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# THE BEACON

Feb. 26, 2013

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

Volume 66 Issue 15



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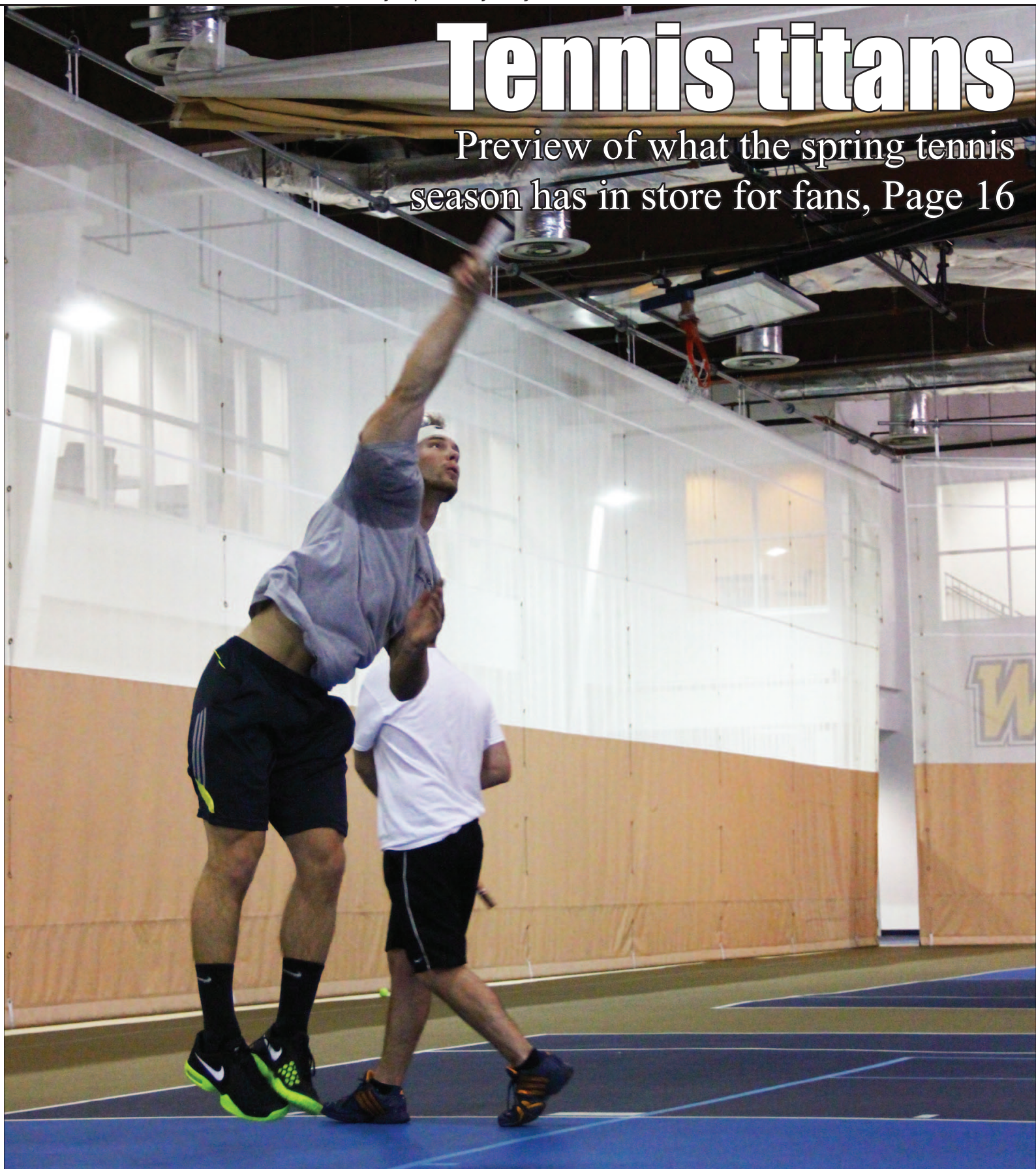
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The Beacon/Greg Bowser

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Feb. 26, 2013

Contact editor: christine.lee@wilkes.edu

## Residence Life exploring several options for housing next year

**Christine Lee**  
News Editor

With the new rule of sophomores being required to live on campus kicking into effect next year, Residence Life is looking into several options to house more students residing on campus next year in addition to existing campus housing for upperclassmen.

Director of Residence Life Liz Swantek explains that Fortinsky Hall, next to Schiowitz Hall on Franklin Street, is being renovated to become all-dorm. Currently one side, on 225 to 227 Franklin St. is apartments and the other side, on 229 Franklin St., has single, double and triple dorms. Swantek is hoping the renovation will combine the two sides.

"We're working with facilities and an out-

side architect in order to almost do what we did at Roth Hall and combine the two sides," Swantek said. "So it will be one building."

Fortinsky Hall on the 229 side previously served as an all-male residence hall with one resident assistant and the 225 to 227 side had a total of six apart-ments, one triple and the others quad, with one RA as well. The renovation will unite the two sides with single and double dorm rooms, a lounge on each floor, areas for studying and laundry facilities on the first floor.

Residence Life is also in the final stages of working with the Wilkes-Barre YMCA to gain back apartments there for on-campus housing. Swantek hopes to acquire all the apartments, which is 59 beds.

Wilkes previously had a 10-year lease with the YMCA that allowed students the option of living in apartments in the Y as on-campus housing. There were double and quad apartments with a support staff of one RA. However when the lease expired in 2011, Residence Life declined to renew it and the YMCA leased the space to Radnor Property Group, which renovated the space and the floor above it into new apartments for students to rent as off-campus housing.

If the lease goes through, Swantek is hoping to have the apartments in the Y be for all upperclassmen. The addition of Fortinsky Hall

and the apartments in the YMCA will add to existing on-campus housing for upperclassmen, which includes University Towers, Weiss, Sullivan, Sterling and Rifkin halls.

Swantek said Fortinsky will house sophomores exclusively to create a sophomore success program. She explained that the program will help sophomores prepare for their junior year.

"First-year students, there's a lot of attention put on first-year students because it's

**See Housing, Page 3**



The Beacon/Austin Loukas and Laura Preby

Left, Wilkes is in the final stages of leasing apartments in the YMCA. Right, Fortinsky Hall has apartments on one side and dorms on the other side.

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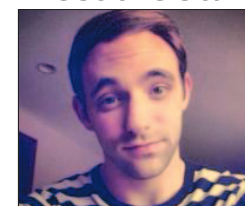
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### Meet the Staff



**Anthony Bartoli**  
Asst. A&E Editor



# DUI charge on Public Safety officer stirs local concern

## Wilkes HR does not complete annual background checks for charges on current employees

By Kirstin Cook

Editor-in-Chief

A Wilkes Public Safety officer was recently at the center of controversy over a DUI charge on her record.

Brittany Stasik was denied a position as a part-time police officer in Forty Fort. At a meeting earlier this month, Forty Fort Borough Council announced it was discontinuing the search for a new part-time officer. Council member Robert Craig said they determined there was no longer a staffing need for a new hire due to personnel returning from sick leave.

Forty Fort Mayor Boyd Hoats confirmed to The Times Leader that Stasik was one of six candidates interviewed and consequently turned down for the position.

The announcement that council would not hire a new officer came after a public statement criticizing council for considering a candidate with a drunken-driving record. Borough resident Rob Swaback spoke at the meeting on his concerns with Stasik's background.

Stasik was charged with driving under the influence on Feb. 11, 2012. On that date, Stasik struck two parked vehicles on Wright Avenue in Kingston, according to an arrest affidavit. A blood alcohol test showed her alcohol level at 0.134 percent. According to Pennsylvania law, the level for an adult driver should not exceed 0.08 percent.

Stasik was sentenced to six months of Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition program in May. After successful completion of this program, a person may petition to remove a charge from their record. Stasik's charge has not been cleared from her record, according to records from the Court of Common Pleas of

Luzerne County.

Swaback said this charge is a conflict for someone in law enforcement.

Stasik is still a Wilkes employee under the Public Safety staff listing. Officials at Public Safety, Human Resources and Student Affairs declined to comment on this individual employee, citing personnel policy.

"I can't talk about individuals," Joseph Housenick, director of Human Resources said.

Housenick explained that all job applicants at Wilkes go through an extensive background check when they are hired. For public safety officers, this process includes a criminal records search, which looks at felony and misdemeanor records in every county where the applicant lived for seven years or more.

Jerry Rebo, Public Safety manager, said the background check is important because of the nature of a public safety officer's work.

"They're law enforcement," Rebo said. "They're responsible for the safety of the campus, property and people. I think it's a good idea."

He said this check eliminates candidates that would not be fit for the job. He described a "clean record" as being a qualification he looks for in potential officers.

"They don't have any criminal background, (that's) the type of person we don't want to hire," Rebo said. "They have to be cleared."

However, once individuals are hired at Wilkes, there are no continuing evaluations of employee backgrounds. Housenick said he depends on supervisors to report any criminal charges that may come up during their time of employment.

"To some extent I have to rely on the supervisors," Housenick said. "I scrutinize the newspaper quite a bit."

He also said there is a code of ethics that is



The Beacon/Austin Loukas

**One Public Safety officer was the subject of public controversy after being considered for a Forty Fort police officer position. The woman was among six interviewees turned down for the job.**

updated frequently and must be signed by employees every year, along with conduct rules that specifically address criminal convictions and the unaffected ability to fulfill job duties.

The Colonel Community newsletter identified Stasik as a new employee to the Public Safety department in October 2010, meaning her DUI charge occurred after she was hired as a staff member. Housenick was unable to comment on whether the university was made aware of this charge.

Though annual background checks are not implemented, there are yearly assessments of Public Safety officers. Rebo said this evaluation, which is an extensive report completed with Human Resources that includes feedback from campus members and other officers, aims to ensure officers are fulfilling their jobs.

"If they're up to snuff, they're doing their job, they're not getting any complaints against them, they're checking everything they're supposed to check, they know everything they're supposed to know," Rebo said.

The primary application process is also designed to determine the candidate's effectiveness in the job position. Housenick said he takes this evaluation "very seriously."

"I have to say from my seat, I'm very conservative about who we hire and who we don't," Housenick said.

He said if a criminal charge does come up for a current employee, he meets with the specific employee to find out the details.

Housenick said if students hear of a criminal charge or something that might be considered a conflict to an employee's job, they are encouraged to contact him and discuss their concerns. He said it make sense that students might be worried about a possible conflict in a staff member's background.

"I can certainly understand why some people would look twice at the situation," Housenick said.



