

# THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

## No winner yet: Presidential race remains in air

By Sean Schmoyer  
News Editor

At 7 p.m. on Election Day, the first polls closed, but no states were clearly in favor of either candidate. As the night went on, the election started to become more of a coin-toss. A little after midnight, Joe Biden made a statement to his supporters and campaign that he believed they were on track to win.

President Donald Trump then tweeted that Biden was going to steal the election. At 2:20 a.m., Trump spoke to the nation.

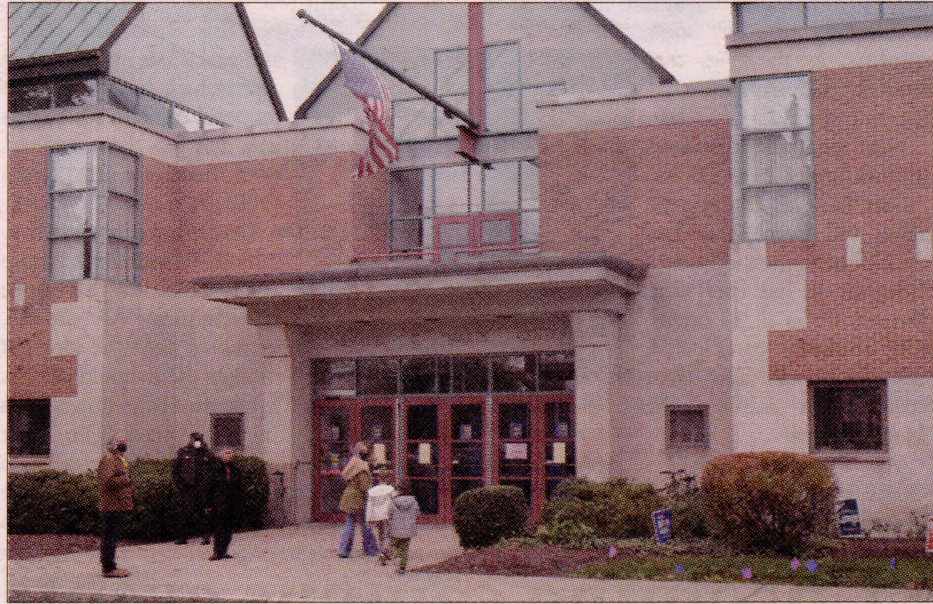
"This is a fraud on the American public," he said.

"This is an embarrassment to our country. We were getting to win this election. Frankly, we did win this election. So our goal now is to ensure the integrity for the good of this nation ... So we will be going to the U.S. Supreme Court. We want all voting to stop."

At the time of The Beacon's printing on Wednesday, the presidential race had still not been officially called.

Trump's claims of victory go against the Associated Press' guidelines for how they decide the race. The AP expressed that they will only call the race when fully confident.

"Only when AP is fully confident, a race has been won - defined most simply as the moment a trailing candidate no longer has a path to victory - will we



The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Voters utilized the Marts Center, located on Wilkes University's campus, to cast votes on Tuesday. Some brought children along for the experience.

make a call ... Should a candidate declare victory - or offer a concession - before AP calls a race, we will cover newsworthy developments in our reporting."

Dr. Kyle Kreider, professor of political science and the chair of the division of behavioral and social sciences at Wilkes, expressed that Trump's statement is a cause for concern in terms of what he is proposing.

"Let's be very clear what he is actually saying," said Kreider. "What he is arguing is that we should not count votes in three states that have already been cast. On the flip side of that same coin, he is arguing that in Nevada and Arizona vote counting needs to continue, so it is a very inconsistent argument."

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## 2020 Election: Student reactions demonstrate opinions

By William Billingsley  
Staff Writer

*Editor's Note: Students were asked to share their thoughts before any polls closed or races were called.*

At long last, the day that Americans all across the country have been waiting for arrived this past Tuesday: Election Day.

For some, it was a chance to oust current President Donald Trump and put an end to the dreaded Trump experiment once and for all. For others, it was a chance to see four more years of their beloved populist continue to 'own the libs.'

But for all Americans, with over 100 million votes cast before Election Day, the 2020 Election will no doubt be one to remember.

Given the historic nature of this election, Wilkes students had thoughts to share on the election, and what a Biden or Trump victory would mean for them and the rest of the nation.

**REACTIONS, page 18**



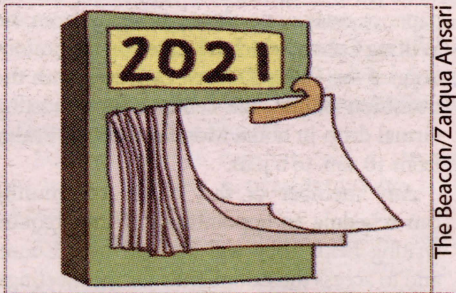
The Beacon/Genny Frederick

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The Beacon/Anna Culver

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The Beacon/Zarquá Ansari

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The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

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# News

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

## Student Government: Oct. 28 weekly meeting notes

By Maddy Kinard  
Staff Writer

Student Government held its ninth virtual meeting on Oct. 28, where they discussed two budget requests, which will be voted on in the next meeting.

To start the night, Vice President Brooke Mazzotta presented a Capital Projects request to purchase an outdoor inflatable movie screen. The screen would be stored in the Club Hub closet and could be signed out whenever a club wished to use it. So far, each time the movie screen has been rented, the clubs have spent over \$2,000. Purchasing the movie screen would be especially beneficial for smaller clubs that are not able to spend that much money. In total, the cost would be \$7,000.

Classes then broke out into five-minute discussions and came back reporting that it would be an efficient investment, as it would

pay for itself after three movies, which has already been done this semester alone. The only potential aspect to take into consideration is needing to buy new speakers, as the ones that Student Government has currently are old.

Next, the council discussed the outcome of the Fall Event. As far back as the records allow, Fall Event 2020 had the best outcome the Student Government has ever seen. Overall, across all the events, 650 students participated, and there was also great collaboration amongst the Mega Council.

For the next budget request, Student Government President Kevin Long presented the possibilities for another Kahoot trivia. The

Fall Kahoot held on Oct. 21 was successful, but a lot of students were not able to participate, as the Zoom only held a capacity for 100 people.

For this trivia, the theme and exact date are still to be determined, but the budget proposal came to \$300. This way, the top three winners would receive a prize worth \$100.

Classes broke out into five-minute discussions again and came back with a couple of critiques. All around, members liked the idea but thought there should be rules in place to keep winners from

the last trivia winning big prizes again. Their other ideas included utilizing a Zoom call with an increased capacity, spending more money on larger prizes and waiting to host the trivia

until finals are over or when students return in the spring.

Student Government also voted on the member of the month as well as a club of the month for October. With no opposition, senior class member Mia Barbieri won member of the month, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers won club of the month.

In closing, Commuter Council decided to announce the winners of the car decorating contest on their Instagram @Wilkes\_commuter on Oct. 30. The Programming Board is still hosting their iPad giveaway that students are automatically entered into when they purchase movie tickets. RHC will also be holding a virtual unveiling of their study break supplement coming out on Nov. 1 on their Instagram @Wilkes\_RHC.



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## Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Sean Schmoyer

### Wilkes Holiday Card Design Contest

President Greg Cant and his wife Angela are starting a new tradition by showcasing student artwork on the university's annual holiday greeting card.

All Wilkes students are invited to submit original creations in a design contest. The design will be printed on the front of hundreds of cards that will be shared with members of the extended Wilkes family.

The winning artist will receive: Artwork printed on the front of the official university holiday greeting card, a framed version of the card and a prize pack of gift cards, including a \$100 Amazon gift card, a \$25 Starbucks gift card, a \$25 Target gift card, Wilkes swag and bragging rights.

Submissions are due Nov. 25. The winning design will be announced the week of Dec. 7. More details can be found at [www.wilkes.edu/holidaycard20](http://www.wilkes.edu/holidaycard20).

### Take Classes During Winter Intersession

Students can earn credits over winter break by scheduling online courses. This is helpful for those who want to catch up on missed

classes, get ahead in their studies or lighten their course load for the spring. They are held in three- to five-week sessions that start Dec. 7, and tuition is \$530 per credit.

If interested in signing up, make an appointment with your advisor and visit [www.wilkes.edu/winter](http://www.wilkes.edu/winter) to view the course schedule. Registration began at 10 p.m. on Oct. 25.

### Writing Center to Host Virtual Consultations

Students who are looking to improve their writing or need assistance with an upcoming paper or essay can seek out guidance from the Writing Center, which is located on the bottom floor of the Farley Library. However, with the transition online, the center is now hosting virtual drop-in hours Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Any member of the Wilkes community can schedule an appointment if they require writing help. They will be held over Zoom, and to access the Zoom links for the meetings, students can find all available options under the "Student Services" tab in the Wilkes Portal.

### Shop at the Honors Program Store

The Honors Program has opened the first-

ever Honors Program store, which features a variety of options. Be sure to shop before the store closes on Nov. 10.

Students who want their items for the holidays should choose the option to have them shipped to their home address.

If students select pickup, they will have to wait until the spring semester to pick up their order on campus or make arrangements to meet Jennifer.McLaughlin1@wilkes.edu on campus during the last week of November, after in-person finals.

### Donate to the Honors School Supply Drive

The Honors Program is running a school supplies drive for the Catholic Youth Center. All donations are welcome, and students can drop off items in Stark Learning Center Room 262 until Nov. 24.

For every item donated, students will be entered to win a \$50 Amazon gift card.

Honors students will receive a participation point for donating.

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### Upcoming Events

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  - 11 - Veterans Day
  - 23 - Movie Night
  - 25 - Holiday Recess Begins
  - 26 - Thanksgiving

- December**
- 7 - Winter Intersession Classes Begin

Want your event featured in the calendar?  
Email: [TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu](mailto:TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu)

**ELECTION, from front**

Kreider also stated that he believes Trump is attempting to stop votes in counties where there are a much higher percentage of African American votes to disenfranchise those voters who he believes would go to Biden.

In addition, the 2000 election Supreme Court decision is a completely different situation in Kreider's eyes than what Trump is attempting to do. In 2016, the legitimacy of the votes in questions were revotes, while this year, Trump is attempting to question the legitimacy of votes that have not been counted yet.

What brought about the president's statements were numerous events that occurred over the course of election night.

**Expectations:**

Dr. Benjamin Toll spoke of three major outcomes that seemed likely – Biden wins with a majority, Trump loses by a slim margin or Trump wins by a slim margin. Toll predicted the scenario with the most controversy to be Biden winning by a slim margin, as it could result in Trump questioning the integrity of the election.

**Florida, Arizona, Minnesota and Wisconsin:**

Biden was projected to win many states going into election night. The first major change was seen in Florida fairly early in the night, as Trump began to take a lead over Biden. The major county pointed out in election coverage was Miami-Dade.

Miami-Dade was a spot in 2016 where Hillary Clinton had an advantage over Trump, as such it was an important county to watch if Biden had any hopes of flipping the state to blue. The problem was soon identified by polling analysts.

Trump had better numbers with the Latino, particularly the Cuban population of voters in Florida. Reports and analysts began to talk about whether Biden would have any further issues with that voting demographic, as it became plausible that was a major reason for losing Florida.

Warnings slowly worked their way into the coverage that the Latino demographic could not be simplified so easily for polling numbers.

"There is a story here that the mainstream media does not really pick up – that is that in Miami-Dade county with predominantly Hispanic radio with target ads in Spanish that talk about Joe Biden as a socialist, a lot of that flies under the radar," said Krieder.

It was speculated that Biden lost ground with voters who moved to the U.S. from Cuba due to some immigrants having left communist or socialist leaders.

As the night continued, many states were projected the way analysts predicted with very few results coming in for battleground states. One early call was

Fox News, who projected Biden to win Arizona fairly early in the night. Others soon followed, including the AP a few hours later.

The state carries 11 electoral votes, making it a fairly important state for Biden as it will allow for more options when it comes to combinations of states for him to reach that magical 270 electoral votes.

As things started to look up for Biden, Minnesota and Wisconsin, two states predicted to likely go to Biden, started to see an increase in the number of ballots cast for Trump.

At first, the numbers could be dismissed as a red mirage, especially with Minnesota, which has a fair amount of mail-in ballots that were expected to cause a blue wave. As the night went on, it became more and more questionable about which candidate would take the two states. By the early hours of the morning, Wisconsin became a center talking point, and by Wednesday afternoon, media outlets reported Wisconsin had turned blue.

Minnesota was in a similar position; however, no decision could be made as of Wednesday afternoon.

**What We Know Now:**

The major states to watch for are the ones the AP still does not have projected winners for. While Pennsylvania has the largest amount of electoral votes of the remaining states, all could potentially impact the election.

Pennsylvania is dependent on its over 1 million ballots that Gov. Tom Wolf said still had to be counted.

North Carolina and Georgia were too close to call, with differing opinions surrounding them. For Toll, Georgia and North Carolina seem to be confident results for Trump. Krieder, on the other hand, thinks that the counties where the ballots still need to be counted in Georgia are all large urban areas which could favor Biden and swing the state.

Alaska and Maine still had results coming in, though it is expected that Alaska will go to Trump. Maine's last congressional district seems to also be too close to call, as of Wednesday morning.

**Notable Takeaways:**

One stance that seems to be certain is that the number of voters nationwide increased, while Toll had high expectations that were not quite reached.

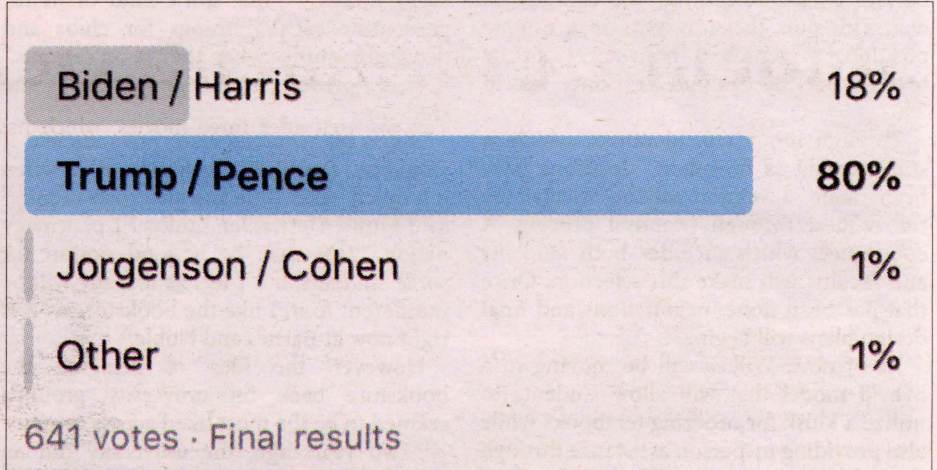
"The most positive thing to look at is that most estimates are expecting a 65 percent turnout, which may sound low, and it is low compared to the rest of the world, but it would be the highest presidential election turnout since 1908," said Toll.

Toll believes that the turnout was not as high as expected looking back the day after and that it may hurt Biden's campaign.

Notable firsts from the 2020 election are Delaware Senator Sarah McBride, who

**@WilkesBeacon Twitter Poll Results**

**Beacon followers were asked: Who do you think will win the presidential election?**



*Editor's Note: The poll was retweeted by accounts not affiliated with Wilkes University as well as potential political accounts.*

is the first transgender state senator, and Ritchie Torres from New York who will be the first Afro-Latino gay member of the U.S. Congress.

The increase in LGBTQ representation in the government may decrease the worries some feel about a potential second term for Trump.

Hera Mukhtar, sophomore bio-chem major, said, "I know racism, sexism and homophobia are going to become more prevalent if Trump wins a second term. I can't imagine the psychological impacts this has on the younger generations."

If Trump were to win the presidency again by the electoral college but lose the popular vote, he would be the only president to have done so twice out of the five other presidents who have won by the electoral college and not led in the popular vote.

Kreider identified that Biden was expected to perform better across the nation with older voters above 50 and white suburban women who hold strong views on the COVID-19 pandemic. These votes were important Kreider said in making up for votes Trump gained from the Hispanic and Latino communities in certain places like Florida.

Students across campus had a strong focus on wanting a president who will handle COVID-19.

RJ Rough, junior nursing major, said, "I don't think either of them are amazing. I do hope that Biden wins, but whoever wins, I hope there are not going to be unnecessary riots that set the nation back. I think the focus should be on COVID-19 and getting it under control."

Rough was not the only nursing major whose biggest issue for the election was COVID-19.

"I think they should focus on getting COVID under control. This country cannot take another year of shutdowns," said Emilee Barnhardt, junior nursing major.

