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The BEACON



SEPTEMBER 9, 2008 THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW Volume 61 Issue 1

GreenPrint policy limits student paper use on campus

BY NICOLE FRAIL
Beacon News Editor

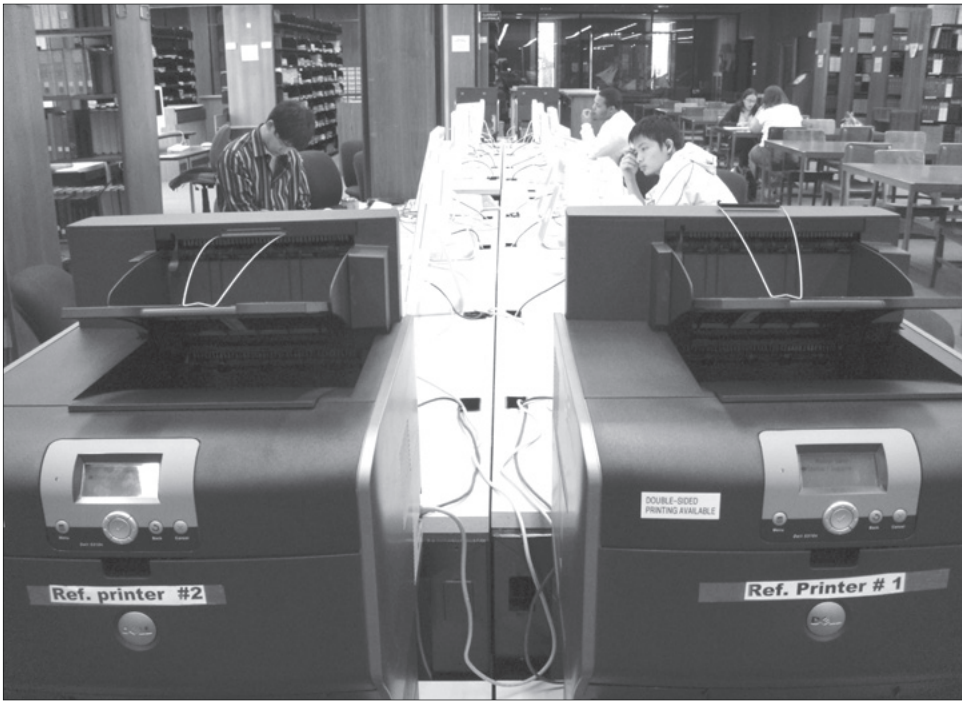
This summer, Wilkes University took another step toward environmental awareness and resource conservation by limiting the number of pages students are allowed to print on campus for free.

According to the GreenPrint Policy, effective since May 14, 2008, the policy establishes a per-student printing quota of 550 pieces of paper that “works to reduce excessive printing practices on campus in ways that align with broader campus-wide initiatives aimed at making Wilkes a more environmentally responsible community.”

Through GreenPrint, Wilkes is aiming to reduce the university’s carbon footprint. According to Mike Salem, Chief Information Officer of Information Technology (IT) Services, a study of campus printing was conducted during Fall 2007.

“A year and a half ago, there was an instructional technology committee where the idea for [limiting paper use] came up. They asked us to do some investigation and we did... We started monitoring the prints and collecting statistics,” said Salem.

The study indicated that 85 percent of students print less than 500 pages per semester, while 15 percent of students account for 50% of all usage.



The Beacon/Jenna Stephens
The Farley Library is one of many locations on campus where students can print pages for ten cents each and check their remaining balance. The first 550 pages are free. Unused prints will not carry over for students to use next semester.

Students are allocated \$55 worth of prints per semester. At ten cents per page, each student is now allowed 500 prints, plus an additional 50 for any mistakes or technical difficulties, such as paper jams, accidental reprints and issues with toner. A countdown

of the balance on a student’s account can be seen in the upper right hand corner of the monitor after logging onto the majority of computers on campus. Ten cents for each

See GREENPRINT page 4

Merriman assumes new post as Sports Information Director

BY CARLTON HOLMES
Beacon Editor-in-Chief

Wilkes athletic director Addy Malatesta launched the replacement search for a new sports information director in April after John Seitzinger resigned for a job with the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

The athletic department posted the job opening and all candidates were “outstand-

ing” according to Malatesta’s standards. In June 2008, she pulled 34-year-old Craig Merriman from Texas A&M Corpus Cristi to serve as the new Sports Information Director (SID) for all varsity sports.

“We were hopeful to attract a sports information director that had a number of years of experience,” Malatesta said. “Because John was a season veteran, and well re-

spected in the conference, we knew he was going to leave a void. So I think when we were searching, we weren’t going to try and look for someone who was just starting off in the field. And with Craig’s credentials, he came highly recommended to us. I think we made a very good choice with him.”

Merriman began his career as an assistant

See SID page 18

Center for Global Education and Diversity opens

BY AMY FUSCO
Beacon Asst. News Editor

The former prime minister of India, Indira Gandhi once said, “You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.” By opening a new space on campus dedicated to diversity and study abroad, Wilkes is seeking to shake hands with the world.

Students and faculty members now have a one-stop place to learn about diversity and global education through the new Center for Global Education and Diversity located at the Max Roth building on the corner of South and South Franklin Streets. An inauguration for the Center will take place September 12 beginning with a celebration of cultural heritage flags in the Henry Student Center at 1 p.m. and ending with a reception at the Max Roth building at 5 p.m.

“We are in the process of refining our mission and our goals, but the mission partly includes bringing all of the services and programming that we provide for global education and diversity under the same roof,” said Dr. Maria Suarez, the interim special assistant to the president for Diversity and Global Education.

The idea for the center came about from recommendations made by the Diversity Task Force which studied the university’s strengths and weaknesses in addressing diversity needs. The Board of Trustees approved the proposal for the center last spring.

See CENTER page 2



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PA Newspaper
Association Member





CENTER from FRONT PAGE

"One part of our mission is educating the population about really all that Wilkes has in terms of the increasing diversity and valuing everyone," said Brandon Ice, Associate Director of Diversity Initiatives.

The center offers training for student groups, advising and will help students transition into the Wilkes environment. The center will also provide support in case of incidents that might happen on campus involving discrimination of any kind. He explained that diversity is a broad topic; it includes race, gender, class, sexual orientation and religion, etc.

One major component of the center is its Intensive English Program (IEP), which is run by Kimberly Niezgoda. International students are taught English 30 hours a week and there are five levels of it. This year, approximately 40 new international students were admitted directly into the program when they were accepted at Wilkes.

An activity that Niezgoda would like to see grow is the conversation partner,

which involves an international student and a domestic student teaming up to converse for a few hours a week. She is looking forward to the cultural exchanges between the students. In addition to the Intensive English Program, an immigration specialist is staffed at the center.

"I help students from overseas with their immigration issues. I also help faculty members get

assistant director of International Student and Faculty Services.

Dr. Godlove Fonjweng, director of Global Education, explained that the center will aim to make the university like a home to the international students and help them succeed in the academic environment here. The center is also here for students who wish to study overseas.

"One of the key elements is to

of courses that students need to create a globalized environment," Fonjweng stated.

He is looking forward to faculty developing courses related to globalization.

Georgia Costalas, assistant director for Global Education explains that the "Center oversees the programming of activities throughout the year which provide opportunities for members of the

tivities."

Programs that are already underway include the Global Partners Program that is looking for American students to join with international students to learn about each other's language and culture and Global Families Program, in which a domestic family can host an international student to better learn about different cultures.

Jennifer Jones, a sophomore at Wilkes, is a student volunteer at the Center's office. She said, she "love[s] to help out the staff members and [she] feel[s] very comfortable in the center's atmosphere."

The Center for Global Education and Diversity has a variety of multicultural events planned for the year, including a coffee hour, every Wednesday from 3-5pm that is open to anyone on campus. The Inauguration program and a listing of other activities and events can be found in a booklet of events at the center.

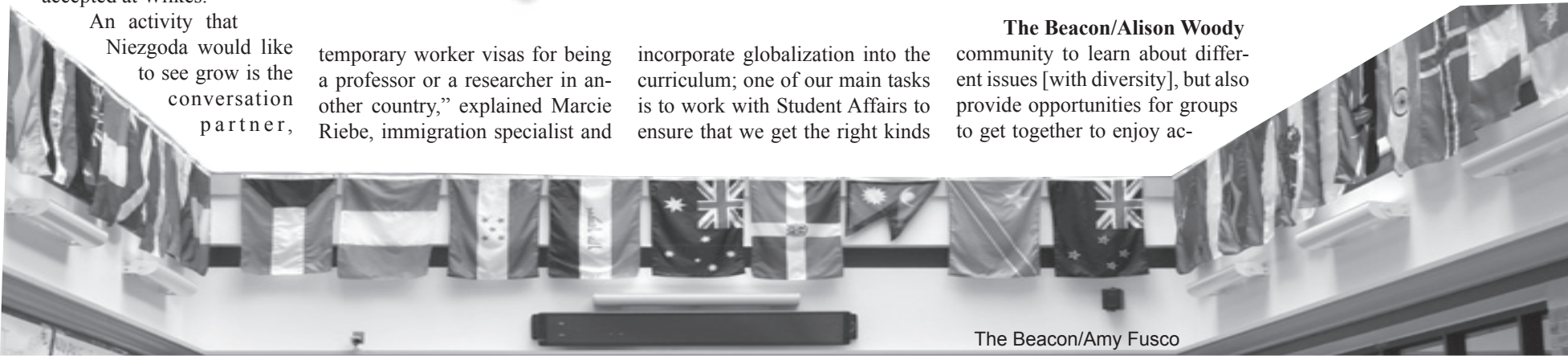
In the near future, there will be a logo competition for students to create a logo for the center; prizes will be awarded.



temporary worker visas for being a professor or a researcher in another country," explained Marcie Riebe, immigration specialist and

incorporate globalization into the curriculum; one of our main tasks is to work with Student Affairs to ensure that we get the right kinds

The Beacon/Alison Woody community to learn about different issues [with diversity], but also provide opportunities for groups to get together to enjoy ac-



The Beacon/Amy Fusco

The BEACON

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ELECTION 2008

BY ANDREW SEAMAN

Beacon Managing Editor

Summer '08

Political Analysis

The conventions are over, the vice presidential candidates have been chosen, and now the election has reached the home stretch. Fewer than 60 days separate either Illinois Sen. Barack Obama or Arizona Sen. John McCain from what is arguably the most powerful position in the world.

Since the 2007/2008 school year ended in May there have been many developments in the presidential election worth revisiting to kick off the fall semester's ongoing analysis.

Saturday, June 7, 2008: Surrounded by the marble columns of the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-NY, officially bowed out from the presidential race.

In front of thousands of supporters and her family, Clinton threw her support behind her Democratic opponent, Sen. Barack Obama. "I endorse him and throw my full support behind him and I ask all of you to join me in working as hard for Barack Obama as you have for me," said Clinton. Clinton had been a frontrunner for the Democratic nomination and handily won Pennsylvania's primary last spring.

Thursday, July 24, 2008: Sen. Barack Obama addressed over 200,000 people in front of the Victory Column in Berlin, Germany. Obama's stop in Germany was just one of several that drew huge crowds on a seven-nation tour through the Middle East and Europe.

Obama came under fire from Sen. John McCain, his Republican opponent, for the trip, but while in London, Obama defended his decision to campaign abroad.

"This was important for me not only to try to highlight or amplify how the international situation affects our economy back home but also hopefully to give people at home and also leaders abroad some sense of where an Obama administration might take our foreign policy," Obama said.

Saturday, August 16, 2008: Both presidential candidates appeared with Rick Warren, pastor of the large and influential Saddleback Church, to answer questions about their stance on various issues. Saddleback

Church is considered a "megachurch" with approximately 23,000 members, and is located in Lake Forest, California.