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## Housing

Continued from Page 2

your first time at a university, then juniors there's a lot of emphasis because they need to get internships, or if they want to study abroad. And then your senior year, Career Services is a huge component of their senior year because they're trying to get jobs," Swantek said. "So what we want to do is really build on that programming so that students feel more comfortable around campus and really acclimate well to campus and Fortinsky will be geared toward that."

Dean of Students Mark Allen said research shows the sophomore year can prove to be a vulnerable year because not as much attention is paid to them as much as freshmen.

"It's a challenging year in the undergraduate experience because freshmen, although there's a lot of adjustments that need to be made, there's a considerable amount of attention that's paid to that population and then once that year is over then there's this impression that folks are pretty much on their own and the data would indicate that this can be a little bit troublesome," Allen said. "Through our asking students to be on campus, again based on the research, the data would in-

dicating that there is better retention overall of sophomore students if they are having a housing experience on campus."

Allen explained the goal of requiring sophomores to reside on campus is to have more students become successful at persisting at college and achieving their goals.

Allen said residence life is continuing to work on programming specifically for sophomores based on the needs of the population. Some of the programming focuses on career development, making sure they are comfortable with their major and community-building activities.

"Oftentimes there's a focus on career development at that particular phase of a student's academic career, things like making sure students are comfortable with the major they've chosen because it's a critical year to solidify that and for some sophomores they're still moving from that undecided major to a traditional academic major," Allen said. "Also specific community-building types of programming for sophomores living in residence halls and some of that would be determined collaboratively by the sophomores that are living there and experiencing living on campus."

Allen thinks the experience of living on campus as sophomores will be a positive one. "We feel given the developmental level of



The Beacon/Austin Loukas

**Wilkes is in the final stages of a lease to have all the 40 West apartments in the YMCA, featured above, used for upperclassmen student housing.**

the traditional-age sophomore this will be a positive experience relative to the alternative of being out into the community," Allen said.



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# SG drafts new fundraising outlines for campus clubs

By Shawn Carey  
Assistant News Editor

The Student Government meeting on Feb. 20 was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

All College: \$7,916.16  
Conference: \$2,640  
General: \$18,595.85  
Leadership: \$1,200  
Spirit: \$1,347.77  
Student Government Total: \$31,699.78

The Society of Women Engineers presented a club report to the board. Niki Patel, club president, gave an overview of what the club entails. The advisor of the club is Brian Whitman and some of the activities they have participated in are writing holiday cards to soldiers, and they are talking to the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders about a possible activity. They have tried to have bake sales last semester but they didn't work out, however, they are hoping to sell T-shirts this semester.

Niki Patel from the Adventures in Science committee presented the first week of fund requests. The committee was originally asking for \$2,500, but has lowered their fund request to \$1,500 as they went through their equipment inventory and decided to lower the amount. Adventures in Science day is a chance for high school students to come in and work with Wilkes professors on science experiments throughout the day. The event is free to all students and all majors to attend.

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## FUNDRAISING REQUEST FORM

Prior to beginning any fundraising efforts, students are required to complete this form and submit it to the Office of Student Development, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Student Center. A separate fundraising application form must be completed and approved for each fundraising activity.

### SECTION I: REQUIRED INFORMATION

Name of student organization or group: \_\_\_\_\_

Screenshot: The Beacon/Christine Lee

## SG now requires groups requesting funds to fill out a form for approval of funds.

Students usually receive T-shirts and bags that have the SG logo on them. If approved, the committee plans on spending the money to purchase those items. Last year this event had approximately 150-200 student volunteers.

SG board members seemed to be on board with sponsoring the event.

"I think it is a great experience," Kyle Wolfe, senior representative said. Catelyn Sofio echoed the feeling. "It helps them spark their interest in science," Sofio said. "I think it really helps Wilkes as well."

The Hockey Club was in attendance for their first week of fund requests. The executive board, which included President Ryan Maloney and Vice-President Sean Ryan, presented to the board, requesting \$1,825 for 16 players and three goalies to participate in the

Penalty Box Hockey League at the Revolution Ice Center. The group was able to talk the price of participation down from \$260 to \$200 per player and \$150 per goalie. Players have agreed to pay half of their cost if SG is willing to pay the other half. The group has discussed possible fundraisers with Applebee's and Sweet Frog but has not made any decisions.

"I think they are very passionate about what they do," senior class Treasurer Melissa Caprio said.

There was an announcement at the meeting that there would be an updated fundraising policy for clubs and organizations on campus. Based on the advice of Vice President of Student Affairs Paul Adams, the board has drafted a policy regarding the matter. Students will now have to fill out an approval form for their

fundraiser and clubs and organizations must have a university fund number in order to apply for a fundraiser approval. They will also be restricted to where they will be allowed to fundraise for their club and will have to follow the fundraising policies outlined in the student handbook. Students with any feedback are encouraged to talk to the Student Affairs.

Kayla Cauthon, the new Student Development Activities Assistant replacing Jamie Miller, who now serves as the Assistant Director of Residence Life, was at the meeting to introduce herself to the board. Cauthon said that if there is anything they or students need to contact her office.

The TREC committee met this last week to discuss teaching awards. Nominations for Innovative Teaching and Best Advisee award are due March 18. A URL for the nominations will be sent to student emails.

The high school leadership committee will be designing new brochures to distribute to the area high schools to encourage students to become a part of the leadership opportunity at Wilkes.

The operations committee also met. They said the speakers in the concourse are not meant for entertainment but rather for fire alarms. Also, there was a report of a skunk around the Max Roth Center and they said if it is seen to contact Public Safety.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32p.m.



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# Wilkes U app upgraded and campus email migration complete

By Shawn Carey

Assistant News Editor

For the 2012-13 academic year there have been a lot of changes in technology on campus with a new app and email server and now it is time for an update on those changes.

Last semester the university released an app for students so they could access their D2L account, weekly food menus, and events calendar. Now since the students have added their feedback it is time for Phase 2 of the app development.

"It has been fairly positive," Gloria Barlow, chief information officer said. "We had some really good feedback from students, most really liked it."

Barlow said that the biggest complaint of the app is the login screen for the app and says it will be fixed with the next phase of the app.

"People were frustrated with the sign-in process because of the iPhones automatically capitalize the first letter," Barlow said, "but that will actually be fixed in a new integration."

There was a meet-and-greet for students to talk to designers of the app and offer their feedback toward the app.

Based on the feedback that Barlow has received, students have said that they want the integration of the emergency alerts and access to their banner tools to check their schedules and grades.

"They would like to see the Wilkes Emergency alert integrated into it and most importantly giving students access to their banner tools."

For now, Phase 2 of the app, will be taking into consideration student feedback of the

banner integration, improvements in login, but must first talk to Public Safety before incorporating emergency alerts.

"The emergency alert piece is one that we need to be working in conjunction with Public Safety," Barlow said. "They really manage that emergency alert and we are taking a look at our emergency alert software and seeing if we need to upgrade."

Many students are able to use the app for things that interest them, such as sports schedules, dining menus and having mobile access to their courses.

"The biggest thing college students are asking for is mobile access to their course management system, so we are out there ahead of the game," Barlow said.

Barlow said that they will be doing one more student session after spring break to get more feedback before releasing Phase 2 of the app. After the student session, Barlow said, she should have a better idea of when it will be released after spring break.

The Google Mail migration process has officially been completed according to Barlow.

A committee was formed to assess the need for a new communication system and see what was available. Recommendations led to transitioning to a cloud-based email system, such as Google Mail. Also, with transitioning, according to Barlow will save the university \$95,000 over a five-year period.

"Google is an environment most students are very comfortable with," Barlow said. "People are comfortable with Google apps and other tools, and this was a tool that they liked."

The migration of the email server was done over a 10 month period with phases in that time frame. Students, faculty and staff were given control as to when they were going to

switch over to the new email system.

As of Jan. 1, everyone who had not switched over was automatically switched over to the new system.

Now because of the cloud based system, regardless of anything happening, students, staff and faculty will have access to their email. Storage for each email account has also greatly increased.

Since the migration is complete the university is now looking at the different aspects that Google has to offer such as the maps, docs and hangout features that come with the Google services.

Students are also taking advantage of the new features that students have to offer because of the new system.

"I think it is much easier to work with," Sophomore earth and environmental science major Justin Davis said. "It allows me to be much more organized and is much more user friendly than the other email system was."

With the migration, students had some problems with the transition of their accounts. Some of the emails were getting delivered to the wrong server or getting delivered to each system.

A problem, Barlow said, since there were two different systems running at the same time during the migration.

"Sometimes there were a few glitches and sometimes it came about because in a migration and conversion," Barlow said, "there were two systems running at once, so that's were a few glitches came in."

Because the two systems were running, students and faculty were not sure what account to check.

During the migration, the systems converted between 15,000 and 16,000 accounts and thou-



The Beacon/Laura Preby

**Phase 2 for the Wilkes U app will be debuted shortly. Among the changes will be Banner integration and improved measures for students when they are logging into the application.**

sands of messages.

"We had a very small percentage that was actually affected," Barlow said.

Barlow said that when they were alerted of a problem from a student or faculty member they were able to correct the problem right away.

For now, there is only one email account left on the old email system, and it is Barlow's. She will send the last email from the old system announcing the full migration to the new Google system.



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## Features and highlights of the Wilkes U Mobile App

**Courses** - Students have access to their D2L account through the app, including access to course content and the course calendar of when assignments are due.

**Directory** - Much like the campus directory online, students can search for students and faculty and staff to get contact information

**Events** - Students can look through all the events going on campus by scrolling through and looking at the activities offered.

**Sports** - Students have access to all the sports schedules for all the collegiate level sports that Wilkes has to offer. Students are able to search based on what sport they are interested in.



**News** - Get all the up to the date campus news with this feature. Students can see what is going on with Today@Wilkes or look through other options.

**Food** - Would you like Rifkin or Food Court? Students can to access the weekly menus to see what is being served each day.

**Campus Info** - Students are able to take a walking tour of campus and have access to campus maps to find right where they are going.

**Do you have an idea of what should be included for the application?**

If you have any questions or feedback about the app, students can contact Gloria Barlow on the second floor of the University Center on Main:  
gloria.barlow@wilkes.edu 570-408-4440



# 'Which house did you buy a shirt for?'

## Wilkes students consumed by partying for Winter Weekend

By The Beacon Editorial Staff

Over the weekend of Feb. 22-23, Wilkes University students celebrated an event called Winter Weekend. Winter Weekend, unofficially an event to honor the real college life of a Wilkes University student, often consists of what many of Wilkes Students consider the entertaining side of college: partying.

