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THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

New club takes stand against sexual assault

By Sean Schmoyer
Asst. News Editor

Wilkes University, under the guidance of Title IX, has been a longtime supporter of sexual assault awareness and prevention. A new addition to the Wilkes campus has recently increased the presence of students partaking in the university's efforts.

"It's On Us' main goal is to build a team of dedicated student leaders who promote sexual assault awareness, by-intervention and support survivors on campus," according to the club's president Lindsay Becker, junior criminology major.

The Wilkes University It's On Us chapter was officially established over the course of the 2018-2019 school year, and plans to continue growing on campus as time goes on.

The original It's On Us was created in 2014 by the Obama-Biden administration due to recommendations by the White House Task Force to Prevent Sexual Assault. According to the official It's On Us website, the task force noted the importance of bringing "everyone into the conversation of sexual assault prevention."

Though not officially a Student Government recognized club yet, Becker and vice president Ashley Baker, junior criminology and sociology major, have numerous activities and events in the works for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year to grow the club's presence and number of participants.

"We are coming up with event ideas," said Becker. "One I keep talking about is

'Spill the Tea' night, an open mic night where we drink tea and let loose a little bit."

Becker says the club also plans to host survivor support programs, and was recently reached out by BACCHUS to hold a table at the annual alcohol awareness walk.

"We are putting forward a proposal for the It's On Us national tour, which is basically a miniaturized version of the summit in Ohio," continued Becker. The organization's first summit in Ohio was held in August, and featured keynote speakers and discussion panels.

"We are hoping that we will be able to host it here at Wilkes University and give that opportunity to not just students and faculty, but to local colleges and the community as well."

It's On Us is supported by their adviser, Dr. Andrew Wilczak, associate professor of sociology, and the Wilkes Title IX office

including Title IX Coordinator Samantha Hart.

In January of 2019 Wilkes was awarded an It's On Us scholarship of \$30,000 that went towards the Red Flag Campaign, a campaign dedicated to by-stander

intervention. It also went to other programs that either brought awareness about sexual assault or taught students methods to recognize and prevent sexual assault.

According to Hart, Title IX is about more than just sexual assault prevention and awareness, but also about equity.

It's On Us is able to work with Title IX and expand on the campus education and prevention around sexual assault. An

officially established It's On Us chapter offers new opportunities and a chance to reach out to students in a new way.



The Beacon/Madison Hummer

Local theatre company performs Shakespeare for community

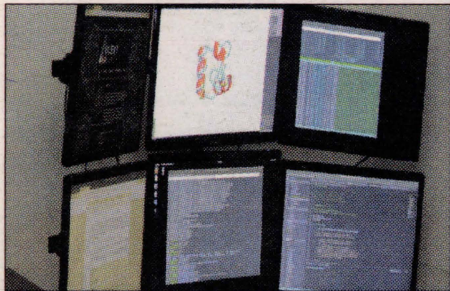
By Jordan Daniel
Staff Writer

The Gaslight Theatre Company recently put on a 90-minute production called "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged," which consisted of all of Shakespeare's classic plays. The event was originally going to be held at the Northampton Street Amphitheatre Portal but due to rainy weather, it was relocated to Downtown Arts on Franklin Street.

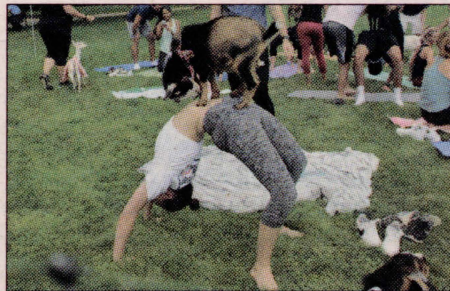
"Thankfully the change of location was not too complicated because King's College loaned us their equipment and we were able to move the whole set quickly into Downtown Arts," Dave Reynolds, the artistic director of Gaslight Theatre Company, said.

Not only did Gaslight Theatre Company partner up with King's College for this event, but other sponsors assisted with the event, including the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Wilkes University, The Luzerne Foundation and Riverfront Parks.

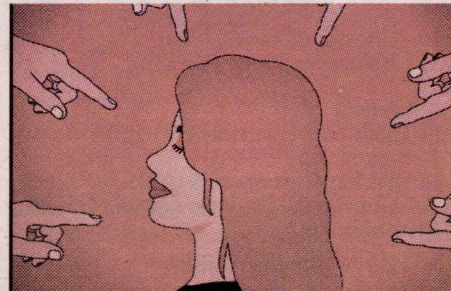
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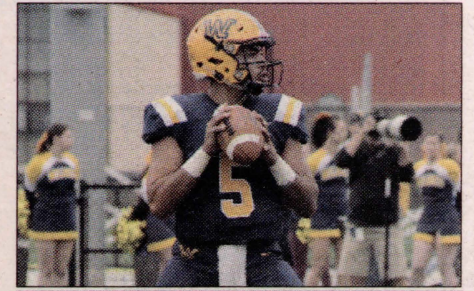
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FB: Colonels have monumental win to start season 2-0, page 24

News

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

Beacon Briefs:

Upcoming happenings on and around campus

Compiled by Sean Schmoyer

"Wonders of Nature" Continues

The Riverfront Parks Committee continues to present its environmental education program series at the River Common Amphitheatre on both Sept. 18 and Sept. 25 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"Eagles on the Susquehanna" will be hosted on Sept. 18 and "Wildlife of the Watershed" will be hosted on Sept. 28, both events will be held in the Carbon County Environmental Education Center.

Paperwork Due for Fall Bachelor's Degree Candidates

Completed graduation paperwork (which includes a signed diploma order and a copy of the degree audit) for all fall semester bachelor's degree candidates is due to the Registrar's Office by Friday, Sept. 27.

If students have not already turned in this paperwork to the Registrar's Office in Capin Hall, they should make an appointment with their advisor to complete this process. Students should submit their graduation paperwork as soon as possible.

Please note that master's and doctoral degree students will be sent separate graduation information and paperwork shortly.

Student Government notes: Sept. 4 weekly meeting

By Sara Ross
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Sept. 11, Student Government held their weekly meeting with only a few items on the agenda and some exciting news about Homecoming weekend.

For starters, President Jason DeBoard of the American Student Medical Association (AMSA) came back for the third time. DeBoard answered unresolved questions about the organization's membership policies and constitution. The vote to recognize an AMSA chapter at Wilkes was approved with the stipulation that they adjust their constitution.

The Student Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA) came back for a second presentation. Their requested amount of \$1,680 for the trip was passed, as long as any

extra money they don't use is returned to Student Government.

There was news about Homecoming in a presentation by Executive Corresponding Secretary, Logan Biechy. The dance will be held Friday, Oct. 4 from 6 to 11 p.m. at Genetti's, and there will be a tailgate with a cupcake truck at the football game. There will be no pep rally this year. Tickets are already on sale for the dance.

The cost breakdown for Homecoming is \$16,955 for the dance and \$3,430 for the game, which comes to a total of \$20,385, but a grand total of \$21,000 to account for incidentals. There will be a final vote on this amount next week.