The most important takeaway is that, as of Wednesday morning, the election is not called yet – and that there is a chance that it will not be till the end of the week and maybe even later if legal battles emerge.

Just as the AP and other news sites have urged, the nation requires patience for the ballots to come in and be counted properly.

**Go to  
thewilkesbeacon.com  
to check our Twitter  
poll results and read a  
student's perspective on  
participating in his first  
election.**

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# Possibility: Bookstore being brought back to campus?

By Maddy Kinard  
Staff Writer

Come August 2021, Wilkes University's current bookstore contract will come to an end. This puts the university in a unique position, in which a bookstore can be brought back to campus, as it once was in 2007.

Through much consideration, which is still ongoing as no official decisions have been made, a vendor will be selected by the request through proposal process. A committee, which includes both students and faculty, will make this selection. Once that has been done, negotiations and final design plans will begin.

As of now, Wilkes will be moving to a hybrid model that will allow students to utilize a kiosk for ordering textbooks while also providing in-person assistance through the ordering process. A full range of options is anticipated for purchasing books (new, used, rented or electronic).

"One of the things we wanted to look for is making the bookstore a more dynamic and a more forward-thinking place," said Assistant Vice President of Operations and Compliance Justin Kraynak. "By that, what

I mean is a hybrid version of a bookstore ...what we're looking at is being able to reduce (warehouse) space and make it a more attractive space – make it usable for other things – like spirit kind of items, graduation regalia, things for clubs and things for alumni when they're on campus."

This proves challenging for some students.

"I'm a bit skeptical as to how efficient it would be, considering shipping, even when it is quick, takes time and also costs money," said Emilie Detweiller, junior P1 pharmacy major. "This may be a good option for some students, but I feel as if many will be indifferent to it. I like the bookstore as it is right now at Barnes and Noble."

However, the idea of bringing the bookstore back on university grounds seemed to be the most liked across campus.

"Two years ago, the university did an overall assessment of the bookstore needs, where we talked to students, faculty and staff. We did a lot of surveying back then to find out what kind of facilities we had. I think, overwhelmingly, everyone that they talked to said it would be handy if it was right on campus," said Kraynak.

The hybrid bookstore is looking to be

placed on the first floor of the SUB in the lounge. This would mean that in addition to the lounge space, the store would need to utilize other spaces in that area, including the Student Government office space. The committee is working with student leadership to potentially develop a new long-term area that would serve all their needs.

"It is extremely important that everyone sees the changes as a value to the student experience, and modifications to the building will keep student needs at the forefront of the change," said Dean of Student Affairs Mark Allen.

Those involved in the planning value the need for student space and have specifically asked for the creativity of the vendors in providing enough space for the bookstore, while still maintaining external lounge space for the students.

In the way of the absence of hardcopy books, it is too early now to discern whether some textbooks will be kept on hand.

"The student experience is of utmost concern," said Director of Business Operations Alicia Bond. "It is still early in the process, and we have shared the feedback we have received with each vendor. Once

the vendor is selected, we will have a greater opportunity to dig deeper into the business model and options to determine the best fit for Wilkes."

Despite the uncertainties that remain, there is an excitement for the bookstore to return to campus and a positive feeling that it will add to the university as a whole.

"I think the addition will be good for those who don't particularly want to make the trip to the square, and as a whole, it could be a new on-campus spot for students to meet up. It will be a luxury to have these resources at our disposal," said Danielle Morris, a sophomore digital design and media art major.

Renovations and demolition are looking to begin sometime around the end of graduation following the spring semester.

Members of the bookstore committee are hopeful that the new bookstore will be up and running by the start of the Fall 2021 semester. Even if the store is not completely built by then, online accommodations will be available for all students to purchase their textbooks.



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# Wildfires continue to rage on and ravage the western U.S.

By Genny Frederick  
News Staff Writer

The wildfires in the western United States dominated major news headlines earlier this year. People were forced to evacuate their homes and ecosystems were destroyed, while viral videos and images of the damage spread across the internet.

While the headlines have died down, the threat wildfires pose to those living in the western United States have not.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, there are 27 large wildfires across the country. None of which are contained.

In the map, updated daily by the Forest Service, the largest fires are in Colorado and California, but other states such as Washington, Oregon, Idaho

and Arizona are facing large-scale fires as well.

In Colorado, specifically, four large fires have shut down highways, state and national parks and have prompted officials to call for both mandatory and voluntary evacuations of certain counties.

Meghan Englehart, a junior earth and environmental science major, visited the western U.S., including Colorado, earlier this year and described seeing the fires.

"Gigantic. That's the best way I can explain it," said Englehart. "I saw the glow of fires in a ravine, and it was such a humbling thing to see because it was so sad."

Wildfires are a natural and necessary part of the life cycle of some ecosystems. Some species of trees require the heat of the fire to release spores. Certain

soils increase in fertility as nutrients are more readily absorbed into the soil from burned material.

While wildfires are sometimes necessary, the extended duration of the fire season that has become common in the past few years has acute impacts on western forests. The over-charring of forests leaves land barren and makes it more difficult for plants to grow back.

Englehart shared how people perceive the duration of wildfires.

"To be honest with you, it makes me sad to think that some people think they'll last for two days and be done," revealed Englehart. "It's such a shame that they're happening to the degree that they are. Colorado needs a break!"

This extended duration and increased severity of forest fires have been attributed to the increasing impacts of climate change.

An increase in precipitation and temperature can cause an increase in lightning strikes, which can easily spark a fire in dry forests. In other regions, worsening drought conditions will lead to a higher risk of wildfires. The warming global temperatures as a result of fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse emissions

also contribute to the increased chance of forest fires.

Paired with the risk of climate change, anthropogenic actions have been cited as the start of many large scale forest fires in the west. In 2019, the National Interagency Fire Center attributed 87 percent of fires to have been started by humans. Cigarette butts and campfires are common wildfire starters and are often the result of human carelessness. Earlier this year, a gender reveal party was the cause of a large fire near Los Angeles, Ca.

There are methods to reduce the occurrence of wildfires. The Forest Service, which has been handling wildfires on national land for over 100 years, "works closely with other federal, tribal, state and local partners" to reduce the risk of wildfires.

The increased danger of forest fires will not go away until a change is made. Fires will continue to get worse and cause more damage, and the season will continue to lengthen, as seen in numerous scientific studies from researchers across the country.



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Graphic by Mia Walker



# EES and engineering majors present senior projects

By Sara Ross  
Asst. News Editor

Every year, earth and environmental science and engineering majors are responsible for gathering research for their senior projects. On Oct. 27 and 28, these students went through their presentations, which covered all different aspects of the environment.

Senior biology and environmental science major Kayla Eller focused on diminishing mammal populations in Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. According to Eller, there has been a drop in the number of chipmunks, which is most likely correlated with the decrease in acorns from oak trees, one of their main food sources. In her study, the chipmunks or other small mammals are the predators, and the acorns are the prey.

Up until 2010, there was a cyclical pattern of the predator and prey populations, meaning that they were rising and falling from one year to the next. However, after 2011, this changed. There was a sharp decline in small mammal populations, which has not since recovered.

“The data suggests that it is most likely linked with the acorns, and there has been a steep drop in masting, which is the number of acorns that are produced every year,” said Eller.

The main objective of her research is to observe and determine the factors involved in these decreases of populations by using the topography to understand the role that the environment plays in small mammals’ lives.

The methods Eller has been utilizing

include collecting elevation data through drones. She has conducted data organization of the mammals by sifting through catchers and labeling the site and locations they were caught at, as well.

Two other projects were with Dr. Matthew Finkenbinder, assistant professor of geology. His first focused on reconstructing long-term climate conditions in the Great Lakes region using geochemical analysis of lake sediments. Then, his second project analyzed the chemical composition of rainfall in northeast Pennsylvania to better understand how the source of precipitation changes over time.

Colin Ahrensfield, an earth and environmental science and geology major, and Ryan Wysocki, a geology major, were both involved in Finkenbinder’s first project in researching two lakes in southern Ontario called Gilles and Crawford.

“The whole idea behind our research is that there was evidence found of climate change in the southern Ontario region around 5,500 years ago,” said Ahrensfield. They believed that evidence of lower lake levels and a change in the oxygen isotope composition of the lake sediments suggested a shift to arid conditions in the area.”

Even with these conclusions, there was no explanation for why and when these changes occurred. Building off past research, Ahrensfield and Wysocki are looking to add radiometric dates by taking sediments of cores from the two lakes through a couple of geochemistry methods.

With Finkenbinder’s second project, it will lay the foundation to understand and



Photos courtesy of Matthew Finkenbinder

Dan Baratta (left), a 2018 Wilkes graduate in earth and environmental science, and Dr. Matthew Finkenbinder (right) collected sediment cores in northern Montana from Rock Lake for a climate reconstruction project during a past senior project. Both photos depict their research.

interpret event-based precipitation oxygen isotope measurements. They will utilize them as a tracer for shifts in atmospheric circulation and moisture source changes in northeast Pennsylvania.

Students will analyze weather and precipitation data, collect isotopic values and create back trajectories to become aware of which air masses are coming into NEPA throughout the year. They will access the composition to determine daily and seasonal moisture sources.

Environmental engineering majors Kayla Acker-Carter, Nour Alfaiakawi and Abdullah Hussain along with Dr. Holly Frederick, associate professor of environmental engineering, have been involved in the design of a Minnesota filter to treat phosphorus in stormwater runoff into North Lake. North Lake is located in Sweet Valley, Pa.

Hussain explained that the presence of phosphorus has led to an increase of algae, and as a result, this decreased the proportion of dissolved oxygen in the water. Further, high levels of phosphorus lead to a proliferation of algae that can produce algal toxins, which are harmful to animals and humans.

By designing the Minnesota filter, it will control normal levels of phosphorus in the

lake, which is usually around 0.01 to 0.03 milligrams per liter. This also means that it contains low amounts of nutrients. When the phosphorus is above these levels, it is considered eutrophic due to the excess of nutrients in the water, which generate algae.

Based on an iron-enhanced sand filter model, it will remove nutrients, metals and color. Color refers to turbidity and solids. The filter works by iron converting to a high surface area, an iron oxide mineral, which can remove large portions of phosphorus through an absorption process.

So far, Frederick is pleased not only with just her groups for research but with all students, as seeing their presentations provided insight on how they have been progressing with their projects.

“I would like to commend everybody who is apart of the process. These projects are about taking something from the beginning to the very end,” revealed Frederick. “They prepare students for their futures and are a nice piece for them to carry into an interview. You want it to be something you are proud of, and no matter where our students find themselves, they can refer to this time during their academic careers.”



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# COVID-19 cases escalate in Pa. as winter approaches

By Genny Frederick  
News Staff Writer

As winter approaches, the concerns health officials had about spikes in COVID-19 cases are coming to fruition. Across the country, cases continue to rise, and as of Oct. 29, the United States surpassed 9 million cases and over 228,000 deaths.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Pennsylvania had low counts compared to the rest of the country, but the state is now seeing a spike in cases. The daily amount of cases surpasses the daily amount of cases there were in April, according to Pennsylvania's Department of Health.

At the beginning of April, cases in Pennsylvania rose just above the 2,000 mark then dropped by August to less than 1,000 cases each day. The number of cases in the state is now exceeding previous records, and as of Oct. 26, Pennsylvania has around 2,200 cases per day. The total case count, including confirmed and possible case counts, is 205,517 as of Oct. 30.

While the case count goes up throughout the state, Wilkes University has remained steady with less than 10 active cases on campus per day since Sept. 24.

As of Oct. 29, there were a total of 42 COVID-19 cases at Wilkes throughout the entire semester. After one large spike in September with 22 cases, the active case count has decreased, with one minor

spike of five cases on Oct. 24.

One of the factors that can contribute to low numbers of cases on campus is the movement of classes into online, hybrid and hybrid settings.

During the fall semester, 50.6 percent of classes were offered in-person. Many of these in-person classes were labs, where social distancing, mask-wearing and reduced class size were in effect.

The fall semester also was compressed, with the removal of fall break and the conclusion of classes arriving before Thanksgiving. The spring semester is anticipated to run similarly with minor adjustments.

Justin Kraynack, assistant vice

president of operations and compliance and primary risk manager of the Wilkes Daily Response Team, discussed plans for the spring semester.

"There have not been many significant developments that would have us making big changes to the protocols in the spring," said Kraynack. "For the most part, it will be very similar to this semester. One change we are making regarding scheduling is reintroducing the club hours on Tuesday and Thursday. This will help the clubs remain active and will help faculty with office hours."

During the spring semester, many classes will still be online, but 56 percent will be in-person.

The lack of in-person classes was a concern for many students throughout this semester.

Matt Costello, a junior double major in mechanical and electrical engineering, expressed concern for labs.

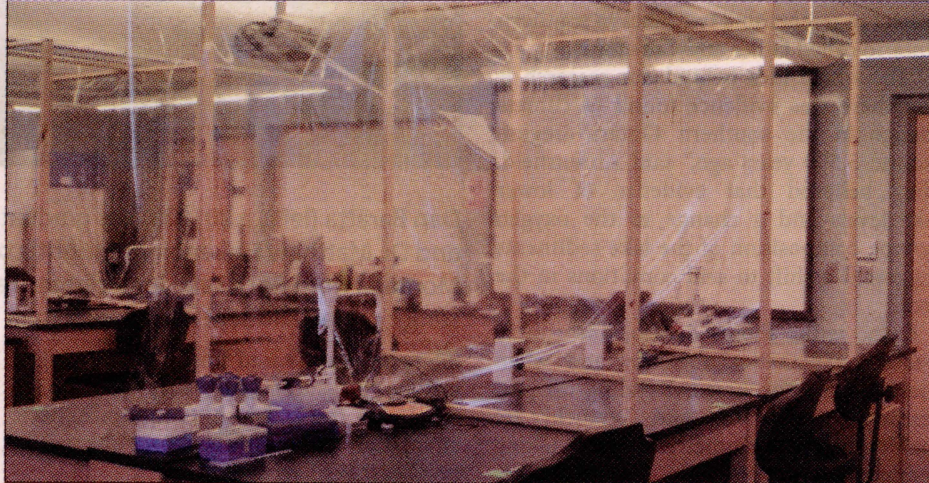
"The fall semester was set up to keep the numbers down, which I think it accomplished," Costello said. "I do worry that continuing to operate mostly online will diminish our learning experience, especially when it comes to labs."

While an increase in in-person classes and the reinstallation of club hours suggests a move towards a more pre-pandemic semester, the removal of spring break and other long weekend holidays reinforces the reality of the pandemic.

Vanessa Musto, a senior management major, has deemed the fall semester a success.

"I think that the fall semester was successful at the school because teachers were so understanding of students being cautious if they were getting tested and couldn't come to class or if they had to miss class because they were infected with the virus," Musto said. "This is not an easy time for either professors or students, and I think that the university as a whole did a really good job of trying to boost morale in any way that it could."

Classes for the spring semester are scheduled to start on Jan. 25, and the last final exam make-up day will be May 15.

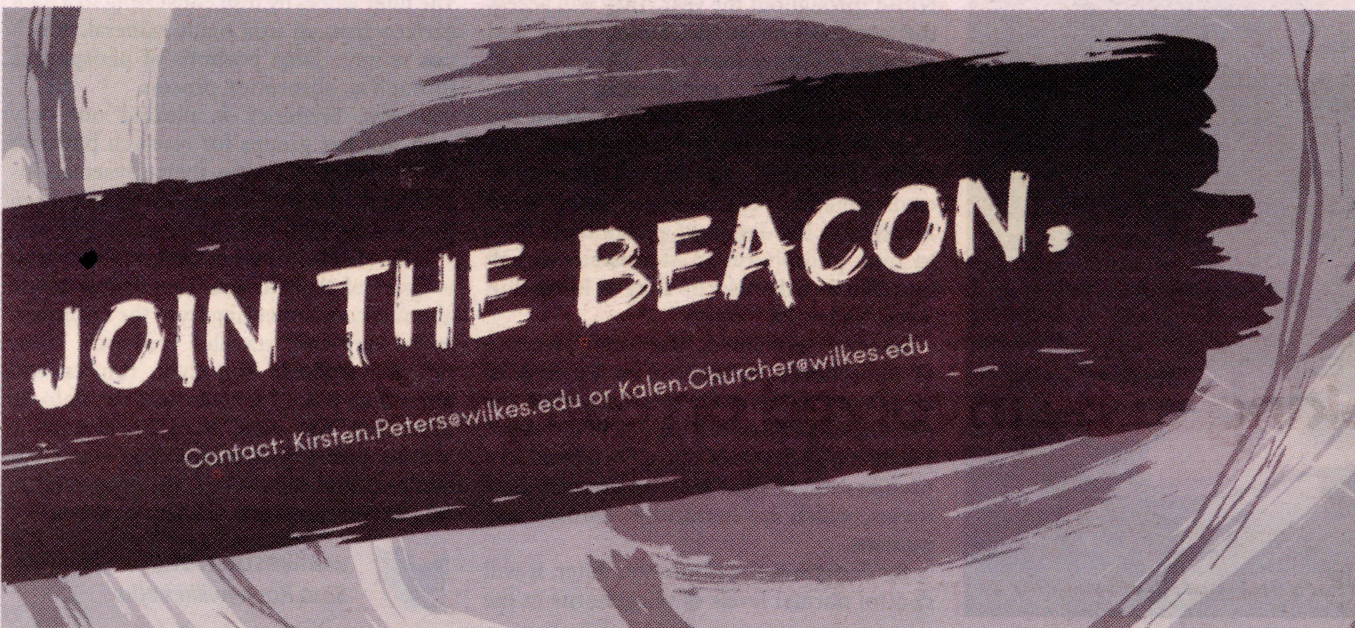


The Beacon/Genny Frederick

In addition to wearing masks, students are separated by plastic shields as an added safety precaution in some Cohen Science Center labs.