Many eyes were on both candidates during the question and answer session. Sen. Barack Obama worked to woo conservative Christian voters and to fight an underground movement to paint him as Muslim.

Sen. John McCain needed to solidify himself with evangelical leaders who reluctantly endorsed him because of his "maverick" ways. Media pundits and political analysts called McCain's performance with Warren superior and more popular with viewer's than Obama's.

Saturday, August 23, 2008: Sen. Barack Obama announced that he would welcome Sen. Joe Biden, D-DE, to join him on the Democratic ticket in November. Biden, a 35-year veteran of the Senate, was born in Scranton, PA and moved to Delaware when he was 10 years old.

Biden brings some characteristics to the Democratic ticket that Obama lacked, including foreign policy experience. The choice was praised by most Democrats but criticized by many Republicans.

Ben Porritt, spokesman for Sen. John McCain, said, "Biden has denounced Barack Obama's poor foreign policy judgment and has strongly argued in his own words what Americans are quickly realizing that Barack Obama is not ready to be president."

Monday, August 25 to Thursday, August 28, 2008: The Democratic National Convention was held in Denver, Colorado. During the four-night event the Democratic Party put on what seemed more like a rock concert than a political convention.

Noteworthy speakers at the convention included Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy, Caroline Kennedy, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Bill Clinton, Al Gore, Sen. Joe Biden and Sen. Barack Obama.

Obama's speech at Denver's Invesco Field, home of the Denver Broncos, was meant to emulate John F. Kennedy's acceptance speech almost forty years ago.

In his speech Obama put forth what many people were waiting for - a blueprint for an Obama administration.

According to Nielsen, the official television rating system, 38.4 million people watched Obama accept his party's nomination.

tion.

Friday, August 29, 2008: After keeping a tight lid on who his choice would be for a running mate, Sen. John McCain rocked the political world by choosing Sarah Palin, a first term Alaskan governor.

Palin brings many things to the Republican ticket. For one, the gun shooting, NRA, far right conservative helps solidify McCain with the party's base, which views him as a "maverick." Palin may also woo some former Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton supporters who are reluctant to support Sen. Barack Obama.

During a campaign stop in Dayton, Ohio, McCain said that he chose Palin for many reasons, but he believes "she's got the grit, integrity, and good sense and fierce devotion to the common good that is exactly what we need in Washington today."

Since McCain's announcement a lot of attention has been brought to McCain's vetting process, as the two had met and spoken only briefly twice before the nomination. In addition, news that Palin was under investigation for corruption in Alaska and that her 17-year-old, unmarried daughter was pregnant caused analysts to speculate on the impact both pieces of information might have on the campaign. McCain campaign spokespeople said that they knew of both situations before the announcement was made.

Monday, September 1 to Thursday, September 4, 2008: The Republican National Convention was held in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN, after a one-day postponement due to Hurricane Gustav. Republicans felt that this would be the wrong time for a political event.

During the convention, Republican speakers went after Democratic challenger Sen. Barack Obama, highlighting specifically his inexperience. The attacks against Sen. John McCain's running mate, Gov. Sarah Palin, for the same issue were redirected at Obama by saying that Palin at least has executive experience as mayor and governor.

Speakers at the convention included former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Gov. Mike Huckabee, Cindy McCain, Laura Bush, President George W. Bush, Palin and McCain.

Nielsen said that 38.9 million people watched McCain accept his party's nomination, which is slightly more than the number that watched Obama accept his nomination.

Looking Ahead: On September 26, 2008, the first presidential debate will be held at the University of Mississippi. The debate will focus on issues pertaining to foreign affairs and national security. On October 2, 2008 the Vice Presidential debate between Sen. Joe Biden and Gov. Sarah Palin will be held at Washington University in St. Louis. Biden is expected to bury Palin in foreign policy experience; however, after a fiery acceptance speech at the RNC, Democrats are watching Palin much more closely.

Expect all four candidates to spend time in Pennsylvania. The state, along with Ohio, Florida, Minnesota, Iowa, New Mexico, and Montana are all deemed "in play," by analysts and the cumulative electoral votes will be considered essential for a win.



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GREENPRINT from FRONT PAGE

page printed after 550 will be charged to the accounts at the end of the semester. Each student will start the spring semester with 550 prints as unused pages will not carry over.

Faculty and staff do not face GreenPrint limitations.

According to the second issue of the IT newsletter, the GreenPrint policy can save Wilkes 500,000 pages per year. The environmental impact the policy can have may result in saving 59 trees, lowering the carbon footprint of the university by 18,500lbs. Each student can find out how many trees they've used and other environmental facts pertaining to their own printing throughout the course of the semester by clicking in the yellow tracker box on campus computers.

"I suspect that there will be some savings in paper and toner expenses with the reduction in print," added Salem.

"I applaud the University's effort to reduce its carbon footprint and deliver on some of the environmental objectives outlined in the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment that our president has signed. However, I'm not sure the university has thoroughly examined the consequences for both students and faculty," said Dr. Sid Halsor, professor of geology. "For instance, I frequently use lecture slides and I urge my students to access a slide file prior to the lecture and print them out (handout mode, 3 slides per page) and bring the handout to lecture. My students need to build notes around the slides and this format allows that to happen. At three pages per lecture and three lectures per week this translates into over 125 sheets of paper or about 23 percent of a student's allocation. And this is just lecture notes for one class and does not include research paper and homework assignments..."

For courses that require the printing of Power Point slides or notes for each class meeting, such as Halsor's, Salem recommends that students print on both sides of each piece of paper, which would use only one of the 550 pages allotted. Printers in all Open Access Labs, the Nursing lab in University Towers, and numerous rooms in SLC are able to print on both the back and front of papers. Open Access Labs include the library, Student Center, Breiseth second floor and the SLC lobby.

"I think most students will be fine. I think the idea of a limitation is a little scary for

students and it automatically causes them to panic... Statistically, they predict that it shouldn't affect a lot of students," said Dr. Ebonie Stringer, assistant professor of sociology. Stringer has made the printing of Power Point slides optional for students this semester, but still requires a hardcopy of any term papers instead of electronically submissions through email or MyWilkes.

"People have different versions of word processing programs, so unless it's a PDF file, I can't guarantee that I can open it... There are 82 people in Soc 101, times five [pages] maximum for the main paper. I have to have hardcopies to provide easy feedback for students," she added.

email or hard-drive that they need, they are going to have to print it out eventually," said Siarkowski. "It seems like we might need more than [the additional] 50, but we won't know until the end of the semester. Just because we have 550 to use, doesn't mean we have to use it..."

Siarkowski added, "Do we have the technology to back this stuff up? I watched Captain Planet as much as any other kid growing up and going green is a good idea, but what happens if I have 10 assignments due and I have to put off sending one until the day it's due and the portal is down or the internet isn't working? I feel much safer having that assignment in my hand as a hard copy."

GREENPRINT FACTS

- 85% of Wilkes students print less than 500 pages per semester
- 15% of Wilkes students account for 50% of all printing paper usage on campus
- Wilkes will save 500,000 pages of paper per year with GreenPrint. Fifty-nine trees will be saved and the university will lower its carbon footprint by 18,500lbs.
- Each student is allowed 550 free prints. Each additional print costs 10 cents and will be added to student accounts at the end of the semester.
- Saving documents until printing is necessary, turning off graphics in Web browsers and printing on both sides of the paper can save students paper.

needed and submitting assignments electronically when the option is available. Turning off graphics in Web browsers and printing nine slides on each page of Power Point notes can also save paper.

Saving documents that may need to be printed at a later date may also be useful for students, but Salem cautions that students should use their home drive (H: drive) or portable hard-drives instead of leaving emails or assignments in their Wilkes inboxes online. Student inboxes can store up to 70megabytes, but large attachments and mismanagement of Sent and Deleted folders can quickly fill up available space. Previously, a student could not send emails when storage reached 60MB and could not send or receive when the account reached full capacity. IT has recently changed the storage thresholds on student email accounts: a send block will occur at 70MB but students will be able to keep receiving mail even at full capacity.

"There is another option for students and that's to use Outlook Express. What this does is it takes the mail out of your mailbox and brings it down to your computer; therefore, you don't have the mail stored in your mailbox anymore so you don't have the quota problem," said Salem. "In your computer, you can keep as much mail as you want forever. The only drawback

is that if you go to a lab and you get on to the portal and you click on email, any email you brought down to your computer you can't see anymore unless you're on your [personal] computer."

Outlook Express is part of the Microsoft Office Suite. A limited number of Microsoft Office Suite 2007 for PC and 2008 for Mac is available for \$9.99 to Wilkes students with ID at Barnes & Noble downtown.

With the GreenPrint policy in place, Wilkes joins universities such as Penn State, Temple,

The Beacon/Alison Woody

and Carnegie Mellon with student print quotas. Penn State offers 110 pages to their students at five cents per page while Carnegie Mellon offers 800 pages, also at five cents per page.

More information about the GreenPrint policy can be found on the MyWilkes portal.

Having been approached by numerous students who had concerns regarding the new printing policy, P1 pharmacy student Charles Siarkowski spoke for his classmates at a Student Government meeting on August 27.

"We have fewer resources to work with... If the student does have something in their

"I think the 550 sheets of paper allocation will create a hardship for many students and I would urge the university to review the policy and look for creative ways to alleviate the hardship," said Halsor.

Aside from using both sides of the paper when printing, GreenPrint conservation hints also include only printing what is truly

SG Notes September 3, 2008

Treasurer's Report

All College: \$45,000.00
 General: \$9,330.85
 Special Projects: \$3,500.00
 Spirit: \$2,000.00
 Leadership: \$3,744.59
 Conferences: \$12,500.00
 Start-Up: \$1,500.00

Club Reports

The following clubs presented updates on their events.

Programming Board

New Business

- Dr. Reynold Verret and Petra Carver Q&A- SG members were able to speak with the guests about the printing issue and Wilkes University "Going Green" policies.
- Students for Environmental Sustainability (SES) Club- A student presented the idea for this club to SG. The decision on whether it will be a club is in process. The announcement will be made in the next two weeks.
- Step Club- wants to change the name of it. It will be called Wilkes University Step

Association. Process will be complete in the next two weeks.

- Rock Wall Training- discussion of SG members, among other members of the Wilkes community, being trained.

- Fall Elections- Signatures September 8th through the 19th; Elections September 22nd through the 24th.

- Homecoming- date is the week of September 29th. Activities are being planned. The Homecoming Dance is October 3rd.

Old Business

Going Green
 SG Table

Events

Club Day September 4th 11-1pm

* At 8 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn the SG meeting. The motion was approved.

SG meetings are open to all students. They are held every Wednesday in the Miller Conference room on the second floor of the HSC.



The Beacon/Jenna Stephens

On Friday, September 5, the building that was previously a home to Rodano's Pizza was demolished. It was located on 155 North Main Street. The new Rodano's will be on Public Square and owner Frank Rodano will be employing 25 to 30 new people. Having once been a hot spot for the community, people can still enjoy Rodano's atmosphere in its new location.

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Amethyst Initiative rallies to lower drinking age to 18

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

In July 2008, Jon McCardell, former president of Middlebury University, along with presidents and chancellors of other colleges and universities launched the Amethyst Initiative, a push to raise awareness of binge drinking among young people and debate the current drinking age.

In 1984, Congress passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act. The law penalized states 10% of their federal highway funds if they set a drinking age below 21.

After nearly 25 years, the law is finally being reconsidered. Since July 2008, over 120 prominent collegiate officials have signed the Amethyst Initiative. Some notable supporters include presidents at Duke, Dartmouth, John Hopkins, and Ohio State. Regional signatories include President Rev. Thomas O'Hara at King's College, President Joseph Brosnan at Delaware Valley College, and President L. Jay Lemons at Susquehanna University. Those who have signed the initiative emphasize that the goal is not to just lowering the drinking age to 18. "They feel...if it were decriminalized so to speak, that there would be students who would be less apt to overindulge," explained Paul Adams, Vice President of Wilkes University Student Affairs.