There was an executive review of Club Day led by Student Body President Alanah Guerrero. She went over how there was a

great turnout with around 810 students in attendance.

The Executive Board's Treasurer, Kevin Long talked about the Operations Committee. The construction crew is no longer on track with their project at Ralston. Additionally, the 77 West apartments are still receiving final touches before students can move in.

A few more notes of the meeting include Gender-Sexuality Alliance (GSA) holding its annual Drag Show sometime this fall. There was also news about Multicultural Student Coalition (MSC) holding their social next Thursday, Sept. 19.

Lastly, the Commuter Council is still trying to finalize the details for their fall trip, which is free for all students.

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Dr. Francis J. Micheline, 94 1925 - 2019



Dr. Francis J. Micheline passed away on Sept. 12. Micheline served as the second president of Wilkes College from 1970 to 1975.

Micheline was known as "Dr. Mike" by former students and colleagues. He was the first Wilkes president to be promoted from academic ranks, moving from a full-time faculty position in Biology to dean of academic affairs, to finally president.

Micheline is noted for ensuring the university's survival after the devastating Hurricane Agnes in 1972. Micheline himself rescued Wilkes-Barre residents via a boat owned by the university. He also contributed to 'Operation Snapback,' an operation dedicated to recovery of the Wilkes community, both university and city related. Due to his efforts, the university was ready

for classes in the fall of 1972. He earned a number of awards and recognition from the United States Congress.

The university celebrated Micheline's legacy in 2015 with the dedication of a residence hall at 80 West River Street in his name. A greenhouse on the roof of the Cohen Science Center is also named for him.

Mass was held at noon on Tuesday, Sept. 17 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Burial took place at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

In lieu of flowers, the Micheline family asks for contributions made to the Wilkes University Archives in his honor. Donations may be sent to Office of Advancement, Wilkes University, 84 West South Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766, or online by visiting www.wilkes.edu/give.

Upcoming Events: 2019 Fall Semester

September

- 17 - SG Ballots closed
- 18 - New SG Members announced
- 19 - Tacos & Trivia (WUPB)
- 26 - Bingo (WUPB)

October

- 3 - Future Night (WUPB)
- 3 - Homecoming Pep Rally
- 4 - Homecoming Dance
- 5 - Homecoming Game vs. Alvernia
- 17 - Fall Fest (WUPB)
- 21 to 25 - Casino Week (SG)
- 24 - Gen Board Bonding (WUPB)
- 28 - Mobile Escape Room & Laser Tag (WUPB)
- 29 - Cupcake Giveaway (WUPB)

- 30 - Ghosthunters (WUPB)
- 31 - Halloween Bingo (WUPB)

November

- 1 - Halloween Giveaway (WUPB)
- 7 - Paint n' Sip (WUPB)
- 14 - Winter Giveaway (WUPB)
- 21 - Glow in the Dark Dodgeball (WUPB)

December

- 5 - Holiday Bingo (WUPB)

WUPB denotes Wilkes University

Programming Board

CC denotes Commuter Council

SG denotes Student Government

MSC denotes Multicultural Student Coalition

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu

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Wilkes moving forward with sworn police force

By Luke Modrovsky
Operations Manager

Wilkes University Police Chief Chris Jagoe said his department has continued to transition to a fully sworn police department.

Numerous updates to the department -- now known as the University Police Department, or UPD -- occurred over the summer and will continue to be implemented in what Jagoe described as "measured terms."

However, the term "Public Safety" will not be erased from Wilkes lingo. UPD will fall underneath the umbrella of Wilkes University Public Safety as a whole. Transportation and parking are two other functions of Public Safety.

In addition to 19 sworn armed officers, Jagoe said the university will continue to maintain a staff of unarmed officers for parking enforcement, special events, University Towers and Evans Hall late-night desk duty, assisting with the Colonel Connector along with foot patrols. Prior to the start of the transition, staff members were typically referred to as public safety officers, or PSOs. Now, Jagoe said, staff members will be referred to as just officers, just like in a traditional township or city police department.

Jagoe hailed the many benefits to the transition, as well as applauding Wilkes University's efforts to remain a progressive institution.

"It's safe to say that we are constantly looking at new and innovative tools of the trade, as well as methods of policing in delivering outstanding police services to the community," Jagoe said. "We're always looking at different ways to do that, whether it's through additional

training or equipment."

One of those innovative tools is the ability to have access to a national database that contains a wealth of information and access to additional resources.

"If we stop someone, we can run their name and date of birth to determine whether or not they are wanted," Jagoe said. "We can look at criminal history and things of that nature. We can find out if someone has a history of violence of (Protection From Abuse Orders). Becoming a law enforcement agency, we're now able to apply for grants. We can look at things like grants for body armour, grants for less lethal weapons and other equipment."

Jagoe also confirmed that being arrested by UPD could lead to being placed in a holding cell at the station.

"Before I was hired, we already had two holding cells in the station," Jagoe said. "We needed to expand that a little bit more for an arrest processing area."

Jagoe also explained how the arrest process can be cumbersome at times, but still an option that is necessary.

"For the vehicle, a lot of times, if someone is arrested and they have to be taken before a magistrate, it could be local or it could be as far away as Hazleton," Jagoe said. "So, we have to transport people. We were able to work some magic with a local installer to put a cage car in our Ford Explorer."

One of the strongest points of emphasis from Jagoe was the community policing aspect of the department. Even with the expanded power and capabilities of the force, he said the Wilkes community could expect plenty of visibility from officers.

"We're not going to be a department where

you just see us driving around in cars," Jagoe said. "We're still going to have the officers out on foot and on bike, being visible and being approachable. We still embrace all the concepts of community policing and trying to ensure what the students, faculty and staff seeing us, they know that we're a resource to be able to help them."


While the university's police department will now have arrest powers, Jagoe said the goal is not to arrest anyone for smaller issues.

"What I've found is that the students are more concerned at what happens at the university level than if they get a \$50 citation for an open container or something like that," Jagoe said. "If we're embracing the concept of being the people that we want folks to come to when they're in trouble, we can't come down with an iron fist now that we have arrest powers and things of that nature. We can't operate in a manner that changes the trust the public has in us."

Many questions arose from UPD's potential role in searching on-campus living spaces.

"As it relates to things when officers arrive and there's something in the apartment that shouldn't be, we're governed just like any other police department with Fourth Amendment issues," Jagoe said. "So, just as we've done in the past with city police, I can't think of too many times where rooms have been sealed for search warrants and things of that nature."

The process is constant as Wilkes continues to transition to a fully-sworn police department. While many steps have already been taken, the process is still well underway.

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Wilkes names new vice president of enrollment

Compiled By The Beacon Staff

On Sept. 9, Wilkes University announced that Kishan Zuber had joined on as the vice president of enrollment management and marketing. This means that Zuber would oversee the undergraduate and graduate admissions offices, enrollment services, financial aid and marketing.

Zuber had previously been the vice president of enrollment services at Wells College in Aurora, N.Y. She was crucial in creating a thorough recruiting policy that caused a growth in the amount of first-year students and doubled the international student population at Wells.

