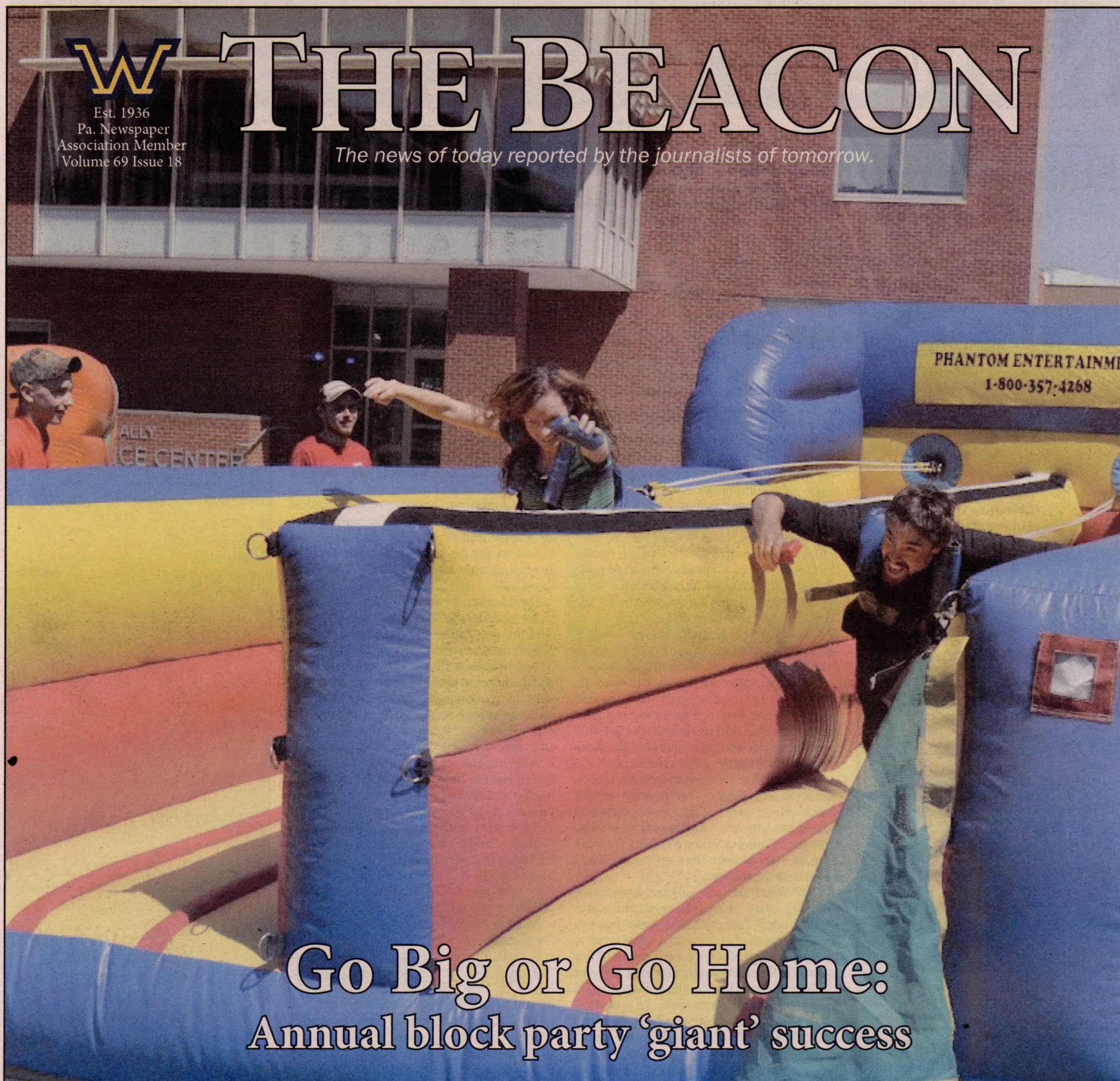


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Volume 69 Issue 18

THE BEACON

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.



Go Big or Go Home: Annual block party 'giant' success

Two students fight resistance from their bungees while racing to the end of the track; more photos on pages 4 and 8.

The Beacon/Jesse Chalnack

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

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SG Notes: Club reports, engineering, WACA Fund requests; Club recognition; ASME

By Jen Baron
Staff Writer

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

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Club delivered their annual club report. IEEE organizes the annual Engineering Olympics where students from local high schools compete for money in a competition. They are also hosting a paper contest later this month. Some fundraisers IEEE has done are selling fleece quarter zips and they are currently selling ceramic mugs. For community service, they plan to participate in the Big Event and they talk to local high school students about the engineering program at Wilkes.

The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) Club also delivered their club report. For community service, they participate in Math Counts, which is their largest event, and they also participate in Big Event with IEEE. They also will conduct an ethics panel luncheon with a panel of professional engineers.

The Ham Radio Club also delivered its club report. The members had a testing event last month and they will be having one later this month. The club works with the national weather service and participates in the same community service events as IEEE and PSPE.

The Gold Bar Club delivered its report. The club coordinates community service events for students. This year, members hosted the veterans 5K, where they worked with the Wyoming Valley Veterans Council, Toys for Tots, campus clean up in November, and letters for soldiers.

The Wilkes African Culture Association (WACA) came in to talk about the status of their club. The club has been inactive for many years, but there is a movement to bring it back and active on campus. They want to make students familiar with different cultures and give back to the community.

Enactus, a community of student, academic, and business leaders, delivered their club report and had a fund request. This year, they have had mixers, weekly executive and team meetings, as well as fundraising meetings. They also have presentation practices to prepare for

a regional competition. The club also helps coordinate the Kirby Lecture and participates in community service projects. The club has made a \$600 profit from selling T-shirts this year. Future plans include participating in club day, selling T-shirts, continuing partnerships, and attending the national competition. Enactus is requesting \$2,000 from Students Governemnt to attend a national conference in St. Louis from Mary 15th to the 18th. The funds will cover airfare and hotels. The club will vote next week on allocations.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) club made a fund request for the second week. The club requested \$1,500 for the car show on Sunday, April 17. The full amount allocated for the ASME car show.

The Human Resources (HR) Club came in for club recognition. They are trying to start the club and would like to be a Student Government recognized club. Their mission is to give students the opportunity to network with faculty and the Wilkes community. They want to create lasting connection that will promote success and service to others. The club wants to get involved in the community and research what promotes employee satisfaction and student satisfaction in order to implement those findings. Students will learn personal and professional skills and is valuable to all majors. Student Government will vote next week about the request.

The Pre-Pharmacy Club discussed additions that were made to the constitution. These include that they are an undergraduate club and they added a chairperson for the pharmacy school senate.

Event Entrepreneurship presented on the "As Colonel We All Fit Together," event that will occur on April 27 from 8 to 9:30 p.m. The event will have s'mores, t-shirt making, light it up blue sidewalks and buildings, and an autism tree. \$1,950.59 was requested.

The council reviewed the Treasurer's report. The current budget is as follows: All College: \$0.00, General Funds: \$9,168.13, Conference: \$474.10, Spirit: \$1,440 for a Student Government total of \$11,082.23.

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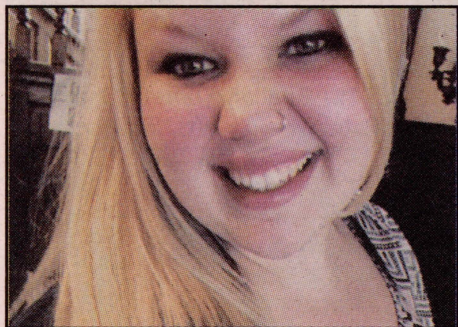
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2016 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS



STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT
Allie Grudeski

Allie Grudeski is currently a junior Pharmacy major and Business Management minor and has served as a member of Student Government for 3 years. She held the position of Executive Recording Secretary during her sophomore year with the responsibilities of taking minutes, keeping attendance, and planning the Big Event. She currently holds the position of Executive Vice President where she has worked one-on-one with clubs as well as planned the Bubble Bash and Block Party. Outside of Student Government, Allie is also a mentor to first year students as well as one of the Colonel Sidekicks.



PROGRAMMING BOARD PRESIDENT
Valerie Woods

Valerie Woods is running for the WUPB presidential position. Val served as the president for the 2015-2016 school year and discovered a love for event planning. Val is a Marketing and Management major with a leadership and women's and gender studies minor. She hails from Lancaster PA and has a love for Starbucks and traveling. She has been on WUPB since her freshman year and has headed events such as Pizza Wars, and planned the Hoodie Allen concert.



COMMUTER COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Sarah Bedford

Sarah Bedford is a junior Communication Studies and Political Science double major. Currently in her second year as Commuter Council President, she hopes to be elected for a third year into the position.

Sarah has worked to improve the commuter and off-campus parking system as well as to create a commuter lounge on campus. Prior to running, she was aware that there were obvious issues with commuter parking and felt that there was more to be done. Engaging in dialogue with both Student Affairs, Public Safety and Student Government, she continues to work towards a more succinct system to better service the student body.

Sarah hopes to continue to work and serve as a voice to commuter students.

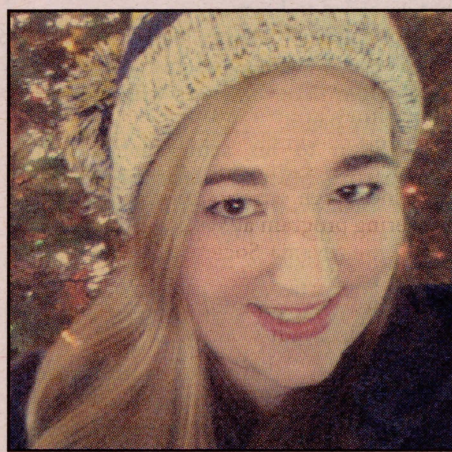


MULTICULTURAL STUDENT COALITION PRESIDENT
Santana Kiara Velez

While attending Wilkes University, Santana witnessed and played an active

role in improving the campus diversity climate. Santana also had the opportunity of mentoring students from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, and she hopes to continue to be a positive agent of change as she pursues the role of MSC president.

Santana believes that she is qualified not only from her unique experiences and interactions on campus, but also having completed safe space training, receiving the D.I.V.E silver level certificate, and having served as MSC community service coordinator for the 2015-2016 school year.



IRHC PRESIDENT
Rebecca Kilkenny

Rebecca Kilkenny is a junior electrical engineering student. She has been in the Inter-Residence Hall Council for two years; one year on the general board and another on the executive board as the parliamentarian. She is also in clubs such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE). She has helped with events such as the engineering Olympics, car show, amazing race and order of the engineers. She has helped with many of the IRHC events as well. She plans to take all of these experiences over the last three years and use them to better the Inter-Residence Hall Council, get more students involved and put on great events to get more on campus participation. She wants to plan events such as movie nights, trivia nights, and much more with the help from other executive board members and the general board.



IRHC PRESIDENT
Rachel Wood

Rachel Wood is currently a sophomore pre-pharmacy student, and will be a first year pharmacy student next school year. She served as an active general board member of IRHC her freshman year and held the position of vice president of IRHC this current year. She has had the privilege to work closely with the current president and learn how to organize and run meetings and events. She is a determined, organized person who likes to take control of situations. She is excited to help the other members' ideas for events and residence hall improvements come to life. She wants to be able to hold an event once a week for residents on campus as well as hold an event for the freshman on the first week of school to introduce them to the club.

Final call!
Polls close at
11 a.m. on
April 19!

Gardner Educational Forum; Mussari

What is success; life lessons

By Jen Baron
Staff Writer

What started out as a rainy, dreary day quickly turned to sunshine on the afternoon of April 7. Students and faculty members filed into Marts 214 and, as they sat down, they found a blank notecard on the desk in front of them. Everyone quickly realized that they needed to use the card to write down an answer to the question projected on the screen.