Instead of raising money for an event to benefit a good cause or help the Wilkes-Barre community, money was doled by students out to purchase kegs, themed T-shirts and to organize events for the weekend. Some of the events included (and were not limited to), beer pong, Edward 40 Hands, Flip Cup, Quarters and keg stands throughout the night.

From multiple experiences noted from students across campus, the Beacon learned much of what goes on during Winter Weekend.

Before attending the Winter Weekend events, it is insisted upon by many to go to pre-game parties before actually going out to the real party. If you are wondering, a pre-game party is a party to drink alcohol before you go out and drink more alcohol and is a form of binge drinking.

The real party consisted of alcohol drinking in the form of regulated games at house parties throughout Wilkes-Barre.

From student experience, alcohol in the form of beer is rarely the drink of choice at pre-gaming parties. Wilkes University students are more likely to indulge in harder forms of alcohol spirits like vodka, rum, whiskey and brandy. all of which have an alcohol proof of 80 or higher.

After multiple shots of a more concentrated alcoholic substance, students often begin to get rowdy, some falling into the wall and some urinating off the balcony then laughing as their urine falls near people walking on the street. This type of behavior not only is disgusting and morally decrepit for a supposedly educated college student, it highlights the negative impact alcohol has on impairing the cerebellum and our frontal lobes, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse.

After the pregame party is over, many Wilkes party-goers head out into the cold streets of Wilkes-Barre. For some of these students, they choose to not wear any form of winter wear although it is extremely cold outside. Many of them explain their reasoning, "it is extremely hot in the party houses due to the mass amount of people in one place, and there's nowhere to put your coat once you're inside."

This is dangerous; heading out into the cold

in a drunken state poses many health risks. The first risk of stumbling into the cold is hyperthermia.

What would happen if a student wandered off away from the group and got lost in a drunken state of confusion? They would surely die in the cold or have to be hospitalized if they were stuck in the cold for an extended amount of time. Not to mention, it is flu season; drinking alcohol weakens your immune according to the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

When you go in and out of different environments, it also puts your body at risk for catching some kind of plague of the 21st century.

After arriving at the party, a student is usually forced to pay a \$10 to \$15 cup fee to drink out of the house keg. This money could have been used to fund a benefit for breast cancer or homelessness in Wilkes-Barre, instead of going into a grubby underage alcohol dealer.

Money is free-flowing during Winter Weekend. If our Student Government was able to create an event for legal drinking on campus for a small fee, money could be raised for any cause or organization.

For the most part, everyone at these house parties are young; parties consist of mainly underage freshmen and sophomores. Not only are these parties promoting binge drinking, they are promoting underage drinking and that is against the law.

Students noted multiple people passing out throughout the night in the corner, waking only to puke in garbage cans or run to the bathroom. Because people were binge drinking at this party, they were at risk of blacking out.

Blacking out is negative because it affects your ability to remember what you are doing. You are a ghost in the world, being controlled by the world around you.

In an academic journal survey about Trait-based Affective Processes in Alcohol involved "Risk Behaviors," 545 binge drinking to blackout individuals reported many of the things they did while under the influence: 161 (29.5 percent) drove drunk, 139 (25.5 percent) regretted a sexual situation, 67 (12.3 percent) reported unprotected sex, 60 (11 percent) reported having damaged property, 55 (10.1 percent) reported getting into a physical fight, and 29 (5.3 percent) reported injuring someone while under the influence of alcohol in the past 6 months.

Overall, when parties conclude, students are left out wandering into the open streets of Wilkes-Barre in the dark; some holding back vomit outside the party house and some heading home to go to sleep alone in a drunken slumber. This is obviously problematic.

And that concludes Winter Weekend.



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The Beacon/Bryan Calabro

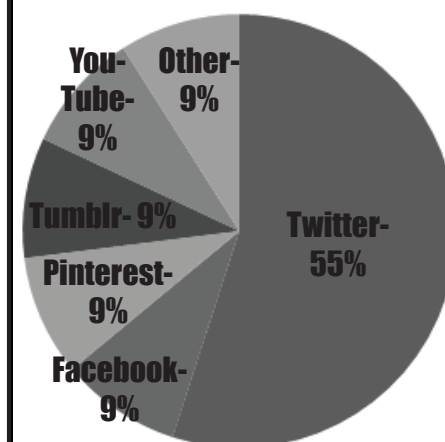
**For many, Winter Weekend consists of binge drinking and partying, which is dangerous and puts students at risk for making poor decisions.**

## BEACON POLL

The Beacon poll is unscientific and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on the Wilkes campus. Poll results are based on 11 responses.

### Last week's question:

What website do you use most frequently when passing the time?



### This week's question:

What is your opinion on organ donation?

- Yes- it is a good thing
- No- I disagree with it
- Undecided

Cast your vote online at:

**www.thewilkesbeacon.com**

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The Beacon reserves the right to edit submitted pieces for length and content. Anonymous letters will not be published.



# Quality of preschool dependent on quality of parents

**By Lyndsie Yamrus**  
Assistant Opinion Editor

In his recent State of the Union address, President Barack Obama declared that early childhood education should be open and available for all.

Early childhood education, he said, can benefit the country in the long run by “boosting graduation rates, reducing teen pregnancy, even reducing violent crime.”

Obama went on in his speech to claim that high-quality preschools will provides states with about \$7 back for every dollar spent on the program in a “bang for their buck” scenario.

This statement was based on academic studies and reports of HighScope Perry Preschool in Michigan and the federal program Head Start, installed in 1965 during the Johnson administration, according to politifact.com.

Preschool is vital for children no matter what race they are or how much money their family has in the bank.

There are so many factors involved in the development of a child all around, including one’s attitude, behavior and viewpoints. But a child does not simply come out of the womb knowing how to participate in life or how to behave with other children, or how they feel about an idea. They learn these things.

So each one of them needs a teacher, not a babysitter.



The Beacon/Laura Preby

**Educational “toys” and television programming can only teach a child so much. Pre-school has an enormous influence on a child’s early education.**

Unscientifically speaking, the common babysitter will probably turn on the TV. They will prepare snacks for the children, throw around some toys and allow the kids to do what they normally do at home.

A TV will only do so much. Sure, learning channels exist and not all television shows are mentally destructive. But TV is generally mindless. It requires little to no participation. It’s an occupier. Mom and dad need to get ready for work and it does a good job getting and keeping kids’ fleeting attention spans.

Point is, your child more than likely cannot achieve at home (with a 12-16 year old babysitter) what they can achieve at preschool.

Preschools are designed for learning. They

typically are very colorful and welcoming. Reading nooks, coloring and writing tables and learning areas are usually set up in an open environment where kids can function in small groups; conversing, playing and interacting with each other.

They need that creative stimulation that Dora the Explorer just can’t quite provide.

Under adult supervision, children are able to develop in activities that are often neglected at home, especially in underprivileged areas. They are then able to discover and develop with others of similar ages and in similar growing stages.

So again, yes, Obama is 100 percent on the mark about expanding our currently imple-

mented plan towards early childhood education.

But we’re missing a key piece.

Our preschools, no matter how “high-quality” we think they should be, are only going to be as good for our children’s futures as their own lives at home.

Many children unfortunately just don’t have a good set-up at home. While many families provide stimulating conversations and experiences for their kids, others fail to do so for a number of reasons: maybe they’re too poor. Maybe they’re never home. Any number of explanations can contribute to the problem.

Even worse off are the mentally or physically abused children who are almost guaranteed to fail no matter what kind of school they’re exposed to: high-quality, low-quality, it doesn’t matter.

They’re only a few months to 3, 4 or 5 years old. If something traumatizing is occurring at home, that instability alone sets up an immediate roadblock for learning.

While not guaranteed, and partially dependent on the degree of the individual situation, it is a pretty safe to say that if the parents fail, the preschools will fail too.

It’s time to compare statistics, create more studies and really analyze this early education system to see if expanding is really worth it or not. Let’s hope it is.



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# Americans are reluctant to register as organ donors, save lives

**By Carly Yamrus**  
Opinion Editor

I often ask people my age the question, “are you an organ donor?” Not surprisingly, a lot of people say no. I could never understand why this was. Why are young people so reluctant to check that “organ donor” box?

Let me just say that organ donation is quite literally one of the best gifts you can give.

According to organdonor.gov, there are more than 117,000 people currently on the waiting list for a transplant. Each day, 18 people die waiting.

Young people often do not think about organ donation as something they need to decide because they are so young. We may have these feelings of “that will never happen to me.” Not to be morbid, but you honestly never know.

As an organ donor, you have the ability to save up to eight lives or enhance over 50. You do not have to be deceased to donate, either. The deceased can donate kidneys, pancreas, a liver, lungs, a heart, tissue and intestines. Living donors can give kidney or a portion of the liver, lung or intestine, and in some instances, eyes and tissues.

Turns out there are many common misconceptions that deter people from wanting to donate their organs in the event of an accident.

A top concern is fear. Fear that doctors will not try as hard to save them if they are a donor as opposed to a non-donor. This is not

true.

A doctor tries to save your life before trying to save another’s, according to mayoclinic.com. The doctor who treats you will not be the same doctor who will be performing the transplantation.

Another reason why people choose not to donate is because they are afraid or uncertain of what will happen to them after they are gone.

They want their bodies to be in tact. They fear that their bodies will be mutilated and disposed of carelessly.

For deceased donors, the body is kept on life support and the organs are carefully monitored to keep them in good condition.

According to Organdonor.gov, the bodies of the deceased donor are cared for with the same care and attention as a living body would, and

all incisions are closed surgically afterward.

Some religions and cultures discourage organ donation because of certain beliefs, for example, gypsies believe that after the body dies, the soul retraces its steps for one year following the death. The body must remain in tact to maintain its physical shape.

However, according to pubmed.gov, “No religion formally forbids donation or receipt of organs or is against transplantation from living or deceased donors.”

Many believe it to be an individual decision, and even more see it as a selfless and charitable act.

It is important to talk about organ donation with your family so that there is no confusion if this topic must ever be discussed. When a tragedy occurs, family members are often too emotional to think rationally about organ donation and may not agree with your decision, even if you gave signed consent.

You can register as an organ donor through your state at your local Division of Motor Vehicles, or online at organdonor.gov.

You never know, maybe you may need a transplant one day. And what if the person who is your match didn’t take the time to check the “organ donor” box?

“Do unto others as you would have them do to you.”



The Beacon/Bryan Calabro

**Registering to become an organ donor online or at your local DMV can improve or even save the lives of up to eight people.**



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# Steroids: Turning hall of fame into 'hall of shame'

Banned substances taint honor of award while holding back potential hall of fame inductees

By Joseph Pugliese  
Staff Writer

The National Baseball Hall of Fame is the most sacred places in all of sports, the one place where the innocence and purity of baseball resides in perfect harmony.