She had also previously served as the assistant dean of the graduate school at Binghamton University, State University of New York. Her accomplishments consisted of cultivating the graduate and international applicants as well as enriching the academic profile of prospective students in over 90 academic programs.

"I am excited and grateful to join a nationally ranked institution known for its scholarly work, faculty-student research and civic responsibility," said Zuber. "Wilkes University's footprint extends well beyond the northeast region, educating students from across the country and around the world with premier undergraduate, professional and online programs. I'm proud to help promote Wilkes nationally and internationally."

Zuber earned her bachelor's degree in environmental studies and her master's degree in student affairs and diversity from Binghamton University, State University of New York.



Courtesy of Wilkes Marketing
Kishan Zuber

IT'S ON US, from front page

"Absolutely, it is paramount for us to have students involved and take ownership of these things," Hart explained. "My office has reached out and applied for grants, but now that we have a recognized It's On Us chapter on campus I think that it is going to have a profound impact."

"I am not in the student body, I am not interacting with students on a day to day basis, during class or even at parties," Hart continued. "While I can give these messages, I am not living it day to day with you, unlike the students who may be at a party or sporting event."

"The opportunities for the students working with the group are huge," Wilczak said. "Lindsay and some other students were able to go to Harrisburg and participate in a round table with Frances Wolf, the first lady of Pennsylvania. Getting to go to Harrisburg and getting face-to-face time with people very high up in the Pennsylvania government is a big deal. It

is a big opportunity to go tell Frances Wolf that this is what sexual violence looks like on my campus, that is not a opportunity that you are going to get in other types of clubs."

The students at Wilkes University who are now participating in It's On Us were first exposed to the organization when Wilczak hosted It's On Us Executive Director Tracey Vitchers on campus.


"She came onto the campus and talked to us in Dr. Wilczak's class. I thought it was so cool, as cool as sexual assault could be in terms of working on fixing it," Baker described her meeting with Vitchers. "I did not know that It's On Us existed and I thought it was great with how huge of a problem it is on campuses. Working on changing the view of sexual assault was what drew me to join."

Over the summer Becker and Baker were flown out to Ohio for a multiday It's On Us summit. Wilczak mentioned that after the summit, the two students returned with an even stronger desire to bring change to campus.

"The summit was great. Lindsay and I flew out to Ohio and it took place over two or three days," Baker said. "I went to a presentation about sports and the relationship with sexual assault. I found it interesting because we do not really have Greek life, so our athletics act in a way like Greek life."

"It was nice to learn about how other schools use It's On Us and other schools gave a lot of good insight to integrate It's On Us," continued Baker.

"I think as many students as possible should be involved," said Hart. "It's On Us is such a wonderful organization because it encourages individuals and student leaders to stand up and be apart of the solution, understanding that they are sensitive issues. I think students who are passionate about those issues should get involved, and the more the better. I want these discussions to be happening all the time, because it helps lessen the taboo around the topic."

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Research into protein folding can lead to medical breakthroughs

By Parker Dorsey
News Editor

A Wilkes University research team headed by Dr. Del Lucent, associate professor of physics and Dr. Sofya Chepushtanova, assistant professor of mathematics, is gaining attention for its study on protein folding.

The team hopes to build models from computer software that can predict how a protein folds and where it can go wrong.

Protein folding is a fundamental piece of how every living thing works. It occurs when a protein is created and folding makes it contort into its final shape.

All the things that happen in your cells, with a small number of exceptions, are mediated by proteins doing their jobs. They are the building blocks of biology.

Most people think of proteins as the macronutrient, especially with regard to lifting weights.

While this is correct, the rest of you is also made of protein.

There are many different kinds of proteins. Some move objects from one location to the other. Others transfer signals from one location in a cell to the other. Others catalyze chemical reactions.

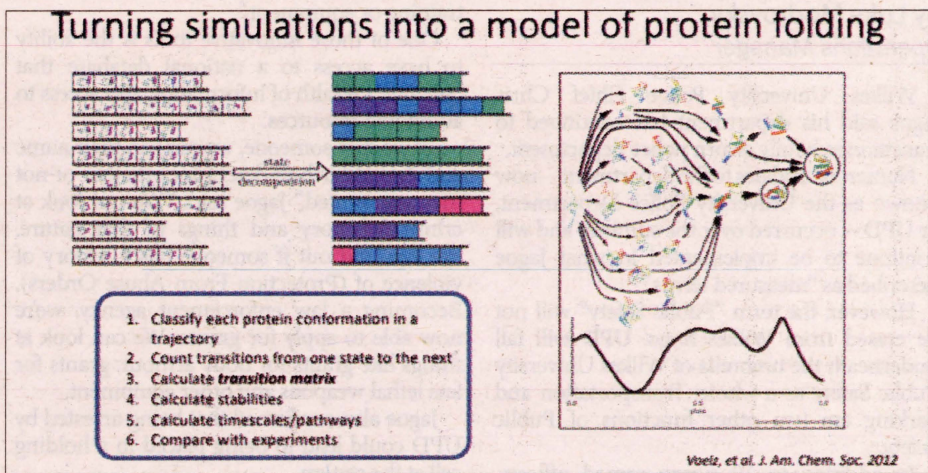
When a protein folds incorrectly, it can cause diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease or Parkinson's disease. Many genetic diseases are the result of mistakes in the instructions for protein folding. For example, a mistake in the protein that's responsible for hemoglobin assembly results in sickle cell anemia.

"Let's say a protein would take a millisecond to fold. That means in order to reach that step, we need to break that up into steps of a femtosecond in size. We would need to break that up into basically a thousand billion steps. So it's like measuring the distance from here to the Moon one millimeter at a time," Lucent said.

To get an accurate model of how a protein moves, all of the pieces of a protein need to be moved in very small amounts many times. This results in data sets and simulations that are multiple terabytes in length.

"All these calculations are not very fast. So if you compute this barcode, take persistence imaging, then you apply a machine-learning algorithm to that, it can take years. Some of the students even made calculations for that," Chepushtanova said.

Joseph Gubbiotti, senior computer



Proteins are too small, and their folding occurs too fast, to be observed naturally. Therefore, it is necessary to create computer simulations to observe these changes.

science major, was one of those students. He wrote a computer program to calculate the barcodes for non-hydrogen atoms. For a (relatively) small protein, ACBP, the calculations would take upwards of 20 years to complete.

"The goal of this research group is to determine if focusing on particularly interesting mathematical features of proteins would produce a computationally less expensive way of predicting protein folding. Simulating proteins folding using molecular dynamics is possible, but incredibly time and resource consuming," Gubbiotti said.

Topological data analysis is used to distill these massive data sets and compartmentalize them into groups based on their shapes.

The study of topology is observing the properties of shapes, specifically shape deformation without tearing or gluing. These shapes can be continuously bent and stretched so long as they retain the same number of holes. It is useful in studying the motion of a protein in the process of folding.