What is success?

This was how Dr. Tony Mussari began his lecture for the Drs. Robert S. and Judith A. Gardner Educational Forum Series. This year was Mussari's fifth year presenting at Wilkes in either classes or the lecture series.

The Educational Forum Series is a lecture series developed by the Gardners that celebrates the teaching philosophy that not all learning takes place in the classroom. Mussari was invited to strengthen and support this philosophy with his lecture titled, "Rules of the Road to Success: Life Lessons from Experience."

Since Mussari's presentation was grounded in the importance of learning from experiences, he was asked to reflect on his life and the pivotal moments that worked to shape his views and outlook on the world.

Mussari, when asked about where he grew up, described himself as a "local boy," as he is a graduate of St. Mary's High School. For postsecondary education, Mussari attended King's College where he majored in History and minored in Psychology. He received his MA in American History from Niagara University, his PhD in American History from the University of Iowa, and his EdD from Lehigh University.

In 1969, Mussari accepted a one-year visiting professorship at "a college down the street," which turned out to be a 37-year long career. While teaching at King's, Mussari and his wife, Kitch, started their own documentary film company.

The two produced numerous documentaries. Two notable ones Mussari addressed were the regional television program, Windsor Park Stories, and Face of America Journey, which they began in 2010.

Mussari said that his biggest accomplishment in the years he made documentaries was the ability to produce Windsor Park Stories with little to no funding for almost 11 years, as well as the film he and his wife made about 150th

Anniversary of the awarding of the Medal of Honor at the Medal of Honor convention in Gettysburg. Mussari describes it as "one of the most difficult undertakings of my lifetime."

When asked to describe his personal philosophy of teaching, part of it revolved around the ideas of experiential learning and making students accountable. What is most important, Mussari explained, is when "a teacher tells students what they need to know, not what they want to know."

The most important educational experience of Mussari's life came when he was a junior in high school and his teacher told him, "When I assign five pages, from now on, you will do 10." His teacher saw potential in him, pushed him, and told him what he needed to hear.

When talking about this moment, Mussari said, "It changed my entire life because, from then on, I was willing to do the extra five pages."

In addition to his achievements with documentaries, Mussari was asked to share what he believes have been his biggest accomplishments in life. In the realm of education, Mussari is most proud of his ability to take a fledgling program in mass communications and turn it into a very successful program.

What Mussari explained to be his biggest accomplishment in life was not something that many people would even consider. Most often, accomplishments are determined by success, but Mussari said that being able to deal with any crisis that comes along in life is what he has been most proud of.

As the interview came to an end, Mussari was asked: If you could send a message to the world in 30 seconds, what would it be? First, Mussari recited a prayer that he says every night: "Lord let us find a pathway to peace in our communities, in our countries, and across the world."

He then continued with his message stating, "We have to learn how to love one another and how to understand one another, especially those people who are different than we are. We have to find a way to stop the carnage that just draws all of our energy. We have to find a way to reach out to one another, across the divide, and appreciate our humanness, our potential, our fragileness, and our need to love. We need a new army of the kind."



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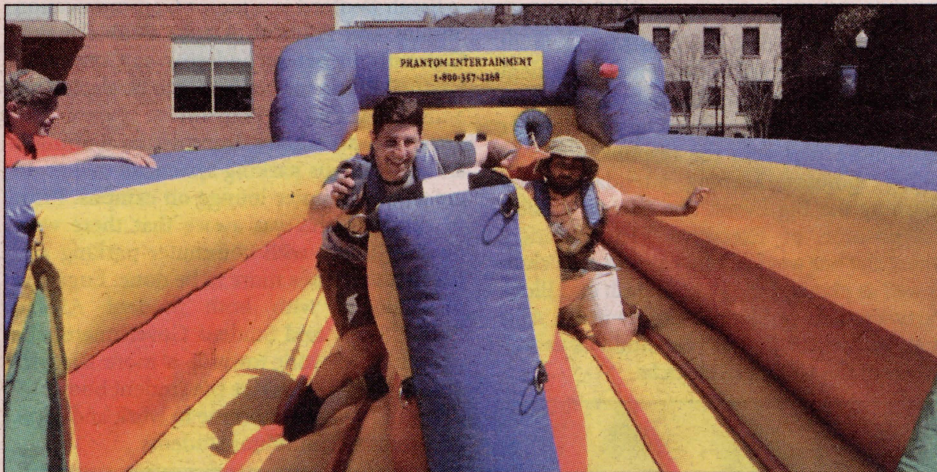
Block Party Fun on the Greenway

More photos on page 8



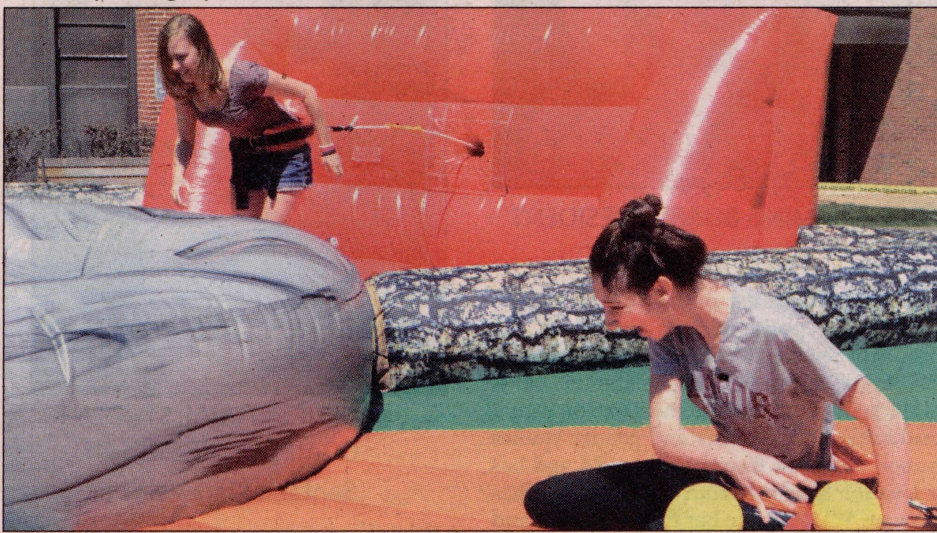
The Beacon/Jesse Chalnack

Human Wilkes students weren't the only ones having fun at the Block Party.



The Beacon/Theresa Couchara

Beacon photographers Jesse Chalnack and Purvit Patel weren't left out either.



The Beacon/Jesse Chalnack

Students get a chance to try their hand at being a hungry hippo.

WGS department holds product drive to benefit local homeless

By Toni Pennello
Staff Writer

A Huffington Post article written by Jessica Kane last May calculated that a woman will spend an estimated \$18,171 in her lifetime to take care of a bodily function over which she has no control: her menstrual cycle. That's \$18,171 more dollars than a person with a Y chromosome will spend.

Why is that extra X chromosome so expensive, and how do local homeless women tend to this inevitable monthly issue? The Women's and Gender Studies Department at Wilkes is taking a step to help women overcome this obstacle.

The Women's and Gender Studies department is holding a feminine hygiene drive, from which 100 percent of proceeds will go to Ruth's Place, a local women's shelter.

The department is requesting pads, tampons, baby wipes, panty liners and other feminine hygiene products, as well as coupons for these products. Donations can

be brought to Breiseth 323, the SUB lounge, or donation boxes located in residence halls.

"When people think homeless, they think of veterans and drug addicts, but they think of men, because women have kids and stuff, so it's so much less safe for women to be homeless," said Dr. Jennifer Thomas, chair of

the department.

The drive was the brain-child of psychology major and women's studies intern Alexandra Devarie, who said she was inspired by it being Victims' Awareness Month.

"I wanted (Alexandra) to put on an event, and internationally menstruation is a barrier

to women's education," Thomas stated.

Thomas pointed out the efforts taking place in third world countries, where girls' periods are causing them to miss a significant amount of school because they lack the funds for hygiene products and may lack water in schools.

"That leads us to here to where we take for granted how expensive it is to be a woman compared to a man," Thomas said, adding that the discussion was brought up in class and one of her male students had never thought of the issue of menstruation in homeless women before.

In addition to the drive, which is projected to be taking place until late May, the department will be making other fundraising efforts, which students can keep an eye out for.

"We are definitely going to do a bake sale type deal to fund raise and we will also have a donation jar that individuals can feel free to donate to if they wish," Devarie said.

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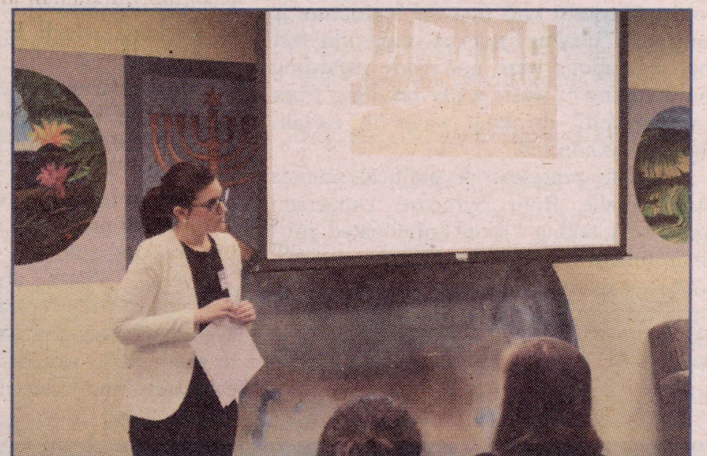
Courtesy of Alexandra Devarie

Wilkes, Kings: Women's and Gender Studies Conference



The Beacon/Jesse Chalnack

Students, faculty and staff from Wilkes University and King's College gathered on April 11 and 12 for the 5th annual Women and Gender Studies Conference on Women, Politics and Activism. Students teamed up with faculty to discuss prevalent issues on a variety of topics.



A very "fracking" spirited panel, April 14 panel discussion

By Toni Pennello
Staff Writer

"Frack it or Leave it," a panel discussion which took place on April 14 in the Henry Student Center Ballroom, spurred a discussion of opposing viewpoints as well as some anger in the audience.

The panel was moderated by Wilkes political science professor Dr. Thomas Baldino, who began by thanking political science honor society Pi Sigma Alpha who provided most of the funding as well as Department Chair Dr. Kyle Kreider and Dean Paul Riggs and other administrative staff who provided support.

The panel was kicked off by Philadelphia Inquirer journalist Andrew Maykuth, who presented what Baldino described as an unbiased viewpoint.

Maykuth discussed the great strides that have been made in the industry of fracking, pointing out that in his recent time visiting fracking sites he has noticed that efforts have "moved out of exploration and into production." He described the boom of shale gas drilling by saying "immediate economic prosperity trumped environmental concerns."

When discussing Pennsylvania's fracking policy, Maykuth said that the legislature is constantly "playing catch-up," citing the fact that regulations were not made regarding the dumping of waste water resulting from fracking until drinking water in certain regions was affected.

Associate professor of political science Sarah Pralle from Syracuse University spoke next, taking a more opinionated, pro-environment stance on the issue.

She explained that she and her environmentally sensitive colleagues initially saw the drilling of shale gas as a good thing, because it would burn cleaner than other fossil fuels such as coal and oil. However,

the sentiment changed as soon as the other environmental impacts were explored.

According to Pralle, the federal government has been fairly "MIA" when it comes to fracking policy, leaving the jurisdiction to regulate in the hands of states and localities.

The fracking industry, according to Pralle, is exempt from certain laws that would regulate it such as the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the usually mandatory submission of a toxic release form that would list the toxins that might enter the environment from fracking.