@wilkesbeacon  
Genevieve.Frederick@wilkes.edu



Get involved on campus in  
Spring 2021 and broaden your  
resume!

All sections are looking for writers, editors, photographers and graphic designers. Not interested in journalism? Be an advertising manager, social media manager or distribution manager. First-year students and all majors are welcome.

# Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any restaurants that should be reviewed or artists to be featured? Contact life, arts and entertainment editor: [Maria.DiBuo@wilkes.edu](mailto:Maria.DiBuo@wilkes.edu)

## Manuscript Society virtually held annual Halloween event

*The virtual reading and screening adapted to the current semester*

By Judah Lyles  
Staff Writer

Manuscript Society, the written and visual art magazine on campus, is available as a class and meets during club hours. The club also has monthly poetry readings on campus.

With the current pandemic in mind, many of their activities have been virtualized. One of their favorite traditions is their Halloween Reading and Screening, where the club usually would come together in-person and share laughs and spooky stories before watching a movie together.

This year's screening took place via Zoom. This change, however, was nothing but a small bump in the road for the club.

"Honestly, I feel just as sparkly as ever," said Sarah Weynand, the Manuscript Society's executive editor and a senior in musical theater and English literature.

The reading began with Dr. Thomas Hamill's daughter helping him to read a short, spooky story to all those in attendance.

To aid in creating the spooky mood, Weynand began to read two-sentence horror stories, which have been growing in popularity throughout the past year. Essentially, two-sentence horror stories are meant to set up a story and take it in a completely opposite direction than what the reader had expected.

The first horror story Weynand shared was: "After my wife died, I couldn't even look at another woman for 10 years. But after I got out of prison, it was worth it."

The second was: "I couldn't sleep due to the loud snoring. It was coming from under my bed."

After reading these stories, Weynand let the spooky mood hang in the air before opening the floor to others to read/tell a spooky story, or any other story or poem of their liking. After a few moments, she also asked if anyone had any spooky book recommendations.

Hamill's daughter, who was dressed as Merida from "Brave," shared instead that the "Goosebumps" books were not her favorite because they never ended well for the characters. This started a discussion between Hamill and Weynand on whether or not the "Goosebumps" TV series did well with the adaptation from page to screen.

Once this discussion died down a bit, Weynand again opened the floor to any spooky stories, beginning by sharing one of her own.

"A little bit after my grandpa passed, I noticed that my dog, Lady, did not want to leave from in front of his room. When he was alive, Grandpa would bark back at Lady. The crazy thing is, she would bark at the door and then pause as if she got a response"

After sharing her story and showing off her cat, Weynand shared a poem of hers titled, "Sunflower Thickets."

The group then moved onto discussing all of their favorite scary movies.

"My favorite movie is 'It Follows,'" said Hannah Bolacker, a junior. "It represents STIs, but it was really interesting because the writer of the movie had dreams that they would follow him."

Olivia Lombardi also shared, "I watched 'Jeepers Creepers' with my dad and thought it was pretty rad."

Finally, Weynand shared that her favorite movie was "Scream," and expressing how essential it was to horror movie culture, including its sequels.

"I loved all of them," said Weynand. "They each represent a part of the cinematic process. The second one is about how horror sequels work, the third one is about trilogies and the fourth 'Scream' was a total reboot — it took the original horror movies and applied them to modern times. I believe that it set the stage for modern horror movies."

Dr. Mischelle Anthony, associate professor and chair of the English department as well as Manuscript Society faculty advisor, shared her feelings on the horror movie genre.

"I absolutely loved 'Get Out,'" said Anthony. "It took all the best parts of horror and made them modern."

The gathering ended with a horror movie screening, and the group simply enjoyed each other's company, regardless of the barrier of screens between them.

Manuscript Society is currently taking submissions from Wilkes University students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Submissions may include creative fiction, creative nonfiction/short personal essays, poetry, photography, drawings, paintings, digital art and music compositions. Each individual can submit up to five different pieces, with a limit of five pages on written submissions.

Submissions will be accepted up until April 2, 2021. Email [magazine@wilkes.edu](mailto:magazine@wilkes.edu) with any questions or submissions.



[Judah.Lyles@wilkes.edu](mailto:Judah.Lyles@wilkes.edu)  
Graphic by Zarqua Ansari

*You're Invited!*

### Looking to be involved on campus?

THE LIFE, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SECTION IS LOOKING FOR WRITERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, GRAPHIC DESIGNERS AND EDITORS. FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS AND ALL MAJORS ARE WELCOME. JOIN THE BEACON IN SPRING 2021!

Contact: [Kirsten.Peters@wilkes.edu](mailto:Kirsten.Peters@wilkes.edu) or [Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu](mailto:Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu)



# Berry oatmeal bowl: Moody foodie's final exam prep meal

By Anna Culver  
Staff Writer

*A healthy breakfast for the beginning of finals.*

Take the time to treat yourself with a easy but delicious meal before the next few weeks get crazy. This is one simple breakfast that can be made in many different ways, so feel free to get creative when choosing ingredients.

**Ingredients:**

- Steel cut oatmeal
- Milk
- Butter
- Brown sugar
- Strawberries\*
- Blueberries\*
- Raspberries\*
- Honey
- Cinnamon

\*Any type of fruit can be used for this breakfast, so chose those you would like to incorporate into the dish.

**Instructions:**

Make as large of a serving of oatmeal as one desires. I prefer to make my oatmeal with some milk, as it comes out a little thicker than with water; however, if you prefer an oatmeal with a more-runny consistency, water can be substituted.

Mix in some butter and brown sugar to add a little sweetness to the oats. The amount of butter and sugar is dependent upon the preference of the chef.

Cut the fruits. For this dish, I used strawberries and then placed them on top of the oatmeal.

Place the remaining fruit, in this case, blueberries and raspberries, on top of your oatmeal.

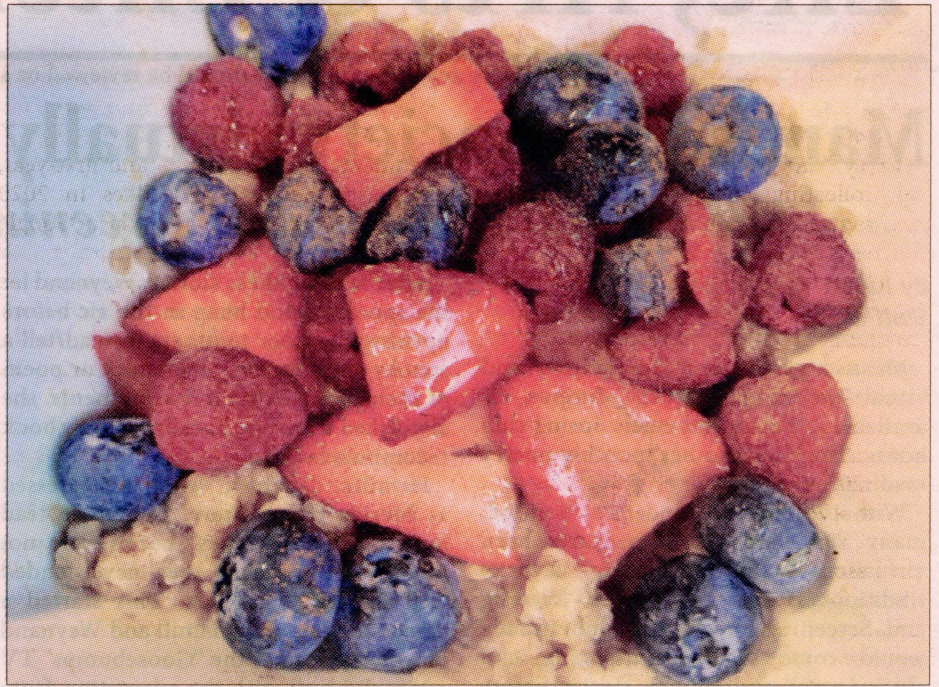
Add some honey, and sprinkle a little cinnamon on top.

Enjoy! Good luck with exams, everyone!

*Food Allergies: Dairy and honey*



[Anna.Culver@wilkes.edu](mailto:Anna.Culver@wilkes.edu)  
Graphic by Anna Culver



The Beacon/Anna Culver

This very berry breakfast meal is a refreshing and nourishing way to treat yourself before the upcoming stress of final exams.





## BEACON BUMPS

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff adds a song to their Beacon Bumps playlist. Look below for this week's list of songs.

**Kirsten Peters**, Editor-in-Chief: [Don't Ever Let It End - Nickelback](#)  
**Sean Schmoyer**, News Editor: [Achilles Come Down - Gang of Youths](#)  
**Sara Ross**, Asst. News Editor: [Fire and the Flood - Vance Joy](#)  
**Genny Frederick**, News Staff Writer: [Dancing in the Dark - Bruce Springsteen](#)  
**Maria DiBuo**, LA&E Editor: [Once In a Lifetime - The Talking Heads](#)  
**Emily Cherkaskas**, Asst. LA&E Editor: [say anything - girl in red](#)  
**Breanna Ebisch**, Opinion Editor: [Marigolds - Early Eyes](#)

**Zarqua Ansari**, Asst. Opinion Editor: [You're Welcome - Dwayne Johnson](#)  
**Jordan Daniel**, Opinion Staff Writer: [34+35 - Ariana Grande](#)  
**Dylan Mehl**, Co-Sports Editor: [Lemonade - Internet Money, Don Toliver and Roddy Rich](#)  
**Ariel Reed**, Co-Sports Editor: [Forever After All - Luke Combs](#)  
**Chris Gowarty**, Sports Staff Writer: [Solo - Future](#)  
**Mia Walker**, Lead Designer: [Pretty Girl - Clairo](#)  
**Steffen Horwath**, Staff Photographer: [Hotel California - Eagles](#)



# Wilkes in 2020 Project commemorates legacy of the year

By Maria DiBuo  
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

While looking past the year 2020 can seem like a daunting task currently, students in "Introduction to Public History" are taking on the challenge by collecting memories of students' experiences throughout the year for the Wilkes in 2020 Project.

Through collecting the personal experiences of those in the Wilkes community, those participating in the project hope to create an archive of individual and shared experiences at the university throughout the current year, with an emphasis on students' perception of 2020, according to information from Today at Wilkes.

For Dr. Amy Sopcak-Joseph, assistant professor of history and instructor of "Introduction to Public History," the choice to incorporate preserving the current year at Wilkes was a simple decision.

"It seemed to be a really obvious project because throughout the class, we're talking about preserving history, collecting history and places where the public interact with history," said Sopcak-Joseph. "This year, in particular, seemed like a really great time to collect and preserve what is going on in the student community."

Due to the lack of primarily student-focused archives in the Farley Library, the Wilkes in 2020 Project will focus on the experience of those attending the university, while also incorporating the perspectives of faculty and staff.

Students, both returning and first-year, can participate in the Wilkes in 2020 Project by taking a survey via a Google Form, which allows them to describe their feelings toward the changes occurring during previous and current semesters. While questions mainly pertain to the general atmosphere of campus during the current year, there are also questions that delve into maintaining friendships and easing stress. Students can also submit photos via a Google Form link.

For Matt Ryan, a history major and member of the class of 2021, participating in the Wilkes in 2020 Project has been a memorable part of his time in "Introduction to Public History," as well as his time at Wilkes.

"When I decided to take the course this past summer, I did not actually know that this would be the major project for the course," explained Ryan. "Once I found out, I absolutely fell in love with it. This year has been very different and will be looked at by future generations for many years to come, so I knew I wanted to be a part in preserving a little piece of it."

Through his work on the project, Ryan has collected data concerning commuter and residential students, including emails from the past year concerning COVID-19 and parking and library room rentals for online classes, as well as through asking close friends to submit information. As a class, "Introduction to Public History" has also sent surveys to all students and faculty to record responses.

Brianna Repetz, another student in Sopcak-Joseph's class, has also played a role in the Wilkes in 2020 Project by collecting information from first-year and transfer students.

For Repetz, giving those in future generations a grasp of what it was like to be a part of Wilkes in 2020 is what makes being a part of the project so special.

"The great part about being an archivist is that you just do not know how it will be used in the future," said Sopcak-Joseph, when speaking of her hopes for the archive once completed.

According to Sopcak-Joseph, items from the Wilkes in 2020 Project will be displayed in the Farley Library come the spring semester and, in addition, be kept within the library for reference purposes for future students and historians.

For Ryan, making a lasting impact on future generations' perception of the current year is something he hopes to

accomplish through his involvement in the project.


"I hope that future generations of students will be able to look at this project and truly learn to live in the moment and not take things for granted, because at any moment, the whole world can come to a halt," explained Ryan. "I also hope that if there is a similar pandemic, they'll see the importance of following guidelines."

Further, Sopcak-Joseph expressed her hopes for the Wilkes in 2020 Project to inform those in future generations on the unusual nature of the year, as well as to facilitate the class in trying out something new.

"It's been an eye-opening experience," said Sopcak-Joseph. "I hope this has a broader appeal in terms of encouraging students to think about what it means to leave something for students to think about later on."

Sopcak-Joseph hopes to teach "Introduction to Public History" in future semesters, where students will contribute to archives of future years at the university.

Surveys for the Wilkes in 2020 Project can be found on Today at Wilkes emails, in addition to emailing Sopcak-Joseph at amy.sopcakjoseph@wilkes.edu.

 @wilkesbeacon  
Maria.DiBuo@wilkes.edu

## Club Updates: College Democrats and College Republicans

Compiled by Maria DiBuo  
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

**NAME OF CLUB:** Wilkes College Democrats

**EXECUTIVES:**

*President:* Hope Williams  
*Vice President:* Matthew Franchetti  
*Treasurer:* Lindsey Scorey  
*Secretary:* Liam Flynn  
*Recruiting Director:* Cora Shine

**MEETINGS:** Tuesdays at 5 p.m. via Zoom

**HOW TO JOIN:** Email wilkesudems@wilkes.edu or DM on our social media, @wilkesudems.

**DESCRIPTION:** "Be the change you want to see." — Wilkes College Democrats are determined to create change and implement a healthy political climate on and around our campus.

**NAME OF CLUB:** Wilkes College Republicans

**EXECUTIVES:**


*President:* Liam Flaherty  
*Vice-President:* Brock Horton

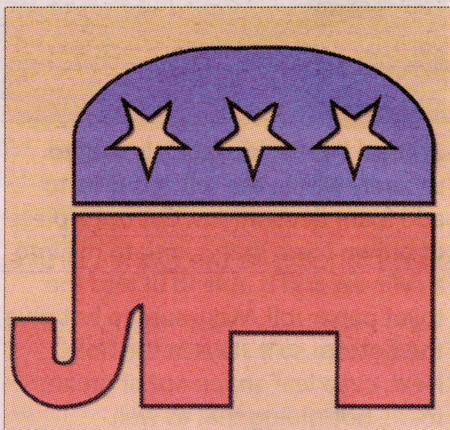
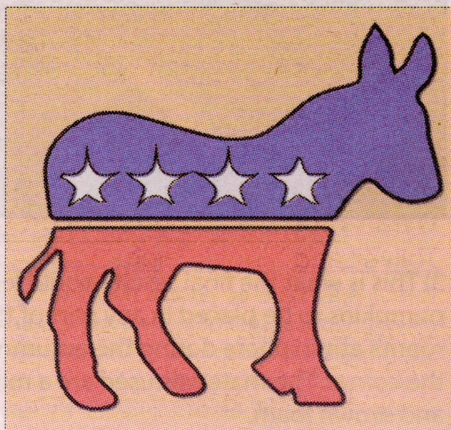
**MEETINGS:** Mondays at 8:30 p.m. in SLC 101

**HOW TO JOIN:** Email liam.flaherty@wilkes.edu.

**DESCRIPTION:** "To make known and promote the principles of the Republican Party among students attending Wilkes University." — Some of the events the Wilkes College Republicans have organized

so far are watch-parties for presidential debates, meeting Jim Bognet, a district eight Republican candidate, as well as community service.