Those who have signed on to the Amethyst Initiative argue that the current drinking age encourages "a culture of dangerous, clandestine 'binge-drinking' often conducted off-campus." Thus, if students are compelled to be secretive, get fake IDs and also travel off-campus, the health and legal risks increase dramatically. The campus leaders who champion the Amethyst Initiative argue for a "robust" public discussion about alcohol education and legal drinking age.

Indeed, underage drinking is the elephant in the room at most colleges. At the undergraduate level, the vast majority of most campuses are comprised of students under 21 years old. Thus, most schools have no choice but to take an abstinence-only approach to alcohol education. Talking about and to students who break the law as well as endanger themselves and others is a tough issue to tackle publicly. But who can blame them? How are college officials effectively to teach/promote safe drinking habits to students, the majority of whom are underage? The truth is the current age is simply not working.

Too many times we read the tragic stories of college students who literally "drink themselves to death." According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, an average of 1,700 people ages 18-24 will die this year due to alcohol related injuries.

But could these deaths be prevented if institutions could more effectively educate and promote safe drinking habits?

Wilkes University President Tim Gilmour seems to think so. "...This idea that absolutely not drinking as the only solution is just not practical...What it is, is knowing what your limits are, and behaving responsibly around those limits."

Naturally, supporters have encountered some push back from various organizations. "To put things politely, [the Amethyst Initiative proposal is] horse manure," said David Muldhum of Mothers against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.). According to M.A.D.D. an estimated 25,000 lives have been saved by the 21 Minimum Legal Drinking Age passed in 1984.

However, *The Beacon* found that the downward trend in alcohol related traffic fatalities actually began in the 1960s, just as states were lowering their drinking ages. In addition, statistics that claim a downward trend in traffic fatalities cannot exclusively point to alcohol and the higher legal drinking age as the sole cause. These numbers do not take into consideration issues such as the technological advancements in the medical field, communication and response time improvements, and vehicle safety standards as part of the broader story.

The power to lower the drinking age lies within the states, but it is unlikely that any state would risk 10% of its highway funds to do so. The only realistic solution would be if the federal government repealed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act so that states would still receive the total amount of highway funds. Then states would be able to reasonably consider all issues and facts and make a decision appropriate for constituents.

At the age of 18, American men and women are allowed to vote, sign contracts, and die for the country, but are still unable to have a beer. If the government says that 18 is a legal adult on most other fronts, then why not alcohol consumption?

What is known for sure is that Wilkes has yet to sign the initiative, but President Gilmour and his cabinet are in the process of formulating an official stance. We applaud the goal of current signatories to encourage robust discussion-the issues at stake are cultural, political, and economic and are certainly complex. They demand public attention and those who have signed the Amethyst Initiative have taken a brave lead in spurring that discussion forward.

Point 1



- Over 120 College and University officials have

joined to debate the current drinking age. Wilkes is in the process of making a final decision.

Point 2



- The National Minimum Drinking Age Act would

penalize states 10% of highway funds if drinking age is lower than 21.

Point 3



- We applaud the goal of current

signatories to encourage robust discussion.



The Angry Rant: Hating Hollister

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Staff Writer

Note: This rant was originally going to be about the election; about how our country will make history in November. With the Democratic National Convention two weeks ago and the Republican National Convention last week, it seemed I was spoiled with a glut of important topics to talk about, including, but not limited to: Does Obama's skin color matter? (It doesn't), Does anyone care that Sarah Palin's daughter is pregnant? (Nope), Is free health care a good idea (Nah), Will John McCain really follow Bin Laden to the gates of hell? (Probably not, but that would be totally cool), and finally, Did Juno deserve an Academy Award (You all know the answer to that.)

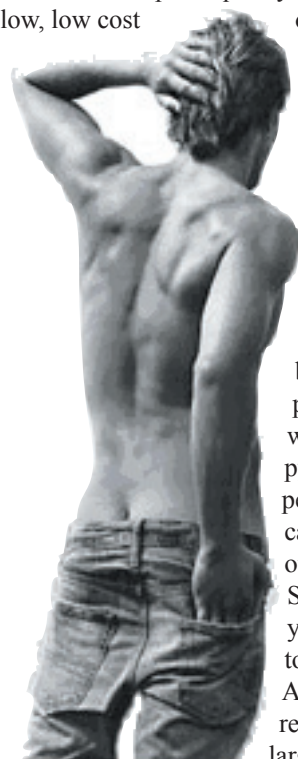
My editors were thrilled that I was apparently trying to make difference, and in the midst of such a crucial election, I felt it was my duty as an educated individual to do all that I can to influence the students at this fine university.

Then I realized something: I'm not even registered to vote! Why should I care that Obama didn't pick a female for his VP or if that old guy wants to give Texas back to Mexico, or some crap like that.

No way, this week, I've got bigger fish to fry.

Hollister, I hate you.

You, along with your cronies over at Abercrombie and Fitch (technically, they're your parent company, but who cares) are the bane of my existence. Yes, I realize that it's trivial to be upset by a company that manufactures poor quality clothing at the low, low cost



of a full tank of gas, but still. You fight your battles, I'll fight mine.

Why the ire, Hollister? Perhaps it's the fact that your clothes are built for 160 pound "men" who have moppy hair and a penchant for calling each other "brosef." Seriously, have you ever tried to shop there? An extra-large is really a large, a large is a women's

small, and a small, well, let's just say that you have to go two stores down to the Baby Gap if you want to find someone comparable to that.

Also, your logo is a seagull. Your graphic representation is a bird that flies around barges and eats garbage all day. You've effectively chosen the pigeon of the sea to be your mascot. Canada has a better symbol.

Yes, a maple leaf trumps your bird. Just think about that.

I f that

weren't enough, maybe my anger comes from the fact that you don't have clearly marked sections in your store. There are sections marked "dudes" and "bettys", which I am to assume is some secret surfer (see also: hippie) code for "male" and "female", but how am I to know that? While your PR department was busy handing out that memo, I suppose I was too busy not being a complete douche somewhere. Can I say douche? I can? Awesome.

Anyway, what happens if you're a dude

named Betty? Then where do you go? Of course, if you do have the misfortune of being a dude named Betty, then you probably have bigger challenges than navigating in a Hollister, but I digress.

Or, maybe I hate you because I can't walk past the entrance of one of your stores without seeing a 15-foot picture of a guy whose junk is hanging out. Not that I'm looking for that thing, mind you, but it's hard to miss, even for a blind person who has just been gouged in the eyes repeatedly with a branding iron. But really, is that necessary? Is that supposed to lure me into your store so I can buy a

bottle of \$35 cologne that's been so cleverly named "Jake?" Good name,

Hollister. Was "Toolbag" already taken?

Honestly, I'm afraid that if I take one step closer to your store, Chris Hansen of Dateline NBC is going to step out, ask me what I'm doing there, then proceed to question why I was "just stopping by" with a case of Mike's Hard Lemonade and a webcam. That's what we call "entrapment," Hollister. You should know better.

Perhaps my ire comes from the unnecessarily loud music that blasts throughout the

speakers, making it nearly impossible to hear the employees, which, isn't that big of a deal, because, let's face facts: If they are working at a Hollister, they don't really have anything intelligent to say, do they? I mean, anything beyond the realm of "Hey, is this leather bracelet on sale?" is probably too much for these geniuses.

If the loud music (usually Maroon 5 or James Blunt) isn't grating enough for your senses, then get ready for the acrid smell of the aforementioned cologne that is being pumped through the vents like it's a deadly toxin in an episode of "24." I swear every one of your stores smells worse than a prostitute convention after the fifth round of vodka martinis and Vicodins have been served.

But, really, Hollister, I just hate you because your clothes are awful, and you want to get everyone to conform to the same stereotype of tribal tattoos, pastel shirts and pre-ripped jeans.

Essentially, you're cranking out thousands of people who look just like Spencer from The Hills.

Am I jealous? Nope. I'll stick with my cargo shorts and Led Zeppelin shirt.

And I'll be just fine.

Cartoon by: Gino Troiani



IOC investigation into age fraud necessary

Age minimums in place for a reason

BY LAUREN SALEM

Beacon Asst. Op-Ed Editor

According to an August 14 article, "The Medal Machine is Cranking," in *Time* magazine, "On the eve of the Olympics, Huang Yubin, head coach of China's gymnastics squad, said he would 'jump off the highest building' if his team won only one gold." Huang may have backed away from the ledge when his team won China gold in individual and team, but the outcome of an ongoing investigation ordered by the International Olympic Committee might push him over the edge.

China's star player in the Olympic gymnastic games, He Kexin, won gold medals in both team and individual events, but suspicions about her underage status may spoil China's victory.

If the International Olympic Committee (IOC) confirms that He was only 14 during the Olympic year, the Chinese phenom could be stripped of her medals. Primary documents issued by the General Administration of Sport of China suggest evidence that He was indeed underage, which means that China may get the gold only for 'age falsification'.

In 1981, the minimum age requirements for international gymnastics competition were increased from 15 to 16 to protect the mental and physical health of the competitors.

At the 2000 Sydney Olympics, Yang Yun, a Chinese gymnast, won (but did not deserve) the bronze medal in the uneven bars competition, because she was underage. According to Yang's passport, she was born on December 24, 1984 and was turning 16 the year of the Olympic games, but local registries, athletic records, and news articles prior to the Olympics said she was 14. Yang later confessed in a television interview that she

was only 14 at the time of the Olympics and that she and her coaches lied about her age.

According to an August 22 *TimesOnline* article, "international Olympic Committee Launches Probe..." Mike Walker, a computer security expert, triggered the investigation after he found two Excel spreadsheets on the Chinese government's official sports website that stated He Kexin's birth date was January 1, 1994, which makes her only 14. "These documents existed, on a state-wide website, and now they don't exist, and this change has taken place recently," Walker said. "I was interested because these were documents that no-one could find." Walker told *The Times* that he wasn't a sports fan, "but decided to investigate the issues to determine if the Chinese authorities were lying."

The *China Daily* article "Uneven-bars queen the new star in town" dated May 23, 2008, showed that He was 14, but was then mysteriously updated changing only her age. Another article written

in 2007 by *Xinhua* referred to He as 13 years old. An official gymnastics roster dated January 27, 2006 published by the Chengdu government for its City Games, a competition in which He competed, shows that He's birth date is January 1, 1994.

Based evidence offered through these and other sources, it seems unlikely He Kexin is 16; therefore, she was not eligible to compete in the Olympics. By competing in

the

Olympics, she has cheated other eligible gymnasts out of the medals they earned. The ages of two other Chinese gymnasts, Jiang Yuyuan and Yang Yilin, are also questionable, but there is less evidence that supports media conjecture.

He Kexin won the gold on the uneven bar finals even though both He and US gymnast Nastia Liukin scored a 16.725. Unlike in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, dual medals are no longer given to two gymnasts who have earned equal scores and a tiebreaker determines who wins gold and silver. According to *The New York Times*, "In the tie-breaking formula, He was given the gold medal because she had a lower average of deductions. The margin was a whisper-thin 0.033 points."