"Congress isn't doing much of anything these days, which supports the status quo," Pralle said.

Pralle also explained that the uncertainty associated with the environmental effects of fracking has bred mistrust among citizens, as has the arguably sketchy nature of the industry's evasion of regulations.

Michael Helbing, an attorney from Pennfuture presented another anti-fracking case, talking about specific environmental impacts of fracking, and spent a lot of time discussing methane emissions.

The methane emissions, Helbing explained, were significant contributors to the greenhouse effect and climate change. Helbing also discussed opposing advantages to fracking, which he said are "new and significant."

Other environmental concerns addressed by Helbing were deforestation, chemicals, air quality, destruction of infrastructure, and more.

Attorney Lee S. Piatt of Rosenn Jenkins and Greenwald proposed the only moderately pro-fracking stance.

Overall, Piatt's argument, which he described as the "common sense, layman's" argument, was that leaving natural gases in the ground would be detrimental to the economy, and also that not using shale

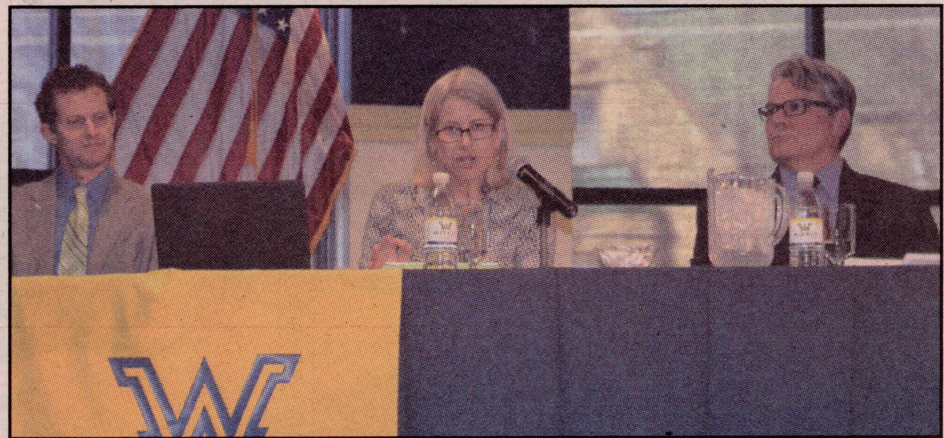
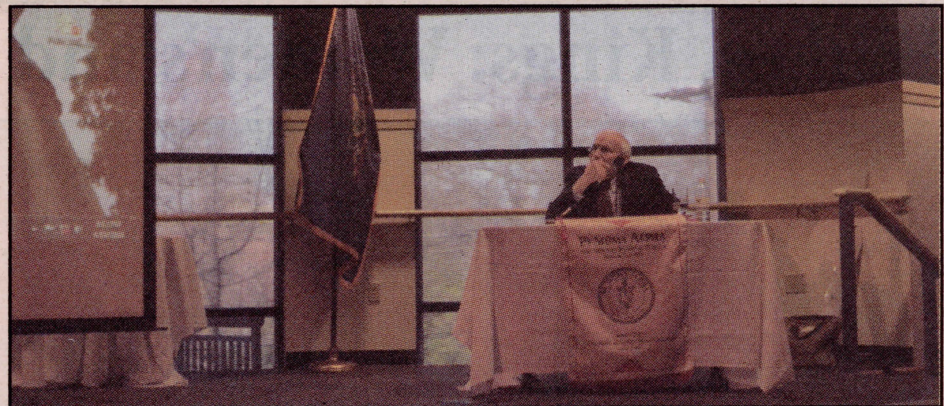
gas would be more detrimental to the environment than using it. This is because the shale gas is a cleaner alternative to other fossil fuels.

Shale gas would present "some degree of improvement," according to Piatt.

The panel was relatively uneventful and smooth until the questions section of the panel. Two audience members took the opportunity to present their own opinions

on the issue of fracking, and both were overwhelmingly opposed. One audience member called angrily for the destruction of capitalism, while the other directed his loud, angry comment about the benefits of fracking not outweighing the detriments at Piatt.

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The Beacon/ Toni Pennello

Top- From left to right: Michael Helbing, Lee S. Piatt, Sarah Pralle, and Andrew Maykuth

Center- Dr. Thomas Baldino moderates the panel discussion.

Bottom- Sarah Pralle presents her discussion with Helbing and Maykuth to her left and right.

On April 14, a panel focused on the pros and cons of fracking with the help of Wilkes University political science department and various professionals.

At the end of the discussion, the floor was open to questions that sparked heated conversation from some audience members.

Life, Arts & Entertainment

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

Rhyming to his future wife; surprise proposal happens at Talent Show

By Kimberly Hein
Staff Writer

Corey Bullock had a special performance planned for the MSC Talent Show on April 7. He performed a rap where he proposed to his girlfriend of 2 years and 9 months, Emily Grullon.

At the end of the rap, he said the line "As long as I got you, I know I'll be alright. Forever in my life so I gotta ask," and then he asked her that one special question to become his wife.

When Corey got down on one knee, the whole crowd flooded around the couple whether it was to get a picture, or just to see what was going on.

Senior, Tyheed Jackson, one of the hosts at the talent show said, "There were tears coming out of people's eyes; it was a really cool experience!"

"She didn't see it coming at all. I told her I was performing one of my other songs and I even went as far as to practice that song in front of her to make sure she had no idea. Once the slide show came on and she saw her picture on the screen, I think she started to question everything. Her

face was priceless," Bullock said.

Grullon admits that she was speechless while the proposal was happening.

"I was so confused when I saw my picture pop up. I thought to myself, 'Oh my gosh what is he about to do?' I looked at him probably with a confused look on my face and he just smiled at me from the stage," Grullon stated.

As soon as she heard him start rapping, she instantly got butterflies. She said that the rap was beautiful and the lyrics meant so much to her.

"We didn't look away from each other the entire time he was rapping. It was just such a special moment," she continued.

Leading up to the proposal, Bullock only told people on a need-to-know basis. He told the people that he needed help from to pull it off as well as her family.

Tyheed Jackson was one of the few people who had to keep this secret and he admits that seeing this take place was a very cool experience.

"I didn't know how to react so I just screamed and was smiling from ear to ear. It was very exciting and I wish them the

best of luck. Corey stole the show with the proposal and I give him a lot of respect for preparing a song and expressing his love for his fiancé," Jackson said.

The couple began talking when Grullon lived in Florida and Bullock lived in Wilkes-Barre. After about six months of talking long distance, Grullon moved back to Wilkes-Barre. The couple instantly had their first date that took place at the mall.

"The second I started walking towards him, he ran over to me and lifted me up and hugged me. We just spent the date walking, talking and goofing around. I was incredibly nervous so his silliness definitely helped to break the ice," Grullon stated in regards to the date.


"As corny as this sounds I would say I knew I wanted to marry her the very first day we met when she came back up from Florida," Bullock stated.

When looking towards the future, Grullon said that she is looking forward to marrying the love of her life and being able to come home to her husband. She said that it will be nice knowing that no matter what happens throughout the day,

she knows that it would be okay because she would be able to see him at home and he will make everything better.

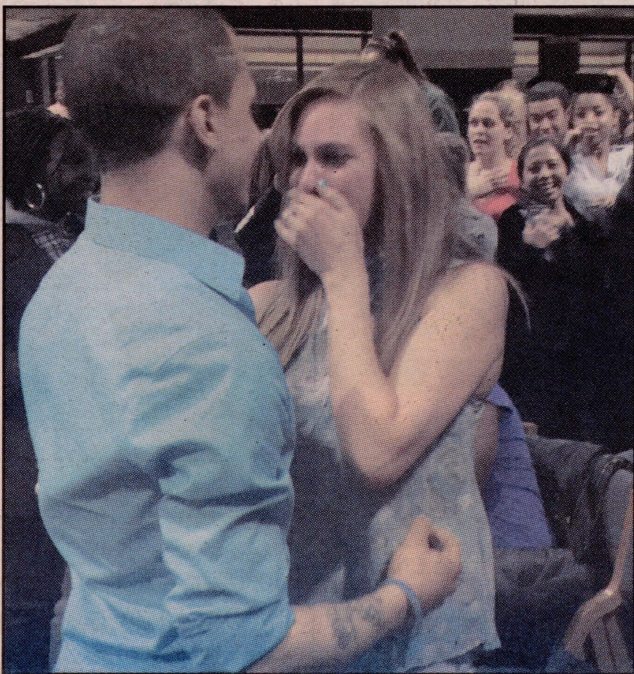
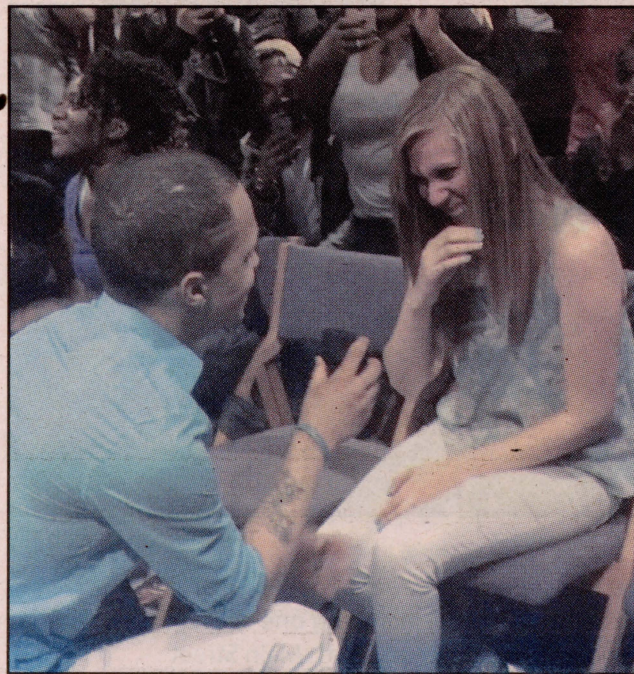
When talking about life after college, Bullock said, "I'm not the materialistic type of person. Whether I'm working a career in criminology or if my music gets bigger, either way I'll be happy and successful because I already have the most important part of my life, and that's Emily. I know we both have a bright and exciting future ahead of us."

Bullock admits that he went back and forth with nerves before the proposal. He said, "For the most part though, I wasn't nervous because we've been together so long, we are one another's rock. I found my soul mate, and I knew it was all going to be alright."

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Photos Courtesy of Bullock and Grullon

On April 7, Corey Bullock performed a rap song to propose to Emily Grullon during the MSC Talent Show.



'Go Big or Go Home' Block Party



The Beacon/Jesse Chalnack

President Leahy watches and takes photos as students play a life-size version of Hungry Hungry Hippos.



The Beacon/Jesse Chalnack

Beacon photographer Purvit Patel, sophomore, and Ally Rossi, sophomore, duke it out with giant crayons.

Victim's Resource Center Shares Messages

By Austin Ely
Asst. Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Victim's Resource Center has set up a number of powerful displays throughout the Greater Wilkes-Barre region, including one within the café of our Barnes and Noble College Bookstore located on South Main Street in Wilkes-Barre.

The displays provide victims of violence, sexual assault and rape a chance to tell their stories of survival, while demonstrating to the community a small sample of the violent acts that haunt members of our own communities.

The first display is called the "Clothesline Project" and consists of shirts designed by survivors or family members of victims of rape, sexual assault and incest.

According to the display, the shirts are made by victims from Wyoming, Luzerne and Carbon counties. The "Clothesline Project" is part of a national and international project, which gives

survivors and victims a face and voice against the violence they experienced.

The second display featured within Barnes and Noble and across the Wyoming Valley is known as the "Shoe Project." This display consists of the shoes worn by sexual assault victims accompanied by a sheet of paper giving a glimpse into the various situations in which these men, women and children found themselves victimized.

