

The Beacon - April 21, 2015

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Volume 68 Issue 20

# THE BEACON

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



## Remembering Merryman

Campus reflects on the professor's passing  
pages 4, 12

The Beacon archive photo, courtesy of Dr. Merryman. Digital illustration by reddit user Roughy.



# News

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

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### 2014-15

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### Beacon Briefs

**Final Exam Schedule Updates**  
Please check the on-line version of the Spring Semester Final Exam Schedule (<http://www.wilkes.edu/academics/office-of-the-registrar-recorder/calendar-schedules.aspx>), as there have been many updates over the past few weeks.

**Commuter/Off Campus Parking Applications Available Now**  
Parking applications for the Fall 2015 semester are available now online. The deadline to apply is May 15. You must reapply for parking each semester. Applying for parking does not guarantee you a permit. If you have any questions, please email [sarah.bedford@wilkes.edu](mailto:sarah.bedford@wilkes.edu).

**Career Planning for Jrs. & Seniors Offered**  
Juniors and seniors may join this one credit elective class held on Wednesdays, 12:00-12:50 p.m., CRN 30906. Course aids in career planing, resumes, application letters, interview skills and professional networking.

**Dr. Louise Berard's Retirement Celebration**  
After 35 years of dedicated service to Wilkes University and to its students, Dr. Berard is retiring. Please join her in celebration in the Savitz Lounge (Henry Student Center, 2nd floor) on April 24 from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. Contact: Karen Weyhenmeyer at 570-408-4830 or [atkaren.veyhenmeyer@wilkes.edu](mailto:atkaren.veyhenmeyer@wilkes.edu)

## SG Notes: ASME allocated funds; Leahy; Capital Projects request, new budget

By Taylor Ryan  
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Student Government held its weekly meeting. There was one follow up from last week's meeting. ASME was preparing to put on its 9th annual car show to raise money for The Wounded Warrior Project. The club requested a total of \$2,100 from Student Government to cover T-shirts for staff members, as well as all participants, food for the staff, entertainment, and the awards. Student Government has motioned to allocate the total request of \$2,100 to cover the event.

Next, there was a very special guest in this week's meeting. Wilkes University President Patrick Leahy was welcomed into the meeting and had the opportunity to update the members of Student Government on new and upcoming events and changes that will be made in the near future on campus. He first honored Eddie Elgonitis and discussed dedication of the mailroom; it was be renamed "Eddie's Mailroom" in his honor on April 17.

Next, President Leahy discussed the various upcoming facility changes that will be made to campus. The school and board have been busy planning in order to make Wilkes' campus a safer and more welcoming environment. He allowed all the members to ask any questions or propose any concerns they may have.


As this school year comes to an end, it has become time to look forward to the

upcoming school year. At the meeting, the future Student Government budget was broken down and presented for all the members. It will be reviewed and discussed again in next week's meeting.

The next request came from Capital projects, even as the semester is coming to an end they are still busy at work improving campus. They have requested a total of \$38,150 from the budget. This money will be put toward adding more bottle fillers to the water fountains around campus and a new and exciting renovation and addition to the Student Government office. They have come up with plans to move the Student Government office, as well as create a new club office for all clubs on campus to have access for supplies and a meeting place. This is a big project, but if passed will be done in time for next school year. Student Government members will cast their final vote in next week's meeting.

Lastly, the Student Government board voted on The Faculty and Staff Choice Awards for this school year. The top five will be nominated and voted on during this week's meeting.

The council reviewed the Treasurer's report. The current budget is as follows. All College: \$4,812.38; General Funds: \$4,275.91; Conference: \$925.00; Spirit: \$865.00; for a Student Government total: \$10,878.29

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### table of contents

news.....2

life, a&e.....7

spread.....12

opinion.....14

sports.....19



# After 35 years, Dean King will exit Wilkes with the Class of 2015

By Sarah Bedford  
News Editor

After 35 years, Associate Dean of Student Affairs Barbara King, will exit Wilkes University with the Class of 2015.

"In the last 43, I've been at Wilkes all except four years because I went to school here," explained King, whose retirement was announced earlier this month.

King, who has been associate dean of student affairs for the past 17 years, did not always work in academics, however. King worked as a travel agent and then at Leslie Fay in shipment control prior to finishing her college degree. Her time at Leslie Fay is what made her decide to go back to school.

"I thought I was going to live on love with my love at the time and so I went to work full time and ended up staying out four years," explained King. "I figured I better go back and finish, so I came back in 1978, and finished summer of 1980. I walked from my last class with Mr. Engel to my office in admissions."

Engel was a former professor, chair and Dean of Business.

King worked for a total of nine years in admissions. For a year, she filled in for a faculty member in the co-op office and then worked in adult education in 1985, where she was assistant director and then director until 1990.

"When I started in admissions I said I'd stay two years, then I met my first husband and I wasn't gone but I was happy to stay... you don't work somewhere for 35 years if it's terrible," King said. She returned to admissions, also working in student affairs doing special programs like orientation, as well as University College doing similar tasks.

King explained that when, "Dr. Adams became dean of student affairs, he asked me to come," and she followed.

As associate dean, King has handled students' unique challenges as well as act as chief disciplinary officer, dealing with on- and off-campus issues.

King elaborated, saying she has worked with students who have had various issues that need assistance or "just a sounding board."

King also served as the international student adviser for 26 years.

"I've certainly lived through a lot of students with big, big problems and a lot of those stay

in my head but I certainly wouldn't talk about them," King said.

King reflected on her time at Wilkes saying the idea of having a work family is valid.

"To tell you the truth, when you've been here as long as I have it really is your family in many ways... Wilkes has seen me through the best and worst times of my life, no doubt about that."

King is thankful for Wilkes for more than just her career.

"I had the good fortune thanks to Wilkes of meeting my late and current husband," she said. "My late husband was the dean of the school of science and engineering, Umid Nejib."

She explained that the two met in 1983; he passed away in 2002.

"It was probably the lowest point in my life and Wilkes was there for me all the way on that one and I will never forget that," King said.

"My husband now is Dr. Michael Paige and I met him because Wilkes sent me to a seminar about international students many years ago when I was first starting out with international," she said. "He was the lead presenter from the University of Minnesota and we got to be good friends and life turns out the way it turns out eventually."

King explained that Wilkes has a way for caring for people, including its students.

"I think we take care of our students as well as any other school I have heard about. In terms of every need-- emotionally, academically, with regard to health, I think we take very good care of our students."

While King admits the decision to retire has not been an easy one, she does have big plans ahead of her. She and her husband plan on doing a lot of traveling, starting this summer.

"We're very big travelers," she explained. "We have friends all over the world and this gives us an opportunity to go and spend some time while we're young enough to enjoy what we're doing."

King obtained her first passport at 30, estimates she has visited 50 countries.

This summer, she and her husband plan on visiting Russia and Finland. She hopes to someday visit South America, Burma and go on an African safari.

Her favorite place to visit thus far has been



The Beacon/Gabby Glinski

While the decision to retire was not an easy one, King looks forward to traveling but will always appreciate her Wilkes family. She added that Wilkes will always be home.

Istanbul, Turkey, where she attended bazaars and the large indoor market. The food, she explained, was phenomenal.

While Istanbul is at the top of her list, King said, "most of the countries I've been to I can find something wonderful about; they're all so different."

Although she enjoys travel, King said this will always be home. She also has some other plans for retirement.

"I also will catch up on all the needlework and reading I haven't been able to do for years and clean my house," she explained, laughing.

King shared some of her other interests, including rock music.

"My favorite old Band is Led Zeppelin—nice and loud," King said. Her dream concert would be the Rolling Stones.

"I also want to see Janis Joplin and George Harrison but I have to wait for the Big concert in the sky," King said, laughing.

While King has many plans ahead of her,

she remains focused on Wilkes students.

"I would like them to remember the opportunities Wilkes afforded them, whether they used them or not is two different things, and to any extent you can at any point in life try to support Wilkes whether its financially or as a mentor when you graduate because it really is a special place."

King offered this advice to students as they prepare for graduation.

"Become independent, make decisions for them(your)selves, and work at what makes you happy not necessarily what makes you wealthy," King said. "Remember you have to start at the bottom of the barrel and work your way up. You don't become the vice president the day after you graduate."

"I'll certainly miss my interactions with students, whether its been good situations or bad situations I will really miss that and I will certainly miss the people I worked with," said King. "I have life long friends I have made here and its kind of hard to believe Dr. Adams and I went go to lunch every day and I wont be running across the street to see Coach Malatesta and everybody that's been a close, close friend."

King's last day is May 16, graduation. "It's like I'm graduating, too."

## Faculty Reflections

"Beyond our work experiences together, I will remember Barbara for her kindness and sincere interest in her colleagues' lives. For us, almost every Monday morning began with a conversation on family and what I did with my daughter over the weekend."

~Dr. Philip Ruthkosky, Associate Dean Student Development

"Dean King has spent 35 years, in various capacities, working at Wilkes. She is also an alum of the university. This extraordinary length of service and dedication to the institution certain demonstrates her commitment to being Colonel. I'm sure, in her retirement, she will continue to be a fixture at sporting events and other events at the institution. All of us in Student Affairs wish her the best."

~Dr. Mark Allen, Dean of Students

"In all of our history, of the thousands of staff who have worked at Wilkes, proportionally, there are few who have been able to serve the university for such a long tenure. Dean Kings' loyalty and dedication will be long remembered by the students whom she has served...As she and Mike begin this new and wonderful stage of their lives, they deserve every happiness."

~ Dr. Paul Adams, Vice President Student Affairs

### Editor's Note:

Sarah Bedford also serves as the Commuter Council President working with Dean King as the organization's adviser.



# The "Big Event" has Big plans for Colonels Serving the community one project at a time, touching lives

By Sarah Bedford  
News Editor

On April 25, members of the Wilkes University student body are invited to participate in the university's largest community service event, The Big Event.

Sophomore pre-pharmacy student, and Student Government Executive Recording Secretary, Allie Grudeski, is also this year's Big Event coordinator.

"The Big Event is the single largest community service project that takes place at Wilkes University every year," Grudeski said. "Around 300 students sign up to volunteer at one of the many volunteer sites that surround campus. The Big Event truly promotes unity between campus and community as students come together for one day to express their gratitude to the area we live in."

This year, some of the service sites include cleaning up the Riverfront, cleaning up Bear Creek trails, working with local residents on household tasks, weeding at the Community Garden, packaging meals at the CEO Foodbank among others.

This year, Grudeski and her committee expect 400 students to get involved.

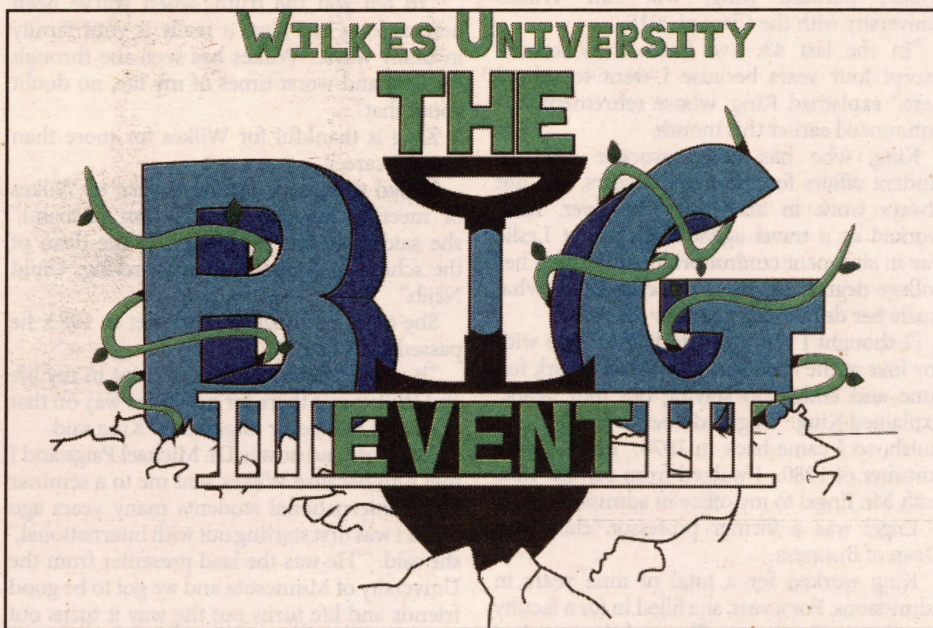
Grudeski explained that the Big Event is special to her for many reasons.

"The Big Event has truly become near and dear to my heart because I love community service. I attended HOBY (Hugh O'Brien Youth) Leadership Conference my sophomore year of high school. It changed my life completely and gave me a different perspective on life. I was so inspired to get out and make a difference," she said. "Ever since I really try to give back to as many people in different ways as possible. I actually just recently received the President's Volunteer Service Award presented by the Corporation for National and Community Service. I was so surprised and couldn't believe what an honor it was."

After the Big Event follows the Little Event, celebrating the students work.