Perhaps the larger issue is why adults associated with international gymnastics competition actively appear to break the rules. Raising the age minimum to 16 was designed to protect exploitation of young athletes and is a noble goal. In

in -

international gymnastics competition actively appear to break the rules. Raising the age minimum to 16 was designed to protect exploitation of young athletes and is a noble goal. In

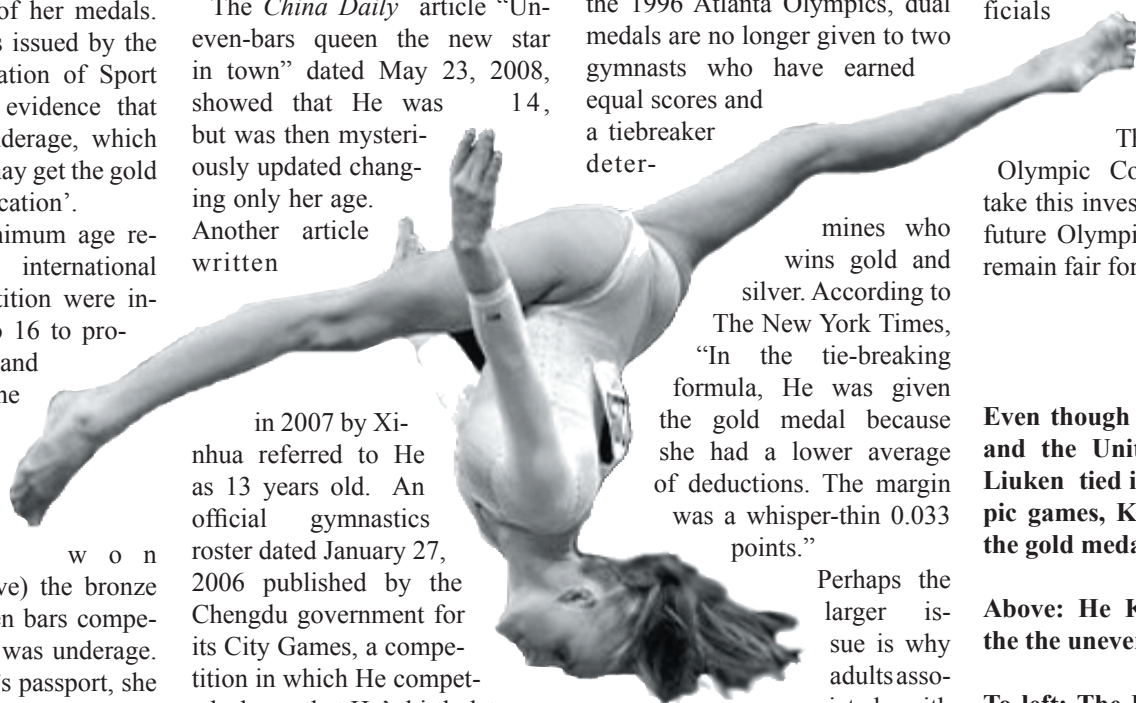
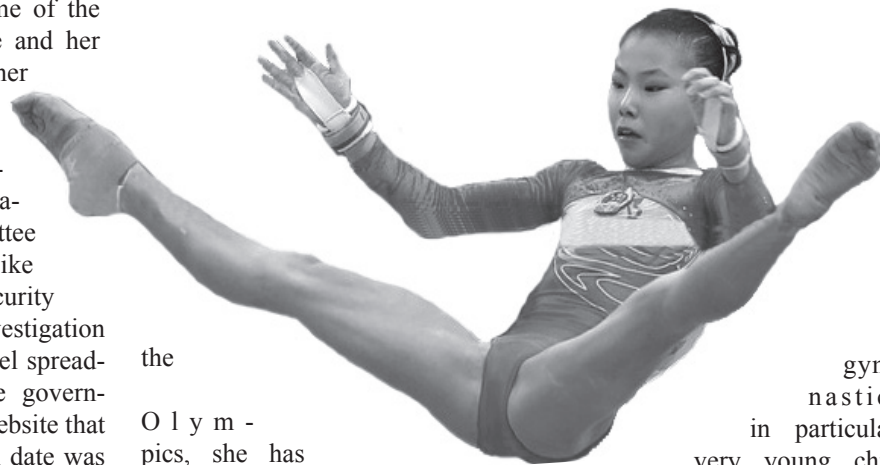
gymnastics in particular, very young children run great physical and emotional risks as they face the pressure of world attention. It is unlikely that underaged athletes could or would initiate age deception without adult guidance. If He is, in fact, guilty of competing while under age, she should be made an example and lose her medals. However, the greater challenge is to find appropriate punishment for coaches, government officials and parental figures, all of whom should certainly know better.

The International Olympic Committee needs to take this investigation seriously if future Olympic competition is to remain fair for all.

Even though China's He Kexin and the United States' Nastia Liukin tied in this year's Olympic games, Kexin was awarded the gold medal.

Above: He Kexin competes in the the uneven bars final.

To left: The United States' Nastia Liukin performs her balance beam routine.



The Beacon Poll Question

This weeks question:

Should Wilkes President Gilmour sign the Amethyst Initiative?

- Yes
- No
- Depends



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Fenner Farms
fresh produce
at Wilkes
PAGE 11

Lifestyles

SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

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College freshmen take a shot at binge drinking

BY CHRISTA SGOBBA

Beacon Lifestyles Editor

After spending four years at Wilkes University, Brian McCormick has attended enough parties to recognize the common denominator that fuels a noteworthy bash.

According to McCormick, that fuel is alcohol. And there's a lot of it guzzled down.

"There were lots of house parties with lots and lots of alcohol," said McCormick, who graduated in May of 2008 with a degree in business administration. "There were just a lot of people coming together for these parties and just drinking like crazy."

Binge drinking is not new to college campuses, but the intensity with which students engage in it is growing sharply. According to a 2007 report by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University titled "Wasting the Best and the Brightest: Substance Abuse at America's Colleges and Universities," the percentage of students who reported binge drinking remained at 40 percent from 1993 to 2005.

However, from 1993 to 2001, the proportion of students who reported drinking to get drunk rose more than 20 percent. The proportion of those who engaged in binge drinking frequently rose 16 percent.

The National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism defines binge drinking as consuming five or more drinks in a two-hour period for males, and four or more drinks for females. According to McCormick, many students at Wilkes, especially freshmen, blow past that benchmark each night.

"The freshmen act pretty crazy," said McCormick. "If they knew a lot of people there, they'd do pretty much anything. I've seen someone jump off a roof onto a car."

Susan Biskup, a counselor at the Wilkes Counseling Center, believes that the peer and social pressures new freshmen face in the transition to college can contribute to their decisions to binge drink.

"We can attribute some of it to our culture. The media, liquor stores, bars, and alcoholic beverage companies make drinking seem fun and attractive," she said. "Also, college students are curious, and want to know what it is like to drink alcohol if they

have not experienced it before."

Drinking past the point of tipsy was commonplace at the parties McCormick attended. He described drinking habits as varying from person to person, with some drinking only socially, while others "got completely wasted every night."

"Probably at every party I've been at, I've seen someone there passed out from drinking," he said.

From his experience over the years, McCormick has noticed that freshmen seem to make up the majority of those overindulging. He attributes this to the change in lifestyle from high school to college, as well as the desire to fit in with the upperclassmen.

"I'd say by the time we were seniors, we weren't completely crazy or out of control," he said. "But it's a new experience for the freshmen. They're meeting a lot of new people, and they want to show off."

Gerry Rebo, the manager of Public Safety, agrees that the pressure of fitting in with the upperclassmen fuels freshmen binge drinking.

"I think that freshmen have a 'live-up-to' feeling. They want to live up to what the juniors and seniors are doing in regards to drinking," he said.

"They get swayed by peer pressure, but they have to learn to take responsibility for themselves."

It takes only one episode of binge drinking to become acquainted with some of the results.

Common short-term effects include nausea, vomiting, shakiness, memory loss, and hangovers. Long-term effects consist of physical and psychological dependence on alcohol, damage to the brain and liver, and sexual dysfunction.

Biskup also notes that binge drinking can

impair judgment, leaving students more vulnerable to sexual assault when under the influence of alcohol.

"An example would be taking a ride home with someone you don't know, or going to a dorm room with someone that you don't have a sense of their trustworthiness," she said. "Because of this impaired judgment, a student who has been drinking heavily is less likely to protect themselves from sexual assault."

Besides the physical consequences, students can also face legal sanctions for their bouts of underage drinking.

has already issued several alcohol-related arrests and citations during the first week of classes. Besides possible criminal repercussions, University sanctions include fines, terminations, or suspensions, depending on the severity and number of the offenses.

Last year, McCormick, who was 21, attended a party where some revelers were cited for underage drinking.

"Every year there would be a few busts," he said. "I know people in my class who have gotten underages, or multiple underages, and some who lost their licenses and couldn't drive for a year. They had to go to court and pay a bunch of fines."

However, if the drinking age were lowered to 18, as advocated by over 100 college presidents who comprise the Amethyst Initiative, students would no longer face legal repercussions for drinking under the age of 21.

While lowering the drinking age would cut down on underage alcohol violations on college campuses, many at Wilkes aren't convinced it would curb the binge-drinking problem.

Biskup believes that preventive programming and continued, constant enforcement of the law on campus would be a better solution than lowering the drinking age.

"I have a hard time wrapping my head around such an idea," Biskup said. "The brain formation of many of our students at the age of 18 is such that they are capable of high risk or impulsive behavior without the impairment of judgment that occurs when drinking."

According to Rebo, lowering the drinking age to 18 "would make drinking on campus out of hand." Instead, students need to redefine the belief that alcohol must be present in order to have fun.

"The problem is that students think it's their right to drink and to party. They can still have fun, but alcohol doesn't need to be involved," he said. "They need to know that drinking under the age of 21 is a violation. It's not OK just because you're a University student."



Over the past few years, the numbers of alcohol-related offenses at Wilkes have remained nearly steady. In 2006, the most recent year statistics were available, Wilkes reported 94 alcohol-related offenses, included liquor law violations, drunkenness, and disorderly conduct.

According to Rebo, the city of Wilkes-Barre

Photo courtesy of Christa Sgobba

Dorm decorating without breaking the bank

BY BETHANY YAMRICK

Beacon Correspondent

For most resident college students, the dorm functions as bedroom, study, hang out, and center of life. So, aesthetically, it should not reflect a prison cell.

Decorating your space can make you feel at home and can create an inviting area for new friends. And it doesn't have to be expensive. Since college students are basically broke, decorating should not take away from the budget for books, tuition, and meals. Here are some simple ways to

jazz up your space while still being aware of the cost.

-Color scheme is first and foremost. The base color can derive from your comforter, accented with throw pillows. Matching sheets, towels, rugs, lamps, bins, and accessories are an easy way to keep the necessities for your room functional and fashionable. Many department stores have established base themes, making it easy to buy in one shot, with colors that go well with items from different stores.

-Cleaning products such as Febreze and Lysol are your friends. With a little cleaning, your nice-smelling room will be more inviting. And choosing darker rugs can show less dirt.

-Extra seats such as the old-fashioned bean bag chairs would be useful. Also trendy this year are saucer chairs. Freshman Sara Cosgrove said they are "comfy and

fold flat, so if you want to get rid of them you can just shove them somewhere."

-Organization is key to having an appealing, clutter-free thinking zone. A solution is plastic storage bins for under the bed. The biggest variety and best prices were available locally at Target. Other cheap finds include milk crates and wire box shelving.

-Most importantly, think outside the box. When school shopping, Cosgrove said she "waited for stuff to go on sale and shopped around." Ross Dress for Less had the cheapest bedding, Office Max the cheapest lamps and rugs, and the Bon Ton had sheets and towels on sale. Thrift stores always have unique finds.

-Wall art is a must. Hanging up posters, pictures, tapestries, and other items make a large difference fast. There are corkboards dry erase boards, chalkboards, and French memo boards. To help personalize her room, Maria

Scavo said, "I took pieces from my room to make my dorm feel more like home."

Personalize your area, but also remember that you share it with another person, so it is important your roommate's voice is not overshadowed by your designs. Try picking one color and both branching from there. Make those items that already match a common theme or color, and build off that. Have fun with it and make sure it reflects you.



Sara Cosgrove, a freshman, shows off her new saucer chair.