"This is the shoe they found in his backyard the next day," said one of the attached stories. "They still haven't found me."

On the display card, the Victims Resource Center provides a support number, 1-610-379-0151, for those experiencing or those who knows someone who is experiencing sexual violence. It also suggests visiting their website, www.vrcnepa.org for information about services and help.

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The Beacon/Austin Ely

The Victim's Resource Center has set up a number of powerful displays throughout the Greater Wilkes-Barre region, including one within the café of our Barnes and Noble College Bookstore located on South Main Street.

Reach New Heights with 'Vertical Dancing'

By Amanda Bialek
Staff Writer

Why not come out and climb to new heights at the Wilkes Rock Wall or Rock Gym? Whether you want to observe, belay or climb, there is something for everyone to try.

There is open rock wall climbing available to students on Mondays and Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. in the University Center on Main (UCOM). The rock wall is about 30 feet tall and offers both beginner to more advanced climbing.

Students also have the opportunity to climb at the Wilkes-Barre Rock Climbing Gym located on South Main Street. The gym is open for students every week on Wednesday nights from 5 to 10 p.m. It

costs \$10 for an entire semester to climb at the Rock Gym.

"It's a local run business, and it's a facility that has everything from no rope climbing, which is called bouldering, to lead climbing which is pretty advanced techniques," said Jill Price, adventure education coordinator.

According to indoorclimbing.com, rock climbing gives you a great workout that both the mind and body will benefit from.

Climbing as exercise helps you learn mental control, practice strength training, engages all of your muscle groups, and also improves your balance and coordination skills.

Price recalls that her heart was beating very strong during her first time rock climbing in North Carolina because she was so excited to have discovered something new.

"I climbed up to the top really fast and then I didn't know how I was going to get down," Price said. "My legs were shaking like crazy from both excitement and the unknown."

Price enjoys moving and turning her feet and leaning back while climbing.

"I like rock climbing for its physical contortion," she said.

Price finds this activity to be mentally relieving because you can't really think of anything else when you are focusing on the climbing in front of you.

Rock climbing, which is also called "vertical dancing," is not only an exhilarating experience but it also allows people to connect with others and hang out together for a good time.

If you're nervous about climbing for first time, Price recommends coming and learning how to belay.

According to climbing.about.com, belaying is the technique for holding the climbing rope and turning it into a safety tool to make sure that the climber is secure.

"Sometimes once you understand how something works its easier to trust it," Price said.


Wilkes offers free rock climbing and has access to additional climbing that is offered at an

inexpensive price at the local Rock Gym.

"It's a pretty amazing opportunity to fill your bucket up with some recreation that otherwise costs a lot outside of this environment," Price said.

For more information, please contact Jill Price at jill.price@wilkes.edu or the Wilkes-Barre Rock Gym at 570-824-7633.

Wilkes Adventure Education is also planning a number of trips and excursions to celebrate the warmer spring weather. To see what types of adventures could be in store for our students, those within the Wilkes University community are encouraged to contact Price or stop in to the office.

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Climbing Club Encourages New Members to Join

By Jacob Chielli
Contributing Writer

With one member, the Wilkes University Climbing Club is off to a rocky start. According to club president David Heinz, a freshman environmental engineering major at Wilkes University, the club is starting at square one and struggling to get a footing.

Although the club has been around more than a decade, it is entering another rebuilding stage. Jill Price, Adventure Education coordinator and adviser to the Climbing Club, says this is because the club recently had a lot of leaders who graduated. Now, there is new leadership in place and she is expecting growth to follow.

Another reason why the Climbing Club is struggling to gain new members is because people are not aware it exists. The Climbing Club was not present during Club Day, where students get a chance to review all the student-run, extra-curricular activities.

Despite the lack of members, the club is in a good position to take off at any time. Wilkes-Barre sports two different climbing walls, both of which have different qualities to offer climbers of all skill levels. The first climbing wall

available to the club is in the campus' UCOM gymnasium.

"Our wall is a great spot to learn basic skills," Price said.

The best part is that the gym is free to Wilkes students. On the other hand, the Wilkes-Barre Rock Gym costs \$9 per person for a day pass, but there are some benefits to that location.


"The other gym (Rock Gym) has a lot more to explore. It's great for people to learn, and for people who know a lot, to challenge themselves," she added.

Many people are unaware of how challenging rock climbing actually is.

"You will gain a new level of mental toughness and concentration," said Heinz, adding, "you can go at your own pace or you can challenge yourself as much as you want."

Currently, Heinz is trying to determine the level of interest people have in climbing as an activity. If it is determined that there is not enough interest to form a club, Heinz intends to go on rock climbing events that are sponsored by Adventure Education.

This means that in the future the Climbing Club and Adventure Education may eventually morph together.

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Have any article topics you would like The Beacon to cover?

Let us know on Twitter!

Showcasing a wide range of talent from Kings and Wilkes students

By Carlie Coolbaugh
Staff Writer

Lights, camera, action!

On April 7, the MSC hosted the annual Wilkes-Kings Talent Show. The Multicultural Student Coalition group celebrates the diversity that is brought to Wilkes University and the community of Wilkes-Barre.

The interesting aspect of this year's talent show was that King's College student performers were pinned against the Wilkes University student performers.

During the event, many of the acts ranged from singing and dancing, to baton twirling and magic.

Raffle prizes were offered to attendees. Specific performances helped the Wilkes-Kings judge panel narrow down the winners of the MSC 4th Annual Talent Show.

Nicole Boyce, Kings, performed Adele's

"Someone Like You" which landed her third place. Jasleen Kaur, Kings, performed a classic-modern mix Bollywood dance which awarded her second place.

The first place winners claimed their title by performing a series of dances to a song mashup.

The group included Wilkes student's Shamiah Baker, Kala Walker, Nia Williams, Michael Carberry and Nshimirimana Zawadi.

Along with the amazing acts performed on that night, a freestyle rap ended in a successful proposal with two of our own Wilkes University students. Corey Bullock and Emily Grullon.

The Multicultural Student Coalition holds activities through-out the year to help motivate intercultural understanding.



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The Beacon/ Carlie Coolbaugh

Wilkes students, winners of the MSC Talent Show, perform their dance to a song mashup.



The Beacon/ Carlie Coolbaugh

Wilkes student, Javier Rodriguez performed at the MSC Talent Show on April 7. Rodriguez sang while his peer, Jared Powell, not pictured, freestyle rapped.

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Wilkes club urges community to go green with reusable bottles

By Carlie Coolbaugh
Staff Writer

U.S. landfills are overflowing with 2 million tons of discarded water bottles alone. Water bottles have become more than a luxury since the production of them in the 1970's.

Wilkes University encourages students to go green and support the effort for a more eco-centric community.

The SES Club, Students for Environmental Sustainability, works with many environmental organizations to help encourage university students, faculty and the community of Wilkes Barre to recycle if they are using water bottles or to stop using them completely. Their main goal is to educate people on the harmful effects plastics pose on the earth.

"SES has tried reducing the use of plastics on Wilkes' campus by educating students about plastic water bottles and the threat they pose to the environment," Rachel Hodgins, sophomore environmental

engineering major and Vice President of the SES said.

During the fall semester, the students of SES conducted an experiment. They had other students taste test bottled water and tap water. Fifty percent of the students preferred bottled, 33 percent preferred the tap and 17 percent saw no difference between the two. In the end, both waters were from the exact same source.

"We had a Water Taste Test Table in the SUB during club hours where students were able to taste two different types of water: filtered and tap. The cups were labeled with numbers so they had no idea which water they were drinking," stated Hodgins.

Members of the SES keep urging students to use reusable water bottles and replace bottled water with filtration systems. Both are effective ways to stay green and save some green.



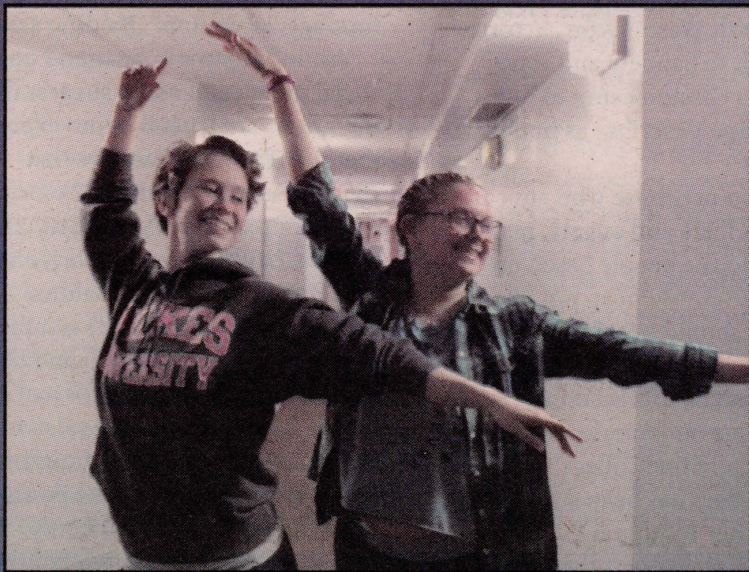
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The Beacon/ Nicole Zukowski

Harry the humpback whale rests on tables in the SUB as a reminder for the Wilkes community to reduce plastic use for a better environment.

HUMANS OF WILKES UNIVERSITY

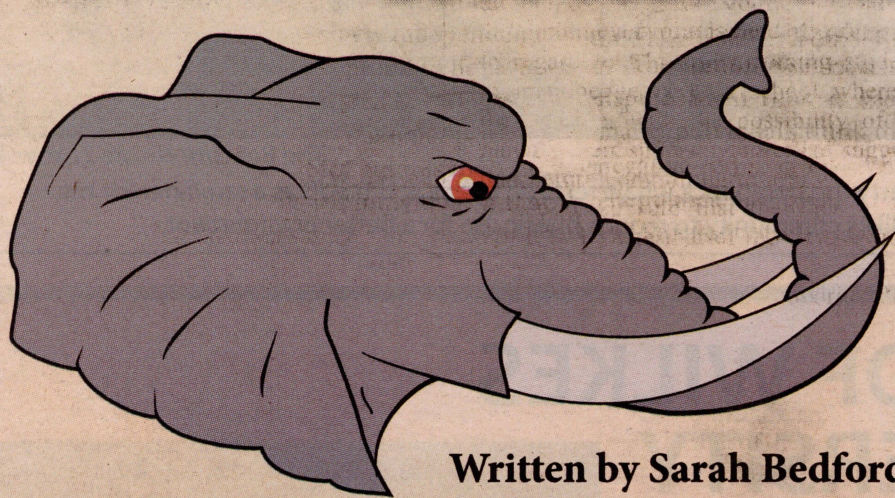


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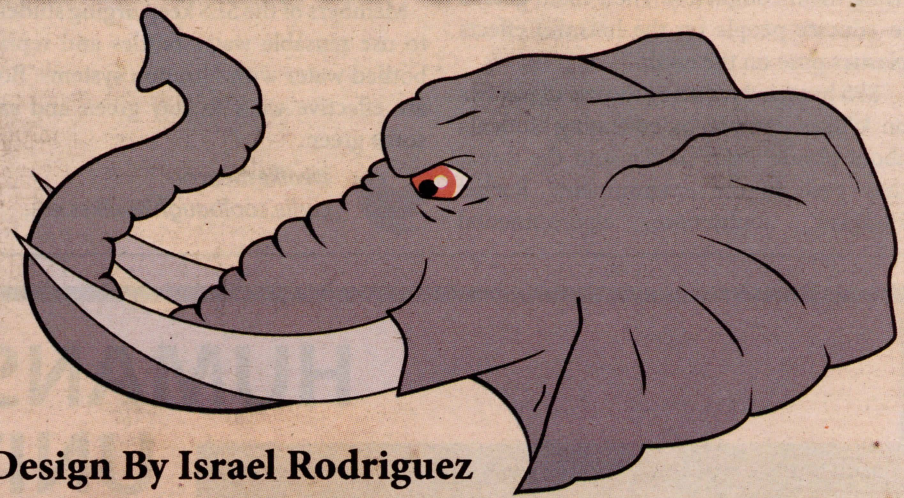
"We are dancing together in a huge dance recital/concert on April 23rd. We have a tap routine to the song "Happy." We've been practicing together since the start of the semester. The hardest part about all of the practicing and just learning the routine is probably us not sweating our buns off. The room that we practice in is so hot."