"We're very close to submitting something for publication with regards to topological data analysis as a

proof of concept. If we can figure out how misfolding happens and where we can intercede, we can come up with a way to rescue that misfolded protein," Lucent said. "That's the goal of the research, and I hope to have broken ground and made some progress towards that goal over the next year."

The College of Science and Engineering was recently awarded a half-million grant from the National Science Foundation to be used for a high-performance computer cluster.

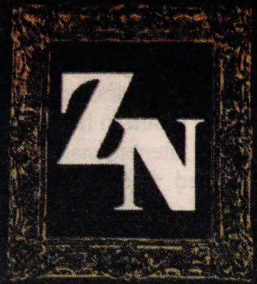
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The Beacon/Parker Dorsey

The six monitor setup in Lucent's lab requires multiple high-end GPUs to power the monitors and the computer simulations. It has 126 gigabytes of RAM, over two terabytes of storage and two 8-core CPUs. It was paid for by a Wilkes Research and Scholarship Grant.

Upcoming Open House
Sunday October 6th at 1p.m.



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Friedman JCC holds lecture on Christian Zionism

By Cabrini Rudnicki
Editor-in-Chief

Local Jewish Community Center, Friedman JCC, held a lecture on Sept. 11 in honor of the 9/11 terror attacks, as well as to discuss Christian Zionism in Israel. The event sparked conversation on religious tolerance and interfaith relations on Wilkes campus.

The lecture, titled "Why Do They Love Us: Is Christian Zionism Good for Israel?" was hosted by Rabbi Pesach Wolicki, an educator visiting from Israel.

Wolicki was brought to the area by Amiel BaKehila, a program of Ohr Torah Stone institutions that is dedicated to educating in Israel as well as the Jewish diaspora. The program is hosted by Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs.

The organization also brought Jewish artist Avigayle Adler Katz, who held programs with the community on Jewish paper cutting.

The lecture began with a discussion of the 18th anniversary of 9/11. Along with his discussion, the center chose a video featuring images of 9/11 along with a cover of Sound of Silence by Simon and

Garfunkel.

After the video, Wolicki took to the stage to begin his lecture by explaining the political context of Christian Zionism.

Christian Zionism is a belief held by those in the Christian faith that the return of Jews to the 'Holy Land' were accordance to biblical prophecy. The belief has led to a number of Christians rethinking their religious beliefs to include the Jewish community.

"Because [Christian Zionism] has grown so fast, it kind of intimidates us as Jews," said Wolicki.

The rabbi continued by describing the happiness, yet suspicion, held by Jews in regards to the belief system.

"Us Jews have a long historical memory," said Wolicki. "For us, something that happened 500 years ago, that's pretty recent."

When Wolicki speaks to Christian groups, he has to sensitize them to the barriers that Jews have in order to a relationship with them.

Wolicki also discussed the fear from both sides of conversion, something which the rabbi says is not a motive of true Christian Zionism.

Rabbi Pesach Wolicki currently serves as associate director for the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation. Wolicki also is a columnist for the Times of Israel, Charisma News and Breaking News Israel.

Kristin Osipower, Interfaith Coordinator at Wilkes University, shed light on the lecture's key points in relation to the university.

"One of the key things that I try to do on this campus is to put as much out there, so that topics of faith and spirituality became part of our conversations again, so they are not tucked away into the corner," said Osipower.

According to Osipower, since becoming Interfaith Coordinator in 2016, there has not been discord between different religious groups on campus.



The Beacon/Cabrini Rudnicki

Rabbi Pesach Wolicki spoke to the Friedman JCC on Wednesday.

"We are coming into a culture here that already is nurturing to understanding," she said. "That is just part of the Wilkes philosophy, and inclusiveness that we try to promote here."

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Profile of a Professor: Dr. George Bruhn, physics

By Genny Frederick
Staff Writer

Dr. George Bruhn has just started his first semester at Wilkes in the electrical engineering and physics department as a visiting assistant professor, and is dedicated to the teaching of physics.

Bruhn grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Rochester. He earned postgraduate degrees from Johns Hopkins University with theses regarding particle theory, particularly supersymmetry and new mathematical objects. He eventually shifted his focus to the study of the teaching of physics.

After teaching at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Millsaps College as a visiting assistant professor, he came to Wilkes where he found that the size of the campus community was ideal: not too big and not too small.

He was also moved to come to Wilkes when he felt the enthusiasm of faculty and staff, saying, "It seemed like they were very excited to have me around."

Wilkes particularly appealed to Bruhn as a primarily undergrad university where he could place a large emphasis on teaching. While he finds physics

more intuitive than other disciplines, he understands the challenge students may have with the subject explaining that physics "draws on so many different kinds of thinking."

While he is currently teaching students an introduction to physics course, he also enjoys teaching higher-level physics classes where he can explain to students new topics or techniques that the textbook may not show.

In teaching these upper level classes, he can cultivate a further understanding of the subject. He is grateful for the extra help he gets in the labs from teacher assistants but notes that it is taking some getting used to.

His passion for teaching physics comes from his experience with a teacher he had as an undergrad who he now considers a friend. This teacher took the time to describe different fundamentals that Bruhn had never heard explained before, moving Bruhn to explain these topics to his students with the same amount of enthusiasm his teacher showed him.

With admiration for the subject he teaches, Bruhn referred to physics as an art in which ideas can be simply expressed as an equation allowing people to make predictions, but physics isn't the

only part of campus life he is excited about.

At Millsaps College, his last teaching position, Dr. Bruhn said, "I was known as the guy who goes to everything, because I would rarely ever miss anything going on in the departments of music or art. I'm hoping to keep that streak going here at Wilkes."

In his free time, Bruhn enjoys going to plays, musicals, exhibitions or concerts. Recently he had already been to the Sordini Art Gallery to see the Rust Belt Biennial. He also enjoys history and keeping up with current events.

One of his favorite parts of Wilkes is the view he has from his office window overlooking the Susquehanna River. Bruhn is also eager to meet more faculty at Wilkes.

A quote from Albert Einstein is in his office and reads, "If we knew what we were doing, it wouldn't be called research."



The Beacon/ Steffen Horwath

Bruhn's constant desire to learn more embodies this quote, and any student who has a class with him can expect to be moved to a greater understanding of physics.

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Need extra cash for college?

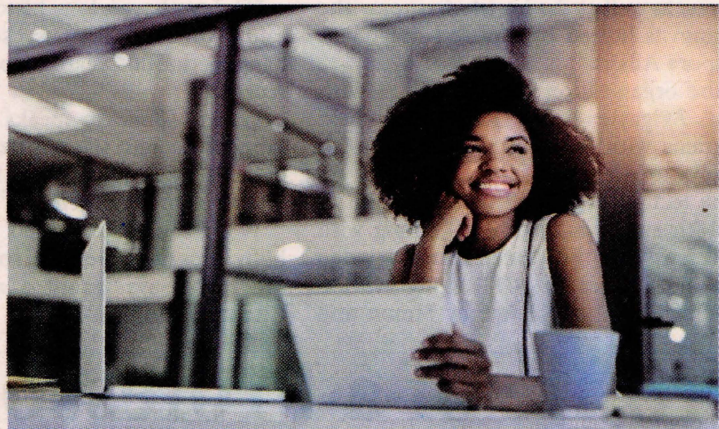
Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Job Fair

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*Parking is available at the Intermodal Parking Garage at 44 South Main Street.