The Beacon/Bethany Yamrick



The Beacon/Jenna Stephens

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Organic produce makes its way into Wilkes' cafeteria

BY LEEANN SEARFOSS

Beacon Asst. Lifestyles Editor

The craze of "going green" has officially swept the nation. We are told to recycle, use products free of chemicals, and turn off the lights and water when they're not in use, all in the hopes of gaining energy and extending the lifespan of products. Now, Wilkes University is following suit.

In accordance with the Lands at Hillside Farms, Wilkes has created an urban entrepreneurial farm. Fenner Farm, once housed on the corner of South River and Ross Street, was developed by students to grow produce and become a learning tool about agriculture.

"Hillside Farms really enjoys the relationship we have with Wilkes University and Fenner Farm," said Christine Doherty, Agriculture Educator for the Lands at Hillside Farms.

After a breakdown in soil deposits, Fenner Farm was relocated to the Lands at Hillside Farms in Back Mountain.

"We are not sure what happened with the soil at Fenner Farm. We are looking into it," said Andrew Pressman, farmer for Hillside Farms.

Covering several thousand feet, Fenner Farm is home to crops such as arugula, tomatoes, and lettuce. The produce cultivated at the Farm may not be of interest to many college-aged students, but it is affecting the way they eat at the cafeteria.

According to Michael Raub, the Retail Manager of dining services at Wilkes, "Wilkes offers organic options for healthier choices of the students, offering as much as they can."

The food grown at Hillside Farm is 100 percent organic. Then, the produce is bought by Sodexo, the operators of the Wilkes dining services. The food grown by Wilkes students out at Fenner Farm, with the assistance of the Lands at Hillside

Farms, is coming back full circle to the students.

"This is a chance for young people to do lots of things: eat local, eat healthy, and be more nutritious with their eating habits," stated Doherty.

Sodexo's involvement in the buying and re-shelving of the food grown at Fenner Farm was the brain child of Executive Chef Brad Geiser.

"When we found out that Wilkes' Fenner Farm was in existence, we jumped on it. This is a way to help us and help you at the same time," said Geiser.

Geiser outlines the importance of eating locally-grown food and, in turn, sustaining culture and local agriculture.

"We are basically helping the local society," said Geiser.

Geiser has bought many of the crops produced at Fenner Farm, including herbs, vegetables, tomatoes, potatoes, and basil. Along with Wilkes' and Sodexo's involvement with Fenner Farm, they are also buying locally-grown produce, such as apples, pears, mushrooms, and spinach.

"Sisco, our [the cafeteria's] operator, buys lots of organic or locally-produced food. If it's available, we buy it," stated Chef Geiser.

Sodexo has been trying to incorporate organic food and eco-friendly options into many aspects of their dining facilities, including Wilkes' Henry Student Center Dining Hall. Henry's Dining Hall uses organic fruits and vegetables on fruit stations and salad bars, as well as in Rikin Cafe. Both Henry's and Rikin Cafe; serve Fair-Trade organic coffee by Green Mountain Coffee Roasters.

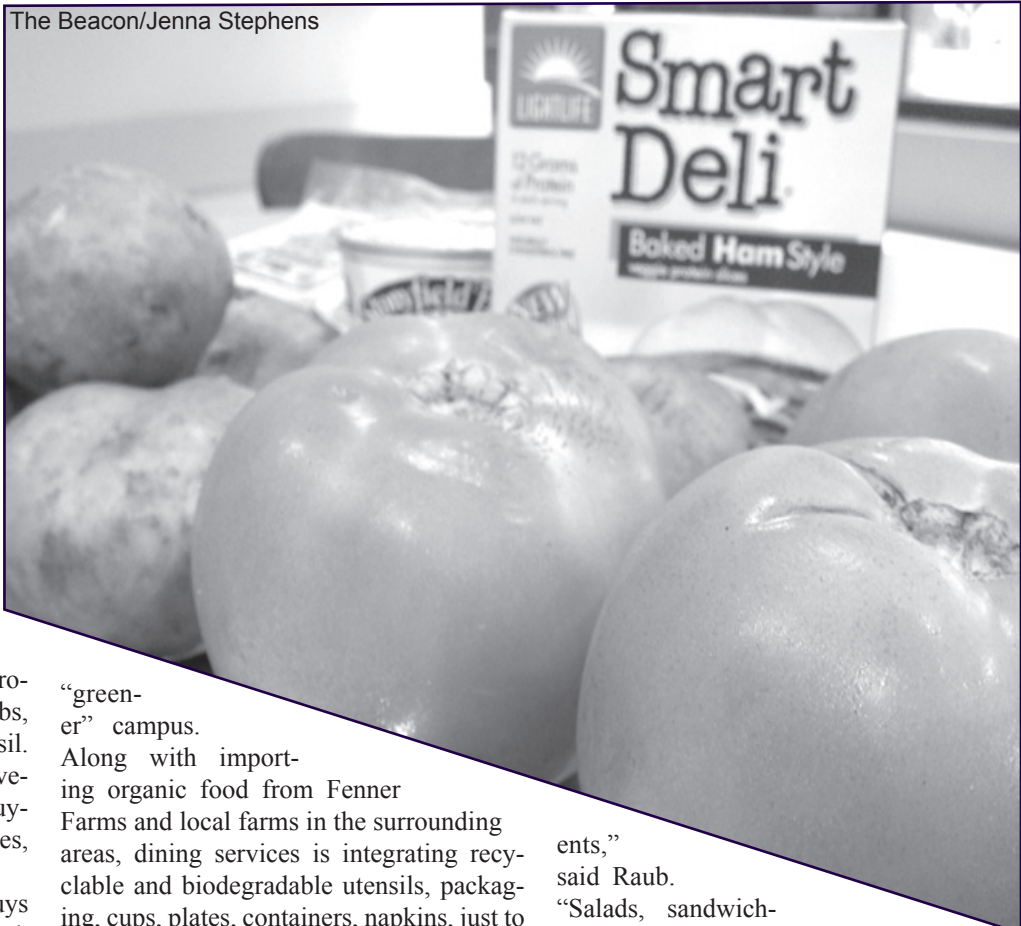
"Organic food tastes better and looks better," said Raub.

Organic food is not the only way Wilkes' dining services are working towards a

While most students declare a major by the end of their sophomore year, Jason Brady decided to create one. After becoming involved with the Fenner Farm project in the spring of 2008, Brady, a sophomore, started the process of creating his own major, Sustainable Farming, which focuses on Permaculture.

While Brady will be taking earth and environmental science courses, he will also have to take business classes and doing several internships and participating in farming workshops. Brady is looking to intern at the White Earth Reservation, a Native American reservation in Minnesota. *The Beacon* sat down with Brady to ask him our three candid questions as Student of the Week.

The Beacon/Jenna Stephens



"greener" campus.

Along with importing organic food from Fenner Farms and local farms in the surrounding areas, dining services is integrating recyclable and biodegradable utensils, packaging, cups, plates, containers, napkins, just to name a few.

"We have moved to a brown paper wrapper for most sandwiches instead of a hinged bagasse container, saving approximately 10 full-size trash bags per day from Rifkin from going to landfills," stated Raub.

Rikin is also the home of new displays of several "green" options for students. New shelving can be seen holding an array of organic snack options, as well as green cleaning supplies. These snacks include jams, energy bars, and beverages.

"Beginning this fall, we will be starting the 'Fresh Food Market,' featuring grab-and-go foods with one of the following: organic, locally grown, sustainable, or natural ingredi-

ents,"

said Raub.

"Salads, sandwiches, and wraps are on a weekly rotation in the cooler by the register."

Not only has Wilkes University opted to bring as many environmentally-friendly options to its student, but even the transportation of the food is becoming eco-friendly.

"The trucks that bring the produce run on bio-diesel fuel. Even the tractors that plow the crops are run on bio-diesel," said Geiser.

Wilkes is working on many more topics to move towards a "greener" campus, including composting food waste, and encouraging recycling at all retail facilities for customer use.

STUDENT
of the
WEEK

Jason Brady

Sophomore
Individualized Studies

The Beacon: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Brady: In ten years I'll be riding an elephant in Thailand.

The Beacon: Describe yourself in three words.

Brady: I refuse to describe myself in three words.

The Beacon: Finish this sentence: My friends would be surprised to know...

Brady: ...that I can do a back flip!



The Beacon/LeeAnn Searfoss



Movie Review:
*Hamlet 2 &
 Tropic Thunder*
PAGE 14

A & E
SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

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Leadership Wilkes-Barre mural brightens downtown

BY ALYSSA BENNER
Beacon A&E Editor

Returning students may have noticed a new splash of color in the downtown.

Last month a community mural was unveiled on the large face of the *Times Leader* building, located at 15 N. Main Street.

Leadership Wilkes-Barre, located at 2 Public Square in Wilkes-Barre, assembled a ten member group of local business employees to spearhead the ambitious project.

"We originally started thinking small like on the side of Lowe's and it kind of just blossomed," said MaryLee Klemish, a member of the group that worked on the mural. "We're hoping that it generates talk, because now we've shown a way that people can

do it with the community."

The competition for design ended March 15 and the painting began in April. The design features a variety of images that reflect the history, culture, and physical features of Wilkes-Barre and the Wyoming Valley. The mural was up by the end of August. Other than the ten group members originally assigned to the project, volunteers were huge factors in making the mural happen.

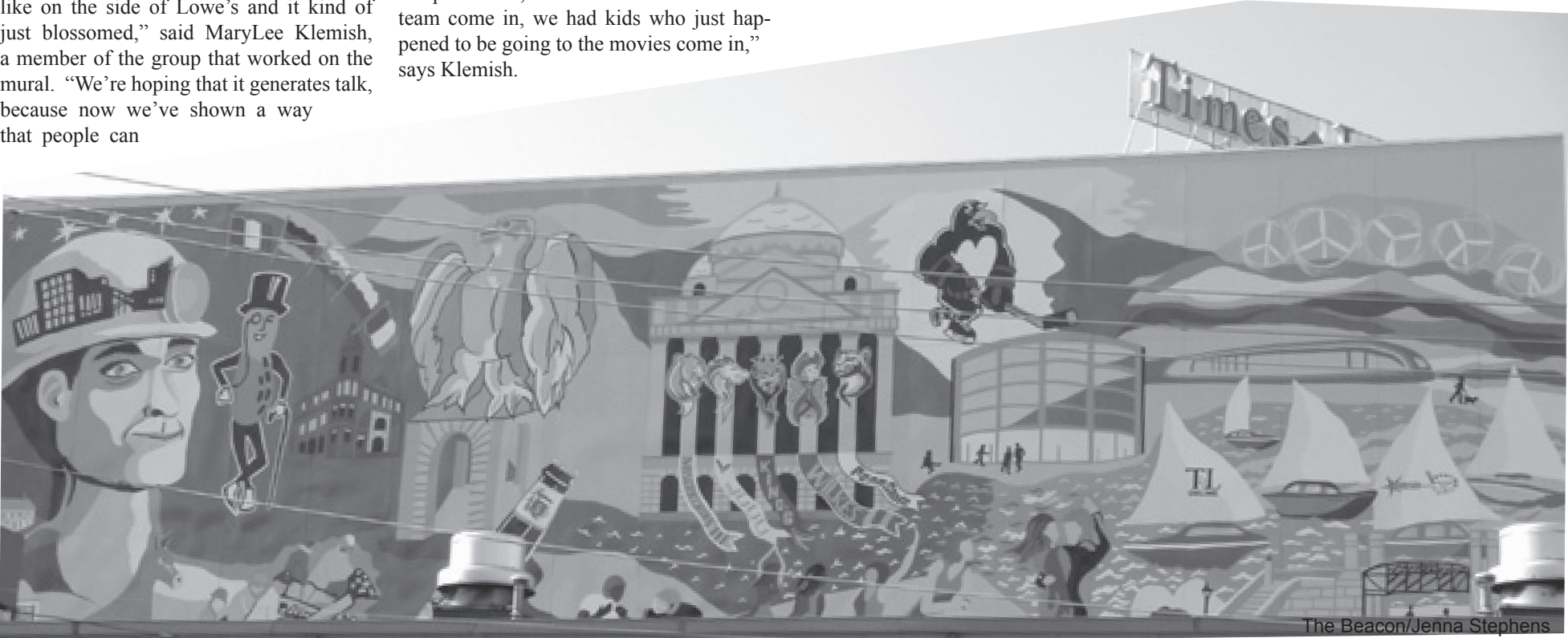
"We did have people come in from all walks of life and all different organizations and all different ages. We had a girl scout troop come in, we had kids from a softball team come in, we had kids who just happened to be going to the movies come in," says Klemish.