 Maria.DiBuo@wilkes.edu  
Graphics by Anna Culver



Do you have any important updates or new information on clubs and co-curriculars in your department that you would like students to know of?

Are you a new club and wanting to reach out to students?

Contact:  
Emily.Cherkaskas@wilkes.edu

# Liz's Craft Column: Burlap-covered toilet paper pumpkins

By Liz Cherinka  
Staff Writer

As Thanksgiving is quickly approaching so is winter break – two beautiful months where students get to sit at home with family and friends and finally have a break from this long fall semester.

This craft is perfect for winter break. It makes a great Thanksgiving dinner party favor, just in case there is a national toilet paper shortage again.

This simple DIY is a burlap wrapped toilet paper pumpkin. It may sound odd, but it is sure to look very cute and festive once it is finished.

The materials needed are burlap, a toilet paper roll, a brown foam sheet, a green foam sheet, scissors and hot glue. These materials can all be purchased at a craft store, such as JoAnn Fabrics or

Michaels, or a Dollar Tree for the toilet paper. The materials are affordable, costing about \$10.

The first step is to make the toilet paper roll appear to be shaped more like a pumpkin. As you have probably seen, pumpkins are not cylindrical. They appear to be round, while flattened on the top and bottom slightly.

To make this craft appear pumpkin-shaped, unwrap about a half of the roll, trying carefully not to rip any of it. Then, re-wrap the roll, but make it messier. Scrunch the toilet paper so that it widens the roll as you re-roll it. It should now look more compressed, as if you had flattened it down from the top.

Now it is time to grab the burlap. Place the toilet paper roll onto the burlap and cut a large square from it, enough so that every corner can be put into the top hole

of the toilet paper roll.

Grab each corner and scrunch it up so that it forms pleats. Then, put that corner of scrunched up fabric inside the roll. Repeat this step for each corner, pushing the fabric into the roll using the scissors so that each corner will fully go inside.

Adjust any of the pleats so that they appear to have the outside look of a pumpkin.

This process may take a few tries of rescunching and putting the fabric into the hole again to get it to appear how it should, but once you get the hang of it, it is smooth sailing. On the plus side, it is only four corners, so it is simple to do and re-do if needed.

Now, it is time to transform this craft from a heap of burlap and toilet paper into a pumpkin.

To make the stem of the pumpkin, cut

a piece of the brown foam wide enough to fold around to make a cylinder with and long enough to go inside of the toilet paper roll with extra exposed above for the stem.

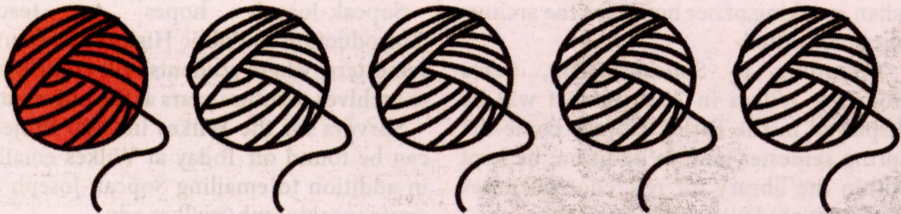
Hot glue the two ends in the back so that it becomes a cylinder, and hot glue the bottom of it inside of the toilet paper hole.

Now, to make a leaf, cut an oval or leaf shape to the preferred size out of the green foam, and hot glue that into the hole as well.

Once that is finished, the toilet paper roll has been transformed into a pumpkin. Display this craft anywhere to add a festive or comedic touch inside a bathroom.



Liz.Cherinka@wilkes.edu  
Graphic by Anna Culver



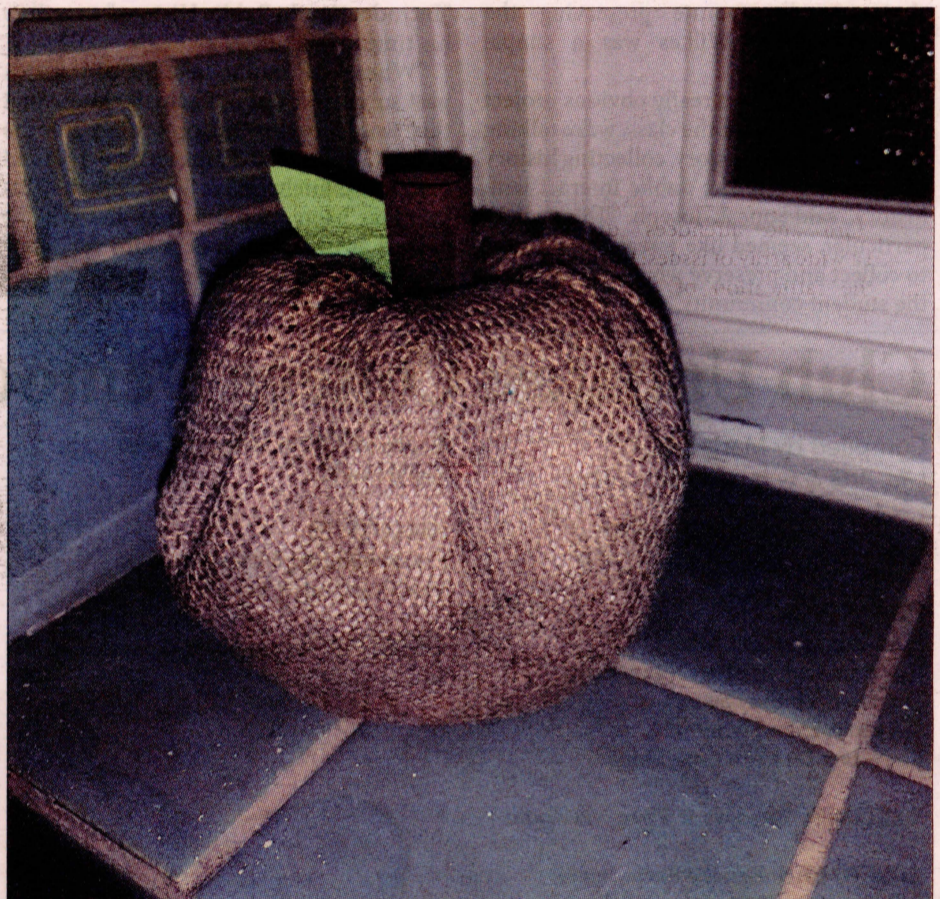
Liz's Craft Rating: One out of five yarn-balls. Although it may take a few attempts to get the hang of, this simple and amusing craft is easy to follow. The materials are readily available for purchase as well (that is, if we do not have another national toilet paper shortage).



1) First, grab a spare roll of cheap toilet paper. In order to make the roll of toilet paper more wide and not cylindrical, unroll the toilet paper a few times, making sure to not rip it. Then, take a piece of burlap fabric, cutting it into a square shape. Grab the corners of the fabric and stuff each corner inside the roll.



2) Once the burlap fabric is stuffed securely within the roll, it is time to add foam decorations. Cut out a piece of brown foam that is long to roll into a cylinder and is able to fit into the toilet paper roll. Make sure to hot glue the bottom so it stays in the hole. Next, cut a leaf-shape out of green foam, hot-gluing that as well.



Photos: The Beacon/Liz Cherinka

3) This is what the final result should look like. The simple appearance allows the pumpkins to be placed in any part of the house, adding a simple spice to any room's atmosphere during the autumn months and with Thanksgiving around the corner. The materials used are a roll of toilet paper, burlap fabric and green and brown foam.

# “13th” screening discussed racial mass incarceration

By Emily Cherkauskas  
Asst. Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

In the second collaborative project between “Year of the Vote,” the Center for Global Education and Diversity and the Office for Civic Engagement, a screening of the documentary “13th” was held last week, featuring a panel discussion that was hosted by Dr. Helen Davis, associate professor of English.

The Thirteenth Amendment of the Constitution states that “neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime ... shall exist within the United States.” The phrase “except as punishment for crime” has created a loophole within the government, with private corporations being formed to profit off imprisonment — leading to a trend of mass incarceration, which has been emboldened in the prison system and featured in the 2016 documentary.

Davis streamed the documentary via screen-sharing, allowing for the attendees to watch the film together. Throughout the screening, viewers talked in the chatroom and were able to make notes on certain moments and topics that the film covered.

The film and attendees’ discussions covered a wide array of issues, the first topic being the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment itself.

After slavery was abolished, the southern states were left in economic disarray as they depended on slavery for labor. Thus, the Civil War commenced, with the northern states winning the war.

Once the slaves were freed, the previously mentioned loophole in the Thirteenth Amendment was immediately exploited. They were criminalized and arrested for minor crimes, such as loitering and vagrancy. Here, they were forced to provide labor to the state while imprisoned. As such, Black individuals were given the stereotype of being a threat to violence and to women.

The first film in the United States, “Birth of a Nation,” played along with these stereotypes, which, in the words of the documentary, “confirmed the story that many whites wanted to tell about the Civil War and its aftermath.”

Another point of discussion included the controversy of mass incarceration and the financial benefits and incentives behind it.

In the United States, at the time of filming the documentary, the prison population was 2.5 million — the highest rate of incarceration in the world. With this

number, the United States is, according to the documentary, home to five percent of the world population, but 25 percent of the world’s prisoners.

“If there is a financial incentive to detain people and for-profit businesses are involved, there is a financial motivation to imprison more people,” Davis said during the screening. “This is exactly what happened in the ‘Kids for Cash’ scandal, via bribing judges to get kids sentenced to juvenile detention in private facilities.”

The “Kids for Cash” scandal occurred from 2003 to 2008 and centered on judicial kickbacks to two judges at the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

passing of the “three-strikes” law, it became more difficult to distinguish non-violent felons from violent criminals. Regardless of the severity of their crimes, they all received the same punishment — life in prison. Judges were not able to deliberate on punishments, as they were legally required to send them away to prison. Because of the Crime Bill, there was a massive expansion of the prison system, allowing for larger incentives for law enforcement.

Because of the mass influx of these “three-strikes” prisoners entering prisons, other prisoners had to be released into the public to make room.

The mass amount of prisoners within these privately-owned prisons led to

Martin to be acting suspiciously. Zimmerman called 9-1-1, in which the operator told him to keep his distance. Zimmerman did not abide by the advice of the operator, and approached Martin, where they began to fight, and ending with Zimmerman fatally shooting Martin. According to Davis, the late Martin himself was put on trial instead of Zimmerman.

“The defense — that Zimmerman was afraid because Martin was a black man — worked,” said Davis. “Parts of the defense included having people in the neighborhood on the stand talking about having their homes robbed by a black man. Not Trayvon Martin, just a young Black man. It shows how pervasive that framing is within our judicial system.”

Because of the racist undertones that exist within the ideology and process of mass incarceration, a notable statistic has been documented. According to the documentary, the lifetime likelihood of imprisonment for white men is one in 17, while the likelihood for Black men is one in three.

Despite the efforts of protestors who attempt to change the system, according to Davis, they are still faced with those same racist views from opposing sides.

“The peaceful Black Lives Matter Movement being portrayed as criminals, thugs, vandals and etcetera was intentional and has been quite effective in giving people an excuse to not support BLM,” said Davis.

Megan Boone Valkenburg, Civic Engagement coordinator, showed her support to end the racial prejudice that has led to mass incarceration.

“We have to rehumanize and find our empathy for people, not just animals,” Boone Valkenburg said. “Puppies in cages incites rage. Black men and Hispanic children in cages? Well, they are ‘obviously criminals.’”

One last panel discussion remains in the schedule of the three events hosted by “Year of the Vote,” the Center for Global Education and Diversity and the Office for Civic Engagement. On Nov. 11, Dr. Mia Briceño, associate professor of communication studies, will be hosting a screening of the documentary, “The Life and Death of Marsha P. Johnson,” which will include a talkback discussion. If anyone is interested in attending, they should email Boone Valkenburg at [megan.boone@wilkes.edu](mailto:megan.boone@wilkes.edu).



The documentary also revealed how, despite President Bill Clinton being the most liberal of his conservative predecessors, he was also the most strict when it came to punishing criminal offenders.

Before the election, 12-year-old Polly Klaas was abducted and killed by an individual already convicted of a felony in California. This highly-publicized case, along with others, led to Clinton signing the 1994 Crime Bill. The bill signed into law the “three-strike” rule, wherein, if a felon was convicted a total of three times, they would receive a sentencing of life in prison.

Despite the good intentions behind the legislation and anticipation of lower crime rates, it turned out to be a convenient exploitation of the prison system. After the

them collaborating with companies and corporations, leaving prisoners vulnerable to exploitation. Some of these companies include Walmart, AT&T, Verizon, Koch industries, the tobacco industry and many others. Another corporation included Aramark, the same food service company that supplies food to Wilkes University, which was accused of serving food with maggots in it to prisoners.

Discussion also included the various young Black men who had been killed by police in the past years, including the death of Trayvon Martin, who was shot and killed by neighborhood watch coordinator George Zimmerman.

In 2012, the 17-year-old Martin was followed by Zimmerman, who deemed



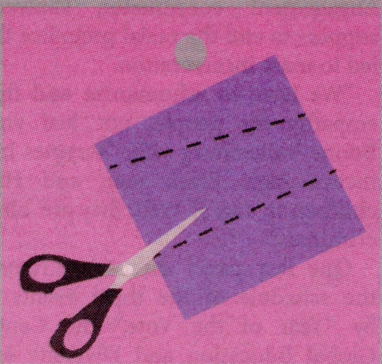
[Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu](mailto:Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu)  
Graphic by Anna Culver

## Final Edits:

# MARIA



**Name:** Maria DiBuo  
**Position:** LA&E Editor  
**Major:** Communication Studies; Concentrations in Media Production & Strategic Communication



– Compiled questions and photos by Kirsten Peters, Editor-in-Chief

**Q1: When and why did you join The Beacon?**

I joined The Beacon last semester, and I did a food column. I joined because I needed a practicum credit, but more so because Kylie (Dillon) was the editor of the section, and she needed somebody to write for her, so I did it. I've been doing it since.

**Q2: What was your favorite article that you wrote while on staff and why?**

I know it sounds kind of weird, but I think it was probably the first food column that I did on Sabatini's. I never did that with journalism, and it was really cool to see my name in print. I really enjoyed it, and I got a lot of feedback on it, so it was a good experience. I think that was probably my favorite one because it got me into the paper.

**Q3: What was the biggest surprise/challenge you faced during your time on staff?**

I think my biggest surprise was taking on the role of editor this semester, or maybe challenge I guess, too. I totally didn't know what I was in for, and it ended up being a really great experience, but I was just totally shocked that all this work goes into it. I feel like people think it's just happy, fun times, and it's not always like that. I think those tough times are what make the experience worthwhile.

**Q4: How have you grown during your college experience?**

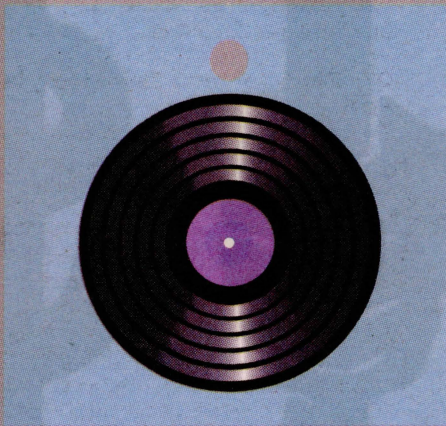
I started school in Florida, and it just wasn't what I expected it to be, so I came back. I think I've grown a lot since I just started school in general. I used to not care about class. I wouldn't go. Now, I'm here doing all of this extra stuff. I'm on top of my game, I feel, so I feel like I've gotten much stronger as a student and as a person. I've developed a good work ethic.

**Q5: If you had to choose three words to describe yourself, what would they be?**

Funny, kind and chill (I try to keep mellow vibes around me.)

**Q6: When you are not working for the LA&E section, what can you be found doing? What are some of your favorite hobbies/activities?**

I collect vinyl records. My favorite musician is the Grateful Dead. I go up to my boyfriend's cabin and cottage a lot, and we do hiking, fishing and stuff like that. I also love a good just hanging out with my friends session and hanging out with my dog.



**Q7: What is your favorite place/thing to do?**

My favorite thing to do in Wilkes-Barre is get lunch at Circles in Public Square. I love their sandwiches.