EOE

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Buttinhead Farms brings goats to the greenway

By Kylie Dillon
Asst. Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Wilkes University's Residence Hall Council (RHC) hosted a goat yoga event on Tuesday, Sept. 10 for interested students. RHC invited a company called Buttinhead Farms to teach a goat yoga class to serve as a time for students to come and enjoy a fun, mindful activity.

The idea was proposed by Student Body President Alanah Guerrero, who heard of the fun, relatively new activity. RHC hosted and sponsored the event.

"It was something new and fun. I don't know how to explain it. It's just unique, you wouldn't think of goats and yoga together. It was also a good relaxer for everyone," said Ivy Kusi, sophomore pre-pharmacy major and RHC President.

The event was held outside of the Evans and Roth residence halls where a large enclosure placed around the grassy area so that the goats could not escape. The area was filled with students and their yoga mats as well as baby and mature goats roaming around leisurely.

Some students participated in the miniature yoga class while others stopped by to spend time with the goats. It's hard to say who loved the affection more, the students or the goats, as these goats are specially trained to bond with people.

"It seemed like a great opportunity to

take some time for myself and connect with friends," said Allyssa Olear, sophomore political science and international studies major. "The combination of being active and outside while surrounded by goats can really boost your mood."

All of the attendees were scrambling to get a goat on them. They would get into several different poses and waited there until a goat was either placed on them or jumped onto them.

There were also people sprinkling food onto the participants so that the goats would be more inclined to jump on them. The goats wanted to get the food, so they would jump anywhere, even on top of someone, to get it.

Originally, RHC only opened the event up with 50 registration spots that were first-come, first-serve. A few people had to be placed on a waiting list. However, they eventually allowed 65 people to participate.

Although the number of spots was maxed out, RHC still allowed people to come and play with the goats if they so desired.

Most people made sure to get several photos and selfies with the goats to document the unique experience.

Buttin Head Farms is a newer company in the Wilkes-Barre area that is one of a kind, even though goat yoga has been a growing trend in the media. The trend was adopted in NEPA thanks to the company owner, Ashley Raspen.

Raspen had been a professional fitness



The Beacon/Caroline Rickard

Julia Firestine, sophomore pre-pharmacy major, doing a bridge pose with a goat on top of her.

instructor for several years before opening the goat-based company. As a side hobby, she began getting into goat farming at her farm located in Hunlock, Pa.

She started her goat yoga journey when she did yoga with her goats in her free time. After incessant encouragement from people around her, including her fitness clients, Ashley decided to combine the two things she loved most into one.

Thus, Buttinhead Farms was born in May of this year.

She started doing pop-up launches in breweries and bars around the area. From there, people loved it so much and gave her such positive feedback that it snowballed into her being able to go to many other different events as well.

Buttinhead Farms provides their goats for a wide variety of occasions including birthday parties, weddings and now for different college events.

If you aren't into yoga or aren't sure you will like yoga, this can still be an activity for you.

"I do not have any expectations for anyone who comes into my fencing, except that they leave happier than they came," said Ashley Raspen.

Sessions usually last up to an hour, and participants are not required to solely focus on performing the yoga poses. If spending an hour or so with goats is what you desire, Buttin Head Farms will continue to hold more events in the future and plan to return

to Wilkes' campus for future events.

Raspen explained that yoga on its own has proven to improve physical health, and it has also served as a means to relax. Animal therapy also releases endorphins in the brain that create a calming effect.


Combining these two activities together creates a blend of relaxation and exercise into one. Buttinhead Farms host small private parties of nine people at their property. At a private party, individuals will have the opportunity to meet the goats and perform yoga alongside them.

"It turned out really awesome. A lot of people asked for us to bring it back during finals week, so we are bringing it back in the spring for sure since it was such a success," said Kusi.

If you missed out on goat yoga this time around, do not worry because Buttinhead Farms will return to Wilkes this December so that everyone can all enjoy the company of the goats as we wind down during finals week.

For more information on this event or other RHC events, contact ivy.kusi@wilkes.edu or come to the RHC's weekly meetings that are held every Thursday.

To get in contact with Buttinhead Farms, contact Ashley Raspen at Araspen55@gmail.com.

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Instructor, Ashley Raspen, leading the students to align with each other as Lisa Mulvey sprinkles food onto everyone's back to prompt the goats to climb on.

Bystander intervention program seeks student participants

By Sarah Matarella
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Every year, Dr. Philip Ruthowski, associate dean of Student Development at Wilkes University, recruits students to become a part of "Colonels Don't Stand By," the university's award-winning, nationally recognized bystander intervention program.

Education on sexual violence and misconduct starts immediately at welcome weekend for Wilkes' first-year students. Ruthkowski collaborates with the local Victims Resource Center and the Domestic Violence Service Center to provide a larger, overarching presentation to inform first-year students of sexual violence and what type of conduct is expected of them as students.

"We would rather be proactive than reactive. We want our students to be educated from the first time that they step on our campus throughout their four years here," said Samantha Hart, Title IX Coordinator.

Part of Hart's job is to oversee all of the university's sexual misconduct policies and procedures.

There is also a "My Student Body" test given to every first-year student as well which is designed to give students more information about sexual misconduct and drugs and alcohol.

However, Ruthkowski expressed that the amount of information that can be

taught to and retained by 400-500 students simultaneously is limited by default. That is where the "Colonels Don't Stand By," bystander intervention program comes in.

"You have this foundation, you know some basic concepts of sexual misconduct, drugs and alcohol, etc. Now let's take it to the next level and talk about some techniques that you can use if you see somebody who looks or appears to be at risk to safely and effectively intervene," said Ruthkowski.

The program allows upperclassman students to receive a combination of in-person and online training on sexual violence from Ruthkowski himself. Then, after receiving the training, the students will be able to present the information they've learned in first-year foundations (FYF) classes with the ultimate goal of encouraging students to play an active role in preventing sexual violence.

Thus, the training modules include intimate discussions that go into detail about different effective measures and resources that will encourage someone to feel comfortable intervening in a situation that may be speculative or alarming about sexual misconduct.

"You can be out doing the most mundane things, you could be hanging out with friends and it could just spiral into a case where this does happen. So it's very important to talk about that because if you're not prepared for that mentally, oftentimes that can make you freeze up

or not help somebody...and that delay might make it too late for that person and they could be about to have the worst day of their life," said Joshua Bradley, a senior political science major who has participated in the program for two years.

A staff member who is an expert in the program, whether it is Ruthkowski, Hart or a member of university Residence Life, will also accompany the student presenter to the class. This ensures that any difficult conversation that may arise from the sensitive topics that are addressed can be facilitated and handled properly.

"It's a very hard topic to talk about because we talk a lot about sexual assault and sexual violence in the media today, so that is treated as almost taboo... but we don't always have an open and honest discussion about why it happens," said Bradley, "I'm enjoying the opportunity to teach a new generation of college students that they can openly talk about a wide range of topics."