The same hall of fame where a beautiful perfect field resides like something out of a dream, right next to the building that houses the memories of the greatest ever.

These are the halls where the memories of Ruth, Williams, Gehrig and Wagner and many others will forever live. This is the hall where the greats are all the same across every era, the halls where Griffey, Maddux and Martinez will join the greats like Mays, Koufax and Gibson.

The hall that fathers stand in the same awe and joy as their sons, the one place where every baseball fan and player dreams of walking into and never leaving. The baseball Hall of Fame has the most history and prestige of any other hall of fame in sports.

This year is the first year since 1996 that the Baseball Writers Association of America did not induct a new member into the baseball hall of fame, and only the eighth time in history that the writers failed to induct a member.

However, this time is different, some years there is no worthy candidate, but this year we had some of the all-time greats not get in.

A seven-time MVP and all-time home runs record holder, a seven-time Cy Young award winner, a man with 609 home runs, another with 583 and then quite possibly the greatest hitting catcher of all time all not get in. The reason? Steroids.

Steroids have now tainted the game to the point where even the Hall of Fame, a sacred ground, is becoming tainted and affected. We have a massive mess on our hands with steroids.

We have all kinds of records and milestones eclipsed by performance-enhancing drug users and new bench marks set. Some including players in the Hall of Fame that have said they will never go back or will never vote for a steroid user to get into the hall of fame.

Others believe that we should let them all in that it was a level playing field at the time, and some like me believe that it should be a case by case basis.

Either way we have a mess that resulted in one of the greatest hitter all time and one of the greatest pitchers of all time only receiving 36 percent and 37 percent of the vote respectively (Bonds and Clemens). Even a bigger problem is no one has a clue what to do, we have guys voting for everyone, we have guys voting for no one, and we have some that have no clue on who to vote for and who not to vote for.

The other part of this is what happens to those being treated as criminals when there is no evidence to prove they have guilt other than the build of their body.

Mike Piazza has never been linked or mentioned in any steroid report that has come out, same with Jeff Bagwell and Larry Walker. But

yet all these guys are being hurt because they were large muscular guys and hit home runs. We know for a fact Bonds, Clemens, Sosa, McGwire, and Palmeiro all did steroids, but the crazy fear that people have of accidentally electing a steroid guy into the hall and opening up the flood gates is enormous.

Once you are in the hall you cannot be removed, and if let's say a Bagwell or Piazza do get in and then are later found to be steroid users that will open the flood gates and let everyone in that has done so.

So now we have writers scared to death to put anyone in at all. Looking into the future are we going to leave Frank Thomas out because he is a big guy? I would hope not!

We have all these records and benchmarks set and we hear of them being tainted because of steroids, yet we still see those numbers as such, benchmarks.

Completing 500 home runs is no longer an automatic milestone that gets you in the hall. This diminishes player's achievements and we have guys worthy of the Hall not getting in because they are not seen as great anymore, the poster child for this is Fred McGriff. The man has 493 home runs and 1,550 RBIs and yet that's not worthy for more than 20 percent of the vote. This is a problem.

Jack Morris is another one who spent his entire career in the American League has 254 wins and the most wins of any pitcher in the 1980s which shows he was the best for a long time, and yet is still not in the hall of fame heading into his last year on the ballot.

There is no easy solution to this and everyone has a different one. My solution is case by case, to not have the all-time home run king and a seven-time MVP in the Hall of Fame is an embarrassment, quite frankly.

Same goes for a seven-time Cy Young award winner and a pitcher with 354 wins. And honestly, both Bonds and Clemens were Hall of Famers before they did the steroids.

There are two categories of steroid users: Ones who were made by the steroids and ones who were great and became immortal because of the steroids.

McGwire and Sosa and Palmeiro all were guys who were good but never great until they started juicing.

We cannot hold the players liable for something that was basically encouraged by both the owners and the media for years. Steroids have been on the banned substance list since 1992, yes but MLB did not make it a punishable offense until 2003.

After the cancellation of the World Series in 1994, baseball was hurting. The home run race and all the heroics of the steroid era brought baseball back to life and put fans in the seats, attendance records were being set and revenue skyrocketed. The owners, players and writers all turned a blind

eye to the issue because they were all benefiting from what was happening.


And now we are holding only the players in penalty when they were practically encouraged to use steroids, while the writers pass judgment to the players that they had benefited from all those years.

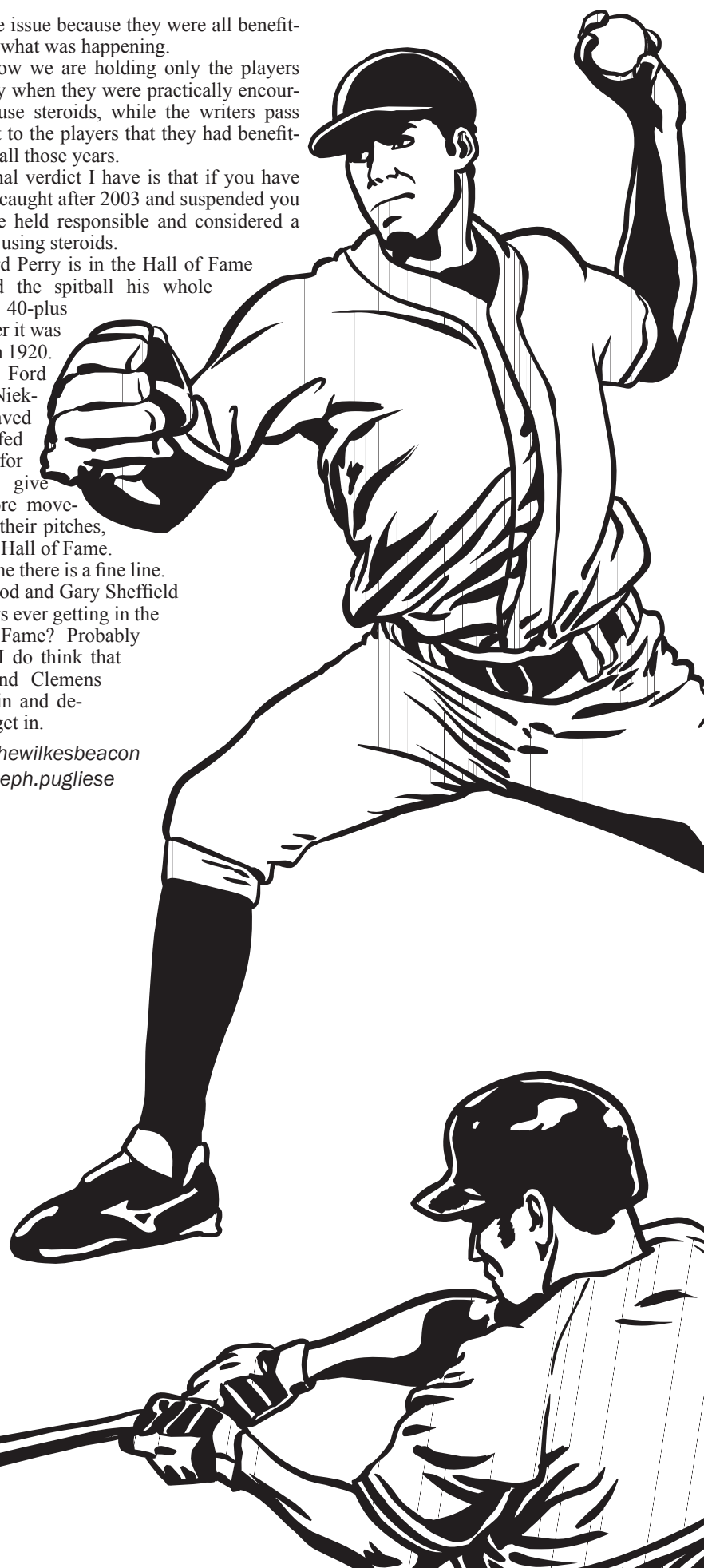
The final verdict I have is that if you have not been caught after 2003 and suspended you cannot be held responsible and considered a cheat for using steroids.

Gaylord Perry is in the Hall of Fame and used the spitball his whole career 40-plus years after it was banned in 1920.

Whitey Ford and Joe Niekro shaved and scuffed the ball for years to give them more movement on their pitches, all in the Hall of Fame.

So to me there is a fine line. Will A-Rod and Gary Sheffield and others ever getting in the Hall of Fame? Probably not, but I do think that Bonds and Clemens will get in and deserve to get in.

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# Freshman friendship gets creative juices flowing for Just Blush

By Nicole Zukowski  
Staff Writer

Having fun with good friends while making music in the process; isn't that the dream?

Four musicians from the Scranton area are doing just that. As the band Just Blush, they recently released their second EP just this winter.

The band is made up of two Wilkes University students, senior history and education major Nick Barno on drums and senior English major Todd Oravic on guitar and vocals. Along with them are Abby Vail playing the bass and Andrew Bryant on the guitar.

The bands newly released their EP titled "Just Blush, Live @ the Flea Market" (don't be fooled by the cheeky title, it's not live and there was no flea market; they're just taking the piss). The EP seeks to take listeners on a musical journey with six songs with driving lead guitars, warm percussion and on-point bass playing as a background for melodious vocals.

All the members of the band are college students by day — and, of course, time is of the essence in college. Luckily, guitar and lead vocalist Todd Oravic was able to sit down with The Beacon for a special interview about the Just Blush and the not-quite-live new EP.

**Where does the name Just Blush come from?**

*Todd:* Oh you're going to get a kick out of this. When we first started at that time it was me, Nick, Andrew and our original bassist, Guido Castellani. We just jammed and said "Oh, maybe we should start doing some original stuff as a band." Guido had this idea of Just Blush as a band name for months before that. He was at Lowe's or somewhere looking at paint splashes and one of the colors was "Just Blush." He said "Oh, there we go."

**How did you all meet each other?**

*Todd:* I met Nick during orientation weekend before our freshmen year began. Nick was literally the first friend I made up here at Wilkes. I was coming into the SUB from the back lot; Nick was sitting on his car playing an acoustic guitar. I'm a big fan of Elliot Smith, who's an acoustic musician, and Nick's guitar looked a lot like Elliot's. I originally walked passed him but I turned back just to ask him what kind of acoustic it was. We started to talk



Courtesy of Stereo Breed Media

**Despite technical setbacks, the members of Just Blush (from left: Todd Oravic, Nick Barno, Andrew Bryant and Abby Vail) just released a new EP.**

about music and eventually he introduced me to his friends from high school, one of them being Andrew Bryant. We actually use to go to see our favorite local band together, and that's how we really started to get together and bond over music.