"There is a big BBQ lunch with a small concert of student musicians which everyone really enjoys. This year we are excited that we could team up with Commuter Council, Programming Board, Off Campus Council, Student Development, and Badminton Club to host more than ever before," Grudeski explained. "There will be tie-dying of T-shirts, Auntie-Anne's pretzels, an ice cream truck, backyard games, Kan Jam, and a little surprise that will hopefully leave a "splash" on campus."

Pre-registration ends April 21. Students are welcome to register the day of starting at



Design by Studio 20, Israel Rodriguez

Grudeski and her committee hope to have over 400 students at this year's event.

8 a.m. however they will not be able to work with preregistered teams.

Students with questions should contact Grudeski at alexandra.grudeski@wilkes.edu.



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## Campus remembers late professor

By James Jasolka  
Editor-in-Chief

Wilkes University Professor of Anthropology and Sociology Jim Merryman died on April 14, following a battle with ALS.

Though his illness had progressively gotten more severe, Merryman is remembered by colleagues and students fondly.

"Losing any member of our Wilkes family is difficult," President Leahy said in a written statement. "Jim's long tenure at Wilkes and his enduring commitment to his family, his students, his colleagues and his discipline, make this a deep loss for all of us to absorb."

Dr. Michael Garr, professor of sociology and anthropology, described his colleague as "passionate."

"He'd been here for 25 years and he was part of everyday life here," Garr said. A great man -- great stature [and] great character."

Garr noted Merryman's drive to learn new things, referencing how he taught himself saxophone and piano to start a jazz quartet, and how he enrolled in the creative writing master's program.

Garr also mentioned Merryman's

dedication to teaching, and how he was still teaching online classes when the illness took away his ability to speak.

Colleen O'Callaghan, a junior communication studies major, took one of Merryman's online courses. "He was very passionate about his work," she recalled. "He really wanted to learn more about other people and was so interested in what he did."

"This is very sad news," said Wilkes alumnus Michael Beachem in a Facebook comment. "Many alum will recall Nancy [his wife] and Jim always led the dancing at any Homecoming or Senior Week Dance. He will be missed greatly."

Campus Counseling/Health and Wellness Services will offer an open grief counseling session from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 21, in Marts Center Room 214. This session is open to anyone who has experienced a loss through death.

A memorial service for Merryman is scheduled for 2 p.m., May 2, in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center.



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## Removal of OCC from Mega Council

By Alyssa Mursch  
Assistant Social Media Director

Starting next fall, Wilkes University will no longer recognize the Off Campus Council as a club, raising concern about how this portion of the campus community will be represented in its absence.

"The Off Campus Council is the liaison between students that live in apartments on to three blocks [off campus] and all the organizations and faculty on campus," explained future student government president Anthony Fanucci.

Fanucci explains that the Council is being removed as a club due to lack of involvement as well as an inability to fill the leadership position. Like most clubs, OCC received funding that can now be distributed to other clubs that are more active in campus life.

With the termination of the club, the main concern that arises is how the off campus community will continue to be represented throughout the university.

Dean Philip Ruthkosky introduced the possibility of Community Ambassador positions to combat this issue.

"The focus will be to promote a more cohesive off-campus population and to

serve as a resource for them [off-campus students]," said Ruthkosky of the positions.

CAs will have several responsibilities including serving as a resource for Wilkes students and community residents living on their block, representing off campus residents on designated university committees, and attending student government meetings as a non-voting member, just to name a few.

Students interested in these positions must be of junior or senior, full-time undergraduate status and be residing off campus. There will be an application process for these positions and the chosen CAs will receive a \$500 scholarship per semester.

As for the events that the OCC held, such as Wing Wars and the Block Party, they will be assigned to other clubs and, as a result, those clubs will receive the additional funding needed to hold them.

For additional information about Community Ambassador positions, contact Dean Phil Ruthkosky at philip.ruthkosky@wilkes.edu or Dean Mark Allen at mark.allen@wilkes.edu.



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## Lack of attendance at SG leadership forum sparks question: Why aren't students interested in campus leadership?

By Toni Pennello  
Staff Writer

The Presidential Forum for Student Government took place on April 14 in the SUB lounge. Lack of attendance has sparked some controversy regarding student interest in Student Government.

One member of Student Government, who preferred to remain anonymous, vouches for the lack of attendance. "A lot of people in the audience were friends with the people up there. There was a maximum of about 25 people there. There were 50 chairs," they said.

Samantha Szura, a freshman who did not attend the forum expressed apathy as to who holds Student Government positions.

"It doesn't matter to me who wins, even though that's a mean thing to say. I don't feel like it affects me at all," she said.

Dr. Thomas Baldino, interim dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Science, as well as a Professor of Political Science, has an explanation for this kind of apathy.

"Student Government is government, and many students are apathetic about government... Student Government touches



The Beacon/Gabby Glinski

Anthony Fanucci and Valerie Woods, pictured above, participate in the open forum. Fanucci was the only nominee for Student Government President, and Woods, is running opposed for Programming Board President.

them directly, but they don't see it, they don't feel it."

He went on to compare this with voter turnout among young people outside college level government. "Young people, as a rule, don't vote in great numbers. Participation

rates by people between the ages of 18 and 30 is the lowest of any age group."

However, lack of interest may not be the culprit. The current freshman class president, Cody Morcom, also did not attend the meeting, for lack of time. "I wasn't

able to attend. It was during club hours, and unfortunately, that day I had two huge exams," he said. "It's hard for students to make time to go if they are doing club activities."

Taylor Moyer, Student Government president, agrees that the lack of attendance was not indicative of student participation as a whole.

"This year alone, we had more requests from students for conference and event funding, as well as club recognition requests, than we have during any year since I have been at Wilkes."

Baldino also cited the possibility that time is the main issue. "Time is a precious commodity for everyone, and students, almost invariably, have to balance going to class, working, socializing, and extracurriculars," he said. "For athletes, you add that on too. Time is a critical issue."

According to Executive Parliamentarian Cameron Low, "I feel that the driving force for students to join student government is the major planning aspect. Student government plans a lot of events and I think that draws a lot of people to join and want to help out."

## Glow Run 5K shines light on suicide prevention awareness

By Jennifer Baron  
Staff Writer

The second "Just Glow With It" 5K took place on April 17 at 10 p.m. The race was developed last year by Amanda Holyk and Jordyn Miller and was organized this year by Nicole Clemson, Samantha Davidson, and Michelle Kuzma.

Before the start of the race, participants received T-shirts, glow paint, and were able to purchase accessories from the Glow Bar.

The race followed a path that started at UCOM and ended at the River Front Portal. Participants had the option to run competitively or non-competitively. Competitive runners began the race at 10 p.m. and non-competitive runners started at 10:10 p.m.

Throughout the run, there were three paint stations that participants had the option to run through. There were alternate routes that did not have paint stations.

There were more than 300 participants in the race this year and, compared to last year, more than double the amount of



The Beacon/ Purvit Patel

More than 300 people participated in Wilkes University's Glow Run for Suicide Revention Awareness

money was raised. A total of \$2,402 will go to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

The first place male and female runners were Robert Moulton, with a time of 15:54, and Kaitlyn Sitch, with a time of 23:35. The

second place male and female runners were Jordan Lindley and Abbey Weidler with times of 16:59 and 27:28, respectively.

Clemson, Davidson and Kuzma would like to let everyone know that this event would not have been possible if it were not for the volunteers who helped with setting up, working at the registration tables, face painting, guiding the runners on the track, and even DJ-ing at the finish line.

They would also like to thank Finish Line for keeping the times of the competitive runners, Student Government and IRHC for funding costs of the event, the Wilkes Alumni office for access to online registration, Lowes for donating race materials, and the Public Safety Officers and Police Officers that patrolled the event.

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## New area restaurants opening soon

By Gabby Gliniski  
News Photographer and Staff Writer

Feeling hungry? Interested in trying something new?

What The Fork, Chipotle and Five Guys Burgers and Fries are all slated to open sometime soon in Wilkes-Barre or the surrounding area.

Five Guys Burgers and Fries will serve hotdogs, hamburgers and sandwiches at its new location at 280 Mundy St. It will be one of the 1,000 locations across the county.

Chipotle will open soon behind the Wyoming Valley Mall. The establishment will hold 75 guests and boast a menu of burritos, tacos, and nachos. According to its website, Chipotle prides itself on using meat free from antibiotics or added hormones and fresh ingredients from farmers who are "good stewards to their land."

What The Fork is planning to open its first permanent location in the Wilkes-Barre Mid Town Village, located at 41 South Main Street.

Mario Bevilacqua, owner of What The Fork, plans for the restaurant to be able to seat 25 guests and offer delivery to the nearby downtown area.

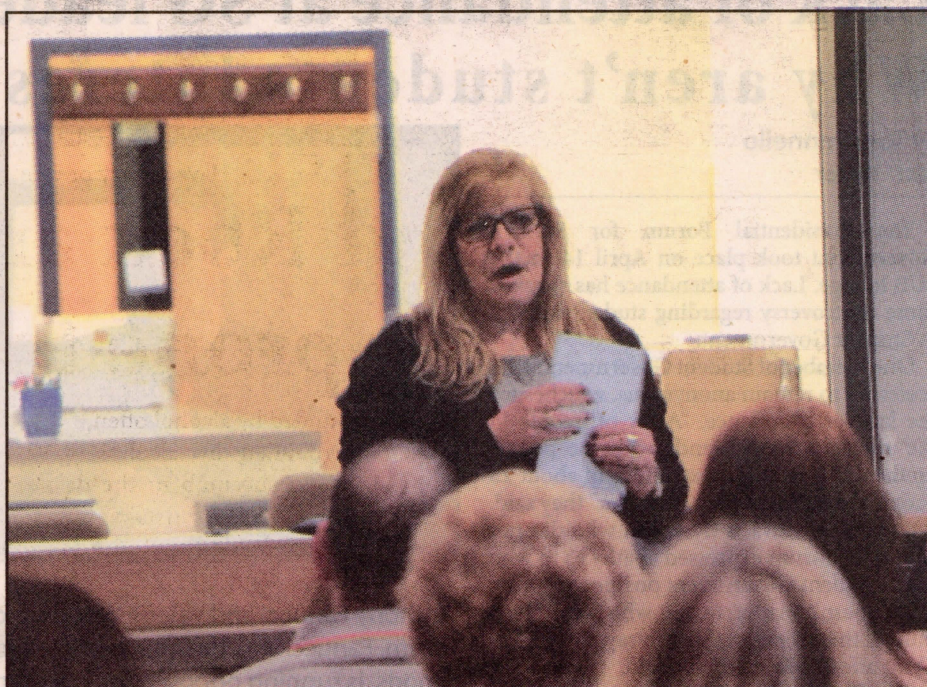
The What The Fork food truck is known for its modern food. What The Fork's Facebook page states "Call it what you want... New American, Street food, or Bistro fare, We're just here to serve up some of the tastiest and unconventional food you've ever ordered..."

What The Fork's menu serves a variety of unique foods including their famous pulled pork taco with candy sauce and sweet potato straws.

What The Fork has won awards from Mobile-Cuisine.com for Best Food Truck Menu Item 2012 and Best

New Food Truck from Electric City Magazine. What The Fork has also been featured on LIVE! With Kelly & Michael for 2nd Place Best Food Truck Nationwide.

To find out where the truck is headed, visit What the Fork's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/WTForktruck](http://www.facebook.com/WTForktruck).



The Beacon/Purvit Patel

A ceremony was held on April 17 dedicating the mailroom to the late Edward Elgonitis Sr. "Eddie's Mailroom" will commemorate Elgonitis who served Wilkes as a staff member for 33 years before passing away. Pictured is Eddie's daughter.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21: CC Mad Hatter Tea Party

April 25: Big Event

April 30: IRHC Study Break Party

April 25: Downtown Establishment Tour



Graphics by Moe Woodard



# Life, Arts & Entertainment

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

## Sax, Drugs and Rock and Roll: Are musicians prone to substance abuse?

By Justin Topa  
Assistant Life, A&E Editor

As more biographies and documentaries hit the market glamorizing the drug-use and alcoholism of musicians, an important question is raised—Are musicians and performers predisposed to substance abuse?

Andy Gorto, who has just celebrated his 50th birthday, has lived in Luzerne County since he was a child. Gorto joined his first band by the age of fourteen and has been a part of the local music scene ever since.

"I had a high school band as long as I could remember," Gorto said. "Ninth grade we knew about 11 songs and the Dallas Band director asked us to play their banquet. My guitarist was two years older and he brought a six-pack with him and the four of us had one beer."

Beer was not the only thing that left Gorto feeling good that day in high school.

"As soon as we started playing, the entire student body got up and started dancing. Cheerleaders, band geeks, strutters and everyone in the place went nuts," the musician said. "We played three sets of those 11 songs and they danced like they never heard the songs before. That right there was the biggest 'high' I ever experienced."

Collin Strunk, a junior and P1 in Wilkes University's pharmacy program, also began playing music at an early age. He has been playing saxophone since the fifth grade and began playing at bars as a freshman in high school. His interest for the saxophone was inspired after going to a jazz bar called The Deerhead Inn.

Strunk plays frequently in bars, country clubs, picnics and in auditoriums. He also currently plays in Wilkes University's Jazz Band and Picture Perfect, a wedding band. He said that, as a musician, he finds

himself surrounded by alcohol often.