-Allyson Spak and Hayley Bundz

CHANGING IMAGE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY: 2016 ELECTION ALTERS STATUS QUO



Written by Sarah Bedford



Design By Israel Rodriguez

History may repeat itself in the 2016 election as a potential Republican Party realignment may be taking place.

According to Wilkes University political science professor, Dr. Thomas Baldino, the stances taken by Republican front-runner Donald Trump reflect those of 40th President of the United States, Ronald Reagan.

"I think we're seeing the same thing now. Trump's appealing to the same kind of voters Reagan appealed to: People who are socially conservative," and "law and order types," Baldino explained.

Trump has been dominating the headlines as his campaign to the

presidency continues to shock and draw attention from the American electorate.

Baldino explained that much of Trump's appeal to voters is that he acknowledges their fears and emphasizes with those angered by Washington gridlock.

"There are thoughtful people who are Trump supporters because they are angry," Baldino said. "So you have Trump tapping into this other side of the electorate. They feel the government hasn't been tough enough on things like immigration."

Baldino explained that Trump is not the only candidate gaining attention in this way. Democratic candidate, Sen. Bernie Sanders, has employed similar tactics.

As more democrats also become angered with Washington rhetoric, many flock to Sanders and leave the Hillary Clinton camp to join what Baldino describes as populist politicians.

Populists are those who appeal to people's fears and angers, making promises to the people based on "what the people want to hear, not necessarily what they should hear," Baldino explained.

For Sanders, this is connecting to young voters on issues such as higher education and free college tuition. While Sanders has been successful in reaching that demographic through social media, that isn't the only reason millennials support him.

"It's not solely social media... the message is genuine," Baldino said.

While Trump can be found on social media and many suggest that his intentions are true, Baldino explains that it is Trump's character that captures voters' attention.

"Trump built his candidacy around himself. Without that celebrity he wouldn't be who he is," Baldino explained. "It's Trump. It's not his position per se, it's Trump and how he represents those issues."

The appeal to Trump is also in his ability to target some portions of the entire Republican party while also reaching out to Democrats who feel the country is going in a direction they do not agree with.

The Four Branches of the Republican Party

Baldino explained that since the 1980s, the Republican Party can be broken into four categories: the establishment, libertarians, neo conservatives and the socially/religiously conservative.

All of the four categories existed under the Reagan administration.

Establishment Republicans are those who focus on financial security, capitalism, free enterprise and minimal government involvement.

The libertarian wing wants no government involvement.

Neo conservatives are typically identified as the militant wing of party who project American authority and force on world stage. They are also known as "war hawks."

Those who are part of the socially/religiously conservative were not part of politics until the Reagan administration brought them in and shared similar religious sentiments.

While Trump is able to gain supporters from both the right and left, it has many questioning what the new Republican party and who has found a place within the party.

The Changing Image

When one says "Republican" the image that may come to mind is white, affluent and male.

But that is not what the typical Republican looks like today.

Kyle Thomas, 19, explained that in many ways he does fit the Republican mold, except for one category.

"Probably the fact that I'm a homosexual," Thomas explained, "(and) maybe because I'm not a 50-year-old man," he added, laughing.

Thomas explained that he sees the party changing in many ways as older generations die and the Millennial generation takes a new role.

"I feel like it's shifting just because the people with the extreme old

fashion values - this is going to sound harsh - are dying. The new people coming into it have progressive views," Thomas said.

"In the world now, you have to be more accepting and not judging," adding, "I think we're going to be open to more ideas."

Some Republicans attribute this change to the independence of Republican voters.

Dave Baloga, 57, elected Pennsylvania Representative Party State Committeeman who also serves as a union president, explained that many Republicans are not straight ticket voters and enjoy choice.

"The beauty of Republican voters is that they are fiercely independent. We are immensely proud to be recognized as mavericks," Baloga said. "That causes problems as it fragments the votes but it is the spirit of the rugged individual... that makes us this way."

Baloga explained that even the use of party alignment isn't as relevant to voters as it may appear.

"It is the ideals we desire, each one's criteria is individually suited to the voter. It is tough for a Republican to vote straight party; it just does not feel right."

Baloga explained that the Republican Party has become a traditional party as more voters and politicians find that societal views are changing.

"It was an exciting time to see the huge field of Republican candidates speaking about more than the classic talking points as habitually has occurred in past presidential primaries," Baloga said. "Now the narrow field is facing even more scrutiny as they are grilled on evolving situations nationally as well as globally. The lines between the parties are very starkly illustrated."

Ronald Espinosa, 22, who is the current Pennsylvania Deputy Director for Students4Trump explained that Trump has a way of addressing these values of the

electorate while showing he has no favors to give to anyone.

"People have to keep in mind it's his whole stance," Espinosa said. "He doesn't have supporters or backers."

Thomas agreed, saying, "I think the fact that he has so much money and he could do whatever he wanted, but he's taking time out of his life to run for president, says a lot."

Espinosa added his unique perspective as an immigrant from Brazil and how his views are most reflective of Trumps.

"I'm an immigrant... people make it seem that he doesn't want them to be here," Espinosa said on Trump's policy. "He wants them to do it the right way... everyone is held accountable."

The common sentiment between Espinosa and Thomas was that many individual's think there is a negative connotation with the term "Republican."

"People try to hide it but I don't

think you should hide the things you believe in," Espinosa said. "Everyone is entitled to their opinion and to have a voice."

"I feel like everyone was too scared to say it because they were afraid this party won't accept me because I am this," Thomas said.

That is why Espinosa said Students4Trump has had so much success.

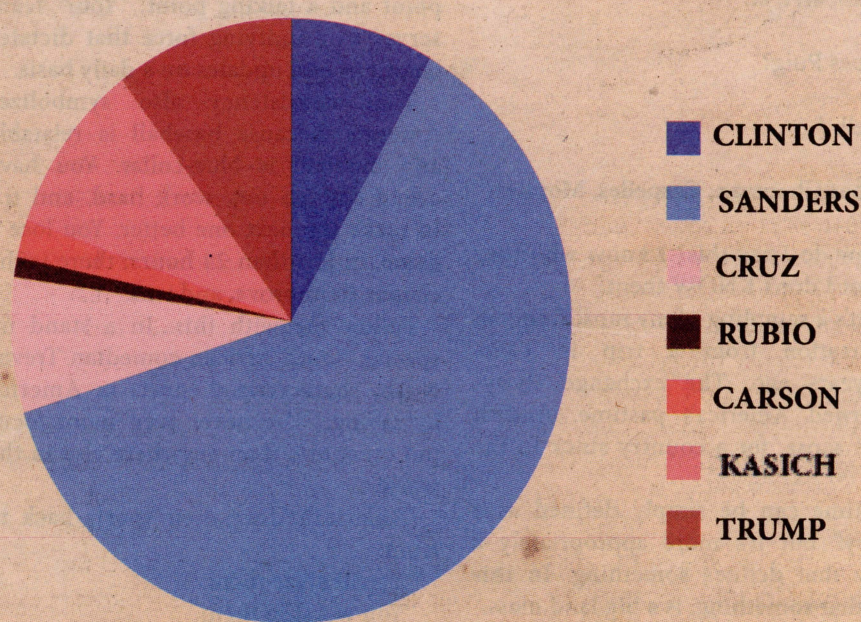
"It's nice to be around like minded people," Espinosa said. "People aren't judging you."

To join Students4Trump, students can reach out to Espinosa at ronald.espinosa@wilkes.edu. The group can also be followed @Wilkes4Trump on Twitter.



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RESULTS TO STUDENT MOCK ELECTION



On April 8, high school students from across the region participated in a mock election at the 16th annual Tom Bigler Journalism Conference. In total, 101 students participated.

Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact the opinion editor: sara.pisak@wilkes.edu

Why baseball is America's pastime

Local sports director offers insight into baseball as a unifying culture

By Eric DeBerardinis
Guest Writer

Eric DeBerardinis is the Sports Director at WYLN-TV in Hazleton, covering all that Northeastern Pennsylvania has to offer. He is a 2014 graduate of Penn State University and is originally from outside of Philadelphia.

Estados Unidos?"

"Yeah!"

"Beisbol?"

"Yeah, errr, si!"

"Sabes Puig?"

"Well..."

"Sabes Chapman, Cespedes, Morales?"

"How do I say this? I know who they are, but I don't KNOW them."

That's a sampling of my most frequent conversation from a trip to Cuba two years ago. The exchange always concerned America's pastime. And it makes sense, for a country stuck in the past.

Pastime can be simply defined as a "hobby," but it's more appropriately a hobby that defines something. In this case, that something, is a big land mass.

Third grade teachers stress the difference of homophones, "past" and "passed," but in this regard, the words serve the same purpose.

Examining the history of what we consider the "Big 4" sports in America, baseball has the longest 'past'. The first

baseball game was played in 1846, nearly three decades before the first hockey game (1875), three-plus decades before football and four-plus before basketball. The advantage of time and the exposure due to time is a huge benefit.

Examining the very nature of baseball, it's a sport that literally passed time. No clock, no ties, non-stop for six months out of the year. Since the start of the 20th century, Major League Baseball regular seasons have consisted of somewhere between 140 and 162 games.

That everyday presence is essential to the growth and popularity baseball experienced from the sport's infancy, even up until now. For half a year, baseball was and still can be a rallying point and a talking point. "Your" team serves as a unifying force that dictates emotions and updates on a daily basis.

That consistency also symbolizes America, because baseball is relatable and baseball is blue-collar. You have a bad day, go out, work hard, and try to make the next one better. You lose a game, in less than 24 hours, there is the chance to improve, and win.

Follow me with this...In a stand up special, South African comedian Trevor Noah, characterized sports in America by saying, "I've never seen more focus put on sports than anywhere else in the world."

"Americans love their sports back to front.

"You analyze them.

"You worship them.

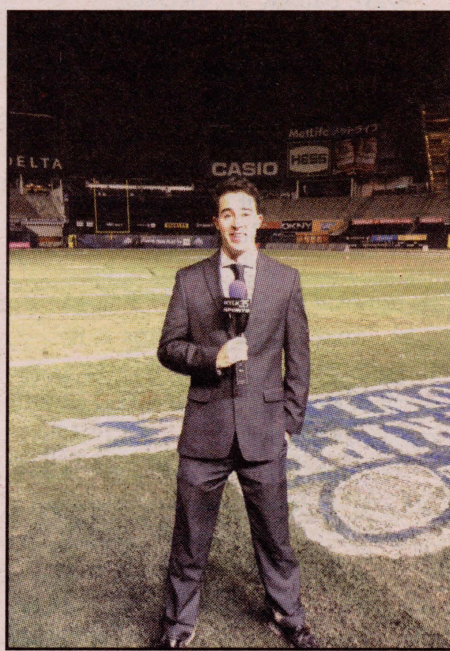
"You watch the game before the game.

"You watch the game after the game.

"You talk about what might happen in the game.

"You talk about what's happening in the game.