The partnership with the FYF program, according to Ruthkowski, also allows for a more flexible schedule for students who want to become involved in the program. Students can contact Ruthkowski directly to set up training times that will work for them and decide when they are comfortable to move forward and teach the presentation. Students then may sign up for a time to present in an FYF class.

Although they know many students are involved in both classes and extracurriculars, Ruthkowski and Hart


both stressed that it is important for students to also make time to become involved in this program. That is ultimately why it is designed for students to be able to become involved despite how taxing their schedule may be.

"In order to have a profound impact on our campus, the messages need to be coming from our students so that they are receiving these messages and it's not just administrators coming in and lecturing to them," said Hart. "It's their peers coming in and talking to them about these issues."

Ruthkowski also mentioned that they have developed a pilot of an online version of the program to make it accessible in situations where students need to miss class, transfer to Wilkes as an upperclassman or if faculty are not available to present the information.

The "Colonels Don't Stand By" program itself has numerous events on campus to promote sexual misconduct awareness such as the Red Flag Campaign and the Closeline Display project.

"What has been very heartening to me has been the student leadership on this issue and how students want to be part of the solution in the forefront," said Ruthkowski. "It takes courage to do this and I have a great deal of respect and feel very fortunate to have such strong leadership from our students who are willing to have a voice on this matter."

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Each week the Wilkes Beacon staff picks adds a song to the Beacon Bumps playlist on Spotify. Check us out under the Spotify username, The Wilkes Beacon, or look to the side column for this week's list of songs.

Staff Picks 9/17

- Cabrini Rudnicki, *Editor-in-Chief*: First Love/Late Springs - Mitski
- Maddie Davis, *Managing Editor*: Honeypie - Johnny Utah
- Parker Dorsey, *News Editor*: Talking Heads - Northlane
- Sean Schmoyer, *Asst. News Editor*: Syndicate - The Fray
- Sarah Matarella, *LA&E Editor*: Sure Don't Miss You - BUNT. (ft. The Dip)
- Kylie Dillon, *Asst. LA&E Editor*: Empty - Olivia O'Brien
- Neil Murphy, *Opinion Editor*: Slow Dancing in the Dark - Joji
- Sammi Verespy, *Asst. Opinion Editor*: Go2bed - Mouth Breather
- Ben Mandell, *Co-Sports Editor*: Tip of My Tongue - Kenny Chesney
- Kirsten Peters, *Co-Sports Editor*: The Crow & The Butterfly - Shinedown
- Madi Hummer, *Design Editor*: Good as Hell - Lizzo

Wilkes-Barre holds third-annual Multicultural Parade

By Maddie Davis
Managing Editor

On Sept. 14, Wilkes-Barre hosted its third-annual Multicultural Parade, an event where different cultures in the surrounding area are invited to celebrate diversity and cultural inclusion in one location.

The Public Square was filled with dancing, food and music of different cultures throughout the whole day.

South Main Street was blocked off by multiple Wilkes-Barre police officers at the start of the event. At 11 a.m. all of the different cultural groups lined up in their designated spots. Those on the sides of the streets were greeted with music, dancing, smiles, and waves as each group followed one after another until they reached the public square.

Wilkes University was represented at the parade by their Wilkes African Cultural Club, the IFARHU and MEDUCA Panamanian students, the Hip Hop Dance Club and the Wilkes University cheerleaders. Wilkes University nursing students Jasleen Kaur and Amandeep Kaur also participated in the parade through their performance alongside the Indian Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Misericordia University and King's College also participated in the parade.

Aside from the university's representation, churches from around the area like St.

Nicholas and different organizations like the Lithuanian Women's Club of Wyoming Valley paraded to the square in their colorful traditional dressings.

Waiting for the crowd in the square were multiple food trucks, which served typical American foods, on top of different vendors serving cultural favorites from Polish, Indian, Hispanic and Grecian cuisine. Different tables were also set up for local businesses to hand out information regarding their services.

As it grew closer to noon, the crowds moved to the seating area in front of the center stage to watch the multiple performances that were scheduled until 9:30 p.m. The first performance of the day was titled "Letts Eat Flavors of India" which explained the different variations in the greater Indian culture.

Letts Eat owner, Kavita Syedsin, introduced the differences in northern, southern, eastern, and western Indian cultures including their traditional dress and the foods they enjoy.

She then introduced Kaur and Kaur to perform a mash-up of traditional Indian dance and hip-hop. Miss Pennsylvania, Dr. Mahima Singh, also performed to a semi-classical ballad.

After their performance, Jesus Rios and the rest of the IFARHU students began to file in on stage to perform three of Panama's traditional dances. Rios introduced the

group and explained how they got to America and what they hoped to showcase to the audience. The group performed El Tamborito, El Punto and other dances including one in which the students invited several of the audience members on stage to dance with them.

Rios explained why culture is important to him and his classmates.

"It is extremely pleasant to share the roots and customs that exalt those small towns and cities where we come from. It is part of who we are and we carry it in our blood," he said. "Culture is everything in a society because that is what reminds us of where we come from and who we are. Panama has much to show to the world, we are a small nation in territory, but great human beings in soul, life and heart."

Rios also commented on how well he thought his group prepared and how honored they all were to share their culture with the community.

Several other performances followed in the day including the Connemara Irish Dancers, David Blight School of Dance and the Aztec dancers from St. Nicholas.

Wilkes' WACA club performed their own choreographed dances alongside the Hip Hop club.

Mmachi Dimoriaku, the president of WACA, explained why cultural events are important in the Wilkes-Barre. This year,

was the club's second year participating in the parade


"It means there is enough interest and enough people care about different cultures," she said. "This whole multicultural parade gives me hope that everyone will care at some point."

Dimoriaku described the club's feeling about being able to perform for a second year as "complete hysteria."

The third annual multicultural parade drew in hundreds of performers and viewers to the center of Wilkes-Barre for a single day event. With the help of the multiple parade staff, the parade appeared to be a successful event according to Morgan Burton, senior neuroscience and psychology major, who was also the student assistant to the co-chair of the Parade Committee, Erica Acosta.

"It is awesome to see all the different cultures that live in the Wilkes-Barre area come together," said Burton. "This is a great way for the community to come together to learn, support and better understand each other. It is very important especially with the political climate in our country that we can come together more now than ever."

For more community events sponsored by the city, please visit www.wilkes-barre.city, and follow the links to the events page.

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Photos: The Beacon/Maddie Davis

Aztec dances from St. Nicholas' Church dance down the streets surrounding the Public Square to traditional music featuring the groups hand drums.



Multiple Wilkes University students participated in the parade including Wilkes African Cultural Club, MEDUCA and IFARHU students, the Hip Hop Dance Club and Wilkes University's cheerleaders.