"When surrounded by alcohol, it is definitely easy to succumb to the desire to drink. Having a few drinks before performing also helps some musicians relax, which is an important component," Strunk explained. "I feel like some musicians drink or smoke [marijuana] just to overcome nerves and I know a few musicians who would call it liquid confidence before they had to play a solo."

Gorto also agreed that alcohol could serve to alter the mindset of a musician before a performance or while working on the creative process.

"Musicians are always looking for an escape. That is what draws us to music," the musician said. "It also doesn't help that all of our idols posed in every major music magazine with a bottle of Jack Daniels. So our influences influenced us for all the wrong reasons."

Gorto continued, "We thought a case of beer was almost as important as our guitar case. Luckily we recorded ourselves during a practice and realized that we weren't very good blasted while

blasting our guitars."

Both musicians spend much of their time performing in bars and agree that the lifestyle of a musician leave them and musicians like them vulnerable.

"Most venues for bands just happen to be bars and guess what," began Gorto. "Bands get free drinks. Fans buy band members more free drinks. It's a catch 22. They want you to party as hard as they are. You just have to know your limits."

Strunk spoke on the influence alcohol could have on a musician but feels "there is far less drug affiliation in music now than there was in the past." With more than 35 years as a musician, Gorto has seen a number of his colleagues fall to both alcohol and drug abuse.

"I'm lucky. I don't have an addictive personality so I never really abused anything where it became a problem. I can say I indulged in a lot of things, some alcohol and some other things. I would do a little but it never turned into a lot," Gorto explained.

"Unfortunately so many musicians think that is the lifestyle and I have seen a lot of great musicians become great drunks and druggies and, when I say great, I mean they greatly ruined their lives and their talent. They believed the interviews and the stories about the party lifestyle and spent more time on that side of the music business than they did on the creative side."

Strunk and Gorto continue to perform. While they agree that the environments in which they perform can be breeding grounds for substance abuse, neither are willing to let their music suffer by indulging in excessive drinking or drug use.

"I have played too many shows to count and have recorded a number of songs that actually get requests. That was always my goal, to live forever by having a song or two of mine played forever," Gorto said.

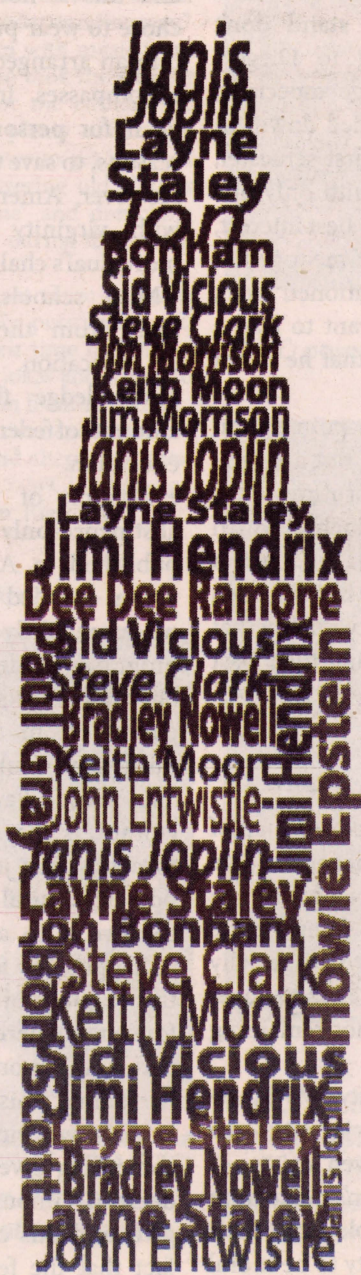
Gorto is currently a member in the punk band, The Haunting, and a cover band called KAOS, an abbreviation for Kiss and Other Songs. It was with fellow band members of KAOS that Gorto and two band members coined a phrase to describe the euphoria they really chase while performing.

"We all have experienced a feeling called 'the Swirl' [coined by KAOS], where the music actually starts spinning around us and we get lost in the song, so much so that all of the concentration is to impress each other until the last note of the song," Gorto explained. "It happens more than not and I credit that to what music was created for in the first place—to make emotion something you can actually feel circling you. It's the original high that I felt at the Band Banquet [in high school]."



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Courtesy of The Beacon/ Emily DeAngelis





# 5 misconceptions around being a virgin in college

By Emily DeAngelis  
Staff Writer

Let's lose it for good.

We all have our own preconceptions about what sex should be like, the first time especially. These misconceptions range from thinking that there is a right and wrong way to lose one's virginity to thinking that sex for the first time is this irreversible transformation of mind and body.

Regardless, virginity is that delicate topic. Handle it wrong, you're a slut, handle it right, you're prude...or is it the reverse?

It doesn't fit our society, and society is screaming back for a change. Let's explore why this long withstanding tradition is problematic in 20th century America.

## 1. Virginity is one dimensional.

The virginity we are accustomed to only accounts for one type of relationship: heterosexual vanilla sex. There are individuals that, according to our standard definition of gender, can never lose their virginity. Gender currently sits on a flat spectrum, identifying individuals either male, female or androgen. This is troublesome, because many individuals find themselves someplace in between, leaving our current definition of gender antiquated just like virginity.

According to sophomore psychology major Danica DeMesa, "Gender is as much a spectrum as sexuality is. I think society should stop expecting people to identify as something they may not be, because the consequences of forcing such a system on people has caused too big of a loss."

Non-binary individuals and those with diverging sexual preferences are often faced with the question of if they are a virgin or not. If an individual does not fit onto society's spectrum of gender or sexuality, are they not capable of participating in one of the biggest trends society has to offer?

The definition of virginity has a problem. It never has been defined scientifically, only socially. According to Sutter Health, In Ancient Greece, virgin was the label given to the goddesses who were immune to the temptations of Dionysus, Greek god of seduction. It was once a term of power. Now, it is more or less a term of confusion for our society to bend how it pleases.

## 2. The "Hookup" Culture

It's generally agreed upon that men looking for a one night stand don't want a virgin. According to Diego\*, in freshman year of college especially, men aren't looking to get tied down. In the first few weeks of his first semester, Diego found a great girl, with only one flaw: she was a virgin. In her best interest, Diego reluctantly cut their time together short. Even the best intentioned man, such as Diego, does not want to lead a female into a relationship that he is not prepared to cultivate.

Another freshman, Lilly, pointed out that even when a female is not a virgin, she's not yet free of male scrutiny. "She's not a virgin so she's not attached which makes her appealing, but she's not a virgin so how many people has she been with?" Lilly noted this tricky duality that females face when describing their past to a potential partner.

## 3. Sexism

Virginity is sexist. It is used as a sign of purity, and this does not accommodate for cases of rape. Regardless of the circumstances, a women faces shame and scrutiny around her status, especially before marriage, whereas a man faces less cultural backlash for not remaining a virgin.

According to The Purity Myth, by Jessica Valenti, "The lie of virginity—the idea that such a thing even exists—is ensuring that young women's perception of themselves is inextricable from their bodies, and that their ability to be moral actors is absolutely dependent on their

sexuality."

The swinging pendulum that is virginity could very well be its downfall. While to a female, virginity adds to her worth, to a male, it decreases his.

## 4. Purity culture

While modesty still exists, it is greatly changed, and its flaws are now exposed through literature and media alike. Purity culture revolves around the concept of saving oneself for marriage, and this is not limited to those who chose to wear purity ring or are entered into an arranged marriage. This culture encompasses individuals who chose, be it for personal, family or religious reasons, to save themselves for marriage. However, America's growing obsession with virginity often increases these individual's challenge to remain pure.

Most schools, however, are shying away from the abstinence-only form of education. Advocates for Youth acknowledge that despite the large amounts of federal funding for abstinence education, "A federally-funded evaluation of four carefully selected abstinence-only education programs, published in April 2007, showed that youth enrolled in the programs were no more likely than those not in the programs to delay sexual initiation, to have fewer sexual partners, or to abstain entirely from sex." In simpler terms, purity isn't changing any minds.

A basic flaw within this purity culture, is that it often likens virginity to a precious jewel or flower that one possesses until they, hopefully chose to, give it to another. Continuing the metaphor, for females, once a man has this, a piece of that female's identity is forever shattered, and the longer she had it, the more integral it becomes to her being. This is problematic because at marriage, virginity is supposed to be something given to the spouse. Those deemed, "impure," thus have nothing to give, and this completely overlooks the fact that the female in marriage is, in theory, giving herself to the care of her

husband, something far greater than any flower or pearl.

## 5. Slut-shaming

Shaming people for their sexuality via the way they chose to dress, act or present themselves has emerged as a tragic cultural downfall. While partisan and nonpartisan sources alike debate the legitimacy of catcalling and argue if it is a racist or gender selective issue, a female need only walk through Wilkes-Barre any time after dark wearing whatever she pleases to elicit comments from a myriad of people. All things aside, the legal system defines harassment as "the act of systematic and/or continued unwanted actions of one party or group...purposes vary." Several females at Wilkes admitted to having negative experiences with catcalling, and agreed that it is nothing short of harassment. Lilly explained that it's best to just handle it as a joke and hide any discomfort. But even Lilly can't escape her daily routine without thinking twice about what she wears. When going out, she wants to be sure to look available, but she doesn't want her cloths to send the wrong message. Lilly agreed that most girls want to avoid looking "slutty" but still try to find ways to feel pretty, drawing a fine line about what to wear and how to feel confident in the face of constant scrutiny.

Perhaps renowned philosopher Voltaire foreshadowed our society's current dilemma when he wrote, "It is an infantile superstition of the human spirit that virginity would be thought a virtue and not the barrier that separates ignorance from knowledge."

As a community, we can all agree upon DeMesa's statement "that, "A person shouldn't be defined by anything other than what they wish to be defined by, much less their sex life (or lack thereof)."

*\*Editor's note: names were changed in this article to respect the privacy of those involved.*



# Wilkes University Programming Board Puts on "Classic" Act: MKTO Performs at F.M. Kirby Center

By Kayla Bucci  
Contributing Writer

Wilkes University Programming Board hosted MKTO on Sunday, April 12 at the F.M. Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre.

MKTO, a band comprised of members Tony Oller and Malcolm Kelley, are originally from Florida. They are known for the hit songs, "Classic" and "American Dream." The event was open to all Wilkes University students, faculty and staff as well as the public.

The two members met on a television series called Gigantic. The two played best friends on the show and have been together since.

"We were hanging out a lot and just sort of clicked," said Oller. "He's my best friend and I get to work with him and travel with him."

The duo describes their music as something that is always changing and evolving. They expect their upcoming album to express their personality more closely.

If the two weren't making music, Kelley said he would have liked to have a career within the CIA. Oller said he might have pursued a career as a lawyer, a career his mother thought would suit him because of his constant debating.

Oller and Kelley, who have been together for several years but have many years in the entertainment industry before coming together, name a few common influences to their sound.

"Michael Jackson and the artists mentioned

in the song 'Classic,' for sure," said Kelley on those who influenced him and Oller. "We're also influenced by our producers. The way they listen to and create music is pretty awesome."

The inspiration for MKTO's lyrics stem from more than just modeling the sounds that have come before them. They find inspiration in a number of ways based on personal experiences and every day life.

"You can only take from what you learn and live through," said Oller. "An album should be a story and that's what we're trying to do. We put together as many stories as we can in a melodic, relatable and understanding way."

The show began at 7 pm with music from opener, DJ Tonez. The duo took the stage at about 8:30 to perform for the enthusiastic crowd. MKTO provided plenty of exciting experiences for the audience to get involved including sing-alongs, covering old classics including "Runaround Sue" and drenching those in front with water during their song, "Thank You."

Despite the band's recent claim to fame, they remained completely personable and down-to-earth during their time in Wilkes-Barre, making a number jokes and trying to get to know the audience in front of them.

For more on musicians near and far and to hear the top pop, punk and alternative, tune into DJ KayBooch on 90.7 WCLH between three p.m. and five p.m. on Tuesdays.



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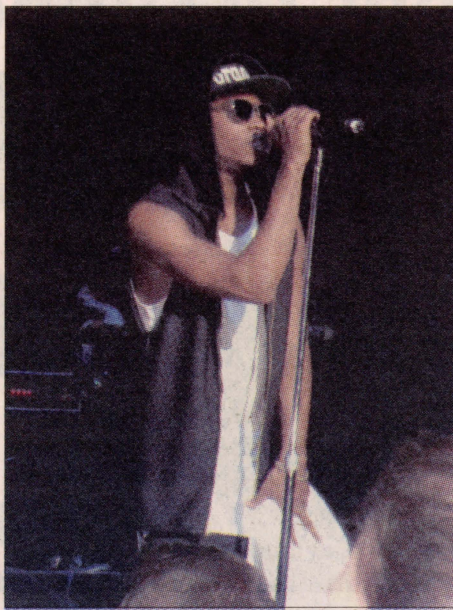
Courtesy of Kayla Bucci

MKTO poses for a photo with Kayla Bucci, contributing writer for the Beacon.