The mural in its entirety can be seen where Coal Street meets Wilkes-Barre Boulevard. Melissa Rovinski, a customer service representative at Solid Cactus, in the Jewelcor Center at 100 North Wilkes-Barre Blvd., sees the mural everyday on her lunch break. Rovinski says, "It's actually really nice to see something that captures the essence of Wilkes-Barre everyday."

Leadership Wilkes-Barre puts together a new class of local business and community members each year. The aim for each class is to, "Create and implement group projects that address needs in the commu-

nity," according to the Leadership Wilkes-Barre website. Leadership Wilkes-Barre also offers a variety of classes that bring together local college students (Collegiate Leadership Wilkes-Barre) and high school students (Junior Leadership Wilkes-Barre).

Ashley Filipek, an English major with a women's studies minor said, "If I knew a project like this was going on, I would most definitely get involved. Because it's all volunteers, I don't need a background in art to be part of something big."



The Beacon/Jenna Stephens

Helen Farr Sloan tribute focus of new Sordoni exhibit

Sordoni celebrates 35 years of art education

BY YOHANNA DE LOS SANTOS M.
Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

"Remembering Helen: The Sordoni Art Gallery at Thirty-five" is the name of the current exhibit held at the Sordoni Art Gallery in commemoration of its 35 years.

The exhibit pays tribute to Helen Farr Sloan, a prominent artist of the 20th century and also member of the Advisory Commission of the Sordoni Art Gallery. "Remem-

bering Helen" will be open to the public until Sunday, October 5.

The works offered in the exhibit pay tribute to the memory of the famed artist by displaying works she donated as well as those of others who were inspired by Sloan and made gifts to the gallery. "We thought it was [appropriate] to do the exhibition under her name because she passed away in 2005," said DeBalko.

Helen Farr was born in New York in 1911. In 1927, Farr joined the New York Students Art League where she met John Sloan who soon became her mentor, friend, and eventually her husband 17 years later. Her work was varied in medium and style. Sloan experimented in etching and lithography as well as produced oil painting and served as a set designer for theater.

"She was a very charming, lovely woman

and incredibly knowledgeable, certainly of the arts. [Sloan was] very talented in her own right as well as being married to an incredibly talented, well-known artist, John Sloan," said Virginia Davis, Commission member and Chair of the Advisory Board of the gallery.

See HELEN Page 13

HELEN

from PAGE 12

"I don't know that I really can describe her as an artist. I saw very few pieces of her work. But they can be viewed. Our collection has one in the show currently," said Davis. "I think her work speaks for herself, just very very talented. [There were] not too many female artists in her era, so it's quite a credit to her to be so recognized," added Davis. In her later years, Sloan became known as much for her philanthropy and teaching as her art. She served as a noted patron for the arts in Delaware.

Sloan was also a part of the Wilkes family, "She had been on our advisory council when she became ill, and because of the distance she was unable to attend the meetings, but was an honorary member," said Davis.

"It was a huge honor to have her name on the list of advisory members" added Davis.

The whole purpose of each exhibit at the Sordoni Art Gallery is to reach and educate Wilkes community members. "We really try to care for the students," said Brittany Kramer DeBalko, Assistant Director of the Sordoni Art Gallery. "[The art pieces] are to



inspire some critical thinking and we can do that because we are an educational institution."

DeBalko said that the Wilkes art gallery was established in 1973 by former state senator and philanthropist Andrew J. Sordoni. His long-time relationship to Wilkes and role as leader in the community was the reason he decided to establish the gallery at the university. DeBalko said, "He was a long-time friend of the university and his son, Andrew Sordoni, is a current advisee of the [gallery]." This year marks the gallery's 35th birthday.

The Sordoni Art Gallery is opened to the public on a daily schedule from 12:00-4:30. "You can come in anytime, no appointment. Even if you have five minutes you can just stop and take a look," said DeBalko.

Mechanical Engineering major and sophomore Mitchell Robinson said, "I think it's good to come in and look at different art work."

Helen Farr Sloan Standing Before a painting by John Sloan, c.1975 image courtesy of the Helen Farr Sloan Library, Delaware Art Museum



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Movie Review: Fall flicks for wayward college students

BY KENNY BROWN
Beacon Correspondent

It's that time of year when college students around the nation are settling in and actively searching for things to do with their weekends.

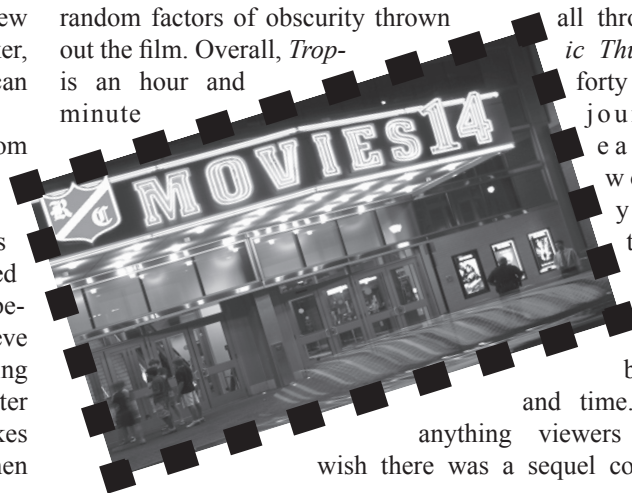
So, with perfect timing comes that splash of filthy college flicks aimed at all bored boarders. No, in this review you won't be hearing Heath Ledger cackling as the Joker, Angelina Jolie has put the gun away, and Harrison Ford can finally resume his game of shuffleboard.

On the contrary, this fall students who need a break from thinking are treated to "brain break" theater.

Reigning high and mighty as the victor among movies targeting the college and high school age audiences is *Tropic Thunder*, a DreamWorks Pictures comedy, directed by Ben Stiller. When production on a blockbuster film begins to go to the dogs the director Damien Cockburn (Steve Coogan) decides to save the movie and his butt by taking the problematic cast on a weekend outing to build better group strength. The only problem is that this outing takes place in Vietnam in the middle of guerrilla country. When things are clearly not as they should be, Tugg Speedman (Ben Stiller), decides to break away from his fellow cast members and continue his preparation for the movie. In light of this, things turn for the worse and his colleagues must attempt to rescue him from his own stupidity.

Tropic Thunder seems to be the turning point after a string

of bad movies. This R Rated Action/Comedy keeps the audience on the edge of their seats with laughter thanks to a very well written script, a great comedic acting troupe consisting of Ben Stiller (*Night at the Museum*), Robert Downey Jr (*Iron Man*), Jack Black (*Be Kind Rewind*), Steve Coogan (*Hamlet 2*) and Jay Baruchel (*Knocked Up*). It also offers random factors of obscurity thrown all through-



out the film. Overall, *Tropic Thunder* is an hour and forty five minute journey easily worth your three bucks and time. If anything viewers will wish there was a sequel coming soon.

From the writers of *Team America*, *World Police*, and *South Park: Bigger, Longer and Uncut* comes another comedy with Steve Coogan called *Hamlet 2*. When drama teacher Dana Marschz (Coogan) is given yet another bad review from the school newspaper, his job appears to

be hanging on the edge. But in what seems to be a gift from God, his drama class for the semester is completely filled, compared to his usual two person roster. However, it is not filled by thespians but by a group of kids which Marschz describes as the "kind of people from *Dangerous Minds*."

As class moves on things seem to be coming together for the drama coach, until he finds out that his class is being canceled due to cut backs in the budget. Spurred to action, Marschz writes a sequel to Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

In essence *Hamlet 2* is a typical college aimed comedy, with filthy jokes, profane language and drug use. It is nothing special with its slow build up and a seen-it-heard-it-all-before story line. Yet, *Hamlet 2* is more than just a comedy. It is a shout to the arts departments in high schools and colleges across the country, and a poke at the ribs through not-so-subtle humor at the public school system tendency to cut the arts before anything else.

In the end *Tropic Thunder* takes the top spot with *Hamlet 2* right behind, attempting to get a few laughs and send a message. Either movie you decide to see will be worth it, but it all depends on the type of comedy you like. So before you go to the movies this Friday weigh the pros and cons and choose wisely.

And I leave you with this word of advice: Make sure to avoid at all costs the true catastrophe of the season, *Disaster Movie* (not even good enough for review space).

The Beacon/Jenna Stephens



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- **"Biscuit"** that cute little puppy is coming to our weekly Saturday morning story time at 11:00am

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

NEPA Skatepark Alliance
1st Annual
SK8tacular Festival
Where: Ashley Fireman’s park in Ashley, PA



No Simple Highway
Photos from Jim Gavenus
Where: LCCC
2nd Floor Campus Center
Nanticoke, PA
When: Sept. 5- Oct. 17



Goldfrapp
Where: Radio City Music Hall
When: Sept. 12, 8 p.m.

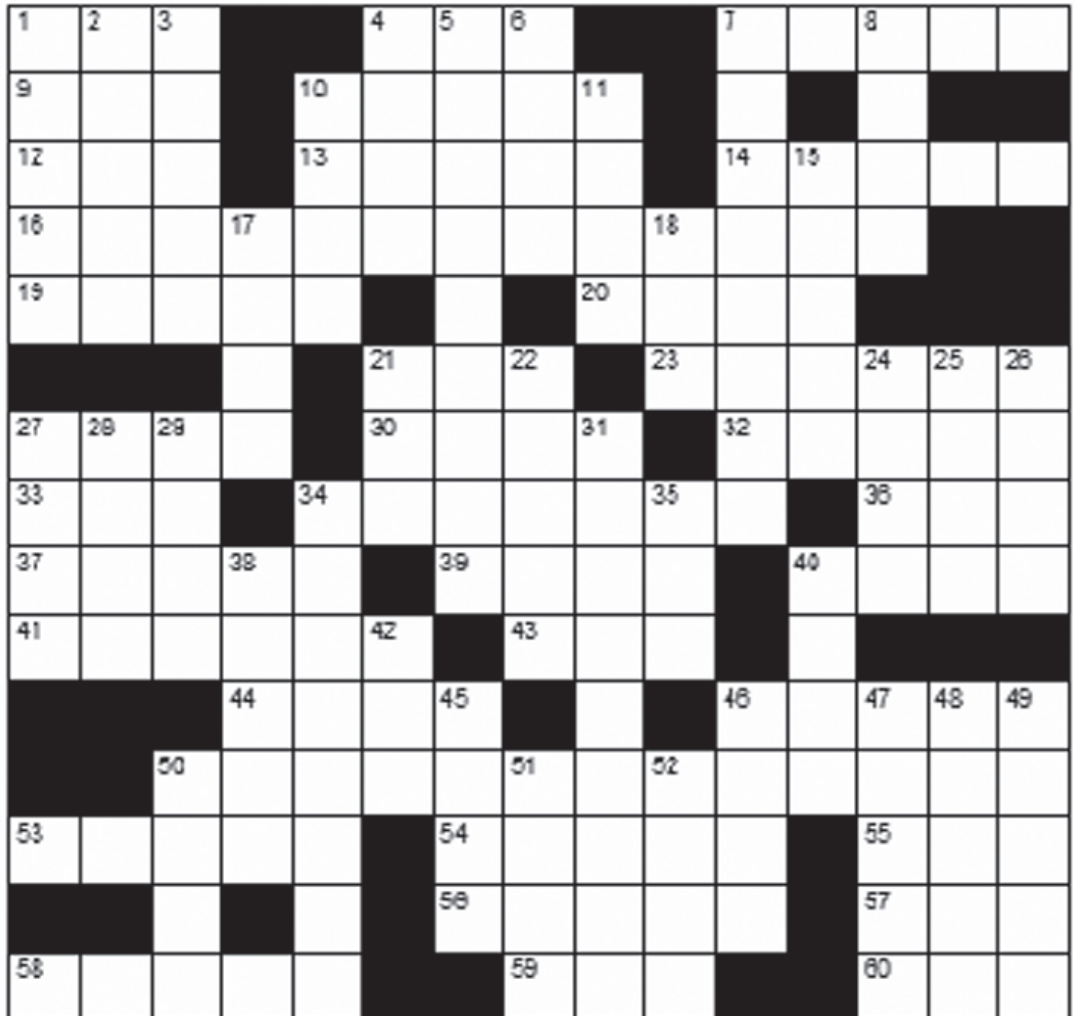


Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street
Where: Music Box Player
196 Hughes St. Swoyersville, PA
When: Sept. 12-14, 18-21, 25-28