**What genre do you consider Just Blush?**

*Todd:* We never really wanted to put a genre on ourselves, we just kind of play. Our influences kind of stem from the '70s classic music: Led Zeppelin, Talking Heads, Radiohead, etc. We tend to be more on the mellow rock side, but I'd imagine if we were on the radio we would be called "alternative." We don't really like that. We don't like to put a label on our music. We like to let people choose for themselves.

**Do you have a favorite song off the new EP?**

*Todd:* Everyone in the band likes 'Philosopher.' I like to perform "Tropical" and "Berj." "Berj" is probably the weirdest song we done so far. It doesn't follow the basic projection or structure. I like to perform "Tropical," though, because I like to listen to Andrew's guitar work. I like to listen to everyone, but I think Andrew's best guitar work is on that track.

**Could you describe the process of making the EP?**

*Todd:* We recorded it digitally. Andrew enjoys recording so we just did it all on software on his laptop. It actually crashed halfway though and we almost lost all that we did thus far, but luckily we were able to recover it. Andrew did all the mixing and mastering. He likes to do

that, so we left it to him. I mean, of course we all had a hand in it, but that is his thing. Our nickname for Andrew is actually "The Technician," mainly because he does all the intricate leads. I do the lyrical and rhythm stuff, for the most part. We all collaborate on the songwriting and music-writing process.

**What are the main themes or topics for most of your songs?**

*Todd:* I try to write in such a way that people can come up with their own meanings for it. I've found enjoyment with that myself listening to music. I like thinking "Oh, that is what this song is about," then listening to or watching an interview of the artist and learning what they thought. You have a different interpretation then what they have. I like when people say what they thought the song was about and I think "Wow, I never really thought of it that way." Like "Only Human" from our first EP. I just wrote about an alien abduction (laughs). But some people thought it had a life-and-death theme. But I think if I had to pick main themes for me personally, they would be why we are the way we are, human observations and social developments.

**Is there anyone you want to acknowledge on helping make your newest EP?**

*Todd:* Everybody who comes to see our shows, we really appreciate your support. We do it for them because we like to play for people. Whether it is a crowd of two or 200 we will play. Andrew did an awesome job of mixing and mastering. The rest of the band as well did an amazing job. Everybody who supports us, close friends of the band, bands and even new fans. We thank for all the encouragement.

**Where can fans find your albums and more information about the band?**

Keep an eye out over the summer for shows, but we have a Facebook, Soundcloud page, and YouTube videos up. Just post on our Facebook page and we will mail you the EP.

**To see the music video for the song "Only Human" by Just Blush visit TheWilkesBeacon.com**



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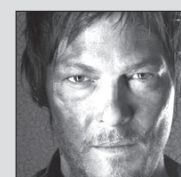
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with Anthony Bartoli  
*Best and Worst of the Oscars*



**THE BOOK REPORT**  
with Anne Yoskoski  
*"Explosive Eighteen," by Jane Evanovich*



**THE GRAVEYARD SHTICK**  
with Jake Cochran  
*Analyzing Daryl Dixon*



# STUDY ABROAD MAKES THE WORLD A CLASSROOM

The Beacon presents excerpts from the first place winners for Wilkes University's first Study Abroad Essay Contest. The goal of the contest was to provide an opportunity for those who have not traveled abroad to learn from those who have. Twelve students and 14 faculty wrote about their experiences in 14 countries. To read the full essays from the first-, second- and third-place winners, and to see more photos, visit [TheWilkesBeacon.com](http://TheWilkesBeacon.com).



"Now with the democratic movements back at home in the Middle East, and with my renewed faith in peaceful humanity and coexistence as I've seen in Northeast Pennsylvania, I feel the future holds many promises for us back there. I dream of a better Middle East where people from all origins, faiths and races can coexist to achieve unity and equity among their peoples. My experience in America has transformed me from viewing the world from a single narrow view onto viewing the world and people as a unity that aspires to live and be productive members of a larger society."

- Yehia Alzawaidah, International Student

"A few minutes away from where I stayed was The Children's AIDS Clinic of Masindi. It was the place where my revelation began and was filled with people I will never forget. I spent hours at the Children's AIDS Clinic, talking to the patients, as well as their doctors and families. Although these children had AIDS, they radiated happiness and hope. It was a tangible kind of hope, one that I hold onto today in times of distress. These kids, even at 5 and 6 years old, became role models for me; teaching me bravery and strength. After spending the day with these kids-hearing their stories, and feeling their energy -- I began asking myself, is there something more I can do with my life that could change theirs?"

- Jacob Parrick, Uganda



"With a glance into her dirty, thick glasses, an eruption of belly laughter pulled us together. We smacked our thighs, shared deep breaths interrupted by hilarious and ridiculous giggling. She kissed my cheek and patted my wild hair. I held her hand so tightly it may have bruised had it not been toughened with years of Third World strength. After a few minutes of aching joy, and 10 days of comfort-zone expansion, tears released."

- Jill Price, Adventures Education coordinator, India

Photos on these page are from trips by faculty and students. All photos are courtesy of Dr. James Merryman, except the top right photo provided by Dr. KarenBeth Bohan.



# THE 101

*Every issue, the weirdos behind The Beacon's Arts & Entertainment section indulge their vanity and give a thoroughly biased crash-course in whatever madness happens to be dwelling in their warped minds. Their views do not reflect those of The Beacon, its staff or Wilkes University. Blah blah blah. This week, Bill Thomas is asking if what you think you know about Cthulhu is...*

## Lovecraft or Lovecrap?

**By Bill Thomas**  
A&E Editor

Humanity is an exceedingly arrogant species. Wouldn't you say?

We argue over the debate of science versus religion, but never consider that neither may be valid. In religion, or at least Western religion, we are told that God made us all in his image. A narcissistic notion, no? On the other hand, there's science, which pretends to deal in fact-based objectivity. Except, science is not much different from religion, in a sense, in that it seeks to make sense of the universe in terms human beings can understand.

Therein lays the rub. Perhaps the universe is not defined by terms human being can understand. Is it really that outlandish an idea to believe that maybe there's more to reality than what human beings can comprehend or imagine, more than what we can narrowly restrict to the five measly senses and three (or four, if you count time) dimensions which we are thus far capable of observing?

"The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear, and the oldest and strongest kind of fear is fear of the unknown." So opined horror author H.P. Lovecraft in his his essay "Supernatural Horror in Literature." Considered one of the all-time greatest masters of the macabre in literary history, if Edgar Allan Poe is the char-

nel king then certainly Lovecraft is a putrescent prince.

You may know Lovecraft best by virtue of his most famous creation, the octopus-headed, bat-winged avatar of the apocalypse known as Cthulhu. All but ignored in his own time, Lovecraft's star has steadily risen since his death in 1937, to the point where Cthulhu is a bona fide pop-culture icon. His slimy, tentacle-tongued mug can be seen plastered all over the Internet, where Lovecraft fan art and satirical memes are a common sight. He's also appeared in major motion pictures, cable television shows, collectable card games and even children's cartoons.

That said, if all you know about Cthulhu is that he's an ancient evil god who hungers for souls and seeks to bring about the end of days, then you don't know Lovecraft from Lovecrap.

The biggest misconception about Lovecraft's manufactured mythology is that the entities in it, especially Cthulhu, are intentionally malevolent or that they specifically hate mankind. This interpretation oversimplifies Lovecraft's work and subverts the central idea at the core of his philosophy of horror.

Calling Cthulhu and his kin "evil" suggests that their motivations are even fathomable to the human mind and, thus, able to be neatly labeled based on human morality. They're more amoral than immortal. Calling them "gods" implies that they fit into an equally fathomable religious doctrine of some kind, one compatible with the binary, good-versus-evil, God-versus-Satan system so many of us put out faith in. "Transcendental, interdimensional entities" is a more apt description.

Worse, saying they specifically hate and want to destroy humanity suggests that humanity plays some kind of important role in the grander scheme of things.

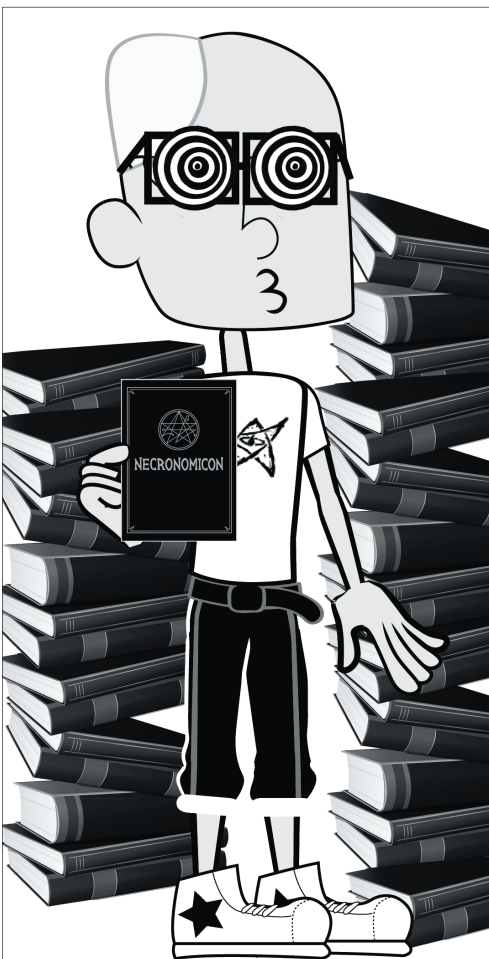
That's human arrogance in a nutshell right there.

The horror of Lovecraft is the horror of revelation. In Lovecraft stories like "Pickman's Model" and "From Beyond," protagonists are driven either to the very edge of sanity or hopelessly past it, by the unearthing of dark and terrible secrets. Often these secrets completely pervert said protagonists' firmly held beliefs as to the true nature of reality itself. In the tales of Cthulhu and his fellow non-evil non-gods, the biggest revelation is most often the utter importance and irrelevance of humanity as a whole.

The universe, Lovecraft tells us, is broader, deeper and more layered than human beings could ever hope to understand. Cthulhu doesn't want to kill us all because he hates us. He'll kill us all if he can, don't you worry about that. But he'll do it because he is indifferent to us, because we simply do not matter. To him, we are have no more significance in the face of reality than a microscopic mote of dust on the back of ant does to us when it's under the heel of one's boot.



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## CHEAT SHEET

### H.P.'s Top 10 Non-Mythos Tales

Though author H.P. Lovecraft is most often spoken about in association with his "Cthulhu Mythos" stories, the fact is he was a prolific master of the macabre of whose overall body of work Cthulhu and his ilk comprise but a small (albeit widely adored) segment.