"You talk about what happened in the



Courtesy of Eric DeBerardinis

game, and what could have and might have, but didn't happen in the game.

"It's the craziest thing I've seen in my life."

That's what sports do, here.

That's what sports mean, here. And when we started 'that', baseball took a more than comfortable lead off first, compared to others.

The media, as always, certainly played a role in developing the "America's pastime" reputation and America's reputation for "putting more focus on sports than anywhere else in the world".

The comprehensive analysis began with newspapers and letters to newspaper editors and barbershop chats about what was written in newspapers. Baseball certainly translates well to radio, because the inaction of a nine-inning affair outweighs the action. There's the pitch, and there's a 30-second conversation related or unrelated until the next pitch.

Just like the conversations people would have if at a game.

Before America became a country of sub-cultures, baseball was adopted as the common culture.

In Havana, the association was clear. While my lack of personal friendship with Cuban's finest baseball exports may have been a letdown, the ensuing Phillies photos stored on my iPhone and a toss with a tennis ball I carried with me, were not.

Even out of America, baseball was America.

What do you think?

What are some of your favorite baseball memories?

Tell us on Twitter
@wilkesbeacon

Bossypants: A winning combination of wit and wisdom

By Sara Pisak
Opinion Editor

Although actress and comedian Tina Fey wrote her National Bestseller *Bossypants* in 2011, the book finally made its way to the top of my "to read pile" of texts. I had been interested in reading this book for some time, however reading for work and school always seemed to get in the way.

Needless to say I was thrilled when an assignment for completing my senior, creative writing capstone was to read Fey's work and pay attention to the framework of her text and her incorporation of sarcasm and wisdom into the commentary on her life.

Fey's commentary is a mixture of wit and insight, and I would be remiss if I did not count down my five favorite one-liners in *Bossypants*.

5. "For Jeanne Fey: Happy Mother's Day. I made this out of macaroni for you."

The preceding lines are the dedication of the text. As the dedication page is one of the first pages of the text, this line is representative of what the reader can look forward to: wit, wisdom and a relatable text. Fey's macaroni text is a sarcastic but realistic look at life which any reader should consider a gift. In short, Fey's text is as relatable as the childhood pastime we have experienced: making art with macaroni.

4. Again, don't waste your energy trying to educate or change opinions. Go 'Over! Under! Through!' and opinions will change organically when you're the boss. Or they won't. Who cares?"

Fey is discussing being in charge where occasional conflicts arise. These lines showcase the important idea: Not everyone has to like you when you are the boss. It is not your job to change or educate the opinions of others. Often it is just better to let ideas and opinions ebb and flow. Fey drives home the idea that at the end of the day your worth is not measured by the attitudes and opinions of others.

3. "To say I am an overrated troll, when you have never even seen me guard a bridge, is patently unfair."

The line is included in the chapter, "Dear Internet." Fey's statement is a way to answer those internet posts attacking her. This line is Fey's response to a comment on a website in which the user calls Fey an "overrated troll." Fey should be commended for her

willingness to dive into the world of internet criticism as well as applauded for reducing the anonymity of internet users who use screen names to hide their identity and personally attack others. All aspects considered, what makes her response a standout in the text is the quote showcases the wit audiences have come to expect and love.

2. "Whatever the problem, be part of the solution. Don't just sit around raising questions and pointing out obstacles."

I imagine everyone can relate to this idea. A reader either has this person in their life or sometimes a reader is that person to others: the one who is constantly pointing out the holes in a leaky boat instead of helping fix the problem. The easiest way to fix a problem is to be proactive. Working to be part of the solutions instead of contributing to the problems is life advice everyone can use and apply to their lives. This quote adds to the universal appeal of this work.

1. "I was a little excited but mostly blorft. 'Blorft' is an adjective I just made up that means completely overwhelmed but proceeding as if everything is fine and reacting to the stress with the torpor of a possum."

This is my favorite quote in the book for the simple reason that I have mastered the blorft expression. My friends, family and even professors joke when others are overwhelmed they show it but I somehow manage to keep the same calm expression on my face no matter what is thrown in my direction.

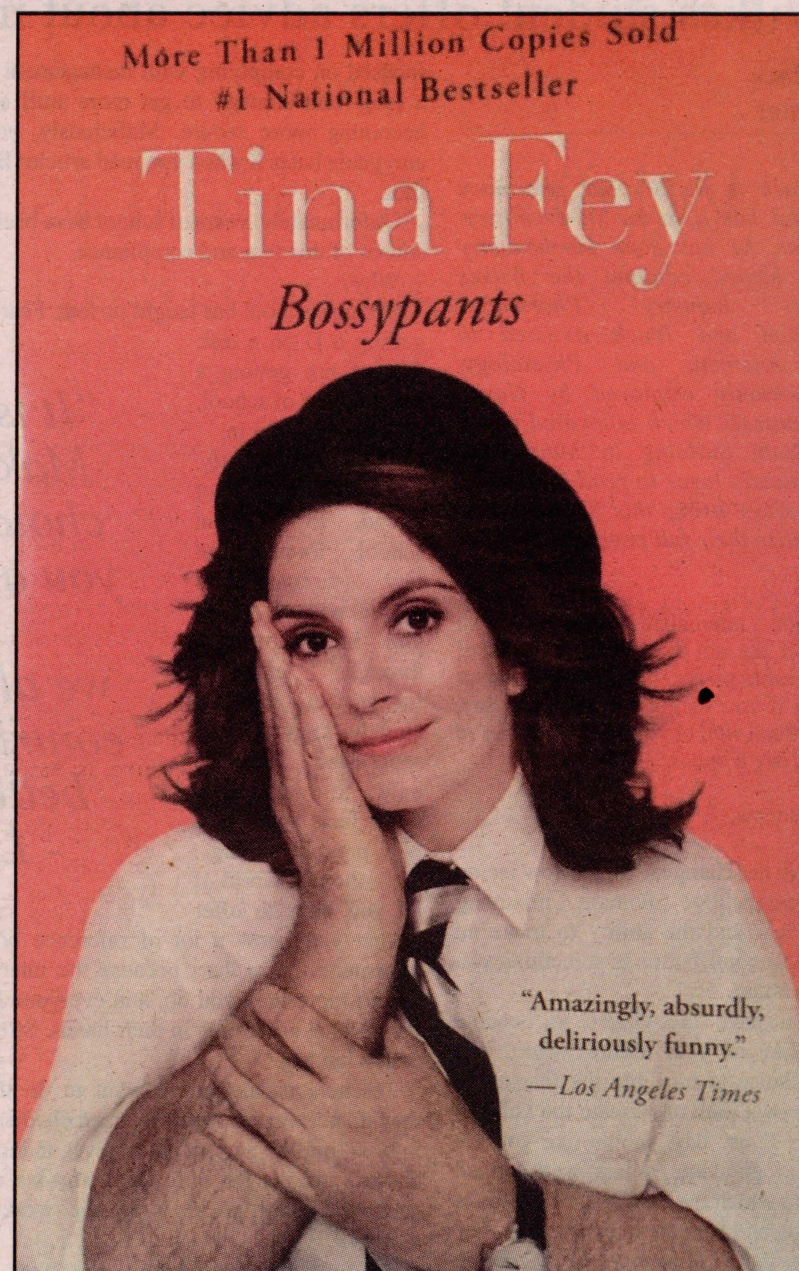
I normally joke that remaining calm on the outside, while silently freaking out on the inside, essentially being blorft, is going on the special skills section of my resume. I, without a doubt, wish I invented the word blorft. The quote is my preferred line to revisit.

As a reader comes to the final pages, it becomes clear that Fey works to blend wit and wisdom to create a life story which is not only worth telling but worth learning from.

What Fey produces is a work which is universally appealing and relatable, while causing readers to irresistibly laugh out loud.



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Courtesy of Sara Pisak

Sara's Score:



Never Settle: How to help yourself and others have a brighter future

Wilkes student offers advice about making a difference in career and society

By Luke Zack
Guest Writer

Luke Zack is a 5th year pharmacy student and has a minor in chemistry. On campus, he has done biochemistry research, helped cofound the Wilkes University Industry Pharmacist Organization and Teach Assisted in Medical Anatomy and Physiology. He is currently employed by Noven Pharmaceuticals which is located in the Empire State Building in Manhattan. Luke absolutely loves to read and write, and he enjoys using this skill to help others realize their full potential.

"Do not internalize the industrial model. You are not one of the myriad of interchangeable pieces, but a unique human being, and if you've got something to say, say it, and think well of yourself while you're learning to say it better."- David Mamet

Dear Students,

The world has changed. We are now facing a hyper-competitive domain involving art, gifts, fear and the ability to make an indispensable contribution to something you really care about.

Yes, you have the choice to become indispensable in your future work. You have the choice to buy into the fear or, to chart your own path and create the value if you want. Every day, people like you are choosing to go down a less well-defined path, one in which they make choices, make a difference, and become indispensable.

Why is there resistance to becoming indispensable?

#1, it turns out, it is biological and has been enforced, and #2, we have been brainwashed.

Let's look into each one a little more.

1. Deep within our brains lays the amygdala, or our primitive mind, or lizard brain. It exists to do one thing, sabotage anything that feels threatening, risky, or generous.

It prevents you from being brave enough to make a difference.

It wants you to fit in, to be average and safe.

Until you recognize and deal with this resistance, there is a good chance you will remain frustrated. Until then, you may be

focused on complying with management as a long-term strategy to get more stuff and becoming more secure. Maliciously, your amygdala hates it when you read articles like this.

Unfortunately, years of school have been a source of this fear and compliance.

Why?

Because school has taught us fear. Fear of getting a D on a test, fear of not getting a job right out of school, fear of not fitting in.

More importantly, most of us do not intend to be in school forever. In few circumstances in the real world do you have to look through textbooks for answers that are already known by a supervisor (teacher) only to regurgitate those facts again in a high-pressure setting.

In the real world, if all you have to offer is that you know a lot of reference book information, you lose, because the internet knows more than you do, and everyone has the internet accessible in their hands. Strong words but true.

Teachers usually don't want to do this, they do not want to instill fear and obedience into us, but the system often gives them no choice, and it's the only legal way we can achieve certain positions in the working world.

To further the argument, the work of creating a positive change in the classroom is daunting, and without enough support is nearly impossible. We cannot blame teachers, but we can blame the corporate system that is still training compliant workers that score well on tests.

2. Here's the deal our parents signed us up for: Factories, hospitals, companies, etc. need workers.

If you learn how to be one of these workers, if you pay attention in school, follow instructions, show up on time, and try hard, then you will be taken care of. You will be paid a lot of money; will receive health insurance and job security. You won't have to be brilliant or creative or take risks.

It is a seductive giveaway.

Conversely, in today's world, job growth is flat at best, and the educated, hardworking masses are still doing what they're told, but are no longer getting what they deserve.

We agree to do a job in exchange for a set of instructions, something that has little value. The rules of the game have changed, and unfortunately, no one has told you yet.

You better believe that there are no longer any great jobs out there where someone else tells you precisely what to do.

How do we combat this?

How do we become indispensable?

What's the secret? Here is a list

of things to think about that will help you become indispensable in your future work.

1. Providing a unique interface between members of the organization

2. Delivering unique creativity

3. Managing a situation or organization of great complexity

4. Leading other employees and customers

5. Inspiring staff

6. Providing deep domain of knowledge for others

7. Possessing unique talent

8. Making other feel safe to be innovative

Lastly, we need to self-educate ourselves. We are not taught in class to take initiative, to become remarkable artists, to question the status quo, to lead, or to interact with transparency (we are taught the opposite).

We need to learn how to combine depth of knowledge with good judgement, how to work with our feelings, and use them to expose creativity.