- Across
- 1 Sept follower
 - 4 Home of “60 Minutes”
 - 7 McCain opponent
 - 9 Spy agency abbr.
 - 10 Offensive word masker
 - 12 Paranormal ability
 - 13 Impatient
 - 14 “Here and ____”
 - 16 Active substance of Tylenol
 - 19 Santa Claus Tracker
 - 20 Class of Antidepressant
 - 21 Marching insect
 - 23 Georgia invader

KUDRACROSS

BY CHRIS KUDRAK AND DEVIN KING
Beacon Staff Writers



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Networking Supplier



Colonels fall short against No. 8 Muhlenburg

Prushinski finishes game with 7 catches and 2 TDs

Courtesy of the Sports Information Director, Craig Merriman

After struggling early offensively, the Wilkes Colonels scored 14 second half points to eventually take a 21-20 advantage, but No. 8 Muhlenburg scored back-to-back touchdowns to take a 34-21 win.

The Colonels first possession saw Wilkes go three-and-out, going seven yards – all on the ground. The Mules took an early 7-0 lead on their opening drive, going five plays, 56 yards, capped off by a 14-yard pass from quarterback Eric Santagato to John DeLuca.

Santagato finished the game with 308 yards passing, completing 18-of-26 passes to go along with two touchdowns.

On Muhlenburg's second possession, Kevin Gerhart forced a fumble on a carry by Codie Bender where Darnell Corbin recovered at their own 46-yard line. The Colonels took advantage taking just two

plays to reach the end zone, highlighted by a 40-yard run by Jamar Beverly. Christopher Horn's extra point tied the game at seven with 5:56 to go in the first quarter.

The Mules would answer on their next possession, going eight plays, 26 yards capped off with a 32-yard field goal by Michael Katz to give Muhlenburg a 10-7 advantage. After holding the Colonels to just four yards on the following possession, the Mule offense chewed up the clock once again to take a 17-7 advantage after going 13 plays, 87 yards in just over five minutes. They would go into the half with a 10-point advantage.

In the second half, the Colonels were able to move the ball offensively, opening the third quarter with a nine-play, 60-yard scoring drive to pull within three. Wilkes quarterback Rob Johnson completed five passes on the drive, including a 19-yard touchdown strike to Jason Prushinski.

Johnson was 14-of-33 for 127 yards and two touchdowns. Coming into the season, Johnson threw just 19 career passes.

Muhlenburg took a 20-17 lead after Katz made his second field goal of the game, this time from 27 yards out with 2:49 to go in the third quarter. The Colonels answered with a 12-play drive that went down to Muhlenburg's 29 yard line, but a fourth and 15 screen pass to Gennaro Zangardi fell a yard short as Wilkes turned the ball over on downs.

The Colonel defense held the Mules to a three-and-out before the offense proceeded to drive 39 yards over nine plays in just over three minutes to take a 21-20 lead. Johnson found Prushinski in the back of the endzone once again on a 19-yard strike with just over nine minutes to play.

The wide receiver would finish with seven catches for 77 yards and two touchdowns on the night. "To be leading the No.

8 team in the country with nine minutes to play really says a lot about our team," Sheptock said. "We showed a lot of character to come back from 10 points down and eventually take the lead."

The Mules would take the lead for good on their next possession, driving 58 yards in nine plays capped off with a 32-yard touchdown pass from Santagato to Phil Cresta with 6:48 to go. They would eventually score again with 4:18 to go on a five-yard run by DeLuca.

"I was pleased with our effort today. We made some mistakes, but we scratched and clawed our way back. I think it was a good learning experience for this young team," Sheptock said.

The Colonels will remain on the road next weekend when they head to Montclair, N.J. to face Montclair State at 1 p.m.

Women's volleyball opens at King's tournament

BY ANTHONY DORUNDA

Beacon Correspondent

The enthusiastic Lady Colonels volleyball team opened up the 2008 campaign on August 29-30 at the King's College Tournament.

Wilkes lost a heartbreaker to Misericordia in five games before upending Marywood three games to one. Sophomore Marissa Harrison led the way for the Colonels with a combined 22 kills and 27 digs while "fab frosh", Kate McGurk, finished with 13 kills and 36 digs in the two games.

Each year college coaches search far and wide to find the best players; players they think can push their respective teams over the edge and position them on the cusp of big things. That is no different with this year's Wilkes volleyball team. Head coach Alicia Orlowski nearly doubled the size of the team by adding five top notch freshmen from all over Pennsylvania and New York to the already young Lady Colonels squad.

Now, some may wonder what the purpose of bringing in so many freshmen is with a great core group of returning players, but sports fans know that competition

breeds excellence. So adding this group of energized freshman to a team that is already up and coming can only make everyone else better.

"Having a larger team means more competition in practice," stated coach Orlowski. "And with more competition, the level of play from everyone increases because no one wants to lose their spot."

In order to work as a finely oiled machine, the team has to perform together and play as one, which can be an extremely tough obstacle for a young squad.

Chemistry between players is of the utmost importance for all athletic teams and volleyball is no exception to the rule.

See VOLLEYBALL

on PAGE 18



The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Number 13 Marissa Harrison and Number 24 Julie Page battle on the court at the King's Tournament August 29-30.

W-B/S Pioneers look to Wilkes students, alumni for spark

BY AMANDA GUNTHER
Beacon Asst. A & E Editor

The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Pioneers opened many opportunities for numerous Wilkes University students in the 2008 season. From the playing the field to cheering on the sidelines and in the stands, Wilkes students were encouraged to get involved.

The Pioneers are an Arena Football League 2 (afl2) team based in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area. afl2 is considered the third division of professional football (NFL being the first, afl1 the second). The regular season begins in March and runs through August. Home games take place at the Wachovia Arena in Wilkes-Barre. At these games the Pioneers promo, dance, and stunt teams perform and get the crowd involved in half-time events on and off the field. The players are from colleges all across the country including local schools such as Wilkes.

2008 Wilkes graduate Jason Acquaye, also known as "Big J", began his professional football career this season with the Pioneers. He got involved through the defensive coordinator of the Pioneers, Jake

Grande, who also graduated from Wilkes in 2008.

According to Acquaye, being part of the team consisted of Monday through Friday practices that prepared them for Saturday games.

While some of the games took place in the Wachovia Arena, the team also traveled to Illinois, Iowa, Florida, New Hampshire and Ohio

for away games. Overall, the summer season went well for the Pioneers, who finished with a 15-3 record, putting the team

two games short of the championship. The team lost at home in the semi-finals 34-30 to the Tennessee Valley Vipers on August 9.

Acquaye plans to try out for some afl teams in 2008-09, but acknowledges, "If none of that pans out, I'll continue to

play for (the Pioneers) again this season."

The 2008 season was also the first for a new cheerleading stunt team. Pioneers owners decided it would be a good idea to start these performances after watching the stunt team of the Philadelphia Soul, an afl team. Although the team started off relatively small, it grew by word of mouth as the Wilkes cheerleaders got involved.

"We all recruited people that were in our stunt group that we were used to working with," said Kristen Davidson, a junior at Wilkes.

Before the team was finalized, participants had to perform for the owners in order to secure a spot at the games. Being part of the stunt team consisted of two practices a week and performing at home games. Since it was the first year and more or less a trial run, the cheerleaders had the opportunity to experiment with different stunts that they normally didn't do.

According to Davidson, "Since we had no rules and regulations, the sky was the limit."

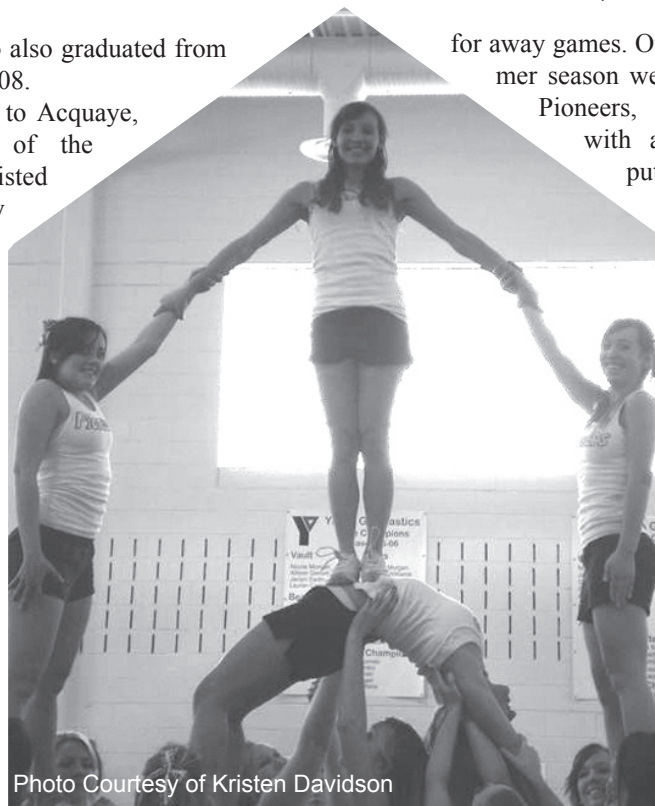


Photo Courtesy of Kristen Davidson

Davidson and the other cheerleaders practice over the summer for an upcoming Pioneers games.

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Photo Courtesy of Marketing Comm.

New Sports Information Director Craig Merriman joined the Colonel staff in July.

VOLLEYBALL
from PAGE 16

Sophomore Libero Allie Kelleher said, “There was a lot to learn since we are so young, but it was not hard at all to come together as a team. We all meshed together greatly and I feel as though this season could be very successful.”

To make the transition from the high school to the collegiate level easier, the upperclasswomen have been welcoming the freshman with open arms and making them feel as though as they are part of something bigger than all of them individually. Freshman Kate McGurk, when asked about the transition, stated that it “would have been difficult if not for the great support from everyone on the team. The team has gelled greatly and we all expect a successful season.”

Gelling is just what they did coming out on day two of the tournament clicking on all cylinders in the first game; pummeling Mount St. Mary’s three games to none. They may have used up all that energy however as they came up a little short falling three games to one versus the Lady Monarchs of King’s College. Harrison

again led the way with a combined 23 kills and junior Julie Page chipped in with 12 kills of her own. The stellar play from Harrison also led to her being named to the all tournament team.

The Lady Colonels then laced it up and slid into spandex Wednesday night for their home-opener against Susquehanna University. The Lady Colonels fought hard but came out on the losing end dropping all three games, dipping their record to 2-3.