Residence Hall Council holds movie night for Wilkes students

By Anna Culver and Madelynn Kinard
Staff Writers

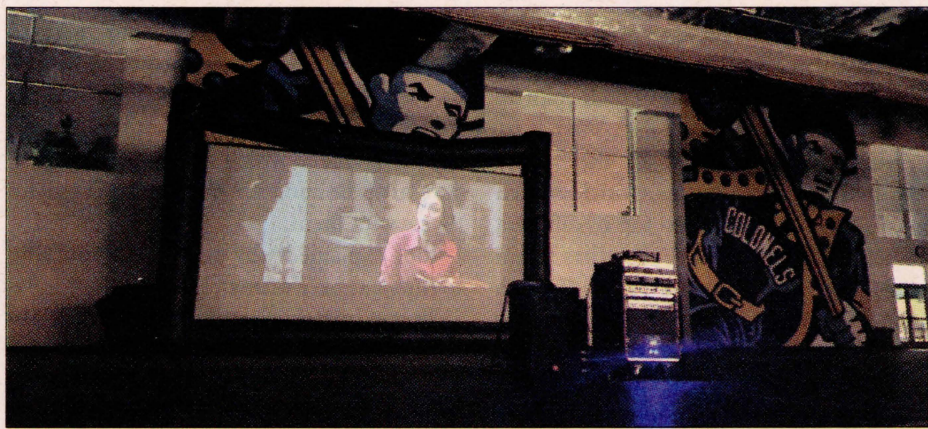
On Sept. 12, Residence Hall Council (RHC) hosted its first Movie Night in the McHale Athletic Center Gym (MAC). Movie night for RHC was described as a thrilling success even after being pushed inside due to the difficulties with rain.

RHC had originally planned the event on the greenway during the first few weeks in the semester. But due to weather, the movie was unfortunately rained out. RHC rescheduled for Sept. 12, but yet again, the weather forced the event to be moved indoors.

Residence Hall Council polled the entire student body earlier in that day to determine which movie would be shown at the event.

The movie choices ranged across all genres and ranged from newer movies to classical favorites. The movies that were voted upon included: "Bumblebee," "The Nun," "Baywatch," "Escape Room," "Central Intelligence," "Halloween," "Grease," "How To Be Single," "Aquaman" and "A Simple Favor." The majority of the students chose the 2018 horror film "The Nun."

"The Nun" is a horror movie that is based in Romania during the 1950s. Members of the Catholic church are sent to investigate the suspicious suicide of a nun at an old monastery. The movie included several



The Beacon/Anna Culver

"The Nun" was played on a pop-up projector in the McHale Athletic Center.

jumpscare that kept the student audience engaged. The screams and orchestra from the movie added suspense in the atmosphere and even scared several students.

All of the above films were pulled from Residence Life's online movie channel. The channel is both free and accessible to all Wilkes University students at movies.wilkes.edu only when using the university's WiFi.

The first 75 students to attend the event also received a complimentary Wilkes themed picnic blanket to lay with while watching the movie.

Thus, the lobby of UCOM was filled with students waiting for their free blanket. Once the giveaway was finished, everyone

sprawled out on the floor of the gym for the duration of the movie.

Snacks were also provided to the students who attended the event.

"Ten out of ten would recommend," Donald Ballou said, sophomore international studies major when asked how he thought the event went.

Catie Lally, sophomore English major, attended the event and recommends it to anyone considering the event in the future.

"More people should have stayed too. And, if people checked Wilkes Today they would have gotten to vote for the movie and then more people could have stayed because they would've liked the movie," she said.

RHC is one of the "mega councils"

here on campus. It is an elected group of undergraduate students that work directly with the Residence Life department to make campus life engaging and enjoyable.

They also solve and prevent some of the concerns of residential living here on campus. RHC also plans many events for students benefits like movie night, several giveaways and their annual Study Breakevent that they host every semester before finals week.

"We are involved with promoting residence hall life and improving the residence halls and planning large events. We always did a movie night in the fall and we are in charge of study break in the fall and spring," said Matt Franchetti, sophomore pre-pharmacy major and RHC member.

With the turnout of the event, RHC plans to continue movie nights in the future. RHC offered refreshments to attendees with the choices of popcorn, chips and more.

Through this event, RHC events gave students the chance to take a break, relax and have fun with friends before the stress of the semester hits. RHC's events are open to anyone who wants to attend. To join RHC or get involved in the events, contact Ivy Kusi at ivy.kusi@wilkes.edu.

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SHAKESPEARE, from front page

The whole performance was comprised of three actors, Jason Alfano, Dane Bower and Tim McDermott. Although it was a scripted performance, the actors also used improvisation to make the show more exciting and enjoyable for the audience.

"People should come watch the show because it's hilarious and it's unique to see this type of theatre," said Reynolds. "In this show, anything can happen since it's a different take on Shakespeare's plays. We hope it will get the audience to enjoy his works in a new way than they might have before."

The Gaslight Theatre Company puts on classical plays with a comical twist. Riverfront Park's mission was ultimately to put on events that will help people engage people with the environment. Therefore, the two decided to join forces and put their missions together for the community.

"The original idea for this event was going to be people sitting outside along the Susquehanna River, interacting with the environment as they watch the classic works of Shakespeare," John Maday said, the executive director of Riverfront Parks Committee. "We did the same thing last year and people enjoyed connecting with their community and watching a great performance of some of the classics."

Even though the production was unable to be performed outside on the river this year,



The Beacon/Kyle Kraemer

Actors, Dane Bower (left) and Jason Alfano (right) starring in The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged.

pre-pharmacy major at Wilkes University, and audience member of the play. "The theatre was warm inside so I was able to watch the whole play very comfortably"

people still had a wonderful time sitting inside the warm theatre of Downtown Arts. The lights and set design was added to the ambiance of the performance.

"I would have (gone) to watch the performance outside on the river, but it was a chilly and rainy day so I was grateful to be indoors of the Downtown Arts theatre," Tori Duffy said, a first-year

The weather did not stop a lot of people from attending the show. In fact, the turnout of the event was great and the audience members' laughter at the performance filled the room.

"I would not say that I understand or enjoy much of Shakespeare, but the way the actors performed his works made me give all my attention to the stories being played out in front of me," Lydia Bingaman said, a first-year political science major at Wilkes University and audience member of the play. "The three male actors did a good job making the plays more funny than they ever were to me and I was extremely entertained by the whole show."

On Sept. 20 and 21 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 22 at 2 p.m., there will be more ticketed showings at Downtown Arts.

For more information about upcoming events, visit www.gaslight-theatre.org.

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creative colonels

Creative Colonel of the Week

By Kylie Dillon
Asst. Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Creativity and art can be expressed through many platforms and with many outlets, and senior theater arts major, Mmachi Dimoriaku embodies this.

"I sing, I dance, I choreograph, I make wigs, and I even do photography," said Dimoriaku.

She said that she has always felt creativity flowing through her, as her love for the arts sparked at the young age of four.

Dimoriaku said she remembers spending time with her family members and wanting to put on little "cartwheel shows" for them as she called it. It was from this point on that she knew performing arts was the career path she wanted to go down.

As Dimoriaku got older, her love for performance only grew as she began picking up dancing and choreography. When she was growing up, she was heavily involved with two traditional African dance groups in her hometown of New York City. With her group, Dimoriaku traveled around the boroughs of New York to perform for small audiences and even made money from it.