**Q8: What are you going to miss the most about your time at Wilkes after you graduate?**

I think I'm just going to miss all the friendships that I've made. Not that you don't keep in touch with your friends, but seeing everybody everyday or just being around people that are of the same mindset as you is definitely something that I'm going to miss. Plus, once you get a real job, you're surrounded by middle-aged people all the time. I like that we all know what's up.

**Q9: What emotions are you feeling as you near graduation?**

I'm definitely excited but a little sad because I'm going to miss this time that was a huge part of my life for so long – school and being at Wilkes in general – and now it's over, but as sad as it is, it's kind of super exciting because I can spread my wings and fly and kind of find what's right for me out there. I'm definitely happy but sad, and a little bit scared because of student loans.

**Q10: If there was any advice you could give to fellow Wilkes students, what would it be?**

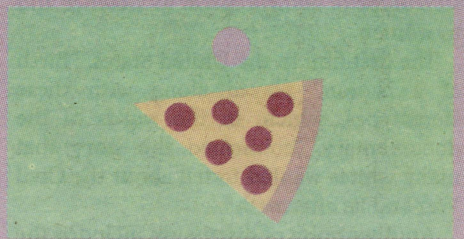
I would say to get involved in things. When I first came here, I was like, "I'm working. I don't have the time for stuff." But if you want to do something, you'll make the time for it. Getting involved is great because you make friends, you learn stuff beyond what you learn in the classroom, and it's good to take advantage of what you're paying for.

**Q11: What are your future plans after graduation?**

I don't know about that yet. Obviously, I'm going to try to find a job in the communications field. I'm going to try to keep my job that I have now in the newsroom at the Times Leader, and maybe get some more hours there for the time being. Ideally, I'd like to move out of the valley for a little while, since I have lived here for 22 years at this point, so I think it would be cool to explore and broaden my horizons somewhere new.

**Q12: Anything else you would like to share or have people know about you?**

N/A.



# Seniors Printing Their Futures

**Q1: When and why did you join The Beacon?**

I've always liked writing. I know that we do graphics, and I like graphics – I'm into art. The opinion section called to me because I'm an opinionated person. I've always had thoughts about things, and I wanted to share those opinions and maybe get people thinking about things that they didn't think about before. It's also one of the many things I'm affiliated with on campus. I picked this up the first week. As soon as I found out there was a newspaper, I was like, 'I want in on that,' so I came, and I saw what it was like. I liked it, and I stuck with it.

**Q2: What was your favorite article that you wrote while on staff and why?**

My favorite is the one I wrote about the New Zealand shooting. It's a very personal topic to me, obviously. The mosque that the attack happened at was called Masjid Al-Noor, which is the same mosque that I go to here. It really hit home. On Fridays, I usually go to the mosque for prayer time. My classes would end, and I would just park up there. I would just be on my phone, and then I saw, "Pray for New Zealand," and I immediately started writing my article because I had such a flood of emotions, so that was my favorite article because it was very emotionally-charged. It kind of allowed me to express how it is to be a Muslim in today's society, especially in a post-9/11 world.

**Q3: What was the biggest surprise/challenge you faced during your time on staff?**

Being assigned topics was a challenge that I faced when I initially joined the paper. When I was given the freedom to write myself, it was nice.

**Q4: How have you grown during your college experience?**

I've become more intuitive to other perspectives. That's a very big thing. I've always been open to listening to other perspectives, but often times, people don't speak their minds because they're afraid of someone disagreeing with them. So, writing in the opinion section allowed me to hear other perspectives because that's the whole point of opinion. I got, 'Oh, I didn't even consider that.' It kind of opened my eyes to looking for other perspectives.

**Q5: If you had to choose three words to describe yourself, what would they be?**

Creative, open-minded and compassionate.

**Q6: When you are not working for the opinion section, what can you be found doing? What are some of your favorite hobbies/activities?**

I read, write and draw. I crochet. I'm a very arts and crafts, hands-on type of person. I make beanies for people. I don't make them pay for it. My only requirement is that you buy me the yarn, and I get to keep the extra. So, it's about \$5 a beanie, and there's usually enough leftover that I can make myself one that matches. I bake, too. I can cook, but I like baking better.

**Q7: What is your favorite place/thing to do?**

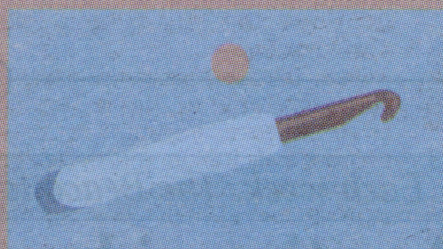
College sort of took out my hobbies, but I do like to watch Netflix. I recently rewatched "Avatar."

**Q8: What are you going to miss the most about your time at Wilkes after you graduate?**

Probably, The Beacon. It was a routine thing I always did – once a week, every week. It was something that kept me on track. It was also an outlet creatively, and it was a stress reliever. The Beacon's stress doesn't feel like stress, it's just work. I will definitely miss The Beacon. I was thinking about it, and out of all the clubs or things that we do, The Beacon was the thing that I do the most in. You make friends with all the people on staff. There's not a single person where I'm like, 'Ooo.' That happens in other clubs. With The Beacon, we're all focused on one common goal, and it's satisfying to see it come up.

**Q9: What emotions are you feeling as you near graduation?**

I was thinking about how this week I'm writing my last article, and I'm feeling a lot of nervous anticipation about graduating, but I'm also terrified because medical school is next. A mixture of the two (nervous and terrified), but I'm also proud. I really did accomplish a lot. I often throw that stuff under the rug, but you've got to brag sometimes.



Zarqua



**Q10: If there was any advice you could give to fellow Wilkes students, what would it be?**

Your first year here will be hard. It's not going to go how you think it will, but you stick to it, be diligent, and once you get the hang of things, everything will be uphill from there.

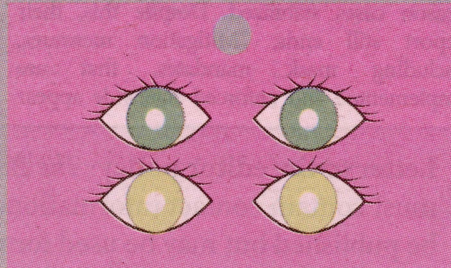
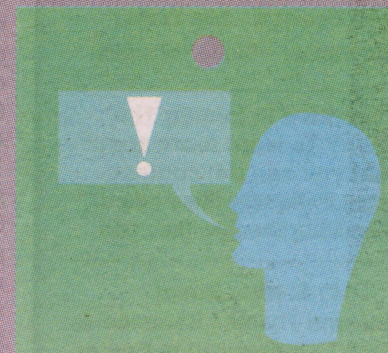
**Q11: What are your future plans after graduation?**

Medical school – wherever I get in. My dream school is Tulane, but if I don't get in, I won't be mad. I understand. That'll be my next four years, then residency, get a job and work as a doctor. Do what I've wanted to do my whole life. I want to do oncology. I lost my best friend to cancer on her 14th birthday, and her twin brother is my best friend, and I helped him through that. Cancer's tragic, and it's disappointing, but if I can help even ease the pain, that would be enough for me.

**Q12: Anything else you would like to share or have people know about you?**

No one's ever seen my natural eye color or my hair. I joke that I've never had a bad hair day. I actually often pull pranks on people. I'm a prankster. I was so bad that I would pull pranks on my professors. One thought I had a British accent because I spoke with one the entire semester.

**Name:** Zarqua Ansari  
**Position:** Asst. Opinion Editor  
**Major:** Biology (Pre-Med)  
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# Opinion

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

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### 2020-21

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## Our Voice

Each week, The Beacon's editorial board will take a stance on a current issue.

### A nationwide mask mandate is necessary ASAP

Reports are in, and COVID-19 is up. The World Health Organization stated in a media briefing on Oct. 26 that the previous week "saw the highest number of COVID-19 cases reported so far. Many countries in the northern hemisphere are seeing a concerning rise in cases and hospitalizations."

The United States is no exception.

With a rise in cases and hospitalizations, it is time to ask what we are doing wrong, and the answer may be simple: We may not be taking this pandemic seriously enough.

The best way to take the pandemic seriously is, of course, to take every precaution. Following the saying, "It's better to be safe than sorry," a way to be safer is to implement a nationwide mask mandate for the winter.

In a report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in early October, which looked at the effects of mitigation measures in Arizona in handling COVID-19, the CDC stated, "The number of COVID-19 cases stabilized and began to decrease approximately two weeks after local officials began mandating mask wearing (throughout several counties and cities) and enhanced sanitation practices."

In the same report, the CDC did acknowledge that the data only demonstrates correlation, not causation, meaning that the mitigation measures are not certainly the reason cases stabilized. Despite this, their report still ends, "Mitigation measures, including mask mandates, that are implemented and enforced statewide appear

to have been effective in decreasing the spread of COVID-19 in Arizona."

It makes sense to avoid wide-sweeping statements about masks being the reason for the stabilization of cases back in late July and early August. To say masks alone are enough to drop the case count would be dangerous, and as such, the U.S. needs to do more than just wear masks, such as continuing to implement other mitigation techniques like social distancing and limiting the capacity of restaurants and other business establishments.

Pennsylvania is one of 33 states to already have a statewide mask mandate, but if cases are on the rise, then we need more than state mandates. A formal declaration of a national mandate by the president is more effective than a state's decision.

It is important to remember that COVID-19 is an issue that should not be politicized, as being safe from the virus and taking it seriously should not be considered a liberal or conservative stance.

If you are an individual with medical conditions, recognize that a mask mandate will accommodate you. While probably a little less comfortable, face shields have been recognized as an alternative to masks during "high temperatures and humidity" that "create unsafe conditions," as well as for those with health risks, according to the policies set in place in Pennsylvania.

There are probably a number of questions that individuals may have about a nationwide mask mandate, including: When is it necessary

to wear a mask, why should a mask be worn and does a child need to wear a mask? When asking questions, it is important to recognize which questions come from concerns over health and safety and which come from annoyance or not wanting to be inconvenienced.

Legitimate concerns deserve answers, and a great way to understand what a mask mandate would mean is to look at how states handled their own. Of course, we would need one clear set of rules nationwide, which is why it is so important to act on a nationwide mask mandate now.

There is no longer a question about the danger of the virus. It is not a hoax, and it is not something we can afford to play with.

The U.S. was so focused on getting back to normal that we rushed precautions and safety procedures with the expectation that the virus would go away or a solution would be found. The virus has not gone away, and we need to not treat health protocols and safety procedures as anything but health protocols and safety procedures.

Wearing a mask is a safety procedure. Often, we violate safety procedures because they are an inconvenience or bothersome, but doing so results in deaths and prolongs the safety of those affected.

In this case, those affected includes everyone, and the longer we wait for a mask mandate, the more people who die.



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**All letters to the editor must be sent using one of the following methods:**

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Phone: (570) 408-5903 (Voicemail: 30 seconds or less, please.)

Mail: 84 West South Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766 Attn: *The Beacon*

# The unexpected switch of U.S. political parties' beliefs

By Liam Flynn  
Staff Writer

Throughout political discussions across our country, one that seems to come up frequently is whether or not our political parties changed their beliefs over our short history.

I always argue that yes, they certainly did. I would always make the simple point that today's Donald Trump-led Republican Party would be unrecognizable to Abraham Lincoln's Republican Party.

During the 1860s, Republicans, who dominated northern states, orchestrated an ambitious expansion of federal power, helping to fund the transcontinental railroad, the state university system and the settlement of the West by homesteaders, as well as instating a national currency and protective tariff. Democrats, who dominated the South, opposed these measures.

After the Civil War, Republicans passed laws that granted protections for African Americans and advanced social justice. Again, Democrats largely opposed these expansions of power.

Fast forward to 1936. Democratic president Franklin Roosevelt won reelection that year on the strength of the New Deal, a set of Depression-remedying reforms including regulation of financial institutions, founding of welfare and pension programs, infrastructure development and more.

Roosevelt won in a landslide against Republican Alf Landon, who opposed these exercises of federal power.

So, sometime between the 1860s and 1936, the Democratic Party of small government became the party of big government, and the Republican Party of big government became rhetorically committed to curbing federal power. How did this switch happen?

We will start with the 1860 presidential election. After the Whigs collapsed after 1852, party alignments were in turmoil, with several third parties, such as the Know Nothings and the Opposition Party. The system stabilized in 1858, and the presidential election marked the ascendance of the Republican Party.

Lincoln beat out three other contenders — but even if they had somehow united, he still had the majority of the electoral vote.

The Republican Party was pledged to the long-term ending of slavery, which was proximate cause of secession.

Republicans rallied around nationalism in 1861 and fought the American Civil War to end secession. During the war, the Republicans, under Lincoln's leadership, switched to a goal of short-term ending of slavery.

By 1864, the Republicans had a coalition built around followers of the "free labor" ideology, as well as soldiers and veterans of the Union Army.

Since then, the military establishment has favored the Republicans. The Republican Party went from 18.3 percent of the House in 1854, to 38 percent in 1856, 48.7 percent in 1858 and 59 percent in 1860 for a total gain of 40.7 percent in four elections.

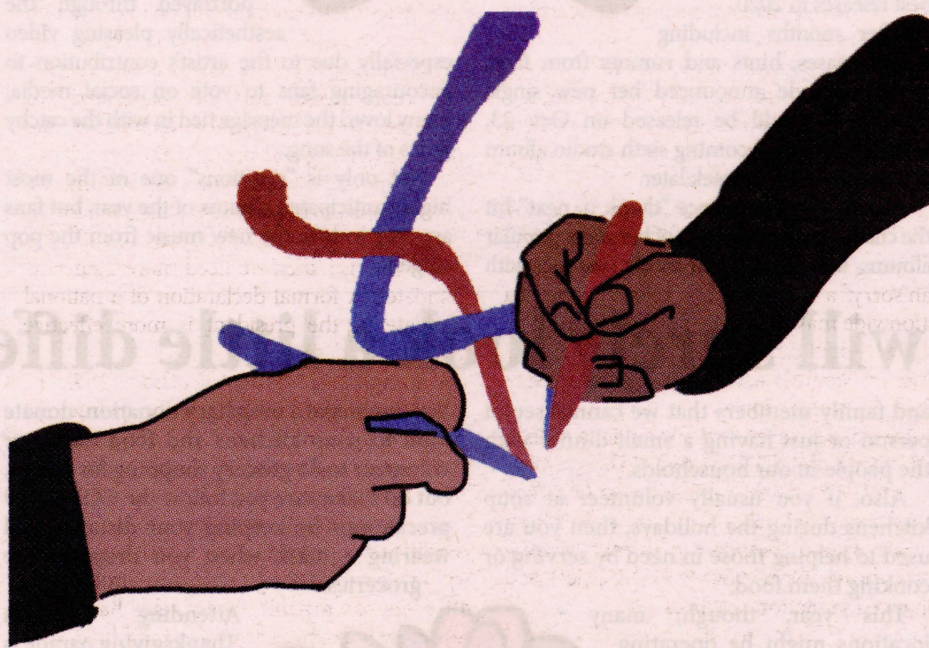
Moving onto the 1896 presidential election, the status of this election is very disputed, as some political scientists do not

interests, outspending Bryan by 10 to 1. Bryan, meanwhile, invented the modern technique of campaigning heavily in closely contested states, being the first candidate to do so. Bryan's message of populism and class conflict marked a new direction for the Democrats.

McKinley's victory in 1896 and repeat in 1900 was a triumph for pluralism, as all sectors and groups shared in the new prosperity brought about by his policy of rapid industrial growth.

While Republicans lost House seats in 1896, this followed a massive two-election gain — from 25.9 percent in 1890 to 34.8 percent in 1892 and 71.1 percent in 1894 for a total 45.2 percent gain.

Republicans lost 13.4 percent in 1896, but still held 57.7 percent of House seats.



consider it a realigning election.

Other political scientists and historians consider this the ultimate realignment and emphasize that the rules of the game had changed, the leaders were new, voting alignments had changed and a whole new set of issues came to dominance as the old Civil War-era issues faded away. Funding from office holders was replaced by outside fundraising from business in 1896 — a major shift in political history.

Furthermore, William McKinley's tactics in beating William Jennings Bryan marked a sea of change in the evolution of the modern campaign. McKinley raised a huge amount of money from business

In terms of correlations among counties, the election of 1896 is a realignment flop, but this is only a problem if realignment is considered to occur in single elections.

Rather, if realignment is thought of as a generational or long-term political movement, then change will occur over several elections, even if there is one "critical" election defining the new alignment.

So, as pointed out above, the 1896 realignment actually began around 1892, and the 130 seat Grand Old Party gain in 1894 meant there were almost no seats left to pick up in 1896.

