graduating one senior gets me excited for years to come. We are young right now, but we are very talented and have a lot of potential for next year and the year after," said first-year player Mark Mullins.

Wilkes continues on to its final three remaining games of the regular season against Misericordia, King's and Eastern.

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Getting to know...

Danny Sales

Junior Men's Volleyball player

By Purvit Patel
Sports Writer

Name: Danny Sales

Year: Junior

Majors: Biomedical / Physics /
Mechanical Engineering

Hometown: Wilkes-Barre, PA

High School: Coughlin

Position: Setter/Outside

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

A: To be completely honest, I was very unsure of where I wanted to further my education, until I won the Wilkes math competition my senior year and decided to make myself a Colonel.

Q: Post Graduation Plans in terms of a Career?

A: I plan to hopefully continue my education and work with nanotechnology.

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

A: Considering this our first season, I hope that we can keep a record over 0.500 and develop into a team that will take full stride in the years to come.

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

A: I began playing volleyball as a freshman in high school because I didn't play a sport in the spring and was bored.

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

A: Although it is already underway, it would be great for our program to be able to compete against local colleges and be a part of the MAC. Playing independent involves quite a bit of travelling which cuts hard into the team's academic schedule.

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

A: I play a lot of music and sing in a reggae/rock band called Elephants Dancing. I also love soccer and used to teach snowboarding.

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

A: My uncle Camilo.

Q: A quote you live your life by?

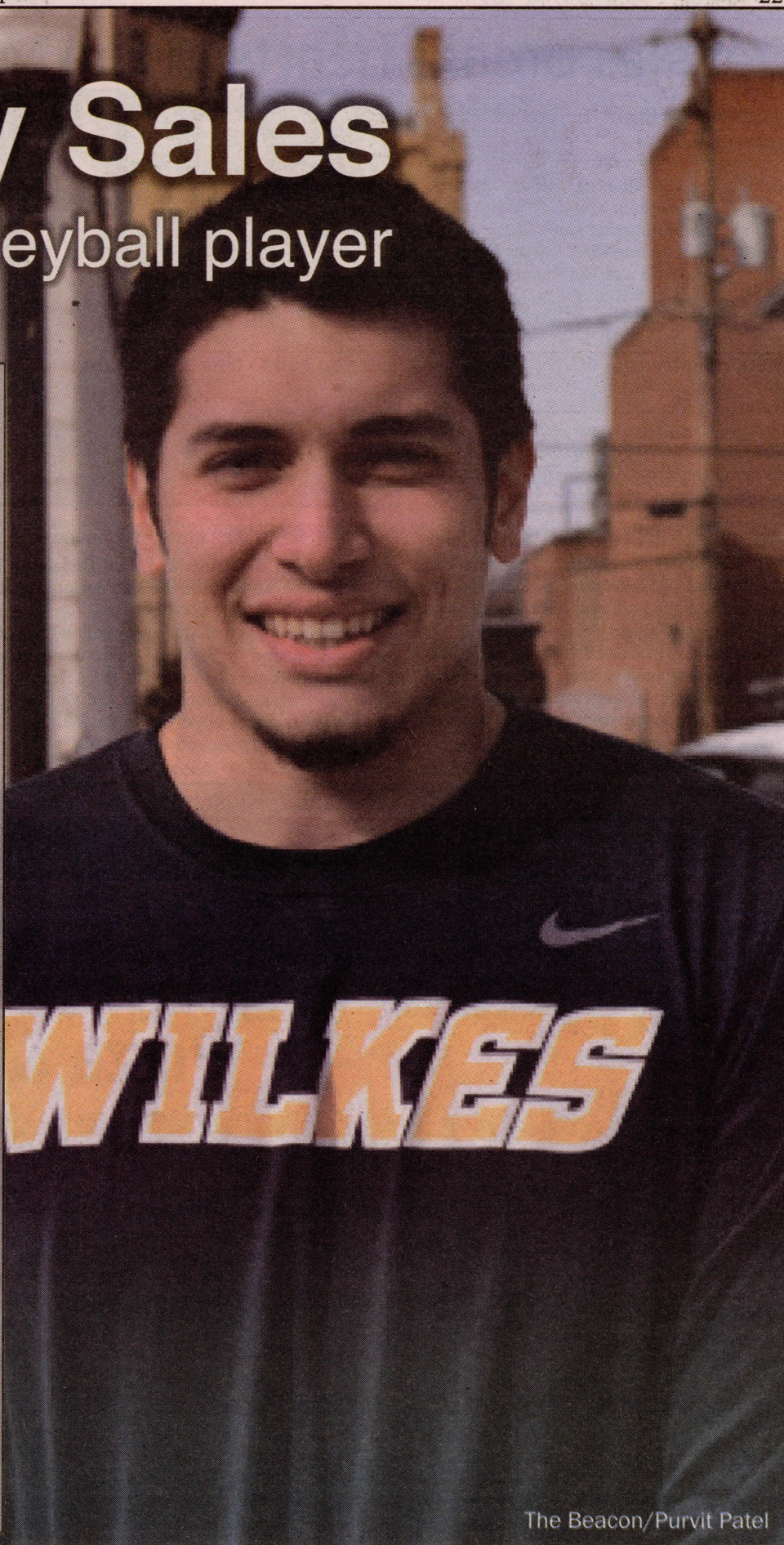
A: "Insanity: Doing the same thing over and over again, and expecting different results."

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

A: Being Colonel is more than just working hard on and off the court. I believe being a true Colonel comes from a willingness to grow.



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The Beacon/Purvrit Patel

Getting to know...

Samantha Lawlor

Junior Lacrosse Player

By Purvit Patel
Sports Writer

Name: Samantha Lawlor
Class Year: Junior
Major: Nursing
Minor: Spanish
Hometown: Brookfield, CT
Position: Attack

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

A: I was recruited by Coach Towey to come play lacrosse at Wilkes and once I met the girls on the team I knew this was where I wanted to be

Q: Post Graduation Plans in terms of a Career?

A: I plan on pursuing my career as an RN once I graduate and potentially being a traveling nurse for a few years, then potentially returning to school for my masters.

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

A: This season I hope that our team is successful and can ultimately work our way to the playoffs.

Q: A quote you live your life by?

A: "Once people tell me I can't do stuff, I'm going to go and make it happen" T-Pain

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

A: I believe that we would benefit from more position-specific coaching so that us players could focus more thoroughly on what each player needs to improve on while on the field.

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

A: I enjoy reading, listening to music and spending time with my friends.

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

A: My dad. He's my biggest fan and my best friend and I can always count on him to have my best interest at heart.

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

A: "Be Colonel" to me means to try your hardest in everything you do and strive for success.

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

A: Anne Frank



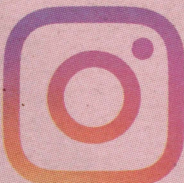
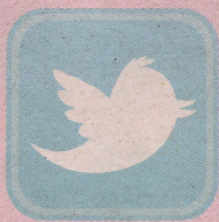
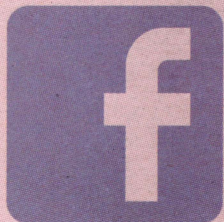
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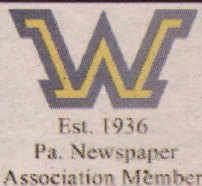
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