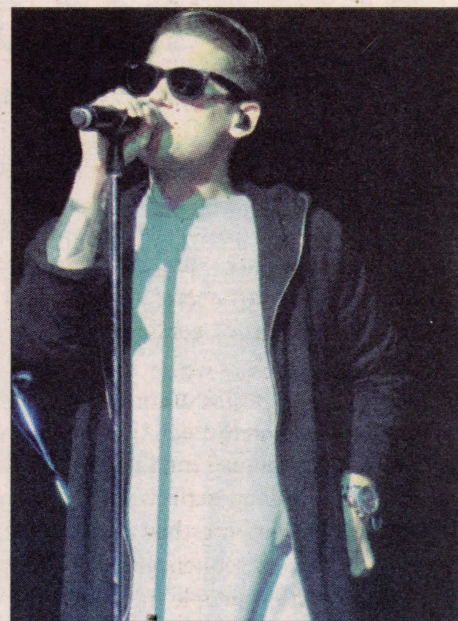


Courtesy of Kayla Bucci

Tony Oller (left) and Malcolm Kelley (right) perform in front of the F.M. Kirby Center's crowd consisting mostly of Wilkes students, but the event was open to the public.



Courtesy of Kayla Bucci



Courtesy of Kayla Bucci

MKTO, a musical duo based out of Florida, performed at the F.M. Kirby Center on Sunday, April 12, 2015, courtesy of Wilkes University's Programming Board. Malcolm Kelley (left) and Tony Oller (right) leave it all on the stage as they perform for the enthusiastic crowd.



# Where to go for the best pizza around Wilkes

By Nathan Hughes  
Correspondent

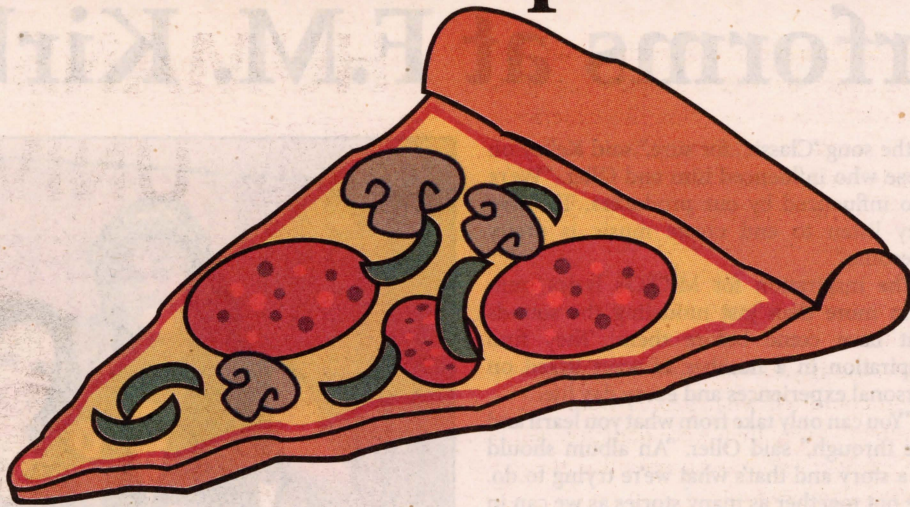
Having a slice of pizza is the norm for many college students in today's society. The price and taste of pizza are some of many reasons why students choose it.

In the eyes of Wilkes students there is a clear battle of who has the best pizza, between Frank's Pizzeria and Angelo's Pizzeria. The two pizzerias have different attributes that they are known for. Angelo's is known for its sweet sauce and thin crust. Frank's is known for its New York style crust.

"Our pizza is not comparable, it has a different style and taste than other pizza places around here," said Bill Ricci, owner of Angelo's.

Yelp, a company that publishes self-reviews, hands the edge to Angelo's, giving it a rating of 4.5 out of 5. At press time, Frank's maintained of 3.5 out of 5.

The taste of pizza is not the only issue. Location is a huge factor in students' minds. Students often choose Frank's because it is within walking distance from



The Beacon/ Nicole Kutos

The Wilkes student body is divided when the best pizza place is involved. Many factors go in to the decision such location, delivery factors and taste.

campus. Angelo's however, is a mile away and delivery is not an option, meaning students have to drive to get there.

Another factor that played into people's decision to choose Frank's is that it takes Flex Dollars as payment, something that is essential for students at Wilkes.

Angelo's has "thin and crispy crust and

extra sweet sauce, which is my favorite," said sophomore Vanessa Serano. "The only inconvenience is that they don't accept cash or deliver."

Some other things that stood out to her were "the taste and the drive of the people that work there."

Serano added that Flex Dollars are a

major reason she visits Frank's.

Angelo's "is an experience... nice people, busy atmosphere. Well worth the time spent to go get it," said sophomore Maria Chielli.

"Frank's has a close location and prices are reasonable," said former student Anthony Swain. "Pizza there is readily available, full of flavor and a lot of choices of toppings. Flex Dollars are a big plus. A lot of seating inside and the service is great. Compared to Angelo's there's other choices of food on the menu. You can't get one slice at Angelo's."

Even though students say both restaurants have enticing pizza, it seems that Angelo's has more positive reviews on pizza. Frank's, however, definitely has the edge on location, Flex Dollar use, and different food options.

"Frank's is in walking distance, which is very convenient... Flex dollars makes it a better place to get food," said sophomore Tim Lindner.



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## Eating hot dogs to support the Veterans Council

By Austin Ely  
Staff Writer

If you weren't at the Student Union Building getting something for lunch to fill your dietary needs, at the library crunching down on that last minute work for a 1 p.m. class, or in class being prepared for your future you probably should have been on the greenway where the Student Veterans Council hosted a hot dog eating contest from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hot dogs were offered for \$2 along with a free drink and a bag of chips which were \$1. Not only was it just a place to eat hot dogs and enjoy the spring air, but it was also a fundraiser for homeless veterans.

According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, 12 percent of homeless adults are veterans. All though that number may or may not be staggering, the Student Veterans Council ran with the slogan "They fought for us let's fight for them" which signifies the importance of these men and women which make up that



The Beacon/ Austin Ely

Shown above is Corey Purta, munching down on a hot dog last Thursday.

12percent.

According to sophomore Kellie Palko, who is the president of the Student Veterans Council, the goal for the club was

to raise \$1000.

The group was also hosting a clothing drive, where for a donation of two articles of clothing a person would be offered a free bag of chips. The Student Veterans Council was also selling Wilkes shirts for \$5.

The hot dog eating contest cost \$5 to enter and whomever ate six hot dogs the fastest was awarded a \$25 gift card.

"It's cheaper to get six hot dogs for \$5 than buying one hot dog for \$2," said sophomore Gabrielle Baran. "It also provides people with an incentive."

Everyone involved was also guaranteed a

stomach full of hot dogs.

The contest started at 12:30 p.m. with four hungry and passionate individuals racing to devour six hot dogs each. Those who participated consisted of senior Corey Purta, sophomore Will Richardson, sophomore Kelly Egan and freshmen Eric Geiger.

Egan and Geiger expressed that they would rather relax instead of rushing to eat their six hot dogs, while Purta and Richardson battled for the prize. Purta, who was the winner of the contest, commented, "It's simply a good way to support the club and their purpose."

Those in attendance were also urged to donate by texting the number 56512 with the word "home." Donations can still be made to this number.

For any information about the Student Veterans Council or homeless veterans contact Kellie Palko at kellie.palko@wilkes.edu or Mark Kaster at mark.kaster@wilkes.edu.



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# WUPB Hosts Silent Disco

By Macey McGuire  
Contributing Writer

Imagine a dance floor with no music. You walk into a room with flashing lights and lasers but you don't hear a sound, except maybe a few laughs here and there.

The Wilkes University Programming Board sponsored an event called a Silent Disco on Thursday, April 16, 2015 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the Wilkes University Henry Student Center second floor Ballroom. The Programming Board got the idea for this event at a conference they attend every year called NACA or National Association of Campus Activities. At the conference the Programming Board was able to experience a Silent Disco through one of the NACA showcases.

"We wanted to bring a Silent Disco to Wilkes because we had fun and learned a lot about each other through the games we played and music we danced to at the showcase," Valerie Woods, a nominee for President of the Programming Board, said.

A Silent Disco is exactly what it seems to be; silent. At the event, students were provided with wireless headphones that had two different channels the students could choose from to listen to. The first channel "A" had classic throwback songs and channel "B" was playing current popular music. The DJ was relaying the music to the headphones as the students danced. To anybody walking past this event, they would have seen people dancing


around in a silent room with flashing lights and lasers, but to the people wearing their headphones it was a club-like experience.

"I went to a Silent Disco at a night club once somewhere in Tennessee. It was an average night in the club, crazy lights, smoke machines and lasers. The only difference was this club had three DJ's instead of one and were all playing different kinds of music. It was funny because if you took your headphones off, you could tell what people were listening to by the way they were dancing," student Alex Fahnestock who attended the event Thursday night said.

The Wilkes Programming Board is known for their Thursday night events held for students.

"For next year's programming events, we plan to raise the bar, make new events, bring bigger and better event ideas to campus and find different venues to come in to make the student experience more wonderful than it already is at Wilkes. Anything we think the students will like, we will try our best to bring it to Wilkes," Woods added.

For more information on upcoming events on the Wilkes campus, you can visit their Facebook page by searching Wilkes University Programming Board.

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## 4th Annual Max Fine 5K

By Nicole Zukowski  
Life, A&E Editor

Muscles are what allow the body to move. Imagine your muscles deteriorating slowly, limiting your movement gradually along the way.

According to the Mayo Clinic, muscular dystrophy is a group of diseases that cause progressive weakness and loss of muscle mass.

On April 26, the 4th annual Max Fine Memorial 5k Race will be held in support for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). The event will take place in


Wilkes-Barre. Starting at 10:30 A.M. The race starts at the intersection of South River Street and West Northampton Street.

This race consists of a 5k race out and back course and one mile walk.

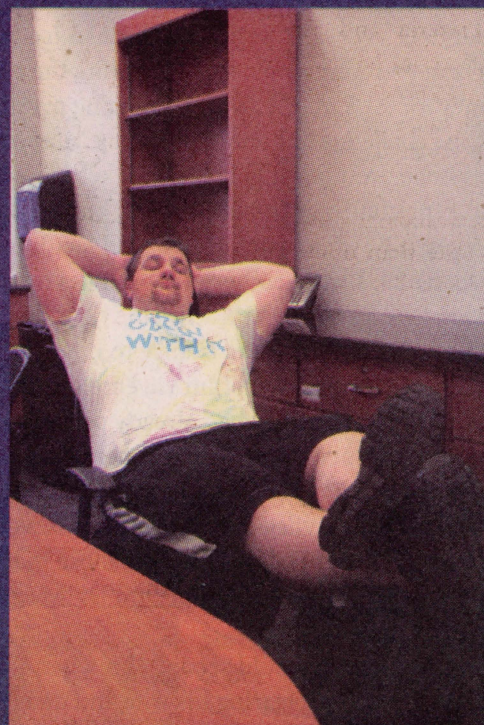
The race director, Michael Fine, son of Max Fine, welcomes all to participate.

"My family and I could not continue to improve this race and raise more funds for MDA each year without your assistance," Fine said.

For more information visit [www.maxfinemerorial5k.com](http://www.maxfinemerorial5k.com).

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## HUMANS OF WILKES UNIVERSITY



The Beacon/Danny Lykens

Do you think May flowers will come without April showers?

"Yeah? Well, ya know that's just like uhh... your opinion man."

-Lucas Domulevicz



# Remembering Merryman:

Graduating Beacon editor reflects on interview with the late professor

By Shawn Carey, Social Media Director

Over the summer everyone was doing the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. It did not matter where you went, someone was taking the challenge to raise awareness and money for ALS. As it was all happening over the summer, Keystone College took the challenge to honor Dr. Nancy Merryman, who was a professor there. Keystone promptly challenged Wilkes University and Dr. Patrick Leahy to take the challenge in honor of Dr. Jim Merryman, a professor of Wilkes for many years. It was a huge success with faculty and staff coming together to honor such a beloved member of the Wilkes family.

Let me first say that I never got a chance to meet Dr. Merryman in person. I was only able to converse with him via email when writing a profile on his diagnosis last semester. His disease had already progressed so much that he only spoke at a "gravelly whisper." However, in those few emails, I learned that Dr. Merryman was a special person who had a grasp on life that most of us only wish of having. I also had the privilege of speaking to his wife, his daughter, and one of his closest friends, Dr. Sid Halsor. Through those individuals I was able to get a better understanding of the kind of person Dr. Merryman was.

I am sure Dr. Merryman would second this when I say that he was surrounded by love and support. Hearing his wife and daughter talk with such strength during such a difficult time, was an inspiration in itself. Dr. Merryman's daughter shared a story with me about how the nurses and doctors told the family not to look at his ALS as a death sentence, but to cherish each and every moment.

Another thing that Dr. Merryman's wife shared with me is that although ALS is a terrible disease, it could be worse. For a family to carry such a light in a dark moment like that is truly what makes this family special. Although I only had those short interviews with them, I feel like I have known them for years.