However, the presidential election in 1896 is usually considered the start of

the new alignment, since the national election allowed the nation to make a more conscious decision about the future of industrial policy by selecting McKinley over Bryan, making this the defining election in the realignment.

The election of 1876 passed the numbers test much better compared to 1896 alone. It is argued that it resulted in far more drastic changes in United States politics.

Reconstruction came to a sudden halt, African-Americans in the South would soon be completely disenfranchised, and politicians began to focus on new issues such as tariffs and civil service reform.

The 1932 presidential contest between incumbent Republican President Herbert Hoover and Democrat Roosevelt was something of a turning point.

During his first term, Hoover had tried to ingratiate himself with southern segregationists, and his administration had failed to implement economic policies to help African-Americans laid low by the Great Depression.

Still, Hoover received between two-thirds and three-quarters of the Black vote in northern urban wards.

Most Black voters sided with Republicans less out of loyalty than because they were loath to support a candidate whose Democratic Party had zealously suppressed their political rights in the South.

African-Americans distrusted FDR because of his party affiliation, his evasiveness about race in the campaign and his choice of a running mate, that being House Speaker John Nance Garner of Texas.

Roosevelt formed a coalition that would mostly last until 1964, called the "New Deal Coalition."

During this period, the parties switched. The Republicans went from being the more liberal party to being conservative, and the Democrats switched from being more conservative to being more liberal.

I point to this presidency by Roosevelt as the founding of the modern day Democratic Party, as it established recognizable liberal values.

With all of that being said, it would be foolish to deny any idea that our political parties have switched over the short history of this nation.



Liam.Flynn@wilkes.edu  
Graphic by Zarqua Ansari

# Bre's Beats: A must-listen week of amazing new releases

By Breanna Ebisch  
Opinion Editor

As the last few months of 2020 quickly approach, several artists have brought new releases at a time when almost everyone can use a sense of happiness.

Despite the crazy circumstances that COVID-19 has imposed on the industry, including the cancellations and postponements of live shows, there has not been a lack of new music. From full studio albums to singles, artists have been giving fans many songs to love as the year comes to a close.

Ruel, the young Australian singer/songwriter, released his newest EP titled "Bright Lights, Red Eyes" on Oct. 23, and it is nothing short of incredible. With a total of five songs, the EP carries a somewhat different sound in comparison to most of Ruel's previous music and will be a guaranteed favorite for anyone who listens.

The project has also been paired with the unique visual aspect of RuelVision television network, which is a set of videos that Ruel himself stars in.

Using typical pop elements as well as some R&B and soul music aspects, each song is unique in its own way. Following the release of the singles "as long as you care" and "say

it over," which featured Cautious Clay, the tracklist is well rounded with both upbeat and ballad-like songs that are impossible not to love for a variety of reasons.

Similar to many other artists trying to make up for the lack of live music happening now, the singer is also hosting a livestream concert for fans across the world to experience the EP in the most normal way possible. One thing is for sure, with unforgettable lyrics, beautiful melodies and the use of Ruel's easily recognizable vocals, "Bright Lights, Red Eyes" is one of the best releases in 2020.

After months including several teases, hints and rumors from fans, Ariana Grande announced her new single "positions" would be released on Oct. 23, followed by her upcoming sixth studio album of the same name a week later.

Almost two years since "thank u, next" hit the charts and became one of her most popular albums, this taste of new music was met with

lots of enthusiasm. "positions" carried both the pop and R&B sound through the melody, but unlike most of Grande's recent releases, the song has a much more mellow sound.

The use of Grande's iconic vocals, trap beats and notes of guitar makes the new single one to remember because it stands out in comparison to the rest of her discography and is sure to be a hit on Top 40 radio as well.

The accompanying music video for the single features Grande as president while sporting some classic 1960's looks. Undoubtedly a stance portrayed through the aesthetically pleasing video

especially due to the artist's contribution to encouraging fans to vote on social media, many loved the message tied in with the catchy lyrics of the song.

Not only is "positions" one of the most highly anticipated albums of the year, but fans are sure to love the new music from the pop singer.


While both Ruel and Grande released brand new music, Harry Styles released "Golden," one of the beloved songs of his 2019 album "Fine Line," as his next single with a stunning music video.

The opening track to the album has been a favorite for Styles' fans since the release of his sophomore album and now is about to be climbing the Billboard charts. Including the upbeat pop sounds, undeniably lovable melody and lyrics that are sure to be memorized after just a few listens of the song, "Golden" is like nothing else.

With a dreamy, rom-com vibe, Styles truly brought the happiness evident in the song to life with the music video. Featuring Styles' impeccable style that he's become known for and using beautiful landscapes as the background for the entire three minutes and thirty seconds, the video truly captures the singer's personality as well as the emotions the lyrics hold.

Although many have already loved "Golden" for awhile now, the single is sure to become another hit on the charts for Styles.

Overall, it has been a week packed with music releases that are already being loved by fans.

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# Thanksgiving will surely look a little different this year

By Jordan Daniel  
Opinion Staff Writer

During the Thanksgiving holiday, there are many common activities that individuals participate in, like volunteering at a soup kitchen, going to a Thanksgiving parade, catching up with old friends, taking advantage of the Black Friday deals and, most importantly, spending quality time with loved ones. However, this year, these activities will look a little different.

Since we are still currently living life in the middle of a pandemic, a lot of what we are used to doing on Thanksgiving will have their limitations and some new rules to follow.

A big adjustment some might have to deal with is quarantining for two weeks before returning home to meet their family and friends.

Some of us might not be able to make it to the big family dinner because we do not want to put ourselves or others at risk.

Therefore, we need to find alternatives, like having a virtual dinner with friends

and family members that we cannot see in person or just having a small dinner with the people in our households.

Also, if you usually volunteer at soup kitchens during the holidays, then you are used to helping those in need by serving or cooking them food.

This year, though, many locations might be operating differently, so you might have to do some research to see which organizations are running normally and which are running differently due to the restrictions of COVID-19.

There are other ways you can give back to your community without having to come in such close contact with people.

You can make a monetary donation, donate food to soup kitchens and food banks or volunteer to do grocery shopping for others, but do make sure you follow the COVID-19 precautions by keeping your distance and wearing a mask when you drop off the groceries.

Attending a Thanksgiving parade is another event some of us might take part in during the holiday season.

Most of the parades have been cancelled, and the biggest parade of all, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is following COVID-19 restrictions, so it will be mostly virtual and


available for those at home to watch on television or online.

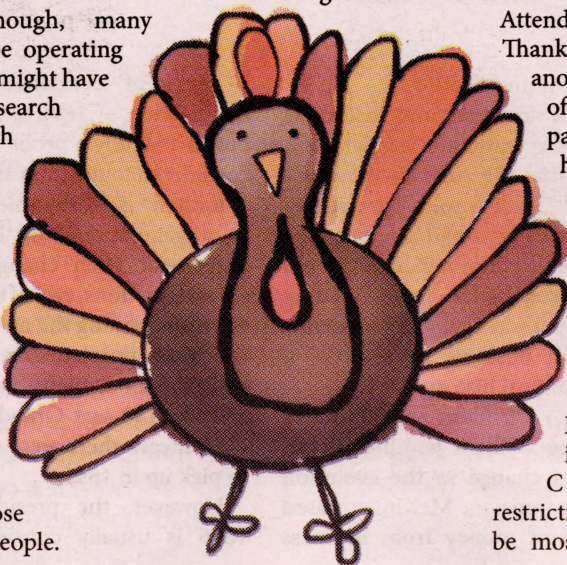
Lastly, the most significant activity that many Americans partake in around Thanksgiving – Black Friday – will probably be the biggest adjustment we have to get used to under the COVID-19 restrictions.

Many retailers have found ways to reinvent Black Friday for this year by expanding the length of time to cash in on online doorbuster deals and offering curbside pickup and delivery.

It is very important that people keep their distance and be cautious about contracting and spreading the virus this Thanksgiving, especially since there have been spikes in cases as the weather gets colder.

Therefore, you can try out other activities this year that will keep you and others safe, like staying indoors and watching holiday movies with your family members, getting cozy and reading a good book or beginning to decorate for Christmas.

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Graphic by Zarqua Ansari





# 2020 Limerick Lane: Apocalypse bingo for the strangest year ever

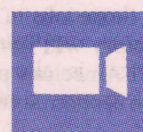
By Zarqua Ansari  
Asst. Opinion Editor



This year was supposed to be great —  
Weekend holidays on perfect dates.  
But Australia aflame,  
“World War III” inflames  
and Sussex’s shun royalty hate.

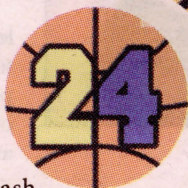


There’s some things that don’t need to be said.  
They’re things we all know in our heads.  
Glass can shatter.  
Black lives matter.  
So just how many more need to be dead?



New challenges we must overcome.  
Technology and accompanying humdrum.  
Zoom university,  
quite the adversity,  
when you unmute in a mid-song hum.

Trump was being quite brash,  
Kobe and the helicopter crash.  
Impeachment and trial,  
wasn’t worthwhile,  
but at least we got Byleth for Smash.



See, being black isn’t a matter of choice.  
Why would someone choose to have no voice?  
If they’re really “thugs,”  
out selling drugs,  
your kids are the ones buying them, eh Joyce?



Ruth Bader Ginsburg passes away.  
Muslim Holocaust grows by day.  
Instead of solutions,  
Trump disillusion  
that TikTok has no place to stay.



UK left the union with Brexit.  
Antarctica’s weather wrecks it.  
Parasite won an Oscar.  
Weinstein got the locker,  
and the US economy tanks it.



It fills me with quite a lot of rage  
to flip through history page after page.  
On a glorified tower  
with treacherous power,  
maybe cops should be paid minimum wage?

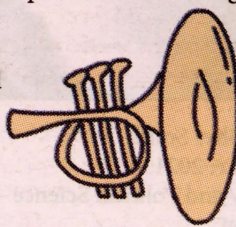


Travis Scott Burger with Ronald,  
a clown, like Biden called Donald.  
It’s getting clear,  
2020’s unreal,  
and my emotions are increasingly bottled.

Trolls World Tour made a big change.  
In India, the monkeys rampaged.  
COVID nineteen  
and quarantine,  
complete with toilet paper shortchange.



As if things were not that bad,  
nature thought it would be rad  
to make murder hornets.  
I hear sad cornets  
narrate our grief — we’re mad.



ACB was given the job —  
a fact that did make me sob.  
She’s one of the Gorgon.  
They found a new organ  
in the throat that’s shaped like a blob.



Africa and Asia were swarmed  
with locusts, the news had informed.  
A tiger in zoo  
got COVID too.  
I wish this year had been forewarned.



Kylie’s not a billionaire.  
Kanye is running for chair.  
Naya Rivera dies,  
Olympics wave goodbye —  
This year just doesn’t seem fair.

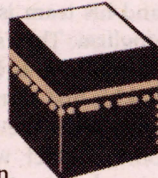


AOC played Among Us online,  
to increase the voters in line.  
On election day,  
we all have a say.  
Just go out and vote — it’s fine.

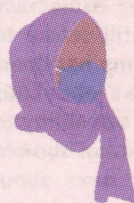
Unemployment hit a landslide.  
Kim Jong Un had possibly died.  
What the heck?  
A stimulus check  
for dependents would have been nice.



Samples of COVID were stolen.  
Beirut suffered massive explosion.  
West coast was on fire.  
Hajj still transpired.  
A Putin-critic was given some poison.



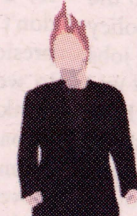
This year, it’s important to vote  
to make changes about things like, I quote,  
“If she wasn’t my daughter,  
I would have sought her.”  
Man, that’s not a thing you should gloat.



Wearing a mask isn’t hard.  
The death toll had people jarred.  
Forget about fashion.  
With care and compassion,  
this virus could simply be barred.



130 Fahrenheit in Death Valley.  
Biden and Harris rally.  
Wakanda forever.  
Hard to be clever  
when smoke fills the skies in Cali.



All the things that have gone wrong  
could fill up a historical song.  
It was always burning,  
since the world’s been turning.  
2020’s just been so long.

In America, negative prices for oil  
were followed by much turmoil.  
Black Lives Matter  
caused quite the chatter  
about blood spilt on American soil.



As long as we promise to stick  
to distances plus side of six,  
we’ll keep it at bay  
and still have to pay  
tuition of cash-crafted bricks.



I apologize for bumming you out.  
This year makes me want to shout.  
My faith in humanity  
has kept up my sanity.  
We’ll get through this; I’ve got no doubt.



Zarqua.Ansari@wilkes.edu  
Graphics by Zarqua Ansari

**REACTIONS, from front**



**Name:** Brock Horton  
**Graduation Year:** 2021  
**Majors:** History and Political Science  
**Party:** Republican

"I think that this is a very interesting election. I believe that Pennsylvania is a key state for either candidate to win the election. The winner of the Pennsylvania will most likely win the election. I think this election shows how untrustworthy the polls were coming into the election. Trump is outperforming the polls, which were mostly all in favor of Joe Biden. One great result of this election is voter turnout. Voter turnout has skyrocketed, and this is a great reminder of how lucky we are to live in a democratic republic. This election will probably take a few days to finalize the results, so all we can do is wait. I pray for the safety and well being of every American as we fight this virus and wait on the results of the election.

I think that a Donald Trump victory would be a win for America. Trump has kept many of the promises he made in 2016. He has kept us out of wars and has brought troops home from overseas. The Trump administration has also defeated ISIS and sign treaties to bring peace to the middle east. Trump's America first policy has brought back many manufacturing jobs back to the U.S., and a large part of that was a result of leaving NAFTA. His tax cuts have also saved the middle class thousands of dollars of taxes and has helped corporations create millions of new jobs and lower unemployment to new records for many demographics. Four more years of Trump will keep America moving in the right direction, and will help more Americans prosper.

I believe that a Biden victory will be a threat to many American liberties. Biden wants to ban assault weapons and limit our gun rights. Biden plans on raising taxes

to anyone making over \$400,000 as well. Taxing the wealthy isn't the answer to a better economy. Those are the people who create jobs, and paying more taxes doesn't create more jobs. Also, I believe that Biden is a threat to the oil and natural gas industry. This industry is a large part of Pennsylvania, and a Biden administration puts thousands of those jobs in jeopardy. All in all, a Biden victory will hurt the middle class and will kill America's progress as we recover from the economic effects from the coronavirus."



**Name:** Christopher Smith  
**Graduation Year:** 2021  
**Majors:** History and Political Science  
**Party:** Democrat

"Overall, I think the populism that helped Trump win the 2016 election has largely disappeared. Back then, he was against Hillary Clinton, who was seen by many as the epitome of American corruption. Now, he's been president for a very unproductive administration, and his team is still trying to run on that populism. They should have played defensively and told us how Trump plans to build upon his first-term successes.

I believe if Biden wins the presidency, there will be some conflict with Trump for a few days over the election results. I don't think he will be a particularly liberal president, but I think he will be willing to work with Bernie Sanders and AOC. I think the Republican Party will end up at its throats between the pro-Trump and anti-Trump factions and how the party should move on.

If Trump wins reelection, he'll do a victory lap for a couple of days and gloat how nobody the Democrats nominate can beat him. He will likely continue what he did in his first term – nominate more conservative justices to the courts, continue work on the wall, more vociferously attack coronavirus protections and probably start a war with Iran or Venezuela."



**Name:** Erin Tollinger  
**Graduation Year:** 2021  
**Major:** Environmental Science  
**Party:** Democrat

"I honestly am anxious about the upcoming election, as I think that no matter which way the results go, there will be civil unrest that could potentially harm people, especially marginalized groups of people. I don't believe that there will be a peaceful transfer of power if Biden wins, and I don't believe that things will instantly change if Trump loses.

I feel this because we are voting into a system that was created on the oppression of POC, Black people, Native Americans and more groups. It's important to vote, and I did so myself, but we need to educate ourselves further; fight for a better future for our families, friends and strangers; donate money to organizations/communities/bail funds; vote in local elections; and have tough conversations.

If Biden were to win the presidency, I would be very content. But it's not an end-all, and his election is not going to bring immediate change. If he wins, I'm scared of what the far-right groups will do in retaliation.

I think Biden is a much better option than Trump, but in the end, a politician is a politician. And while there are some better than others, we need promises made and kept that there will be positive and inclusive change in this country. We need reform, but I don't know how possible that is with the current government system.