We need to learn how to feel fear, acknowledge it, and then proceed forward. We need to learn how to look at failure differently, using it as feedback, rather than enhancing resistance.

We need to stand up and be remarkable, be human, contribute, interact, take the risk that might make someone upset with your initiative, innovation, and insight.

*"It is up to you.
Make the right
choice, because
you are a genius,
and
we all need your
contribution for a
better future."
- Luke Zack*



Courtesy of Luke Zack

Yes, you all have the ability to do these things, but the barrier to success and being indispensable is a choice.

It is up to you.

Make the right choice, because you are a genius, and we all need your contribution for a better future.

Never Settle,

-Luke Zack

What do you think?

How can you work hard in your daily life to "never settle?"

Tell us on Twitter @wilkesbeacon

Colonels Talk Back

We asked: "What are your thoughts on the upcoming election?"

Interviews by
Luke Modrovsky
luke.modrovsky@wilkes.edu

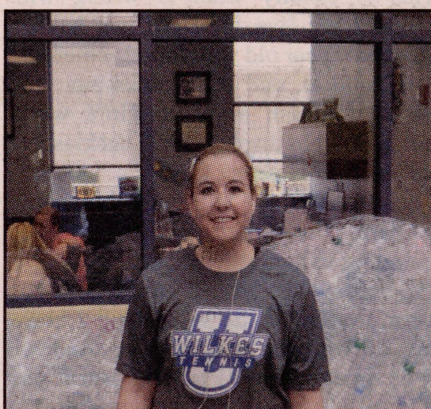
Photos by
Jesse Chalnack
jesse.chalnack@wilkes.edu

With the Pennsylvania Primary approaching in the coming weeks, voters will take it to the polls to decide a few contentious races. With the Presidential Race in national news, we asked six people about their political stances, their voter registration status, and how they hoped the election would end.

Want to be in the next Colonels Talk Back? Email luke.modrovsky@wilkes.edu

Nicole Gaetani
Freshman
Education

"If Trump gets in and wins, I think there will be a lot of chaos. He might even get killed. If he takes office, I will be extremely concerned. It would be nice to have a first woman President, but I'm not sure if people will react in the right way."



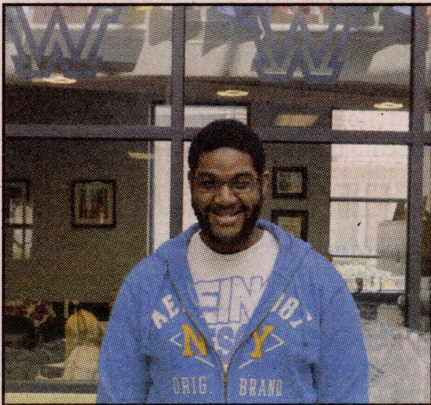
Gabby Lajara
Freshman
Criminology

"Around here, a lot of people support (Donald) Trump and that scares me. I'm really pulling for Bernie Sanders. After everything I have seen, Sanders seems to be the most decent human being, so that's where I'm going right now."



Joshua Shepard
Freshman
Musical Theatre

"To be completely honest, I'm not a fan of the current frontrunners, Clinton and Trump are not on my list. I like Sanders but I'm still gathering a few facts. I'm more of a Democrat than a Republican so I'm not too interested in their race right now."



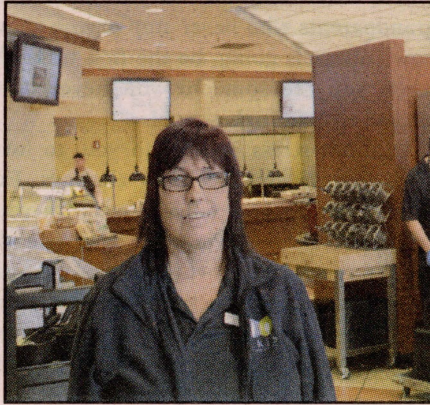
Justin Gaskill
Freshman
Musical Theatre

"I don't like Donald Trump. He's a horrible human being and everything he stands for is disgusting. I'm pulling for Bernie Sanders. His views align with my views, so that's why I'm pulling for him."



Claire Parker
Sophomore
Business Management

"Things seem to be getting out of hand and people are being stupid with what they saw and how they act. I don't feel like we are really getting anywhere. I'm not a big fan of Donald Trump. I'm not quite sure who I would vote for."



Linda Cohen
Henry's Food Court
Wilkes Dining

"While I really want to see a woman in the White House, I cannot endorse a candidate who let their husband slide the way he did. I don't want to see a Clinton back in the White House. Even though I am a New Yorker and Donald Trump has the money to back everything, I am still uncertain about him."

Nine year old reports news faster than competitors Receives backlash on social media

By Luke Modrovsky
Asst. Opinion Editor

Hilde Kate Lysiak isn't your typical 9-year-old girl.

Actually, nothing about Lysiak is typical.

How many people do you know under the age of 12 that have nearly 600,000 hits on WordPress and almost 20,000 likes for a page on Facebook?

The number of likes of her newspaper's Facebook page nearly quadruples the current population of Selinsgrove, Pa., where Lysiak resides. According to the latest census statistics, that number rests at 5,654.

Lysiak has taken the world of journalism by storm. Following in the footsteps of her father, former New York Daily News reporter Matthew Lysiak, Hilde is the editor-in-chief for the Orange Street News.

For only \$14.99, she sends out 12 issues per year right to your doorstep. She also

posts most of her stories online.

When she first started publishing in November 2014, she wanted to report issues such as vandalism and drug problems within the Selinsgrove community. However, that drastically changed when an alleged murder occurred on 9th Street in Selinsgrove.

Lysiak received a tip from her sources that Pennsylvania State Police, local Chief of Police, local District Attorney, and county Coroner were on the scene of a potential crime scene.

Although she could not get police to reveal particular details, she still crushed the other local news organizations by being the first to report the happenings.

However, in the coming days later, Lysiak received backlash from some of her followers. Some commented on the accuracy of her story, while others questioned the thought of a 9-year-old girl reporting a murder.

One person commented, "This article, paper, whatever the heck it is, is a complete

joke! Horrible".

Another wrote, "I am disgusted that this cute little girl thinks she is a real journalist. What happened to tea parties?"

It's one thing to trash a horrible adult writer, but these folks find it necessary to attack a 9-year-old girl who does a pretty fine job.

And this is a girl who provides legitimate news, instead of whatever some of the other news outlets say they do.

This is exactly what is wrong with the world we live in. Here, we have a motivated 9 year old who found something she is good at, and some folks have the audacity to trash a young girl's work. What a horrible display those backlashes have put on this young girl.

Luckily, Lysiak will not be going anywhere. She posted a response video responding to her critics.


"I know this makes some of you uncomfortable" Hilde says, "and I know some of you just want me to sit down and be quiet because I'm nine. But if you

want me to stop covering news, then you get off of your computer and start doing something about the news."

She finishes with "Is that cute enough for you?"

After it's all said and done, I have one message for the up and coming reporter: You go, girl!

Want to read more?
Visit Lysiak's website at
[https://
orangestreetnews.com](https://orangestreetnews.com)

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Rachel Leandri: Letter to my future daughter

By Rachel Leandri
Sports Editor

One day, when I get to meet you and have the pleasure of watching you grow, I hope to instill in you the ideal to be a victim of your own optimism and to never stop smiling.

Some days the world is at odds against you, and you won't like the person you are or want to leave your bed. Realize that nothing lasts forever, and better days do lie ahead...I promise.

All of your problems will not be solved in a day, but just stay calm, and know you are never given an obstacle that you are not strong enough to handle.

Please understand that there are just some things you cannot control, and that's perfectly OK. We aren't always meant to know what is going to happen in the future. If you're anything like your mother and her perfectionist ways, this will not be the

easiest thing to grasp.

Be a firm believer that everything happens for a reason, and there's a new life-lesson to be learned almost every day, some more valuable than others.

Always do things with meaningful intentions. Don't do them for popularity, or social media likes and favorites, or ever because you feel pressured or afraid.

Sit with the girl who is sitting alone at lunch, make an effort to visit your loud grandparents who never stop prying about how college is going, be the first to say hi when you see someone you never quite clicked with in high-school.

I cannot stress enough to you, to love. Love fiercely and freely, in all ways. Fall in love with a boy, fall in love with your relatives, fall in love with your friends. Do it often and do it without fear, because things can change in the blink of an eye, and you never know when the last time with someone close to your heart is going to be.

Test your limits and work hard for what you want. Be passionately involved with anything and everything that interests you despite of what the rest of the crowd is doing. Joining clubs and groups in high school and college helped define the person I am today not only academically, but also personally and professionally. Try

out for varsity cheerleading even if you aren't the most coordinated or apply for that internship you've heard how difficult it is to get picked for.

What took me almost 21 years of my life to learn, is to not worry about what anyone else is doing, but yourself. Your biggest competitor in this world, is you. Please do not compare yourself to other girls. Your focus should be to become a better version of yourself than the person you were yesterday.


Success is believing in YOUR abilities and the person YOU are. If you put yourself out there regardless of what anyone else is doing or saying with confidence, you will

go far.

Most importantly, be appreciative.

There are times you will be discouraged with peers who make you feel that they are more fortunate than you are, and this sometimes will hold true. The truth is there will always be someone who has it better than you and someone who has it worse than you.

Life is all about perspective, and those that are thankful for what they have are always rewarded with more.

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Sports

Want your sport covered? Contact the sports editor: Rachel.Leandri@wilkes.edu

To stay or not to stay: Discussions with student-athletes

By Kimberly Hein
Sports Writer

Being a student-athlete can be challenging.

Some student-athletes may experience time management issues; some may feel under appreciated and some others may be unable to focus on classes.

There are personality conflicts with teammates and disagreements with coaches.

Some student-athletes may even lose their love for the game.

Many student-athletes come to college eager to continue the sport they were passionate about for their whole lives. Although that is true, it is unrealistic to think that every student who comes in as an athlete will graduate as one.

Many athletes report losing their passion for the game while playing at the collegiate level.

"I stopped playing sports when I realized I didn't love it anymore. It was no longer fun; it was a chore," said junior Devon Kriebel, who played 2½ seasons of Wilkes field hockey.

Tim Linder, who stopped playing football after two seasons, agreed with Kriebel's first statement.

"I discontinued with my participation in the sport largely due to the loss of passion I had initially had when I first started," Linder said. "This game that I had once found exciting and was enthusiastic about participating in became a burden for me and wasn't something I looked forward to spending my time with."

He decided to put more emphasis on his education after there were some staff changes that he did not believe were the right fit for him. He did, however, say that in the end, he made the better decision.

Former football player Nate Hughes cited similar reasons for leaving.

"One reason was simply because of a coaching change," he explained. "Another reason was that I felt it was time to move on to things that would help me in the future and let go of something that I wasn't getting anything positive out of. It became more like a job rather than something I



Courtesy of GoWilkesU

Michael Conrad takes the field his sophomore year when still on the football team.

looked forward to doing."

Michael Conrad also had experience with leaving the football team after 1½ years due to the coaching change.

"The style of coaching switched up a little bit. No disrespect to Coach Brown; I think he is a very, very good man. However, his style of play and my style of play were a little too different for me to want to continue playing here," he explained.

Coach Trey Brown had "no comment," in regard to students choosing to leave the football team.

During his time on the football team, Conrad's favorite thing about playing was when he first came to Wilkes because of the intensity of (former) Coach Frank Sheptock.

"He reminded me of my high school

coach, very intense and a lot of passion and emotion went into the game," Conrad explained.

Michael Fitz, a current junior football player, appreciates Brown's coaching, even if he does not always agree with him.