After conducting all of the interviews with Dr. Merryman's wife, daughter, and friends, I started to get emails from Dr. Merryman himself answering questions that I had sent him. As I mentioned before, this was the only way for me to communicate with him. I had sent him a list of about 12-15 questions, and each night Dr. Merryman would send responses to about 3-4 of those questions, at the end of each email, he would break from the "interview" and say that he had to take a break for the night.

By the last couple emails, I was waiting with eagerness to see what he had written. The way he answered my questions was as if we were talking face to face. There was a depth to him, and also such emotion and conviction in everything he did. This was a man that had done it all. He had worked in Africa with the Peace Corps and had travelled the world seeing the beauty in everything. I was just lucky enough to have been able to exchange a few emails with him.

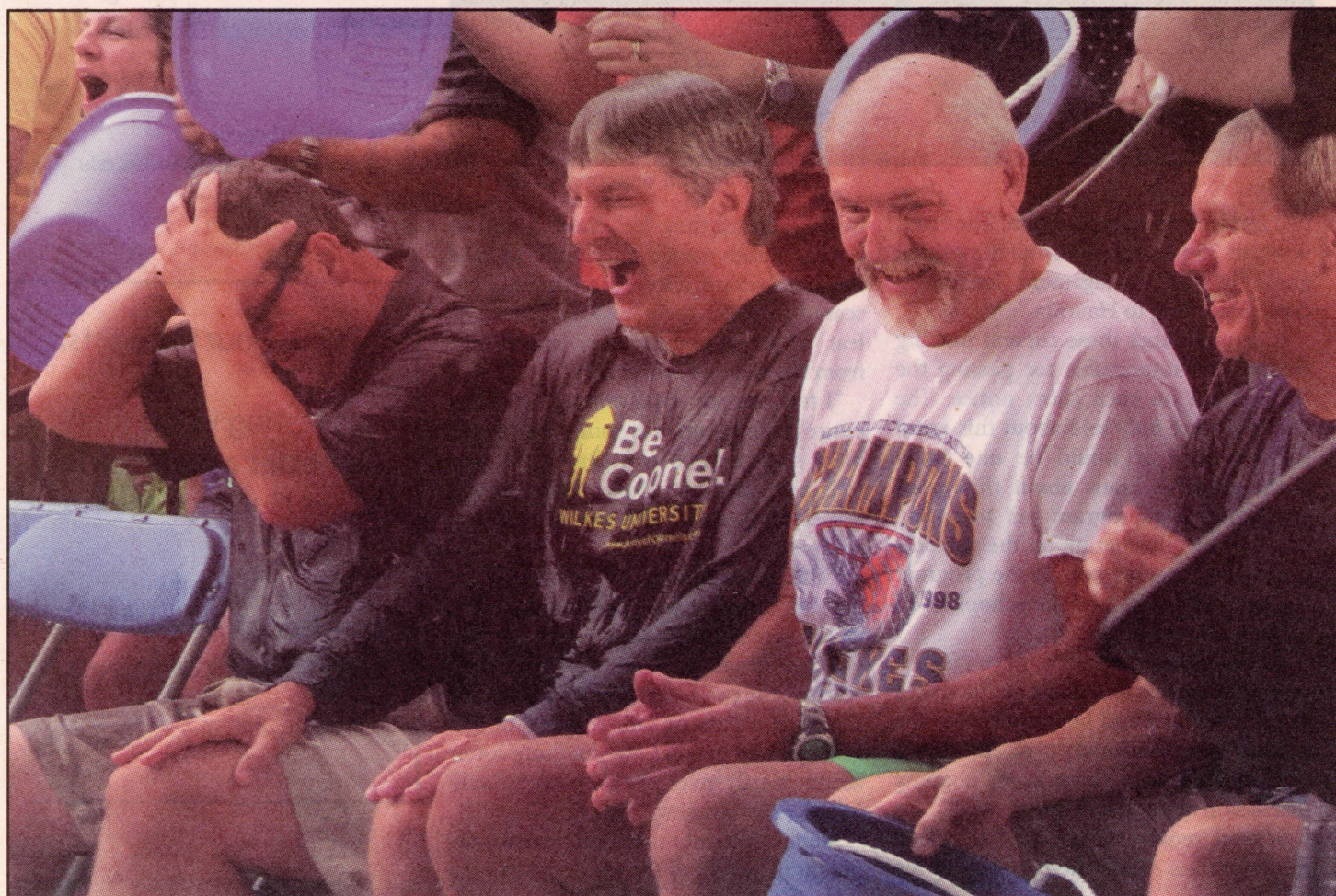
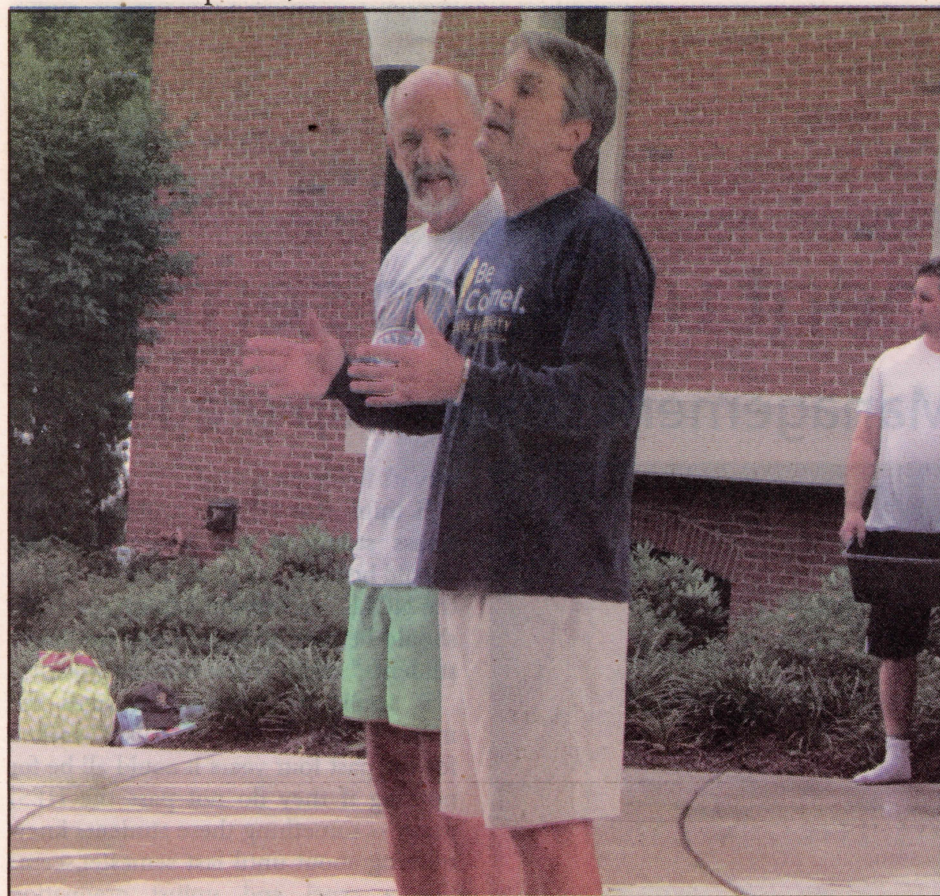
While I was in "writing mode" writing this profile piece about Dr. Merryman, I wanted people to see that depth and emotion. Nothing I said would do it justice, so I used quotes from him, his family, and his friends. Anything I wrote was merely a transition from one quote to the next. After I completed it, a sense of worry came over me, because I wondered if Dr. Merryman would even like it.

After the print edition came out, that day, I sent an email to Dr. Merryman with the link to the article that I had worked on for the past two weeks. I eagerly awaited a return about his thoughts. In the meantime, I received a couple of emails from others saying they read the article, including President Leahy, but no one's opinion was as important as Dr. Merryman's. The article that I wrote is one that I will not soon forget. It was a very special piece because of the people involved. They treated me with such respect and I will forever be appreciative of that. It is hard to put into words what this article means to me, because it was an article that was a true labor of love.

A couple weeks after the article was published, Dr. Merryman had emailed me asking what the reaction was to the article. I had told him it was nothing but positive, and I promised to forward him any and all fan mail, knowing that it would all be for him. I will still hold true to that promise in the off chance that there is still some that has yet to be mailed. However, there was one piece of fan mail I did keep for myself. Back in March, I learned that Dr. Merryman's article had won a Keystone Press Award from the Pennsylvania Newsmedia Association. I was so proud to have accepted that award because Dr. Merryman was receiving the recognition he deserved. So, Dr. Merryman, I dedicate that award to you.

In closing, it is hard to believe that I am finishing this year the same as I began it, writing about the incredible life of Dr. Jim Merryman. One thing I promised Dr. Merryman was that he could flip the tables on me and interview me like any good anthropologist. So, I say to you, Dr. Merryman, I look forward to that day when we can talk and share a good martini – shaken, of course.





After Dr. Merryman was diagnosed with ALS last year, Wilkes faculty participated in the ice bucket challenge to show their support for their colleague. A full academic year later, these pictures are a testament to the impact that Merryman had on the campus community. A memorial service is scheduled for 2 p.m. on May 2 in the Dorothy Dickson Darte center.

Top left: President Leahy dedicates a speech to Merryman before participating in the ice bucket challenge.

Top right: Wilkes faculty pour buckets of ice water over their heads.

Bottom: Merryman and Leahy sit soaked from the challenge's aftermath.

All photos the Beacon archives // Sarah Bedford.



# Opinion

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

## Added nursing requirement unfair to seniors

### New exam worth 25 percent of Management Leadership grade

By Mandy Stickles  
Assistant Opinion Editor

Senior Wilkes Nursing students received a surprising twist in one of their classes this final semester.

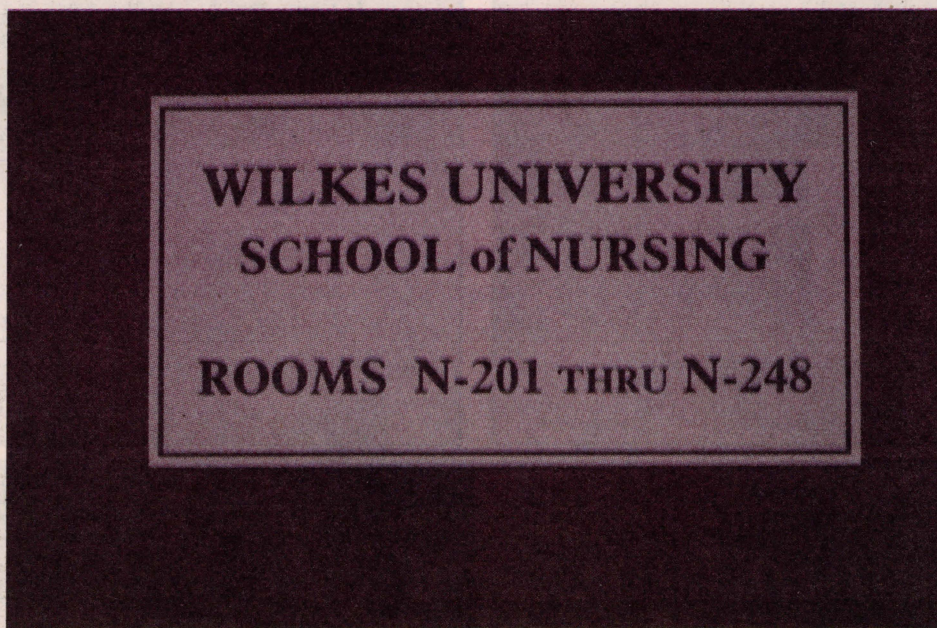
The nursing program decided to add a pass or fail exam called the HESI to one of the classes that students must take during their last semester in the program. A goal of the exam is to help with preparation as nursing students move forward in their careers.

According to statistics outlining nursing schools' passing rates on the National Council Licensure Examination, the standard competency exam for nurses, Wilkes University's passing rate for the nursing program has fluctuated within the past few years. In 2010 the passing rate was 75.4 percent, 84.3 percent in 2011, and 86.5 percent in 2012; a large drop occurred in 2013 with a passing rate of only 72.6. 2014 saw a 6.6 percent increase, taking the passing rate to 79.2 percent.

The class that is requiring the nursing students to take the HESI is a management leadership class, and multiple students have voiced that the exit exam is unfair because it does not pertain directly to the course itself.

The professor of the management leadership class, Dr. Emily Havrilla, an assistant professor in the School of Nursing, said in an email that The School of Nursing faculty has been extremely committed in preparing the students to take the upcoming HESI exam. Within the past week a three-day prep course was constructed to better help the students and the faculty are continuing to work with them.

Students must get a score of 850 or higher to pass the exam and will have



The Beacon/Purvit Patel

two attempts to take the exam. The exam is worth 25 percent of a student's overall grade in the management leadership class, according to Havrilla.

It is unjust that these current nursing students be responsible for passing the HESI exam on such short notice. The students were only told about this exam last semester. It would be one thing if the students knew about this exam going into the program but to spring this type of information on the students during their senior year in the program is completely unfair of the school to do to their nursing students.