If Trump were to win re-election, I would be really devastated and hurt for the millions of people that'll be directly impacted by his presidency once again. I'm a white woman that has privilege, especially the privilege to vote ... I don't get discriminated against because of my skin tone or background, I don't face environmental injustice, and I don't face half the things that many people I

know struggle with, such as police brutality, racism, immigration issues, genocide, etcetera.

I'm of course concerned about my own (and others') reproductive rights and healthcare costs if he becomes re-elected. As a member of the LGBTQA community, with many friends that identify themselves as members as well, I'm scared we'll be collectively discriminated against one day in the future if he gets another four years in office.

I prepare myself for the worst so I'm not let down, therefore I'm expecting Trump to be re-elected, but I'm really hoping people push through and vote him out of office, even though him leaving will not automatically fix all of the systemic flaws."



**Name:** Jennifer Boch  
**Graduation Year:** 2022  
**Majors:** History and International Relations  
**Party:** Democrat

"Neither of them will be winning tonight (Nov. 3) because the ballots will not all be in. And if either of them tries to declare victory (unless it's somehow a clear landslide), that'd just undermine the election and our democracy. I am scared of how the country will react no matter what," said Boch. "It's very disheartening to see our democracy crumble, yet some people still refuse to acknowledge the damage Trump has done. He has undermined and made a joke of our political institutions, blurred our ability to gain accurate information and has showed us time after time he only cares about himself."

**Want to share your opinion with The Beacon? Email TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu**



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# Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact the Sports Editors: Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu or Dylan.Mehl@wilkes.edu

## Thirty-two year drought over: L.A. Dodgers are champions again

By Chris Gowarty  
Sports Staff Writer

With their 3-1 victory against the Tampa Bay Rays on the evening of Oct. 27, the Los Angeles Dodgers were crowned MLB's 2020 World Series champions.

It is their seventh championship in franchise history and their first in 32 years, with their last being in 1988.

Before the series, both teams had pressure on them to win the title. The Dodgers' American League opponent, the Tampa Bay Rays, had only participated in one World Series: 2008, where they were defeated by the Philadelphia Phillies in five games. Winning the 2020 championship would have taken the Rays off a list of six MLB teams who do not have a World Series win.

The L.A. Dodgers, the NL opponent, had played in three of the last four World Series while not winning any of them. If L.A. would have lost this championship, it would have added on another year to a 32-year streak without a World Series championship.

In game one of the World Series, Clayton Kershaw, who is known for his struggles in the postseason, dazzled against Tampa Bay's lineup, only allowing one run in six innings while striking out eight.

The only run given up came in the fifth inning via a solo home run by Rays outfielder Kevin Kiermaier.

The Dodgers' offense came out swinging, scoring eight runs in the game with home runs from outfielders Mookie Betts and Cody Bellinger. The Dodgers would go on to win the game 8-3, giving them a 1-0 series lead.

In game two, the Rays struck first, as second baseman Brandon Lowe crushed a 3-1 fastball from Dodger Tony Gonsolin to give Tampa Bay a 1-0 lead in the first.

The Rays would add onto their 1-0 lead in the fourth with a two-run double off the bat of third baseman Joey Wendle.

In the following inning, Lowe would hit another home run in the form of a two-run shot, which at that moment would give the Rays a 5-0 lead and set a new MLB record for most home runs hit by a

team in a single postseason with 28.

The Dodgers would only put up four runs the whole game, which came from a two-run home run by utility infielder Chris Taylor and solo homers from catcher Will Smith and shortstop Corey Seager. Tampa Bay would go on to win the game, 6-4.

In game three, Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner got the scoring started with a solo home run off of Ray Charlie Morton in the first inning.

L.A. would continue to score off Morton, putting up five runs within four innings.

**D o d g e r s** starting pitcher **W a l k e r** **B u e h l e r** dominated Tampa Bay's offense, allowing one run in six innings with 10 strikeouts.

In the ninth inning with L.A. up 6-1, Rays outfielder Randy Arozarena took Dodger closer Kenley Jansen deep for his eighth home run of the 2020 postseason, tying the MLB record. L.A. would win the game 6-2 and lead the series 2-1.

Game four started off with another first-inning home run from Turner, giving him 12 postseason home runs as a Dodger, which would be a new franchise record.

In the top of the third, Seager would hit his second homer of the World Series and his eighth of the postseason, tying his opponent Arozarena. Seager would not share that record for long, however, as Arozarena would hit his ninth home run in the fourth inning, setting a new record for most home runs hit in a single postseason.

The game showed back-and-forth scoring all game, but the key moment came in the bottom of the ninth. With runners on first and second, a two-strike count and two outs, Rays outfielder Brett Phillips delivered a single through a shifted infield.

A few misplays from Taylor and Smith would allow the winning run to score, giving Tampa Bay a 7-6 victory and a tied-up series at 2-2.

In game five, the Dodgers would jump on Rays starter Tyler Glasnow for three runs within the first two innings, one of which included a solo home run from outfielder Joc Pederson.

Kershaw had two shutout innings until the third, as an RBI-triple from first baseman Yandy Diaz and an RBI-single from Arozarena made it a 3-2 ball game.

With the run-scoring single from Arozarena, he became the front-runner for most hits in a single postseason with 27. Dodgers first baseman Max Muncy would add onto L.A.'s lead with a solo home run,

making it 4-2.

In the bottom of the fifth, Kershaw would strike out Kiermaier to give him five in the ballgame, as well as the all-time record for most career postseason strikeouts with 206.

No more runs were scored and the Dodgers would win game five, putting them one win away from a World Series championship.

In game six, Arozarena would add yet another home run to his total, giving him 10 in this postseason as well as a 1-0 Tampa Bay lead in the first.

Rays starting pitcher Blake Snell was cruising through L.A.'s lineup in the first five innings, allowing no runs.

In the bottom of the sixth with one out, Snell allowed Smith to get on via a single. With a pitch count at 73 and a stat line of five and a third innings, two hits allowed and nine strikeouts, Snell was pulled from the game.

Relief pitcher Nick Anderson would come in for Snell and immediately give up a double to Betts, putting two runners at second and third base.

A wild pitch from Anderson would allow Smith to tie the game, which was followed by a fielder's choice from Seager that brought Betts home, giving L.A. a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the sixth.

In the bottom of the eighth, Betts would add an insurance run with a solo home run, giving L.A. the final 3-1 lead. Julio Urias closed out the last frame of the ninth to allow the Dodgers to end their championship-less drought of 32 years.

The 2020 World Series championship gave Los Angeles seven total for their franchise, putting them sixth all-time among all 30 MLB ball clubs for most championship titles.

Seager was named the World Series MVP, batting .400 with two home runs in the six games played.

Through earning the 2020 World Series MVP, Seager was added to a list of eight players in MLB history to be named the MVP of both the League Championship Series and the World Series.



Christopher.Gowarty@wilkes.edu  
Graphic by Mia Walker



# NFL Recap: Business is “boomin” in Tampa Bay with the Bucs

By Dylan Mehl  
Co-Sports Editor

Antonio Brown, former Pittsburgh Steelers, Oakland Raiders and New England Patriots wide receiver, has found a new home on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers alongside former teammate, quarterback Tom Brady.

Brown signed a one-year deal with the team, making just above the league minimum \$1.05 million, per NFL Network's Mike Garafolo. Brown is looking to make an impact for Tampa Bay, as the last time he played a full season, he had 104 receptions for 1297 yards and 15 touchdowns.

“I think AB adds an extra ego to a team with a lot of ego already,” said Wilkes student Brent Artley.

Off the field issues led to Brown's long-lasting search for an NFL team. Buccaneers head coach Bruce Arians said, “(Brown) looked fantastic,” in his first practice with Buccaneers.

Tampa Bay adding yet another weapon to the offense could prove to be big for the team as they make a push for the playoffs in the second half of the season. The team was first in the division heading into Monday night's matchup versus the New York Giants.

Monday night, the Buccaneers would improve to 6-2 after winning 25-23 against the Giants. Tom Brady led the game in passing with 279 yards to go along with his two touchdown passes. The Giants now fall to 1-7 on the season and could be on the path to yet another top pick in the NFL draft.

The Steelers moved to 7-0 after a 28-24 victory over AFC North division rival Baltimore Ravens on Sunday. Pittsburgh got off to an early lead with an interception returned for a touchdown by Robert Spillane. Baltimore would answer, going up 17-7 at halftime. Pittsburgh then responded with 21 second half points, including the game-winning touchdown by rookie Chase Claypool with 7:29 left in the game.

“I think today's game was a battle of perseverance. It was a great game to watch and really showed the rivalry between the teams,” said Wilkes student Kaylee Hornberger.

In the Sunday night game, the Philadelphia Eagles got the win over

the Dallas Cowboys by a score of 23-9. Philadelphia won the game in the second half, beating Dallas 16-0 in the final two quarters after trailing at halftime.

The Eagles will be going into their bye week following the week eight victory.

Head coach Doug Pederson said, “I think this is a good time for all of us,” when asked if the bye week would be good for quarterback

record of 2-5, after suffering a 24-21 loss to the Buffalo Bills in Buffalo.

In a grind it out game, Bills running back Zack Moss ran for 81 yards and two touchdowns. The Patriots could be on their way to their first losing season since the year 2000.

Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs defeated the New York Jets 35-9,



Carson Wentz, during a post game interview.

An action-packed week of NFL football kicked off with Thursday Night Football, as the Atlanta Falcons defeated the Carolina Panthers

25-17. In the win, Falcons running back Todd Gurley scored his eighth touchdown of the season.

Rookie quarterback Tua Tagovailoa of the Miami Dolphins got his first career start against the Los Angeles Rams and picked up his first career win. The Dolphins won 28-17, scoring 21 of their points in the second quarter. Tagovailoa totaled 93 passing yards and a touchdown for the game.

The New England Patriots fell to a

moving to 7-1 on the year behind Mahomes five touchdown day. After yet another loss, the Jets fell to a league worst 0-8 on the season.

“Based on their remaining schedule, I don't think they (The Jets) will

get a win the rest of the season,” said Wilkes student Hoyt Stiely.

The Indianapolis Colts put up a season-high 41 points in Sunday's win over the Detroit Lions.

Colts quarterback Philip Rivers had three passing touchdowns and 262 passing yards in the teams win. The Lions scored 21 points in the game and were limited to just 29 rushing yards.

The Las Vegas Raiders won 16-6 over the Cleveland Browns in a game that saw

only one touchdown scored. The lone touchdown of the game came in the fourth quarter, as Derek Carr connected with Hunter Renfrow for the four-yard score for the Raiders. Las Vegas moves to 4-3 on the season and the Browns move to 5-3.

Joe Burrow led the Cincinnati Bengals to their second win of the season, over the five win Tennessee Titans. Burrow, the number one overall pick, threw for 249 yards and two touchdowns in the win

Tennessee would go on to trade for the Chargers cornerback Desmond King after their game. King will look to add to the Titans defensive unit, as the Titans look to return back to postseason football this year.

The Minnesota Vikings picked up their second win of the season over their NFC North rival, the Green Bay Packers.


Dalvin Cook led the way for the Vikings with four total touchdowns and 226 all-purpose yards. The Packers will be looking to bounce back on Thursday Night Football against the San Francisco 49ers.

The 49ers suffered their fourth loss on the season to the Seattle Seahawks falling to 4-4. The team's fourth loss is more than they had all of last year's regular season, which ended with them as the number one seed in the NFC. Seattle now moves to 6-1 behind Russell Wilson's four passing touchdowns, two of which were hauled in by D.K. Metcalf.

The New Orleans Saints defeated the Chicago Bears 26-23 in an overtime victory on a 35-yard field goal from kicker Wil Lutz. The Saints now move to 5-2 on the season, while the Bears fall to 5-3.

New Orleans traded for 49ers linebacker Kwon Alexander following their game on Sunday. Alexander has 22 solo tackles, an interception and a forced fumble so far on the season and looks to add to the Saints defense.

The Denver Broncos secured the win over AFC West division rival Los Angeles Chargers on a game-winning touchdown catch from receiver K.J. Hamler as time expired. Denver quarterback Drew Lock had three touchdowns and 248 yards whereas Justin Herbert of the Chargers also put up three touchdowns on 278 yards.

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Graphic by Mia Walker

# A passion for basketball fueled Metz's flight from coast to coast

By Ariel Reed  
Co-Sports Editor

Head coach Izzi Metz's deep-rooted passion for the game of basketball allowed the Colonels to develop into the powerhouse they are today.

Metz joined the Wilkes community seven seasons ago and has snagged 87 wins. Notably, he led his team to back-to-back MAC Freedom championship games (17-18, 18-19).

Coaching basketball was always a career that Metz wanted to pursue, but he initially played it safe by pursuing a career in economics.

"I attended Hobart College, which is located in Geneva, N.Y.," said Metz. "Hobart is a small liberal arts college of about 2,000 students. I majored in economics."

Economics was an interest of Metz's, but his heart belonged to basketball. His passion for the sport made him want to coach.

"I decided to pursue coaching because basketball is my passion on a lot of fronts," Metz said. "I love the sport itself. I love the relationships I made through the game. I love to teach the game and help players improve. And I would like to think I am a pretty competitive person who likes the challenge of preparing a team to go compete 25 times a year."

Prior to coaching at the collegiate level, Metz made his coaching debut in 1999 as a high school coach in Los Angeles, Calif. close to his hometown. After several successful seasons, he easily made the transition to the collegiate level.

"I started coaching high school basketball first, back in 1999. I was at Bishop Montgomery HS in Torrance, Calif. as an assistant coach," Metz said. "I was able to learn from one of the best coaches in California. From there, I transitioned to the college level at my alma mater, Hobart College. I have also had stops at Cornell University and Boston College."

Metz coached at the Division I level at both Boston College and Cornell.

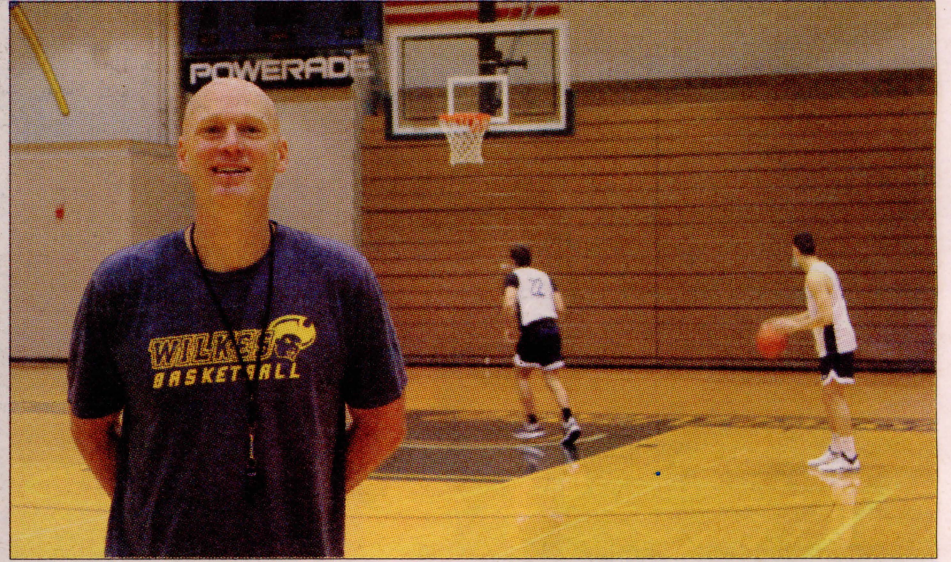
At Boston College, Metz started as the Director of Basketball Operations in 2011 before moving to an assistant coach role.

While at Boston College, Metz worked alongside head coach Steve Donahue in all aspects of the program.

At Cornell, Metz was an assistant coach for Donahue from 2001-2006. He was one of the crucial members of the team, allowing Cornell to earn winning records in back-to-back seasons.

Living in some of the greatest cities, Metz liked the family atmosphere associated with Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

"I was somewhat familiar with the Northeast Pa. area from my time coaching



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Head coach Izzi Metz demonstrated his excitement to have another day of basketball practice with a smile from ear-to-ear.

at a few colleges in Upstate N.Y. I would occasionally come down to NEPA to watch a high school recruit," said Metz. "After doing my research about the area, I felt this was a great area to raise kids and work."

Echoing the family feeling that coincides with the Wilkes-Barre area, Metz feels as if Wilkes University reinforces the principles of the community, which was one of the main factors that drew him into the northeastern state.

"From a professional standpoint, Wilkes has afforded me the opportunity to be a part of a welcoming and caring university community that is unique from the other schools I have worked at," Metz said. "I feel people are connected here and genuinely care about one another. This has been even more evident during this challenging time with the COVID-19 pandemic. The care that our university leadership has put into making our students and student-athletes feel safe, while also giving everyone as normal a college experience as possible, has been really remarkable. It is very gratifying to come to work every day and represent the Colonels."