#### Imprisoned with the Pharaohs

This one barely makes the list, as Lovecraft ghostwrote it for another famous face from the early 1900s, escape artist Harry Houdini. That combination alone, however, merits this tale's inclusion, if only out of geeky, fanboy appreciation of the pulpy novelty of it. Purporting to be true, the story casts Houdini as the hero in a tale of ageless, inhuman horror among the pyramids of Egypt.

#### The Picture in the House

One of Lovecraft's most simple, understated stories, "The Picture in the House" this slow-burn, abruptly ending mood-piece about the potential rejuvenating effects of cannibalism slowly ramps up the overtones of menace and dread until a sudden, unexpected finale.

#### Arthur Jermyn

Among Lovecraft's most notable pet themes are those of genetic corruption and ancestral secrets. All are on full display in this tale, wherein the title character discovers he may be descendants of decidedly less-than-human stock.

#### Herbert West – Reanimator

Arguably Lovecraft's best-known work, the author originally intended the piece – adapted into the 1985 splatter movie classic "Re-Animator" – to be a parody of Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein." Sly, wry humor aside, the story is nevertheless is ghastly as they come. It's also one of the first times the idea of zombies being raised via science, rather than voodoo, was explored. Show some respect.

#### The Lurking Fear

Greatly inspired by British author William Hope Hodgson's novel "The House on the Borderland," as well as Lovecraft's own aforementioned fascination with the degradation of family blood-

lines, "The Lurking Fear" is a companion piece to the more Mythos-y "The Rats in the Walls." Both literally "dig up" buried secrets and leave their protagonists shaken to their core.

#### The Colour Out of Space

The most borderline Mythos-y story on this list, this tale is also one of Lovecraft's own personal favorites. How can you argue with that? In it, the idea of humanity's own limited understanding of the universe is explored when meteorite crashes to Earth and brings something deadly and wholly incomprehensible with it.

#### Cool Air

What would you do to live forever? Lovecraft revisits themes from "Herbert West – Reanimator" and "The Picture in the House" in this tragic and chilling (literally) story, which indulges the author's interest in scientific advancement while communicating the inherent horror of immortality.

#### Pickman's Model

This time, Lovecraft turns his exploratory eye on himself and the art of manufacturing fear. In "Pickman's Model," we meet Richard Upton Pickman, a painter notorious for creating hauntingly real portraits of hideous creatures that couldn't possibly exist. Could they?

#### The Outsider

Though Lovecraft is known for his use of shocking twist endings, this one takes the cake. A multi-layered masterpiece of reader manipulation, "The Outsider" concerns a mysterious prisoner trapped in a tomb, who discovers something that is liberating for him, but terrifying for readers. Saying anything more would be giving too much away.



Feb. 26, 2013

Contact editor: anne.yoskoski@wilkes.edu

# Beauty Beat: DIY nail decals an alternative to polish

By Ashley Evert  
Staff Writer

While perusing some of the nail art blogs I frequent, I became aware of whispers of a Do-It-Yourself approach to nail decals.

Unfortunately, not many people actually had a thorough tutorial for this art.

Because more people are becoming infatuated with the idea of making things by hand instead of purchasing products in over-priced stores, I decided to try this technique and let you all know if it's worth all the trouble.

1. Figure out what image you would like to make a decal from and scale it on your computer to fit your nail. This may require a few print-outs until you get the correct sizing.

I recommend replicating the image a number of times over a full sheet of paper so you can paint a ton of these at once.

2. Cut a plastic bag (or wax paper, plastic wrap, or really anything clear that nail polish will peel off of) and tape it to the paper so it will not move as you paint.

3. Paint a clear coat over the image onto the plastic, making sure to leave some edges since

you'll need some wiggle room to lift the image when it's done. Repeat so there are two coats of clear polish over the image.

4. Once the clear coat is dry, paint over the image with a tiny brush or toothpick and let that dry.

5. As that is drying, paint your nails with a base coat of whatever color you'd like. Make sure everything is 100 percent dry before you try to lift the decals or they will fall apart. If you try to apply the decals to wet nails, it will smudge your polish (I learned this the hard way).

6. Apply a thin top coat to your nails and use a pair of tweezers to lift your decal off the plastic and place it on your nail. Press it down gently and apply another top coat.

7. Repeat until you're satisfied with your lovely nails, let them dry, and enjoy the inevitable compliments.


These decals are great for those of us who have trouble painting images directly onto the nail, since they are not perfectly flat. It's much easier to create a flat image and then transfer it to the nail.

Overall, I appreciated the DIY element of this project, but I just did not have the patience for it. Perhaps it was the incredibly time-consuming pattern I chose.

For people who love to spend a lot of time on their nail art, this is a great challenge for you. For those of us that like things a little more on the simple side, this may try your patience a bit.

I hope I have inspired you to try your hand at creating your own nail decals. Good luck.



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The Beacon/Ashley Evert  
**Nail decals can be an alternative to nail polish if you have the patience.**



# Innovation Council designed to help improve Wilkes culture

By Alyssa Stencavage  
Life Editor

Many students have probably seen or heard about the Formation of the Innovation Council through the Today@Wilkes announcements that are delivered via email every day and also on the news archives on the university website.

Associate Vice President of Marketing Communications Jack Chielli said the ultimate goal of the council is to first, "delve into specific topics that may be of interest to students and the university at large in a creative way," and secondly to "help nurture the culture of innovation of the university at large."

The topic for the first of these councils, which was an idea originated by the president's cabinet and is currently forming, is titled: How can technology enhance the residential student experience? This will both examine technology in residential experience and come up with innovative and interesting ideas to improve that experience, and then put together a presentation to give to the campus community, the president's cabinet and possibly the board of trustees.

The objective of the first idea is to deploy

technology more effectively to enhance the educational experience at Wilkes.

"I would hope that the ideas the campus community is excited about would end up before the board," Chielli said.

Each council can have a separate idea to work with.

"Each each council will have as its own goals to come up with ideas both implementable and affordable, and that help improve some sort of operation at the university," Chielli said.

President Patrick Leahy said this is a formal way of generating ideas around vexing issues, taking one issue at a time and forming a team and throwing ideas at them to see what they can come up with.

The councils will not be responsible for implementing ideas, only generating them. From there, senior administration will evaluate each of them to see which ones are not only good, but also affordable and so on.

Leahy, who came up with the idea, said it came from businesses that have employed these ideas based on vexing problems.

"I think our world is very complex, and particularly higher education has faced its fair share of problems," Leahy said. "I have the general belief that of the best organizations

— be it corporations, government, business or higher education, the most successful are those that place a premium on innovation, such as creativity, entrepreneurship, thinking outside the box. I want to try to build a culture of innovation. I like to be open to new ideas and think outside the box."

The formation of these innovation councils will accomplish two things. The first is that they will create new, fresh, innovative thinking that could be presented to senior decision makers. It's all about the fresh thinking around certain ideas that can influence our thinking. Second, through these teams, an innovative culture will be built here.

But Leahy said he really wants students engaged in the process.

"We can really have fun with this and come up with ideas that can help us benefit the student culture here at Wilkes," Leahy said. "We face issues and we need to address these issues by coming up with ideas that are different from what we are used to."

Leahy stressed that we need new thinking around the problems we face and that he is using it as a tool to create an innovative culture.

How the formation of these councils will benefit the university really all depends on the

ideas that are generated.

"I would hope that the innovation councils bring attention to ideas the campus community can enact that will improve the student experience at large," Chielli said.

Considering the first council is still in the making, Chielli said they will learn more about interest after they go through the first one and go through the process once.

"This could be fun, I'm hoping to have some fun with it," Chielli said. "We will bring a group of people together who have interest in a particular subject area, dive down deep into the idea and explore it to come up with some actionable items to propose to campus. I expect them to do research, come together and bring ideas, and then disband and form another council."

However, these councils will only have a couple of months at most to work together to get the job done.

"The quickness of it will help people generate ideas more quickly," Chielli said. "I don't know how many meetings each council will need, but that's something we'll sort of experiment with as we go along."

**See Innovation, Page 15**



## National Pistachio Day...

Feb. 26, 2013, marks National Pistachio Day. The pistachio is a small bushy tree native to the Middle East, which produces bunches of fruit that are similar to grapes. The pistachio nut is also a seed of that fruit. Pistachios contain more antioxidants per serving than green tea, and are an excellent source of fiber, copper, manganese and Vitamin B6. Pistachios are often used in cooking and can be enjoyed as a snack, whether roasted or fresh.



## Pinteresting: A How-To Guide

*Admit it, everyone is on Pinterest. It's chock-full of amazing ideas and simple crafts that cause everyone to take one look at the picture with the "it's so easy!" description and declare, "I could do that." After some severe craft fails (and successes), I, Anne Yoskoski, decided it was time to share these experiences with everyone, hopefully saving at least one oven, set of eyebrows, trip to the doctor for stitches and a carpet in the process.*

### Frosted Glasses

This was more difficult than I expected it to be. After several trial and error glasses, I finally ended up with a good process.

#### Supplies:

1. glassware
2. frost spray paint (white)
3. rubber bands/paper strips

#### Procedure:

1. Place rubber bands around your glassware in the pattern you want to stay perfectly clear. I found out the hard way to use thick rubber bands. The thin ones will break. If the bands overlap, make sure it is snug so there will be a neat pattern.
2. Spray the glass. I found three coats were too many, two coats should be fine. If it seems like it isn't showing up, wait a bit for it to dry a little.
3. Let dry and get out of the room (spray outside if you can); the fumes are especially noxious. When the outside of a rubber band is dry and not tacky to the touch, you are ready for the next step.
4. Remove the bands carefully.
5. It will look messy. Wash and dry the glassware, and paint flakes that built up around the edge of the bands will break off. If they do not, work at it with a sponge until they disappear.
6. Enjoy

This was a bit more expensive, mainly due to the paint. While it wasn't exactly difficult, it wasn't an exact science either.



The Beacon/Anne Yoskoski  
**Make sure to wash the glass afterward for the full effect.**

**B-**

## Campus events stress diversity

By Priscilla Bonilla  
Correspondent

With the support of faculty, Erica Acosta, executed a successful week in creating awareness of different cultures for the students at Wilkes University.

"Faculty see the importance in Diversity Week," said Erica Acosta, associate director for Diversity Initiatives. "And they encouraged their students to attend."

The number of students who attended Diversity Week continued to increase as the week went on. Acosta said she was satisfied by the level of participation and believes that her efforts along with the faculty's commitment resulted in a positive outcome.