Several nursing students have taken it upon themselves to try and get the HESI exam expunged and have spoken to the provost of the university about the exam. The students said there is an ongoing discussion about the exam.

Several senior members of the 2015 nursing class want their voices to be

heard, adding they feel cheated and at a huge disadvantage on having to take the HESI exam. However, students are scared to make their identity known in fear of repercussions they might face from the dean or university.

"I feel severely disadvantaged that my entire nursing career is going to be based on a standardized test that is no way reflective on that class [management leadership], said one senior nursing student.


"This exam is weighted so heavily on our career and it was just introduced to us last semester. We have been prepping for the exam and no one has even reached the passing grade. It's also unfair that it is a pass or fail. A score of 850 gives you 25 percent but anything lower automatically gives you a 0 percent," said other senior nursing student.

Some students do recognize the potential benefit of the exam but not the

way it's being presented.

"I think that HESI is a useful tool to assess strengths and weaknesses and should be used as a guide to studying for the NCLEX RN exam. I think the HESI should be used to benefit and not harm students," said a senior nursing student.

It seems no matter how hard the nursing class of 2015 at Wilkes worked for the past four years it could all be for nothing if they do not pass the HESI exam -- something these students knew nothing about until last semester, seems like a cruel and unjust graduation surprise.

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Tell us your thoughts.

Is testing in the final semester a bad idea for Wilkes Nursing Students?

Email  
[amanda.stickles@wilkes.edu](mailto:amanda.stickles@wilkes.edu)  
with your comments



# Past, Present & Future: balancing, not dwelling

By Allison Rossi  
Staff Writer

For some reason, people find it hard to focus on the present. Most people tend to get hung up on the past. Remembering the past is a good thing; however, living in the past is only going to hold you back from success.

People focus on things they wish they did or didn't do. They keep going back and forth in their heads focusing on what could have been. People tend to have regrets or blame themselves for past events. They will search for months for an explanation to a specific past event they think to themselves "If only I did this instead". Instead of focusing on what they could have done, should have done, or would have done, people need to focus

on what they are doing in this moment.

The key word in that thought process is "if only".

If only what?

You cannot change what has already happened. People like to take the blame for others' actions but, sometimes this is not the case. One cannot change an individual, people think differently and feel differently and that is life. He or she could feel nostalgic at times and have a longing for the past but the truth is change is inevitable. Change as much as people hate it, including myself is a part of life. Change allows a person to grow and learn about themselves and the world around them.

It is extremely hard for the majority of people to not dwell on the past. It is also hard to stop looking into the future as well. Focusing on the future is good

and being optimistic about one's future is great. This will lead to hard work and ambition. If an individual is living in the future they will always be working and not living in the present or enjoying their life now.

Everyone waits for the future, whether it be short term goals or long term goals. People dream for the future they dream of a better future or a happier one. Everyone looks forward to the weekend every week, they look forward to their next paycheck, their next birthday, their next meal. Everyone is hoping for the next best thing, they are always striving for something more.

Circumstances change focus. According to sivers.org, one needs safety and stability in the present to begin thinking about the future. Political and economic instability also causes people

to focus more on present survival than saving their money.

The answer for success is an equal balance of focus on the past, present, and the future. During family events or meeting up with old friends, one should be past-focused to enjoy and recall old memories. When their work is finished and it's time to wind down, they should be present-focused.

When one has work to accomplish (academically or in their profession) they should be future-focused.

People tend to ignore the present day.

Everyone needs to learn to live in the present because the present is the only thing that is guaranteed.

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# Matt and Kim are forever young with New Glow

By Eric Casey  
Staff Writer

Matt and Kim are forever young

Matt and Kim have been getting some flak over their new album New Glow. Some critics say they never change their sound, while others are saying that they changed their sound in some dramatic way. Honestly, I don't think there is much to argue over this album.

If anything, I believe that indie pop Brooklyn duo Matt and Kim are The B-52s of the modern era. They are an incredible party band. There is nothing negative about saying that either. Who wouldn't want to have that kind of distinction?

This is their fifth album. Is it drastic from their 2012 album Lightning? It could be said that, no not lyrically, but instrumentally hell yeah! When it comes to the lyrics I do feel what the critics are saying though. The lyrical content feel so intentionally dumbed down and teenager-ish. Especially with "Hoodie On" and "World Is Ending."

The new album feels like a playlist of mixed material. "Stirred Up" has a trap vibe in there that makes the song more

interesting despite it's cringe-worthy lyrics. Another song with hip hop and trip elements is their moderate alternative hit "Get It" which is a highlight on the album. It has so far peaked at #27 on the US Alternative Singles chart.

Their song "Killin' Me" leaves me with mixed emotions. I feel like it's going to be one of those songs that is best played live. They make great use of the horn again just like they did on the opening track "Hey Now." Speaking of which, it's the perfect opening to dance your &#\$ off to. The horn section is really cool mixed in with hip hop sounds.

Other highlights on the album include "Make A Mess." Yet another example of a song of theirs that will sound absolutely stellar live, not just from your stereo at a party.

The zany video game beats heard throughout the song make it super fun to move around your living room...or a proper dance floor. "Not Alone" is a curiously crafted tune that sounds like their biggest hit "Daylight" at times. "Here comes brighter days, forgot many times, true friends hard to find."

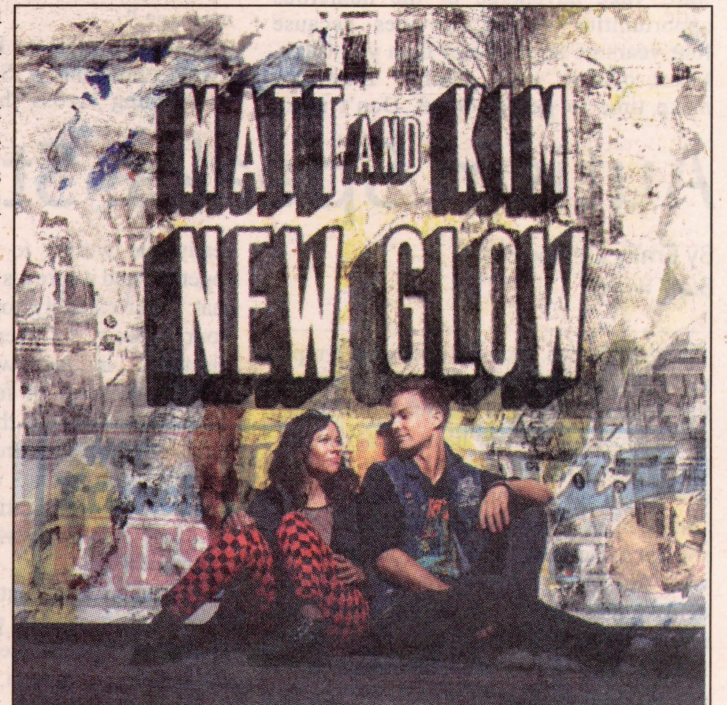
Lastly, let's just take a moment and really appreciate one of the best songs of

the year to date and what is surely to be a huge staple in their discography. That is "Can You Blame Me." Surely this song will be remixed sooner than later. It's definitely a future classic Matt and Kim song. This song ought to be blasting through your speakers this summer as it's destined to be an indie anthem.

To conclude, some won't like this record, and diehard fans will treasure it just like I will. The too short album that is New Glow won't attract a ton of new fans, but it will keep diehards happy.

If there's one thing that can be said about Matt and Kim it's that they put on a better and more lively show than most bands out there with multiple members.

Seriously, it's quite the spectacle to see



Kim shake what she's got while booty bouncing on the hands of the front rows.

I rate New Glow 3 1/2 out of 5 stars.

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# No regrets: Reflections from a graduating senior

By Alyssa Stencavage  
Contributing Writer

Whenever someone used to say “enjoy these years because they’re going to fly by,” I always took it with a grain of salt. But really, I should have listened.

I remember my first day on campus as if it were yesterday. I didn’t realize the obstacle that is parking, which can mean driving around for half an hour. Then I sat at the front of the Student Union Building pretending to be busy.

Who was I kidding?

Nobody has work on the first day before classes even start.

Looking back, there are so many things I cannot help but laugh at. It feels like I snapped a finger and I’m about to graduate. While these years have been tough in many ways, they’ve also been some of the most incredible and satisfying years of my life. After some reflection, I wanted to give some undergrad to undergrad wisdom before the turning of the tassels.

There’s no doubt that getting involved from the get-go is essential – don’t wait. Take advantage of the numerous opportunities Wilkes provides because four years go much faster than you think. Move outside your comfort zone and make time to get involved. Don’t make

excuses and don’t have regrets.

The professors at Wilkes are here for you, so don’t be afraid to ask questions. It could make a difference in your grade.

Don’t ever be afraid to speak up. People will respect you, and you may have an idea nobody else was thinking about. Everyone has a voice, use yours.

This sounds simple, but be who you are. Chase your dreams and go after what you want in life. I speak from experience when I say if you care too much about the opinions of others instead of living for you, you’re going to have a tough life. If you have an idea, make it a reality. As long as you have faith and determination, you will find a way to make anything happen.

In every moment of doubt, find the courage to carry on. Fill your mind with positive thoughts and do good. It will come back to you.

You’re going to experience fear often. Conquer it – it is overcoming that fear that leads to some of the greatest satisfaction. Learn from your mistakes and bad experiences – they can teach just as much as good ones. Everyone has a journey. Enjoy yours and find the meaning. As Robin Roberts said, “Make your mess your message.”

Make the most of EVERY moment and every opportunity. Soon enough, you’ll be walking across the stage to get your

diploma and wondering where the time went. Don’t rush. I found myself doing that all too often, and when you do, you miss what’s right in front of you.

It’s also about brightening the days of others. Lend a smile or hold the door for someone – it makes a difference. Surround yourself with good people, be kind to everyone, and let people know they’re important to you.

Through it all, don’t stop until you’ve reached your absolute fullest potential. Work hard and do your best, but have some fun and get some rest. There are going to be hardships, but I promise you will get through them. Reach out for help – we can all use a shoulder to lean on.

At the beginning of this semester someone asked me what I would change in life if I could go back. I thought for a second and then it hit me – although I’m only 21, I wouldn’t change a thing. While I probably would’ve done some things differently and been a bit more assertive, I am more than grateful for the experiences that have made and continue to make me who I am today.

As I reflect back on my time at Wilkes, which helped me to grow tremendously, one of the best things have been the people – those who make moments extra special. I’m talking fellow students, people you pass on the greenway (say hi to people...a little

human interaction never killed anyone), and professors. Don’t ever underestimate the power of relationships with professors. Even if you drive them absolutely insane in the process (I speak from experience), talk to and see them when needed. I PROMISE you won’t be sorry.

These people help and watch you grow, encourage and support you; you build relationships with them, who may end up being lifelong friends. And in my opinion, you can’t ask for anything more.

And remember – just because you graduate, doesn’t mean your time at Wilkes is over. Remember and keep in touch with those who helped you along the way. As Maya Angelou said, “People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

You can’t get back time, so use it wisely.

As I prepare to graduate, as nostalgic and scared as I am, I take with me many great memories with great people, all of which I will always hold close to my heart. I would like to thank all those who have made this journey both possible and special.



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## Autism Speaks: Starting a public conversation

By Emily DeAngelis  
Staff Writer

Organizations such as Special Olympics and Athletes Helping Athletes perpetuating the understanding and acceptance of autism in my local community have changed who I have become as an individual, so to read that one organization, Autism Speaks, promotes autism in an unethical manner, was beyond shocking. Because I have no prior affiliation with Autism Speaks, I wanted to further explore these harsh comments. After much research and discussion with those in the field, I have found the comments on the organization to barely scratch the surface of the insurmountable goals that Autism Speaks attempts to accomplish, aside from being a blatant replication of several other articles.

While the comments on the video, “I Am Autism,” are not incorrect, they only look at the first half of the trailer. The second half establishes that the autistic community is

ready and willing to face their challenges together, and it spreads the powerful message that: “Our capacity for love is greater than your capacity to overwhelm.” The videos discussed in last week’s article depict parents’ feelings of fear and apprehension when they discover their child has autism. Autism Speaks addresses the truth. The apprehension parents and guardians face is normal, and organizations and professionals in the field do not work to hide the truth, but to embrace it.

Children with autism are special, and they require special preparation and care. If Autism Speaks were to simply publish the benefits of autism, they would be doing a disservice to the guardians of autistic children by not validating their worries as well as assuring them that there is a competent and compassionate community surrounding autism.

Clinical Director and Behavior Therapist, Holly Davies, states that she has never had any problems with the organization Autism Speaks, it is pretty innocuous and

“just looks to spread awareness.” Which is correct, especially considering that in 2010, 21% of Autism Speaks’ budget went toward awareness and advertising.

With the help of founder Bob Wright, since Autism Speaks was founded in 2005, autism has become a household topic. His goal was for “more public awareness, more understanding, and more funding, both private and public.” The growing awareness has contributed to a more vigilant doctors who, not only to diagnose autism, but diagnose it early in order to start preparing the family to care for and accommodate autism in their family. Also in the 2010 budget report was the statistic that 44% of their funding went to medical research to make these diagnoses possible.