Family and community relationships are important principles that Metz has instilled not only into his players but also into his coaching principles.

"Coach Metz has built a great team throughout the years, with not just great players but great people," said junior forward Jake Robel. "He has great

principles, such as school coming first and basketball a very close second. He's also always preaching about how the team is basically our second family and should always look out for each other. He has a great coaching style where he takes his time to make sure everyone is on the same page."

The men's basketball team is currently preparing for their season that is anticipated to start after Jan. 1. Under strict pandemic regulations from the NCAA, the team is not allowed to do all the activities they normally would do.

"Right now, we are practicing three times a week, mainly focusing on skill development," Metz said. "We are adhering to the protocols, making sure that we temperature check before entry into the gym, as well as using masks."

Despite the regulations, Metz's vast knowledge of basketball will allow the Colonels to roll their success of previous seasons into this one.

"I really didn't play much my freshman year because of my knee injury, but from what I observed from practice, he pushes us to be successful because he knows what we are capable of doing," said sophomore guard Bradley Anacreon.

Metz and the men's basketball team are anxious to return to the court and make another run at a MAC Freedom Championship.

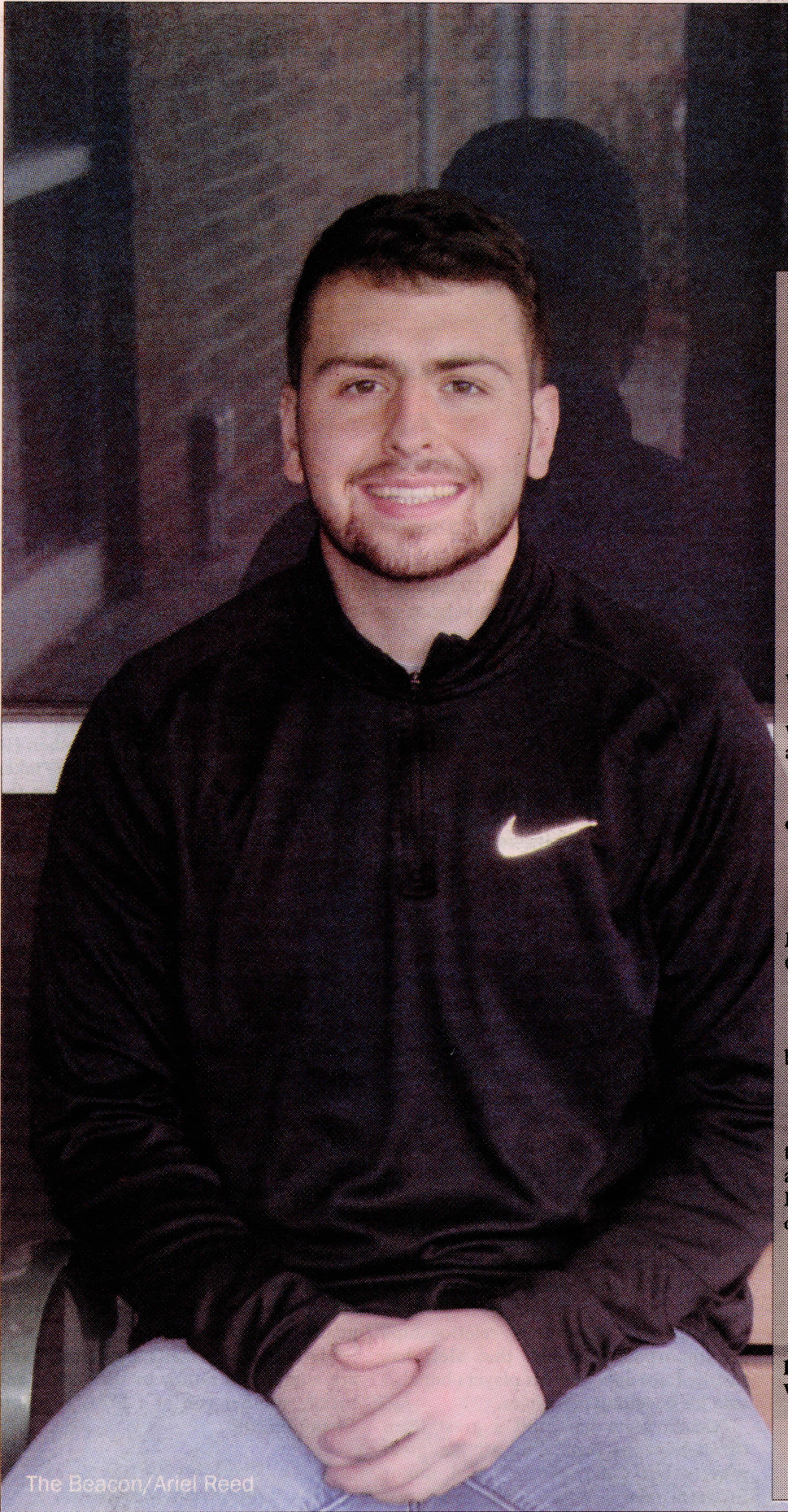


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The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Metz instructed his team during a timeout in their final game of the 2019-2020 season against FDU-Florham on Feb. 22 in the Marts Center.



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Getting to know...

# Jack Maline

## Senior Tennis Player

### The Beacon: Male Senior Spotlight

**Why Jack Maline was selected:** Maline lost his season last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, he earned this accolade based off of his efforts and the fact that he had been looking to improve upon his No. 5 singles title in the MAC individual championship from the 2018 season.

**Name:** Jack Maline  
**Year:** Senior  
**Major:** Communication Studies  
**Minor:** Music  
**Hometown:** Northport, N.Y.  
**High School:** Northport HS  
**Position:** Singles and Doubles

**Favorite building on campus?**  
 Karambelas Media & Communication Center.

**What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?**  
 Liquid IV is the new move.

**Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?**  
 I wanted to be apart of a competitive team where I could grow and become skilled on and off the field.

**If your life was a movie, who would you want to play you and why?**  
 Shia LaBeouf, enough said.

**Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?**  
 TBD.

**If you could have dinner with a famous person from the past, who would it be?**  
 John F. Kennedy.

**Favorite memory as a Colonel?**  
 My favorite memory is beating Manhattanville in the 2019 MAC Championship.

**Most influential person in your life?**  
 My parents without a doubt and Coach Terranova.

**Hopes for this season as a Colonel?**  
 I hope to leave the Wilkes men's tennis team better than how I found it.

**A quote you live your life by?**  
 "The purpose of life is not to be happy at all. It is to be useful, to be honorable. It is to be compassionate. It is to matter, to have it make some difference that you lived." – Leo Rosten

**When/Why did you first begin playing?**  
 I started playing at age seven in camps but took it seriously when I was 13. Tennis is slow and methodical – you have to think and adapt. Everything is on you, while you're still apart of a team.

**What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?**  
 "Be Colonel" means to have and live up to a higher standard. It is a privilege to be a Colonel. In being one, I am provided the opportunity to actively participate in actions for positive change. I get to be there to accept, celebrate and support my teammates, classmates and friends in their times of joy and sorrow. We all are part of this amazing community, and my goal is to make it the best community possible.

**Favorite thing to do during practice?**  
 Davis Cup Team Tennis.

**If you had to choose one thing about your program that you could improve, what would it be?**  
 Lights for the tennis courts.

**Anyone to give a shout-out to?**  
 To all the current, former and future men's tennis athletes.

**Other interests or hobbies off of the field?**  
 Music, radio and TV.

- Compiled By Ariel Reed, Co-Sports Editor

Getting to know...

# Carolee Pierce

## Senior Basketball Player

### The Beacon: Female Senior Spotlight

**Why Carolee Pierce was selected:** Pierce's leadership, both vocally and physically, are second-to-none. Her passion for basketball that pours out of her being and her willingness to help her teammates earned her this accolade.

**Name:** Carolee Pierce  
**Year:** Senior  
**Major:** Sports Management  
**Hometown:** Sidney, N.Y.  
**High School:** Sidney HS  
**Position:** Center

**If you had to choose one thing about your program that you could improve, what would it be?**  
Consistency.

**Other interests or hobbies off of the field?**  
Writing (stories, memoirs and poems). I also have a special love for all things music.

**Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?**

I wanted to continue learning from Coach Macciocco and Coach Lindsay, so I made the jump and came to Wilkes after visiting the campus and loving the overall feel of the university and its community.

**Favorite building on campus?**  
The Marts Center.

**What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?**  
I am a big fan of red Gatorade.

**Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?**

I am currently applying to graduate schools, so hopefully I can get accepted to a Sport Management/Athletic Administration program and secure a graduate assistantship as a women's basketball coach to jump-start my coaching career that way.

**If your life was a movie, who would you want to play you and why?**  
Maybe Melissa McCarthy because she is funny.

**If you could have dinner with a famous person from the past, who would it be?**  
Kobe Bryant.

**Favorite memory as a Colonel?**  
My favorite memory is beating King's my sophomore year.

**Most influential person in your life?**  
My dad.

**Hopes for this season as a Colonel?**  
I want to be able to show the other teams what we are truly made of. Our program deserves respect, and I am hoping we will get the chance to show people that.

**A quote you live your life by?**  
There are two actually, and they are both from Pat Summit: "It is what it is, but it will be what you make of it" and "Left foot, right foot, breathe, repeat."

**When/Why did you first begin playing?**

It is in my blood. My dad is a coach, so I grew up around the game. As soon as I could hold a ball and walk, I was dribbling and shooting.

**What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?**  
To me, "Be Colonel" means to give your best effort in everything you do, whether that is on the floor or off.

**Anyone to give a shout-out to?**  
Anyone who has ever been apart of my life. Thank you for making me who I am today.

**Favorite thing to do during practice?**  
Probably, post/guard split.

*-Compiled by Ariel Reed, Co-Sports Editor*



The Beacon/Ariel

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## notes

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ard@wilkes.edu

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## Events

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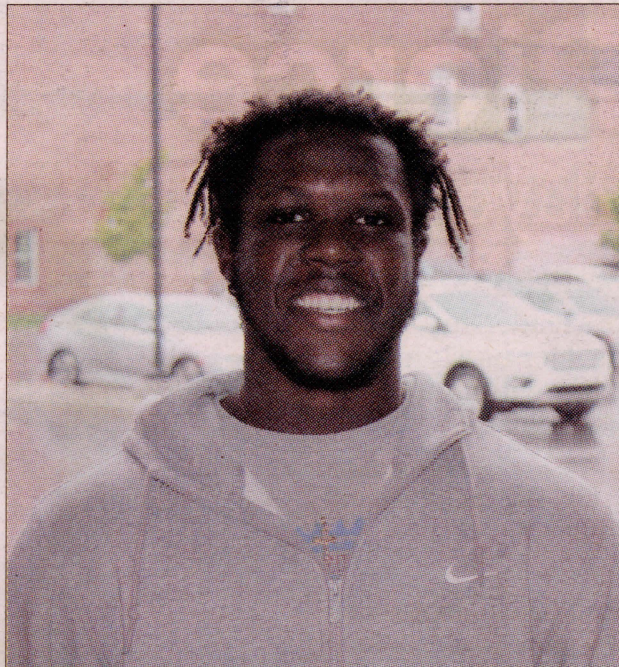
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# Sophomore athletes reflect on COVID-19's impact on practices



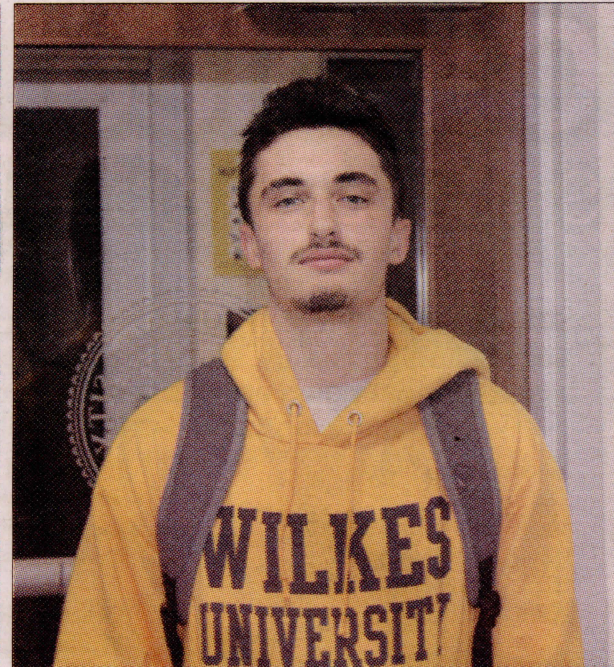
**Emily Lass, Women's Volleyball '23**

"We started off just having ten girls on each side of the court with the curtain separating us. It was a really rough start because we could not really interact with each other. We have been slowly progressing to full team practices. We now can do full six-on-six, which challenges us to be better," said Lass.



**Bradley Anacreon, Men's Basketball '23**

"With everything going on, we haven't been fully able to play indoor basketball. We started off in pods of six or seven. You could tell we all wanted to play together while in pods. Two weeks ago, we were allowed to start full team and begin playing real basketball," said Anacreon.



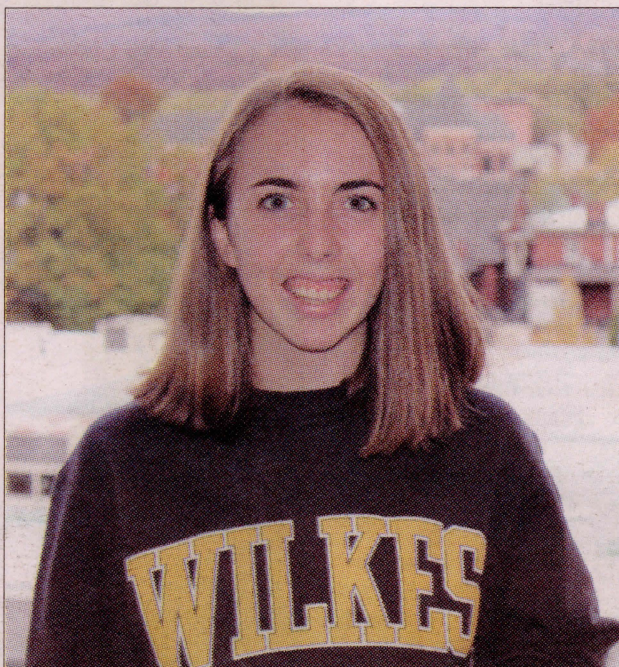
**Casey Shipman, Men's Volleyball '23**

"The incorporation of the whole team has been nice. Practice has been more intense. All the guys are getting involved, and we are all improving our skills. I am excited for the actual season to start and get back to competing with my teammates," said Shipman.



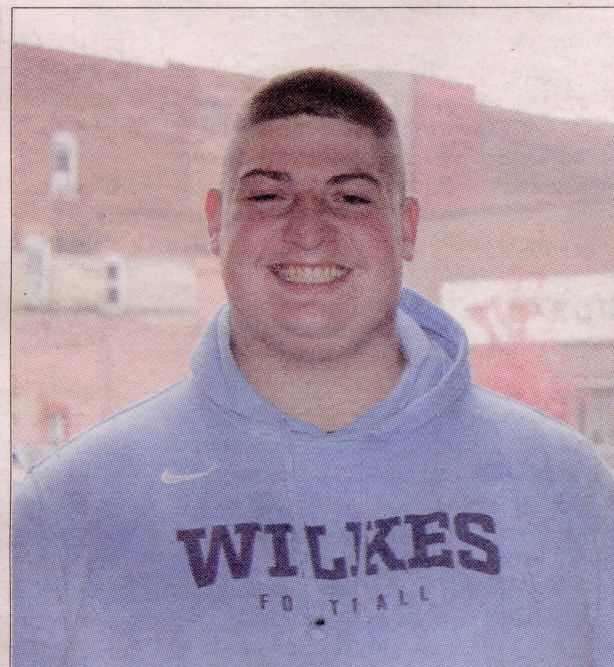
**Edwin Soto, Football '23**

"During practice, we wear masks in addition to the clear face-guards in our helmets to help further prevent the potential spread of corona. If we are doing independent skill work, we do not have to wear them, which is really nice," said Soto.



**Maura Hensel, Field Hockey '23**

"At first it was difficult to adjust to the new regulations, but I believe this will make us stronger as a team. We have adapted really well to the regulations and protocols. I am excited to get on the field with my girls again," said Hensel.



**Ryan Martel, Football '23**

"Practices have been going really well. We started off first with lifting. We then transitioned into bigger pods, then half team, and now we are about to enter into full team practices," said Martel.

- Compiled by Ariel Reed, Co-Sports Editor