Around 10 students attended 'Sounds of Africa' on Monday, 15 students were in attendance for the "Challenging Stereotypes in Media" on Tuesday, the number of attendees continued to rise to 40 on Wednesday at "Life Outside the Closet," and finally 'What's in a Name?' had 20 participants on Thursday.

Dr. Evene Estwick, associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies, said she was pleased to see the number of students who attended the 'Challenging Stereotypes in Media.'

She was excited to see the students partake

in the discussion but would have liked more participation.

"The students were aware," Estwick said in regard to issues brought up in the film "Crash." "But actually seeing it on screen is shocking."

Each time Estwick watches the movie "Crash," she always has a new reaction because the film only offers questions.


It makes viewers think about topics such as racism, sexism, masculinity and others, which are typically noticed but avoided by society, she said.

"Wilkes students need to know the best way to diversify and make yourself marketable, is by getting involved," Acosta said.

Acosta advised students to take advantage of the events the university offers because they never know what they will end up doing.

"If you would have asked me what I saw myself doing now 10 years ago," Acosta said. "I would have replied a nurse practitioner."

Acosta got involved and attended events such as Diversity Week during her college years, the knowledge she gained from first hand experience of cultures allowed her to be eligible for the position she now attains.

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priscilla.bonilla@wilkes.edu

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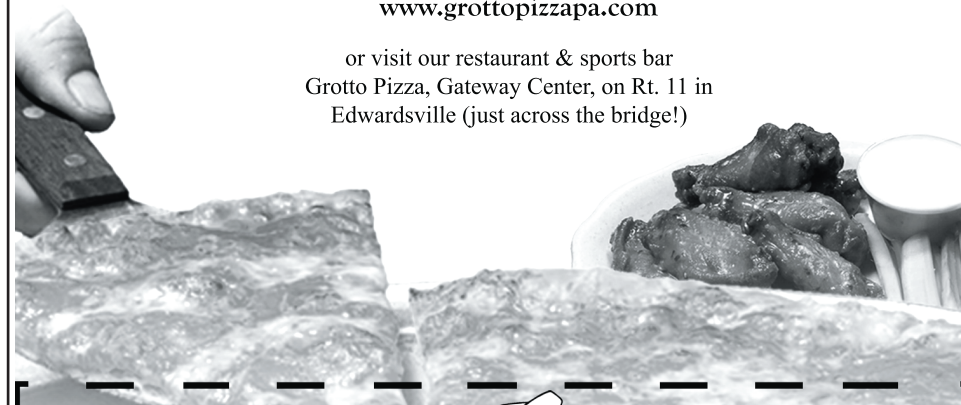
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# Innovation

Continued from Page 13

If you are interested in joining a council, email Jack Chielli with a very brief explanation of why you are interested in serving on the council.

The actual council will be picked by the cabinet, and this will inform everyone of expressed interest whether they are put on the council or not.

Between eight and 12 students can be on a council, and among those there should be appropriate representation from the various different groups on campus.

The topic for the formation of the first council is only the first. There are more to come.

Some of these include:

- How can the university grow enrollments from outside of Pennsylvania?
- How can Wilkes increase its alumni participation rate in terms of giving or donating to the university?
- In what ways can Wilkes University continue the redevelopment of downtown Wilkes-Barre.

Leahy said we talk about the issues, but we need to get people out there and actually working with them. He even used the term "hungry for ideas."



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alyssa.stencavage@wilkes.edu

## Innovation Council facts:

- Idea from President Leahy
- First one: How can technology enhance the residential student experience?
- Councils only responsible for generating ideas
- Will accomplish fresh thinking and build an innovative culture at Wilkes
- Topics will surround pressing issues in our area
- Councils will only last for a couple of months
- Between eight and 12 students on council
- Seeking interest in students who want to create innovation

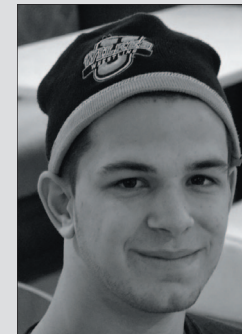
## THE WORD AT WILKES: Where are you going for spring break?



Chelsey Schoch:

Senior Psychology Major

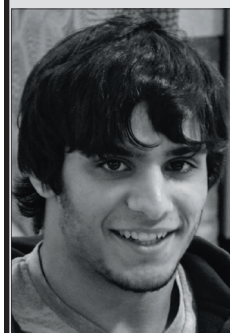
"I'm going to Costa Rica with Alternative Spring Break."



Jimmy Ilvento:

Freshman Accounting Major

"I'm going to Florida."



Pat Ingulli:

Freshman Biology Major

"I'm going to Myrtle Beach."



Jordan Overpeck:

Freshman Biology Major

"Working at a pharmacy."

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# Men's, women's tennis teams open play

## Spring season starts for both squads with a trip to Hilton Head Island, S.C.

By Frank Passalacqua

Sports Co-Editor

and Evan Willey

Staff Writer

The men's and women's tennis teams are training for the start of the spring season.

The Wilkes tennis teams have been practicing in UCOM during the winter with head coach Chris Leicht as the spring break trip in Hilton Head Island, S.C., approaches.

"We are very excited for our upcoming tennis season. We start our spring season with three matches on our spring break tennis trip to Hilton Head Island," said Leicht, who is very excited to get his players out there after a five-month break.

The women's team begins the trip on March 4th, followed by the men's team on March 5th.

The men's team had recently competed in the Drew Invitational over the weekend of Feb 16. Wilkes will enter the spring season as winners of the last five Freedom Conference championships, earning five straight automatic bids to the NCAA Tournament. Last year Wilkes finished 14-4 overall and 5-0 in conference play.

The Hilton Head opener will see matches against Penn State Erie-The Behrend College, Emory & Henry College, Wittenberg University, and John Carroll University. The men's team will then play two matches in the weeks before the Freedom Conference action begins March 28 when it hosts King's College.

The women's team is led by Melanie Nolt, Katie Lynn, and Amanda Holyk and a junior Ally Kristofco. Kristofco will play a major role on the team for years to come. Other upperclassmen who will contribute include Amanda Rossi and Ana English. Last year was the best season in school history as the women scored a perfect 19-0 record, and highest-ever regional ranking of 7. Also, they won the Freedom Conference title for the sixth straight season, and advanced to the NCAA National Tourney.

The fall season saw the women go 3-0 in dual matches, and great individual results at Blooms-



The Beacon/Greg Bowser

**Former Freedom Conference tournament MVP and First-Team All-Freedom Conference selection Alex Makos practices his serve in UCOMM during practice. Makos 16-10 last season and will start this spring season as No. 2 singles on the team.**

burg and at the MAC Individual Tourneys. Leicht is confident in his girls as they will face two DII schools and five regionally ranked DIII schools.

"My men's team is incredibly deep, with many quality players battling to make the lineup," said Coach Leicht.

Leicht is expecting big contributions from upperclassmen Alex Makos, Brendon Blachowski, Clarke Freeman, Brando Helfrich and Trey Fidler. Adding to the talented team is the freshman recruiting class – led by Michael Kranz, Connor Peckham, Max Appello, and Dan Hackford. The men are excited to defend the conference title, and get back to the NCAA National Tournament.

Like the women, they had a stand-out fall season, especially at the MAC Individual Tourney in

October. They won seven out of the nine flights at this event and saw the season come to an end.

After coming off a 19-1 season, the Lady Colonels will compete for their seventh straight Freedom Conference championship in 2013.

Last year, senior captain Melanie Nolt finished 16-5 and was named First-Team All Freedom selection, adding to her accolade of three-time Freedom Conference Player of the Year.

The second senior captain, Holyk, ended last year at 13-1, with a 6-0 record in the fall. Holyk grabbed third straight MAC Individual Championship at No. 5.

Katie Lynn finished 9-8 last season, but was 6-0 on the fall. Lynn won her MAC Individual Championship matchup at No. 4.

Finishing 20-1 and a First-Team All Freedom ballot a year earlier,



Kristofco also ended the fall season at 6-0 and a title at No. 3 singles in the MAC Individual Championships.

This spring, Amanda Rossi, Ana English, and Olivia Hewison will be competing for a spot at No. 5 and 6. In the fall, Rossi won the No. 6 title at singles.

Lynn and Nolt will return once again at No. 1 doubles, Kristofco and English at No. 2 doubles, as they ended fall with a 6-0 record, and the No. 3 doubles spot still up in the air.

After the past Ranger Invitational at Drew University, the men's team has a depth chart set.

The men's team will have Steven Wilson at No. 1 singles, as he won over Kevin Erikson of Roger Williams, 6-0, 6-1.

No. 2 Alex Makos defeated his opponent 6-7(5), 6-1, (15-13) in a

tie-breaker at singles. Makos will look to improve over his 16-10 record a season ago.

Michael Kranz will play at No. 3 while Connor Peckham earned No. 4 singles. Kranz recently won (10-5 and 10-8) in tiebreakers at the Ranger Invitational as Peckham delivered a 6-2, 6-1 straight match in one of his three matches.

No. 5 singles will be Max Appello with two singles wins in the event and only allowed a total of four combined points in his victories. He also spent time at No. 6.

Brandon Helfrich, Daniel Hackford, and Trey Fidler also came away with victories at No. 8 singles bracket.



Getting to know...

## Chris Shovlin

By Michelle Coyle  
Staff Writer

Courtesy of Sports Information

**What position are you?**  
Point Guard**When did you start playing basketball?**  
I started playing basketball at around 4 years old.**Do you have an inspiration?**  
I'm inspired to one day become a coach possibly.**How is it playing for Wilkes University?**  
It is great. This group is a great group of guys, especially the younger guys. This team is going to be very good.**Did your team accomplish everything they wanted to accomplish?**

Actually no, we didn't. We had a rough year due to all the injuries and sickness over the course of the season. We dealt with a lot of adversity and overcame it, just a little too late.

**Is there a specific game or moment in a game you will never forget?**

Winning the Monarch Classic was a memorable moment. We struggled the two games before that but we turned it around and ending up beating two very good teams in Susquehanna and Central Penn.

**What motivates you to keep playing the game you love?**

The passion and love for the game; it is just something I can never get sick of.

**Do you have any pre-game rituals or superstitions you do before every game?**

No, nothing out of the ordinary.

**What is your major and what do you plan on doing once you graduate?**

I am a business administration major and law school is my goal, but there is also the thought of getting into coaching.

**Being a junior, do you feel you have a certain role on the team? If so, what is that?**

I feel like I have to be a leader out there, being older than some of the other guys. It kind of just comes naturally with age, these guys look up to you, so you have to set a good example.