Perhaps this is where the biggest controversy arises: the cure. While new information is constantly uncovered about the origins of autism, a cure is still a question mark. Theories have been raised about the ethicality of a cure and whether or not autistic individuals even want a cure. Davies

hit the mark when she noted, “I think making a blanket statement about a cure is wrong either way.”

Focusing on degrading an organization is taking away from what is really important: the individuals which the organization is working to promote. No organization is flawless. However, in order to be ranked a top nonprofit like Autism Speaks, several professionals must acknowledge its reach and impact.

*Editor’s note: This piece is a response to “Should Autism Speak(s) for Everyone?” that ran in the April 14th issue of the Beacon and discussed the problems with the organization. For context, readers can view the original editorial around campus or on [www.thewilkesbeacon.com](http://www.thewilkesbeacon.com).*



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themes or similar fiction. Indignity solely by



# Mattie Stepanek: Loving Through Heartsongs

By Sara Pisak  
Asst. Opinion Editor

Loving Through Heartsongs, written by 13 year old poet Mattie J. T. Stepanek, was published in 2003. Loving Through Heartsongs is one of those texts that finds itself somewhere between too old to be considered a new release but published recently enough that its place in the literary world has yet to be classified. Personally, this text has a clearly defined place in literary history because of its courageous author.

Mattie's website, as well as the book's jacket, informs readers that Mattie Stepanek was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy. Not allowing his health struggles to slow him down, Loving Through Heartsongs marked his third New York Times Best Selling book all before his fourteenth birthday. Mattie should be acknowledged, as few authors at such a young age enjoy this type of success. Loving Through Heartsongs features an introduction by world renowned author Maya Angelou. In addition to prominent authors introducing his works, Mattie has several other literary and humanitarian awards to his name. Mattie has appeared on shows such as Oprah, Good Morning America and Larry King. His poems have also appeared in national newspapers and magazines.

2002 was a pinnacle year for Mattie and his accomplishments as he was awarded the Children's Hope Medal of Honor, the Verizon Courage Award and the Pediatric Nursing Society of America's Humanitarian Award. Also in 2002, Mattie, who resides in Maryland, was named his home state's Goodwill Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. He was also named Muscular Dystrophy's National Goodwill Ambassador. Sadly Mattie died in 2004, days before his fourteenth birthday; however his legacy lives on through his poetry.

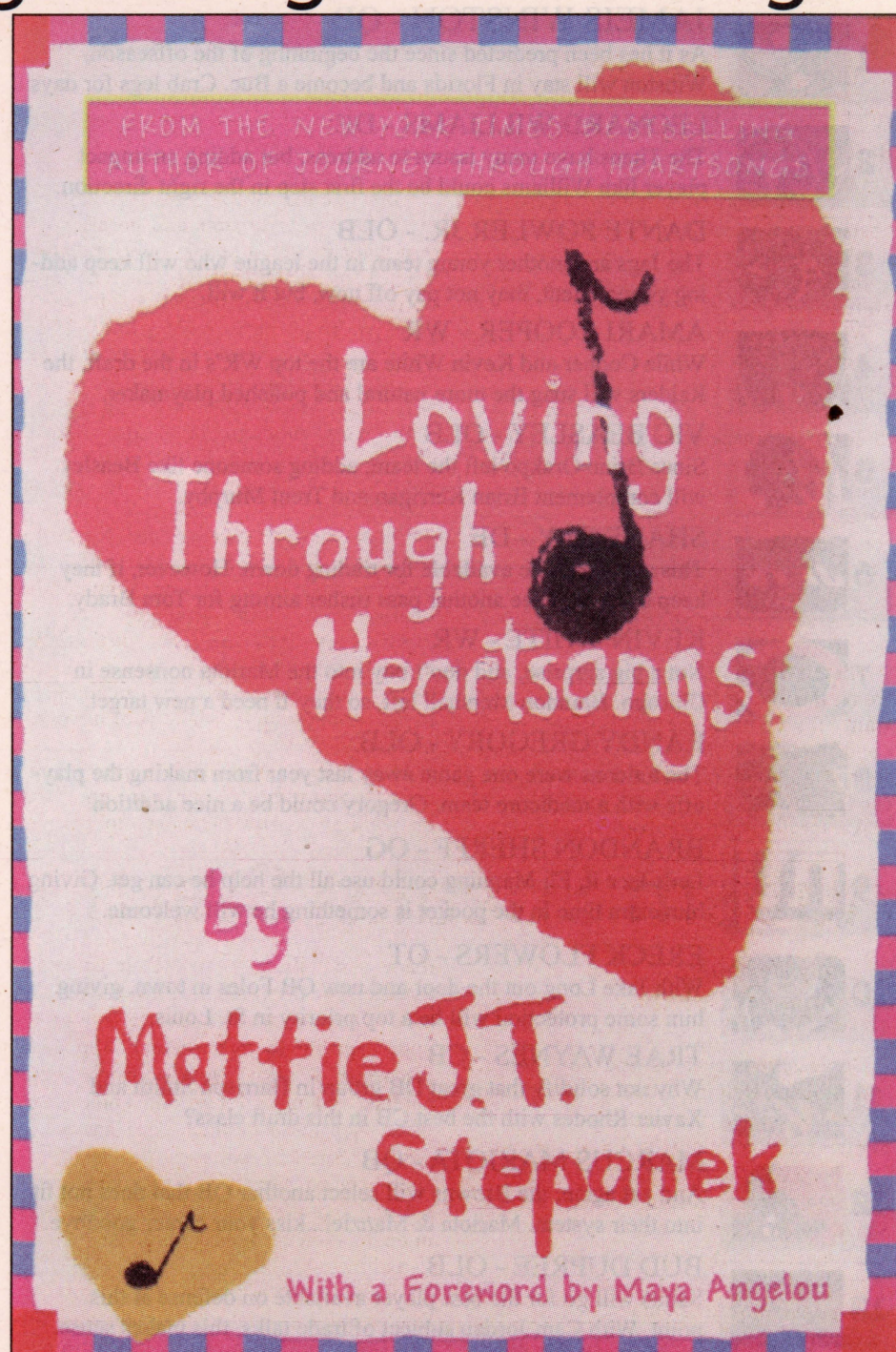
Once a reader selects Loving Through Heartsongs, the text can be read cover to cover in an afternoon. What makes Mattie's book of poetry one that is difficult to put down and one that should be discussed? Simply, it is the author's intuitive nature. Each poem found in Loving Through Heartsongs showcases a different human emotion. Poets and critics will often state: "Read a collection of poetry from cover to cover and you will often become bored or disinterested." This disinterest is common as writers are driven by similar triggering subjects and emotions. This results in a collection of poems often having similar themes or similar diction. Judging solely by

the title, Mattie's works are about the driving forces behind the sentiment of love. A reader might be tempted to inquire, "What does a thirteen year old boy know about love?" I advise you not to be hasty when posing this question. Mattie knows exactly what he is talking about and can describe these emotions far better than someone three or four times his age.

I feel as a writer, expressing life's most difficult to pinpoint sentiments or troublesome attitudes are often stated best by children. Mattie's poems are no exception to this finding. Similarly, like most children, they possess a unique innocence stemming from their own personal life moments. Mattie possesses this innocence and his poems have a childlike quality of being pure in heart, in mind and in action. However, Mattie's poems express profound and mature concepts and he does so in unadulterated genuineness. The innocence, genuineness and authenticity Mattie articulates in his work does not mean he is unworldly or gullible. In fact, it means exactly the opposite. Mattie's authenticity is refreshing and wise beyond his years. Loving Through Heartsongs does not contain a bitter or a rancorous line, as love through a child's eyes is not vengeful or spiteful. Mattie writes, "And when the letters and words/ Of those Heartsongs bring some/ Peace to the countries and people/ Who have war in their lives, / That is real happiness/ To me." These verses showcase the combination of innocence and profoundness contained in Mattie's poetry. More accurate than most, Mattie is self-aware of the effect his words and sentiments (Heartsongs) have on the world.

Although the time has not come to decide where Mattie stands in the literary hierarchy, it is obvious to me that his works should occupy a space within the poetic world. I think some individuals might be tempted to call these poems "simple" or "uncomplicated" as Mattie does not employ poetic techniques one would learn in a college setting. However, the poems present the tenacity and honesty of the human spirit. It often seems as a person grows older, they hold tighter to more jaded life experiences, blocking them from experiencing childlike joy and honesty. These experienced individuals, who have lost their child-like joy, are the ones who can benefit from Mattie's integrity and sincerity the most.

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## Sara's Score:





# Frank Passalacqua's 2015 NFL Mock Draft Board



## JAMEIS WINSTON - QB

As it has been predicted since the beginning of the offseason, Winston will stay in Florida and become a Buc. Crab legs for days



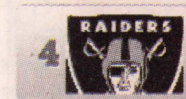
## LEONARD WILLIAMS - DE

The Titans have many issues to address, but adding an impact player like Williams could be the first step in the right direction.



## DANTE FOWLER JR. - OLB

The Jags are another young team in the league who will keep adding young talent, may not pay off now, but it will.



## AMARI COOPER - WR

While Cooper and Kevin White are the top WR's in the draft, the Raiders will snag the more natural and polished playmaker.



## VIC BEASLEY - OLB

Since Brian Orakpo left the team, adding someone like Beasley will complement Brian Kerrigan and Trent Murphy.



## SHANE RAY - DE

This spot could be available for trading down. However, if they keep the pick, I see another pass rusher aiming for Tom Brady.



## KEVIN WHITE - WR

Not a big surprise, and don't buy into the Mariota nonsense in Chicago. Brandon Marshall left, so they'll need a new target.



## RANDY GREGORY - OLB

The Falcons were one game away last year from making the playoffs with a medicore team. Gregory could be a nice addition.



## BRANDON SHERFF - OG

Let's face it, Eli Manning could use all the help he can get. Giving him extra time in the pocket is something he will welcome.



## ERECK FLOWERS - OT

With Jake Long out the door and new QB Foles in town, giving him some protection will be a top priority in St. Louis.



## TRAE WAYNES - CB

Why not solidify that great DB group in Harrison Smith and Xavier Rhodes with the best CB in this draft class?



## MARCUS MARIOTA - QB

And yet again, the Browns will select another QB that does not fit into their system. Mariota & Manziel...kiss your career goodbye.



## BUD DUPREE - OLB

Saints will go for the best player available on defense at this point. With Cam Jordan subject of trade talks, this makes sense.



## JALEN COLLINS - CB

While some people have the Dolphins taking a WR, I think they wait until the second round to fill that void and work on their D.



## ARIK ARMSTEAD - DT

Corners are in need in San Fran, but the talented ones may not be there. Taking Armstead is the safe option in a hurting defense.



## DEVANTE PARKER - WR

Andre Johnson is no longer in town, but DeAndre Hopkins is a rising star in Houston. Adding another young WR would be smart.



## TODD GURLEY - RB

Risky pick here for sure, but high risk means high reward in the end. SD needs some flashy playmakers on offense.



## CAMERON ERVING - C

The Chiefs had major pass protection issues last year...well, they had major offense issues all together. More protection is needed.



## DJ HUMPHRIES - OT

Another spot subject to trades. If not, the Browns second pick in the first round could be giving the QB some help.



## LONDON COLLINS - SS

This is a toss-up. Mariota is an option if available, picking a WR is something I can see, but taking Collins would be the safest bet.



## MALCOM BROWN - DT

The Bengals need help improving their pass-rush efforts and Brown could be the guy to make that happen.



## MARCUS PETERS - CB

With Polamalu and Ike Taylor retiring, the defense is in need of major help. Peters could be a solid pick for the team.



## EDDIE GOLDMAN - DT

Suh is gone, and so is most of the talent that was once on the D-line. Bringing in help would be the smart option here.



## MELVIN GORDON - RB

Shocker alert. The Cards were very close last year to becoming a Super Bowl team, and adding Gordon could be the final piece.



## ANDRUS PEAT - OT

Cam Newton was like Adrian Peterson's kids, he kept getting hit last year. Peat could fill glaring holes in the line.



## PHILIP DORSETT - WR

Steve Smith isn't getting younger and Torrey Smith signed elsewhere. Adding a quick flashy target for Flacco is the answer.



## BYRON JONES - CB

I hate the Cowboys. They desperately need help at CB and it pains me to see talent like Byron Jones possibly land in Jerry World.



## TJ CLEMMINGS - OT

Similar senario with many teams taking a tackle, they need to give the QB protection. Peyton appreciates it.



## LA'EL COLLINS - OT

Read above but replace Peyton with Luck.



## ERIC KENDRICKS - ILB

They always seem to do it...but Green Bay will land a linebacker who I think will be an instant star in the NFL to replace AJ Hawk.



## JAELEN STRONG - WR

Jimmy Graham and Kenny Stills are out. Brees needs a weapon so the best WR will be taken at this spot.



## KEVIN JOHNSON - CB

Lastly, with most of the talent on defense leaving the Super Bowl champs, they will add the best available corner to end the round.