"I think Coach Brown's method of coaching puts the best men on the field," Fitz said. "He's not afraid to take risks. Don't get me wrong, there are some things he does which I don't agree with, but I still put my trust in him."

Although the students no longer play for the school, most would still recommend playing sports to others.

"I would recommend this sport to others but make sure your goals match those of the program because it is a team sport that requires a lot of time and dedication," Hughes said.

Linder agreed that he would recommend this sport to others. He emphasized that participating in a sport was a great way to make new friends. Coming in as a freshman, he said there was a comfort factor with upperclassmen being able to give him advice while he was trying to feel his first year of college out.

"I made some of my closest friends through the sport and I would go back and do it all over again if I could," he said.

"Nothing lasts forever," Linder said in regard to advising incoming students to imagine going to a school wherever they decide, with the possibility of not playing their sport anymore. He suggests that before committing to a program they should make sure that their philosophy is cohesive with that of the coaches for a strong fit.

Fitz explained that his favorite thing about being on the team currently, is building camaraderie, not just on the field but off the field as well. He went on to say that whenever he is in a situation, he knows that he has all of his teammates behind him.

"We're a family," he said.

Fitz admitted that there have been days where he thought about not playing anymore because of frustration.

"Ultimately I couldn't give up because I knew I wasn't the only one on the team feeling this frustration," he continued. "... The transition from high school football to college football was one I was just thrown into."

"It was hard. Some aren't cut out to make that transition."

Field Hockey Coach Sara Myers had no comment about players quitting the team.

Although Kriebel had a bad experience with the field hockey team, this past year, seven Wilkes field hockey players were named to NFHCA Division III Academic Squad.

Similarly, nine football players were named to ALL-MAC football teams.

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Working hard in the offseason to be successful in season

By Andre Spurell
Asst. Sports Writer

Around this time of year, many students are worried about final exams, final grades, and many other factors as the end of the spring semester is approaching. For student-athletes, it is also a time to better themselves, both physically and mentally.

The student-athletes who participate in sports during the fall and winter seasons are currently participating in offseason lifting programs. This time of year is a chance for student-athletes to achieve physical goals of gaining or losing weight. It also gives them chance to work on improving any weaknesses from last year and improve those skills in the upcoming seasons.

"The offseason is a crucial time for us, especially in the spring," said sophomore running back Paul Martin. "We have been focusing especially on our conditioning with our football coaches; we go over plays almost every day, and since we're in spring ball right now, we lift light in the weight room."

The workouts are set up and monitored by strength and conditioning coach/fitness coordinator Coach Keith Klahold, with the help of his assistant, Coach Chris. Even if a student is not an athlete but goes down to the fitness room (located in the basement of the Arnaud C. Marts Center), these two coaches will almost always be seen together.

Student-athletes are signed up to a website called TeamBuilder. Through this app/website, there are certain workouts that must be completed throughout the week.


There are two days when a student-athlete can come in on his/her own time to complete the workouts. On the other two days, student-athletes are supposed to lift with their teammates at a certain time in the morning or in the afternoon.

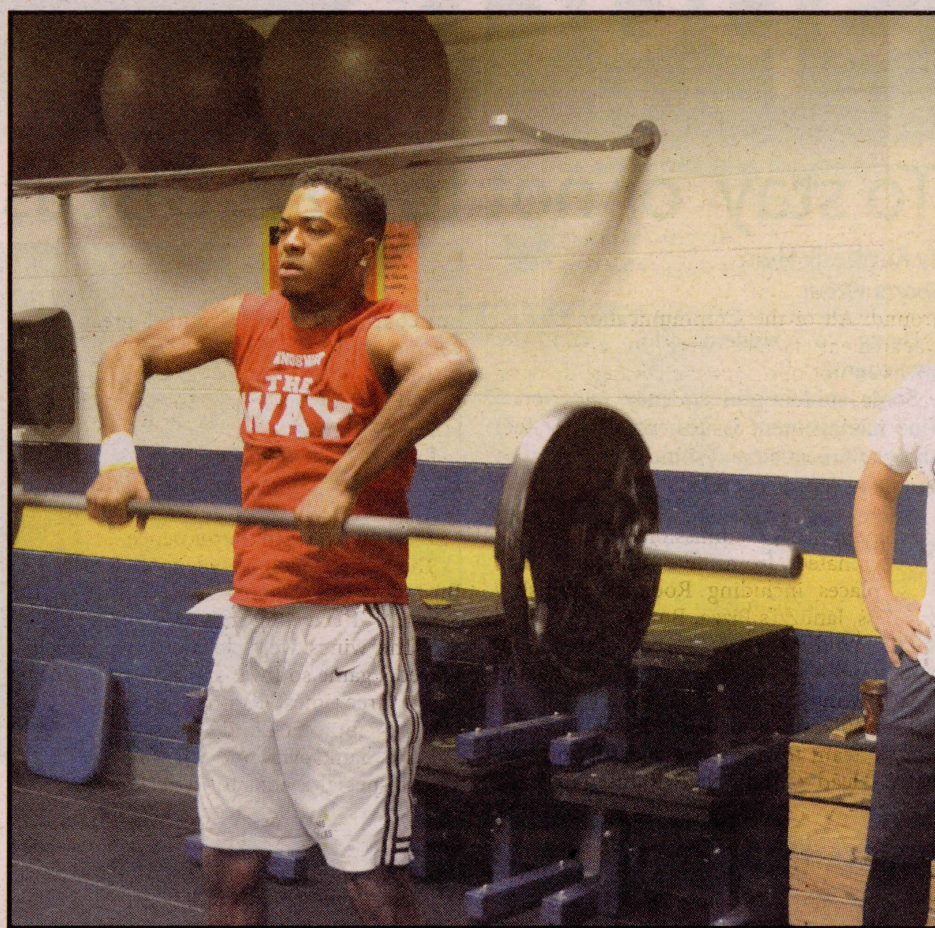
Sophomore swimmer Michael Henne said, "The team usually works out together, and since the guys and the girls have the same workouts, we can all lift together, which makes us even closer as a team. We always work out Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, as well as being able to swim at the local YMCA."

The sport a student plays will determine how often a student-athlete will have to work out. While sports like swimming work out three days a week, other sports, like wrestling and basketball, work out four days a week.

Sophomore wrestler Billy Bici said, "Since this the second offseason I will have under my belt, I already know what to expect and what I need to work on. The goal is to just get better and better, year after year."

The offseason is a crucial time for any sports team. It is the time of the year that can pre-determine a team's success, depending on whether a team just slouches around as a whole, or collectively works hard together to ensure a chance of having a successful season and ultimately bring home championships.

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The Beacon/Jesse Chalnack
Men's basketball freshman Marcus Robinson performs a hang clean as a part of his offseason workout at Martz.

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Sports

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Head baseball coach gets roasted by players for charity

By Jared Powell
Sports Writer

The Embrace a Child account team held its first annual Roast 'N' Toast event last Thursday in the ballroom of the Student Union Building.

This event was a fundraiser for the account team, from which all proceeds would be donated to orphans in Tanzania. They really put the "fun" in fundraiser this time around: All of the Communication Studies Department faculty were in attendance, however, not one built the courage to stand on stage and roast any students.

The event was \$5 to enter, and \$1 a minute to roast or toast a faculty member or coach.

There were unlimited wings that came with the price of admission. These wings were donated from five different local wing places including Rodanos, Whiskey Business, Januzzi's Pizza, Burt & Urby's, and Buffalo Wild Wings. At the end of the event, Whiskey Business was crowned with having the best wings, receiving a plaque.

The Wilkes Baseball team was the only athletic team to come out and support this event. Head Coach Nate Ramsey felt the need to come out and support his Senior captain Marcus Leaf.

"Marcus Leaf was one of the guys to help organize and put this together, so obviously we are going to come out and support him and this great cause," Ramsey said.

Junior outfielder Alex Kramer ended up stealing the show with a five-minute roast on his head coach. It may have been all fun and games, but Kramer may end up paying for some of the comments on his coach. That being said, Kramer along with his teammates seemed to enjoy the roast, and even said they would come out again next year.

"I thought it was one of the better events that I have been to here. Not only was it fun to get a chance to say a few words about our coach, but it was also for a great cause," Kramer said.

The event was very successful in the fact that it not only raised awareness, but also raised \$2,165.37.

Embrace a Child's account team did an excellent job organizing this event, and getting people to come out and actually roast or toast someone in the audience.

The wings were a plus, and Whiskey Business is the first annual winner of the Roast 'N' Toast wing contest.

"The wings were delicious, we had just played a game so I was starving and went up about three times," Kramer added.

The Embrace a Child account team would like to thank everyone who attended, and send a special thanks to Coach Ramsey, and the Wilkes Baseball team. Good luck with the rest of your season.



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All photos by: The Beacon/Jesse Chalnack

Attendees did not miss out on taking advantage of the favorite-wing contest at the Roast 'N' Toast this past Thursday hosted by Zebra Communications.



Junior Alex Kramer entertains the crowd as he pokes fun at Coach Ramsey.



The baseball team reacts with laughter to Kramer's roast.

Getting to know...

Jenna Graziano

Junior Softball Player

By Purvit Patel
Sports Writer

Jenna Graziano is a junior at Wilkes with as a double major in Psychology and Criminology. She also has a Women's and Gender Studies minor. From Hawthorne NJ, Jenna plays on the softball team as an Infielder.

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

A. Wilkes offered me the most opportunities out of the other schools I applied to.

Q. What are your hopes for the upcoming season?

A. My hopes for the upcoming season are for us to be playing in the M.A.A.C Championship game.

Q. What are your hopes for your next season as a Colonel?

A. My hopes for next season as a Colonel are to strive to do better and be better than this season.

Q. When/Why did you first begin playing softball?

A. I first began playing tee ball when I

was 4 years old and just continued to love the game as I got older.

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

A. I am the Major Event Chair in Wilkes University's Programming Board as well as I'm a mentor.

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

A. The most influential person in my life is my mom. She is my biggest supporter and the person I look up to the most.

Q. A quote you live your life by?

A. "You only fail when you stop trying"

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

A. "Be Colonel" means strive to be your best and never give up.

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

A. Marilyn Monroe



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The Beacon/Purvrit Patel

Getting to know...

Josh Slocum

Junior Baseball Player

By Purvit Patel
Sports Writer

Josh Slocum is a junior mechanical engineering student from Clarks Summit. He went to Abington Heights High School, plays in the outfield and is a designated hitter for the Wilkes University Colonels.

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

A. I was looking for a school that had a good engineering program and a school that would allow me to play baseball. Wilkes had both.

Q. What are your hopes for the upcoming season?

A. Winning the MAC championship.

Q. What are your hopes for your next season as a Colonel?

A. For my final year as a Colonel, I hope the team improves overall during the off season so that we can come back even better than this year.

Q. When/Why did you first begin playing baseball?

A. I first started playing Teeball when I was 5. I always liked watching baseball on TV so I decided to give it a try.

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

A. Slowpitch softball and golf.

Q. Who would you say is the most influential person in your life? Why?

A. My parents, they come to every game and always keep on me to work my hardest in everything that I do.

Q. A quote you live your life by?

A. All that matters is having fun and trying your best.

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

A. Doing your best and having fun.

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

A. Babe Ruth.

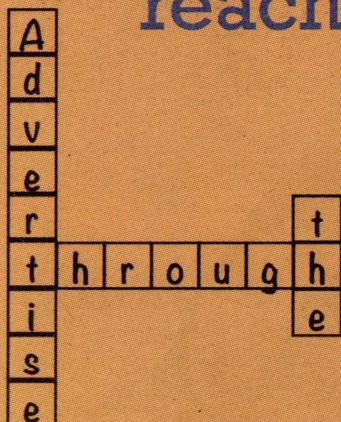


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