## Hockey to play Tuesday night



The Beacon/Laura Preby

**Senior assistant captain Epes Harris battles for puck control against the boards late in the game. In its first game the club came back after a three-goal deficit in the second period to go on to win the game 6-4. The Wilkes University Club Hockey team plays again at the Revolution Ice Centre in Pittston at 7 p.m. on Rink 2.**

## Quick Hits: UFC 157, Japan, and roster cuts

By Jake Cochran  
Staff Writer

## Ronda Rousey earns title in tough test against Carmouche

Ronda Rousey had the toughest test to date on Saturday at UFC 157 against challenger Liz Carmouche.

Rousey found herself in trouble early in the round when an attempted judo toss went awry and The Girl-rilla took her back and went with a strong cross face rear naked choke attempt across Rousey's mouth putting her in the most peril in her short career.

For the rest of the round the traditionally aggressive Rousey made a resurgence ending the round with a series of armbar attempts from the spiderweb position ending with a perfectly executed lawnmower armbar forcing the quick tap from Carmouche.

While the next contender to Rousey's belt is unclear, the women's division is beginning to fill out with plans to sign many more fighters.

Among the recent additions to the women's bantamweight division are, Alexis Davis, Sara McMann, Miesha Tate and Cat Zingano. Gina Carano is also rumored to end her retirement.

## Jon Fitch cut from UFC, WSOF shows interest in signing

In a recent press conference the UFC stated that the organization will need to cut around 100 fighters to make way for the new divisions they plan on adding.

These new divisions are the women's bantamweight division and the rumored addition of a men's 115 pound strawweight division.

The UFC will also use this room to expand upon the recently added 125 pound men's flyweight division.

While all of this makes sense to most fans, what doesn't make sense is the fact that recently the UFC released their promotional rankings, and in those rankings they ranked longtime welterweight contender, Jon Fitch, at No. 9.

But then when the UFC started to do their cuts many were surprised to see that Jon Fitch was cut from the roster, especially with the promotions own rankings showing that he is a valuable asset.

Once Fitch was made a free agent it didn't take long for the newly emerging organization, World Series of Fighting to show interest in the grinding wrestler.

While no deal has been offered yet it would not be hard to imagine that it will be in the coming weeks and with the upcoming event on March 23 in Atlantic City, Fitch's signing may be announced then.

## Return to Japan boasts Wandy, Hunt, Gomi and Okami

On March 3 the UFC will make their first return to the Saitama Super Arena since UFC 144.

The main event will feature one time Scranton native and Silver Star recipient Brian Stann against long time PRIDE Champion Wanderlei Silva.

The bout has been long saute after by the UFC, Brian Stann and fans alike. The only one who seemed to not want the fight was Wanderlei who stated he did not want to fight a national hero.

The card also features match-ups between heavyweights Stefan Struve and Japanese fan-favorite Mark Hunt. The two kickboxers are looking to stand and trade and at the end of the match up, improve their standings in the constantly volatile heavyweight rankings.

The main card also features Diego Sanchez and the sole PRIDE lightweight champion Takanori Gomi.

The fight is dangerous for The Fireball Kid as his record is less than stellar since his move to the UFC and with the recent cuts he could be on the chopping block.

## WELTERWEIGHT

**Champion : Georges St-Pierre**

1 Johny Hendricks

2 Carlos Condit

3 Nick Diaz

4 Rory MacDonald

5 Demian Maia

6 Jake Ellenberger

7 Martin Kampmann

8 Josh Koscheck

9

10 Tarec Saffiedine

Courtesy of UFC.com

**Dana White said in a recent statement at a press conference that the UFC plans to cut about 100 fighters from the roster after their recent cuts of more than a dozen fighters. Including their No. 9 ranked welterweight Jon Fitch after going 1-2 over his last three fights.**



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## SCOREBOARD

### Wrestling

2/22 King's College W 36-9

## WEEKS AHEAD

### Wrestling

3/2 East Regionals

### Baseball

3/4 College of Staten Island

3/5 Emerson College

3/6 York College of Penn.

3/7 Penn State Berks

3/8 Catholic University of

America

### Softball

3/1 Shenandoah University

3/1 Rowan University

3/2 Frostbury State University

3/2 York College

3/3 Rutgers-Camden

### Men's Tennis

3/5 Penn State Erie

3/5 Emory & Henry College

3/6 Wittenberg University

3/8 John Carrol University

### Women's Tennis

3/4 Assumption College

3/6 Wittenberg University

3/8 John Carroll University

### Women's Lacrosse

3/10 Rutgers-Camden

**Joseph Pugliese**  
Columnist



Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player that has ever lived. But as with all greats, Jordan has become older and his physical ability has deteriorated.

Jordan turned 50 this past week, sparking a week of highlights and tributes to a man that many worship in the world of basketball and sports.

Very few athletes have hit the age of 50 with a resume and timeline that can simply be described as legendary. In fact, I would argue that there are only a handful of players in any sport in history that have earned that.

Babe Ruth, Wayne Gretzky, Tiger Woods and maybe Peyton Manning are all considered living legends before they even retired from their sports and get anointed into the hall of fame.

This begs the question, could and will Jordan ever attempt another comeback to the sport of basketball? First, I have tried to research if there has ever been an athlete to retire and be inducted into any Hall of Fame and then comeback, the only one that I have found was Gordie Howe in hockey, who was inducted in 1972 and then played as late as 1980.

So it can be done and I do not believe that there are any rules against coming back after inducted into the Hall of Fame.

While 50 is old by all athletic standards it is certainly not impossible to be in great shape and able to compete at that age.

Now a story came out during Jordan's birthday week and all-star weekend that Jordan beat the No. 2 pick in the draft Michael Kidd-Gilchrist in a game of one-on-one.

Kidd-Gilchrist is no LeBron James, but he is still a 19-year-old kid who averages 9.1 points per game. Rumors have also been swirling that Jordan's trainer, Tim Grover, has put together a program to get him back down to his playing weight of 218 pounds from the 250 that he is at right now.

Grover also stirred the pot further and said Jordan could still average 20 points per game and be the best player on the Bobcats right now.

I think that is a bit generous; however, 10-15 would be a better estimate.

Whether you believe he would or not it's fun to imagine if he would.

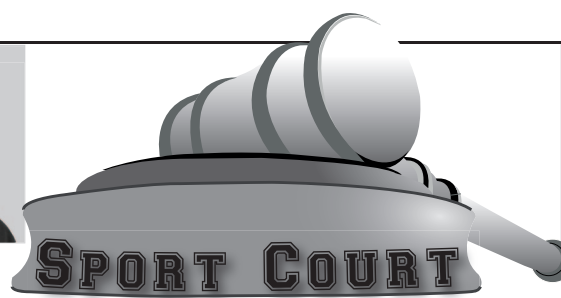
First ticket sales would skyrocket to every game and city he visited the nonstop coverage would result in millions for the Bobcats.

Also looking at the schedule and time it would take him to drop 30 pounds and get in basketball shape the ideal date for a return would be April 3 a home game against the Sixers.

That would leave eight games left for him to play including a Knicks, Nets and most importantly a showdown with LeBron and the Heat which is the real draw for Jordan to comeback and show he can play with James at the age of 50. April 5 could possibly be the biggest ticket to buy in basketball history, MAYBE.



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## Should MJ come out of retirement?

### Michael Jordan Timeline

1984: Michael Jordan is drafted third overall in the NBA draft by the Chicago Bulls and winning rookie of the year.

1990-1991: Jordan wins his first NBA title and Finals MVP

1992-1993: Jordan wins his third consecutive NBA title and Finals MVP

1993-1994: Jordan retires to pursue a career in baseball, during this time it was also rumored he assisted the Looney Toons in defeating the Monstars alongside Bill Murray.

March 18, 1995: Jordan releases statement about his return and in a game against the Pacers sets a ratings record for a regular season game.

1995-1998: The Bulls complete their second three-peat, giving Jordan the most Finals MVPs of all time.

Jan. 13, 1999: Jordan retires for a second time.

Sept. 25, 2001 Jordan announces he will return and play on the Washington Wizards

April 16, 2003: Jordan's Final NBA game, scoring 13 points.

**Frank Passalacqua**  
Co-editor



As Michael Jordan turned the big 5-0, the rumors start once again. Can the legendary MJ make a return to the NBA at the age of 50? Yes, he can do anything he wants. But will he do it? No, he will not.

Whenever MJ's name is brought up, it's always attached to the same question: "Will he comeback to the NBA?" Some people will swear their lives that he will, but the logical people, including MJ himself, will shoot down the possibility in a heartbeat.

Over All-Star weekend, Charlotte Bobcats' Michael Kidd-Gilchrist announced that he had recently been beaten in a game of one-on-one by MJ. Everyone ate this up, claiming that if he can beat Kidd-Gilchrist, he can play in the NBA. Let's think about this:

Kidd-Gilchrist is a 19-year-old rookie, averaging only nine points per game. Nine, that's only good for four layups and a free throw. MJ averaged 30 for his entire career, a 21-point difference. Beating a young player one-on-one means absolutely nothing, nothing at all. Hearing MJ beat LeBron James in a game of one-on-one would be quite the story, not a rookie.

MJ hasn't played in the NBA in more than 10 years. During his last two seasons in the league, Jordan played for the Washington Wizards after coming out of retirement for three years. For the Wizards, Jordan averaged 22.9 and 20 PPG in 2002 and 2003. He also shot .416 and .445 from the field respectively during those two years. Those numbers were the worst in his entire career, and that was only after a three-year retirement. What makes people think he could be better after 10 years if he was significantly worse after just three?

There are so many reasons why this just won't work. The league has changed dramatically since his departure. With athletic phenoms like LeBron, Blake Griffin and Kevin Durant just to name a few, the old and overweight Jordan would get smacked around the court.

People also seem to forget that Jordan is an owner of the Bobcats as well. I'm no commissioner, but I'm pretty sure in his contract, somewhere it says he can't play in the NBA if he owns a team ... but just a thought.

This isn't saying MJ couldn't play in the NBA, however. Granted he is about 75 pounds heavier and much, much slower than before, he could probably contribute 10 points to a team that signs him, just like Kidd-Gilchrist. No, he will not average anywhere near 20 a game, but five to 10 is better than nothing.

Just because he is capable of playing doesn't mean he will. Jordan knows his legacy -- a multi-billionaire shoe guru already in the Hall of Fame. Coming back after 10 years would be unnecessary and ultimately, an embarrassment.

Do you think he wants people to remember him as being that old man who warmed the bench or that player that changed the NBA and won six championships? You choose, I know MJ already did.



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