# Sports

Want your sport covered? Contact the sports editor: Brandon.Gubitosa@wilkes.edu

## Jeremy Hartman looks to continue playing career



The Beacon/Purvit Patel

By Grant Rogers  
Sports Writer

Wilkes University senior Jeremy Hartman is a two sport athlete, excelling as a Forward for the Men's Basketball team and as a star Wide Receiver on the football team. With a 6'3" 220 pound frame, he is not hard to miss. Since transferring from Albright College his freshman year he has become one of the most recognizable students on campus based on his playing on the court, on the field, and for his big personality.

Despite doing well in both sports, Hartman looks to continue being involved with football. As of right now, Hartman is a part of the coaching staff for the Wilkes football team on the offensive side of the ball as the Tight Ends Coach.

As far as playing in the future, Hartman will be trying out for some teams in the Canadian Football League and the Arena League. "If the whole football thing doesn't work out, I'm going to come back

and end up coaching here at Wilkes," stated Hartman. "I have great relationship with Trey Brown...he knew I was interested and he knew I would do a good job and coaching is something I want to pursue to do."

Playing two sports while in college and juggling the responsibilities of being a college student is certainly not easy.

When asked about his favorite moments from each sport, Hartman replied, "For basketball, being able to play as a freshman after transferring was a big deal and making the conference championship game in that atmosphere was just amazing."

"I've had great teammates all four years here and that's what I always loved about being a Wilkes Colonel basketball player."

When it came to football he replied, "Playing home against Albright College. I transferred from there and I circled that game on my calendar since last spring and I was able to catch three touchdowns against. There are other great memories



The Beacon/David Lee

but that one stands out the most to me and just being able to play two sports."

Hartman will be graduating at the end of this semester with a major in History and a minor in Broadcast Communications and will attempt to continue playing football despite only have played in his senior campaign during his time in college.

When asked about how he was able to balance all his responsibilities, he stated, "Time management is so important. As an athlete you practice 2-3 hours a day, then you have to lift and go for a run, study film

on your opponent.

As far as education, you have to hit the library and get papers done. The only words of advice I would have is to put time ahead of yourself to get what you need to get done." Hartman also had few words about the university, "Have a great time here. Wilkes is a great place where you can succeed and do good things if you put forth the full effort."



## Women's Tennis stays determined for playoffs

By Cara Basile  
Sports Writer

The Women's Tennis Team is off to a strong start this spring season shutting out nearly all of their competition. Despite a loss from the University of Scranton in the fall season, the team is 4-0 in the Freedom Conference and maintains 13-1 overall record.

Both the men and women teams are coached by Chris Leicht. Leicht is thankful for his upperclassmen leaders who make his job easier when it comes to motivating his players. He also credits assistant coach Dave Teres for the motivation and preparation for matches. "Our practice sessions have really helped prepare us for matches," Leicht said. "Because our team is so deep, we are able to have very challenging practice workouts."

Sophomore Taylor Hoffmann shared how she prepares for matches and staying positive on the court. "When I'm on the court I try to stay positive whether I'm winning or losing because I play better when I'm in a happier mindset," Hoffmann said. "When I'm losing I try to stay determined and not let myself give up because anything could

happen in tennis."

Although the Lady Colonels have not faced much loss this year as a team, they know the importance of sticking together. Tennis can be a sport of ups and downs, so determination is key in order to come out with a win. "Our strength is definitely our team dynamic," Senior Anastasia English said. "We're all really close on and off the court. During those tight matches and three setters it's nice to have your team cheering for you and knowing they're rooting for you."

The team still has some games to complete as the semester comes to a close. With a chance of redemption against the University of Scranton April 24 at the Ralston Athletic Complex and their last conference game against local rivals, King's College April 26.

"They are all very strong players and great people, and I'm very lucky to be on a team with all of them," Hoffmann says on behalf of her teammates. "Also, we are all very supportive of each other and always cheer and support each other on and off the court."

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## Women's lacrosse team enjoys continued success

By J.T. Keer  
Sports Writer

The Wilkes Women's lacrosse team is enjoying another successful season with 8 wins and 4 losses. However, after dropping 2 heart breakers to Wyoming Valley rivals King's College and Misericordia University, the Lady Colonels are sitting at 0-3 in the conference.

To return to the league playoffs, the Lady Colonels are going to have to win the remainder of their contests in conference. They will need to lean defense and the play of their big 3, Carlie Smith, Madeleine Brownsey and Tori Kerr. Together these 3 have scored 76% percent of the team's goals and will need to continue to produce with a playoff spot on the line.

Smith is having another record breaking season with 48 goals and 56 assists. Brownsey is following that up with an impressive 69 goals and 7 assists. Kerr has

also been lighting it up with 50 goals and 7 assists.

Kerr says the team needs to stay upbeat if they want to have a shot at playoffs.

"We had a few tough losses but we are still motivated to make it to the playoffs," said Kerr.

"We are staying positive as a team, and are striving to perform our best with the upcoming conference games."

The Lady Colonels finish the season with their final road game at Eastern University, before coming home to play a trio of games against Manhattanville, Maritime College and Delaware Valley College to close out the regular season.

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## Students show off their Colonel Pride this semester



Fans going crazy at the first of two games against rival King's College



Colonel nation made a trip down to rival King's College during winter weekend to support the Men's Basketball team.



Wilkes students participated in a white-out against rival King's College. The Colonels went on to defeat the Monarchs.



The Colonel shows off his Colonel Pride at the white-out against King's College  
All photos: The Beacon/Purvit Patel



Getting to know...

# Carley Smith

Senior Lacrosse player

By Evan Willey  
Sports Writer

Carley Smith is a senior biology major with a chemistry minor. She is from York, PA and went to Dallastown High School. She decided to come to Wilkes for the pharmacy program but decided it wasn't for me shortly after working in an impatient pharmacy for a summer. She is the only senior on the Wilkes Lacrosse team.

Q. What do you plan on doing after college?

A. I am currently waiting to hear back from grad schools to get a master in Physician Assistant studies. However if that doesn't work out I will stay at Wilkes for the accelerated nursing program.

Q. What first interested you to play Lacrosse?

A. I never heard of lacrosse until middle school which was when some of my friends started playing. It seemed liked a cool sport so I just picked up a stick and gave it a shot.

Q. If you won the lottery tomorrow what would you spend the money on?

A. If I won the lottery tomorrow I'd pack my bags and start traveling the world.

Q. What's the best part of being a part of a team?

A. Best part of being on a team is that you can all just be a bunch of weirdos together and it's perfectly alright...

Q. Do you have any other hobbies or talents other than lacrosse?

A. I like to play basketball and snowboard, or pretty much do anything outside.

Q. What's your favorite movie?

A. I liked the hunger games series and divergent.

Q. If you could only eat 1 type of food for the rest of your life what would it be and why?

A. Dunkin because everybody runs on Dunkin.

Q. Who or what is your biggest influence in life?

A. My mom is definitely my biggest influence in life. She's the perfect role model and always pushes me to be better.

Q. What is your biggest goal of the season?

A. Biggest goal of the season is to break the record for scored goals.

Q. What is one quote that you live your life by?

A. "You get what you get, and you don't get upset."



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The Beacon/Purvit Patel



Getting to know...

# Jay Clymer

Freshman Baseball Player

By Daniel Van Brunt  
Sports Writer

Jay Clymer is a freshman baseball player at Wilkes. He is studying psychology and is from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Center field is his position.

Q. What brought you to Wilkes University?

A. "I was talking to the coach over the summer and he gave me a couple of good reasons to come here. When I got to the campus, I really liked it."

Q. What do you find most interesting about your major?

A. "I'm really interested in getting to learn stuff like psychology. What people think about is very interesting to me."

Q. How long have you been playing baseball?

A. "Since I was three."

Q. Why do you enjoy being a part of the baseball team at Wilkes University?

A. "Everybody bonds really well together and the whole environment is so much fun to be a part of."

Q. What has been your most memorable baseball experience?

A. "From high school, my junior year, we had our first year of districts. I hit a walk-off homerun in the bottom of the eighth inning. So, that was a pretty memorable moment in my life."

Q. How does baseball affect you as a person?

A. "It gives me better people skills. It has opened me up to different things in my life and have met so many people."

Q. Do you have any other hobbies?

A. "I used to play soccer, and in the winter I snowboard if I get the chance. I can't snowboard as much during the season. I've played soccer since I was three years old also."

Q. Who is your favorite Major League Baseball team, and your favorite player?


A. "My favorite baseball team is the Red Sox. If I had to pick somebody, it would be Mike Trout. He plays the same position as me and he just plays the game the way it should be played."

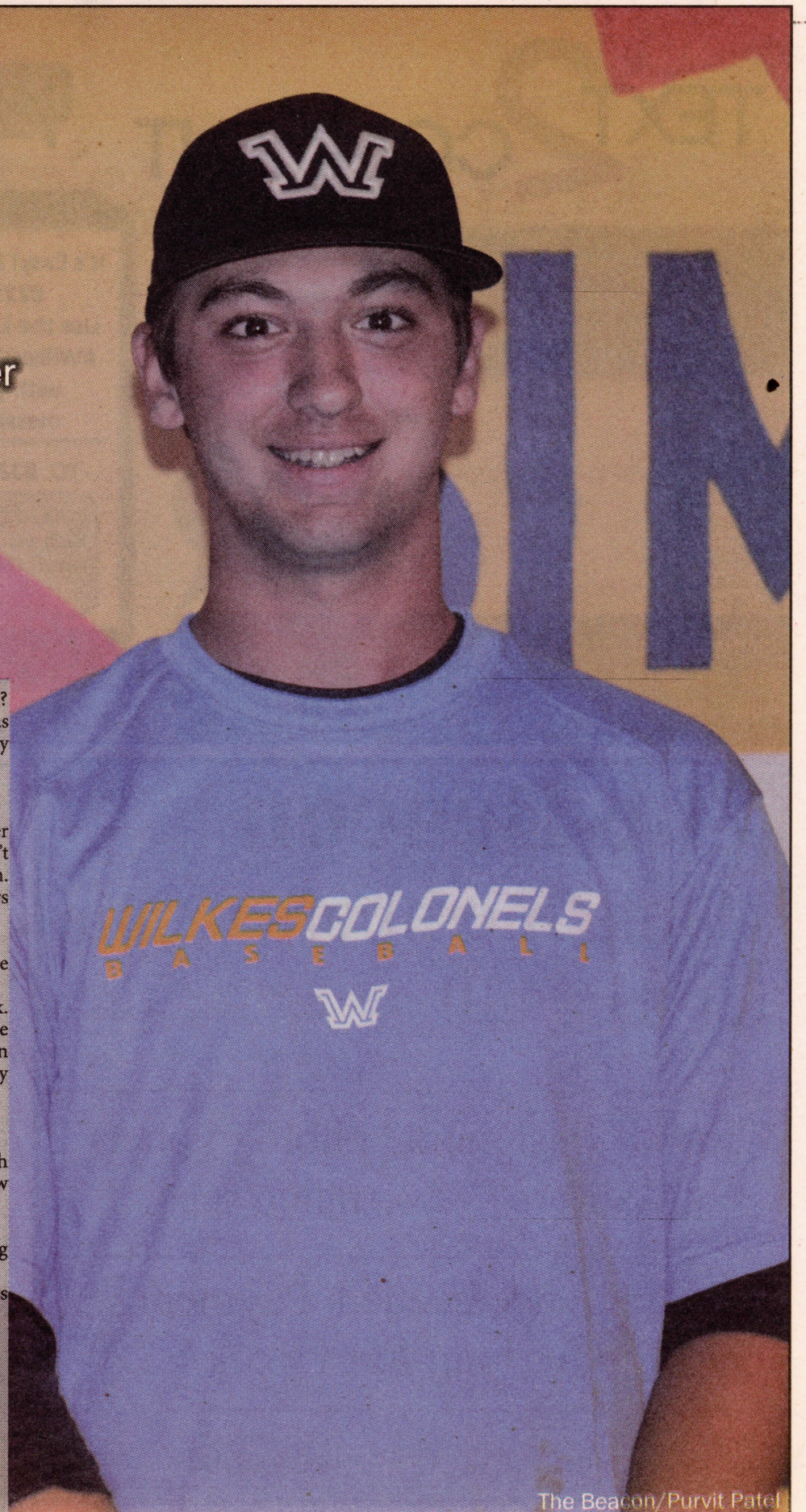
Q. Who is your role model?

A. "My Dad because he has led me through everything in my life, and taught me how to go about myself."

Q. Where would the ideal place to be during the World Series?

A. "At a friend's house where everyone is having fun."

 @wilkesbeacon  
daniel.vanbrunt@wilkes.edu



The Beacon/Purvit Patel



The Beacon - April 21, 2015

## TEXT<sup>2</sup>COMMENT

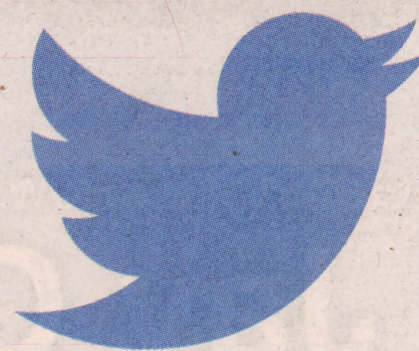
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