Senior Katherine Harrington and Harrison each led the team with six kills and McGurk was the stopper defensively, registering nine digs.

“We dug ourselves into too deep of a hole and we just couldn’t get out of it,” said Orlowski.

“At times we looked very good.

We just need to use this as a building block, learn from our mistakes, and continue to get better.”

With a very optimistic and buoyant team at her disposal, Orlowski should have no problem with her players wanting to improve. They take the court again tonight when they open up their Freedom Conference slate hosting the Manhattanville College Valiants.



SID

from FRONT PAGE

S.I.D. in 1998 at Texas A&M Kingsville, his alma mater. In 2003, he became head S.I.D. at Corpus Cristi.

It was a steamy Texas afternoon in the middle of May when Merriman heard the ring on his two year old black Sprint cell phone. He flipped it open to an unfamiliar number that read 570... Merriman immediately got excited because on the other end, Malatesta, men’s soccer coach Phil Wingert and field hockey coach Sarah Meyers greeted him.

With the phone hugging his right ear, he walked out of his office at Corpus Cristi, hopped into his electric blue Ford Focus and completed the interview en route to the San Antonio Airport.

“I had two thought processes in the fact that ok: I think it would be a no-brainer for me to get the job; because I had ten years of experience,” Merriman said while twiddling a badge rubber band as he rocked back and forth on the leather chair in his office located in the Martz Gym. “But on the other hand, I thought they wouldn’t want to hire me because I came from a division 1 school and they didn’t

want a quote, unquote, big timer. Luckily, they offered me the job.”

Merriman’s first day of work at Wilkes was July 10.

Merriman is responsible for submitting game coverage on Wilkes athletic website, completing media guides for nearly all 16 varsity sports and serves as a liaison for the local media; and that’s a small fraction of Merriman’s duties. A typical work week for Merriman involves approximately 70 hours of labor.

“I normally try to come in at 8:30am to check emails, answer those that need to be,” said Merriman. “Depending on if I’m working on a project, I try to work on that. Ten out of 10 times, you have eight things going on at once.”

Merriman’s office is located on the first floor of the Marts Center. His assistants include Andy Sekula, who will be completing graduate school in May 2009 and senior intern Kathy Dalton.

And although Merriman is approximately 1,786 miles away from Texas, he’s found a home at Wilkes.

“I’m very happy to be here,” said Merriman with a smile. “I love the coaches and love the people I work with.”



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EOE/AA

Second half surge guides Wilkes past Ursinus

BY DANIEL KAUTZ

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

Following an impressive 11-6-2 overall record in their 2007 season, the expectations for the Wilkes University men's soccer team were high coming into this year. The fans that showed up for their home opener against Ursinus on August 29 were not disappointed, as the Colonels secured their first win of the season by a score of 3-0.

The first half opened with constant attacks from the Colonels, as they dominated possession of the ball through strong midfield play and defensive stops. Roughly fifteen minutes into the first half, a foul call questioned by the Wilkes' fans in attendance let Ursinus' Ted Hooven take a

free kick that sailed just right of the goal. The Colonel's nearly responded with a goal of theirs two minutes later, when a wide cross resulted in a scramble in front of the goal and a wide shot attempt. Wilkes would have another chance to score at the twenty four minute mark when sophomore forward Ryan Phillips lifted a kick wide right while tangling with a defender. When the referee signaled the end of the first half, however, the Colonels had no goals to show for their efforts despite having controlled the ball for the majority of the time.

The start of the second half would see them break the game wide open. Thirty seconds after the sound of the opening whistle, junior forward Greg Miller scored the game's

first goal on a cross from junior midfielder Jonathan Kushner. This would prove to be very important according to the team's head coach, Philip Wingert. "We made no specific adjustments after the first half," said Wingert after the game, "but once the team got the first goal, the players relaxed a bit and let the game come to them instead of forcing the action."

After a spirited counterattack from Ursinus was quelled by Wilkes, Miller punched his team's second goal through the top left corner of Ursinus' net four minutes later at 40:51. An Ursinus foul soon after awarded the Colonel's Brett Osswald a penalty kick, an opportunity he took advantage of to score and help put Wilkes up 3-0. The three

goals, scored within seven minutes of each other at the start of the second half, helped the Colonel's hold on to an easy win over Ursinus for the rest of the way. "Giving up a goal that quickly into the second half unsettled the Ursinus defense and [allowed us] to capitalize two more times before Ursinus was able to reorganize," said Wingert. Wilkes finished the game with a total of 17 shots, nine of which were on goal and put great pressure on Ursinus.

The win provided the Colonel's a quick start out of the gate in the tough Freedom Conference. "[Winning our home opener] felt amazing," said Ryan Phillips. "It was a great way for us to start the 2008 season."

Varsity women's soccer off to 2-2 start

BY DANIEL KAUTZ

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

August 30- Wilkes 4, Clarkson 0

The Wilkes University women's soccer team won its first game of the season 4-0 over Clarkson in Canton, New York. Despite starting seven freshmen, the Lady Colonels struck quickly when freshmen forward Katy Fissel scored the first Wilkes goal just three minutes into regulation. Senior forward Jess Gannon added another goal just a minute later, and the rout was on. Gannon and junior midfielder Julissa Reed later added two more goals, helping the Lady Colonels start the season with a 1-0 record.

August 31- St. Lawrence 3, Wilkes 2

The Lady Colonels suffered a heartbreaking loss to St. Lawrence, allowing three second-half goals after jumping out to a 2-0 lead. Jess Gannon scored her third goal of the season just eight minutes into the contest, thanks to an assist from sophomore midfielder Alison Weidman. Julissa Reed

later scored Wilkes' second goal on an assist from Gannon. Despite their excellent start, they were unable to hold back St. Lawrence, who scored two goals on corner kicks from

Elene Rogers. Krista Newton scored the goal in the 89th minute that would eventually seal the win for St. Lawrence.

Sept. 3- (No. 2) Messiah 9, Wilkes 0



The Beacon / Lauren Biernacki

Sophomore Alison Weidman battles with Smith defenders as Wilkes wins 1-0 on Sunday September 7.

Nationally-ranked Messiah proved to be a very tough opponent when Wilkes traveled to Grantham last weekend. Messiah took 16 shots on goal, as opposed to five by the Lady Colonels.

September 6- Wilkes 4, Marywood 1

Playing on a field water-logged by Tropical Storm Hanna, the Lady Colonels handed Marywood its first loss of the season by a score of 4-1. Sophomore midfielder Taryn Hallowell scored three goals and recorded an assist, helping power Wilkes past the memory of its loss to Messiah three days earlier.

September 7- Wilkes 1, Smith 0

The Lady Colonels were forced to play Smith on Misericordia University's turf field due to the weekend rain, but did not allow themselves to be distracted. Julissa Reed scored her fourth goal of the season in the first half of regulation, and the defense held on to help improve Wilkes' record to 3-2.

WILKES COLONELS

FOOTBALL

L 34-21 @ MUHLENBERG

FIELD HOCKEY

W 4-3 VS. MORAVIAN
W 1-0 @ SUSQUEHANNA

MEN'S SOCCER

W 3-0 VS. URSINUS
L 2-0 VS. ARCADIA
L 3-1 @ MESSIAH

WOMEN'S SOCCER

W 4-0 VS. CLARKSON
L 3-2 ST. LAWRENCE
L 9-0 @ MESSIAH
W 4-1 VS. MARYWOOD

CROSS COUNTRY

NEPA CLASSIC:

MEN- 8TH
WOMEN- DNQ

URSINUS INVITATIONAL:

MEN- 7TH, 222 POINTS
WOMEN- 5TH, 134

VOLLEYBALL

KINGS TOURNAMENT:
L 3-2 VS. MISERICORDIA
W 3-1 MARYWOOD
W 3-0 MT. ST. MARY'S
L 3-1 KING'S

L 3-0 SUSQUEHANNA

Field hockey survives sudden death twice to open season 2-0

BY ALISSA LINDNER
Beacon Sports Editor

After suffering a preseason loss to Division II Philly U the Lady Colonel field hockey team roared back going 2-0 in their first regular season games. Both games were won by penalty strokes after the score remained tied post-regulation and two sudden death periods.

The Lady Colonels opened the season at home against Moravian College on Saturday August 30. Wilkes was first to strike when senior Devon McKay scored just over two minutes into the game. Senior Alyssa Koncelik was credited with an assist on McKay's goal.

The Greyhounds came back to score the next three goals and put Moravian up 3-1. Vita Ranella, Becky Renaldo, and Kayla Carson all scored for Moravian.

Junior Jen Keegan brought Wilkes within one when she took a pass from freshman Lindsey Raleigh late in the second half. Koncelik would score the game-tying goal shortly after sending the game into overtime.

Freshman goalkeeper Lindsey Davenport was strong in net for the Lady Colonels and the Wilkes offense dominated the two overtime periods; however the team was unable to connect for the game winner sending the game into penalty strokes.

McKay, junior Brittany Sines and sophomore Alyson Paulauskas all scored for Wilkes in the penalty strokes as Davenport rejected the Greyhounds attempts. Wilkes won the game by a score of 4-3.

"We started the game off strong but were unable to finish for awhile. Once we got the second goal we wouldn't settle until we won," team captain senior Diana Wright explained.

Wilkes traveled to Susquehanna University for its second game of the season on Wednesday September 3. Davenport remained strong in net for the Colonels stopping all seven of the Crusaders shots.

After two scoreless halves and two sudden death overtimes the game was battled



The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Number 24 Alyson Paulauskas battles for the ball against Moravian during their home opener Saturday August 30. The team won their first two games by penalty strokes after remaining tied through regulation and two sudden death overtimes

out again in penalty strokes. McKay was once again successful in her attempt; however, Susquehanna would tie the score at one when Jenelle Anthony scored.

Sines would also score on her second penalty stroke of the season followed by successful attempts from freshman Alyssa Davis and Paulauskas. Davenport blocked Susquehanna's attempts.

The 4-1 advantage in penalty strokes was enough to give Wilkes the 1-0 win for their first road victory of the season.

Head coach Sara Myers explained the effort the Lady Colonels put forth in their first two games was key to their wins. She added that any time games head into sudden death it becomes very mental and you have to play with the "never give up" attitude.

"The way we handled ourselves and playing 100% the whole game really says a lot about our team," Myers said.

With their first two games lasting 100 minutes a piece, the long games are bound to take a toll on the team; however, Wright feels differently.

"I thought we were conditioned. Obviously we were tired by the end, but we were able to battle back after playing Moravian. We all just kept going for the win," Wright said.

With a freshman goalkeeper and others playing the field, the Lady Colonel freshmen have made their presence known.

Myers explained, "The freshman are fitting really well into the program. A lot of them are impact players for us this year."

"Each year we [the returning players] wonder how the freshman will fit in. The freshman this year have come in, fitting in well and made an immediate impact," Wright added.

Starting off the season with two wins has set a positive tone for the rest of the season.

"I'm really happy with our first two wins. I think we have a lot of work to do in the next couple games, we have some tough opponents coming up but starting off with two wins is a very positive tone that we want to start with this year," Myers said.

The Lady Colonels will be in action this Tuesday, September 9, at Cabrini College and again Saturday, September 13, at Marywood.

What to see and do this week...

9
Beyond the Wall poster sale in the 1st Floor of the Henry Student Center from 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.

10
Wilkes University Programming Board is hosting Recycled Percussion in the ballroom of the Henry Student Center at 8:00 p.m.

11
Visit the Farmers Market for fresh produce and food in Public Square starting at 10:15a.m.

12
Visit Movies 14 and catch a new release such as "Burn After Reading," directed by Coen brothers and "Righteous Kill," featuring DeNiro and Pacino

13
Sign up for intramurals by visiting the MyWilkes portal.
MyWilkes-> On Campus-> Wilkes Athletics