Once she was accepted to and began

to attend Wilkes University she began to immerse herself into college life. Aside from her studying for her gen-ed classes, she discovered other aspects of the campus and the greater Wilkes-Barre community that allowed her to express her love for the arts. She took her love for dancing one step further and got into developing different types of choreography.

More recently, Dimoriaku joined organizations on campus like Wilkes African Cultural Association (WACA) which allowed her newly found choreography skills to flourish. With this club, she is able to create dances for the club to practice and master.

"I decided to really push myself to be more, and just like creating movement. It started when I came here but it really cultivated when I was here," said Dimoriaku.

Now WACA not only performs at several events on campus, but she and her club take their dancing to other areas, such as the annual Multicultural Parade, and events at the Wilkes-Barre Geisinger Medical School.

Her creative juices don't stop flowing at theater and dance, as Mmachi also picked up hobbies like photography and wig-making during her college years.

Around the spring semester of 2017, Mmachi started getting into photography.

She enjoys taking photos for fun, like different city skylines and taking headshots of those who request them. She has recently taken many headshots of her fellow classmates in the theater arts department. She was able to help them get their professional headshots to submit for future jobs.

From there, she decided to extend her small side business to that of anyone who wanted professional photos at a low-cost price.

"I am nowhere near professional, however, I make sure my pictures are able to be used professionally in any medium," said Dimoriaku.

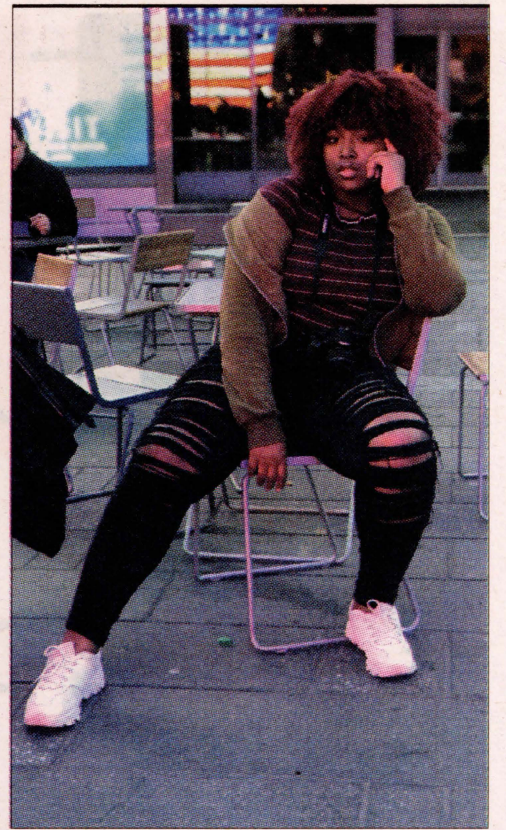
Photography is not the only thing Dimoriaku turned into a small business for herself. She also picked up doing hair, and even making wigs from scratch her freshman year.

This all started because, in Dimoriaku's hometown of New York City, there are so many places that you can go to get your hair done, but when Mmachi's moved to Pennsylvania, she quickly learned there were nowhere near as many places she could go to.

The places that she did find, were much more expensive than the places back home. Dimoriaku made a conscious decision to learn how to do hair instead of spending so much money.

Then, she began watching tutorials on how to create wigs and started to practice making them.

"All through freshman year, I just started wearing wigs. Then that transitioned into



Photos submitted by Mmachi Dimoriaku
Mmachi Dimoriaku poses with her camera in New York City.

Once she perfected the art of hair on her own and showcased her work, people around her started to take notice and wanted her to do the same for them. So, she began doing so for low-cost prices.

As apart of her major, Dimoriaku has also been featured in various plays and musicals on campus including "The Crucible" and "Little Shop of Horrors."

Creativity can be expressed in many ways, and through many outlets. Dimoriaku's means of expression snowballed from one to another. She started with being interested in the performing arts, then wanted to become involved in dancing and choreography, then photography, and finally hair.



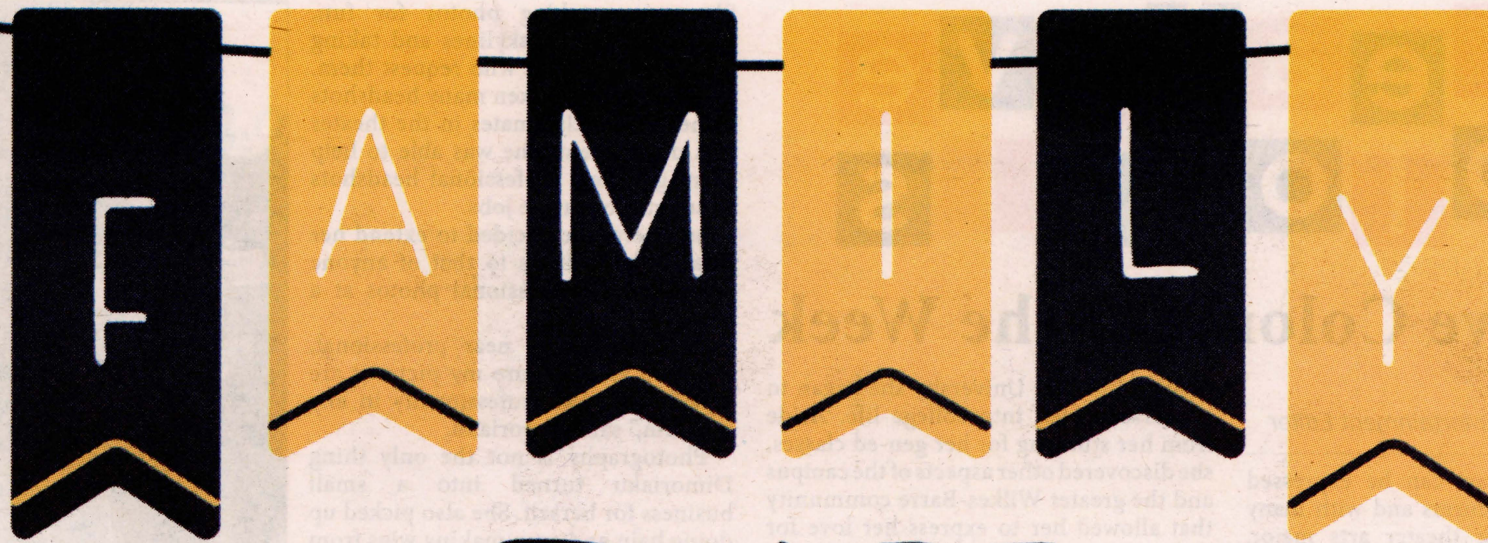
Mmachi WACA are pictured preparing for the 2018 Multicultural Parade.

my sophomore year when I started getting better at it, so I started buying better hairpieces and making wigs completely myself," she added.

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Mmachi performing in 2018 as Tituba in Wilkes University's showing of 'The Crucible'



20 - DAY - 19

By Sean Schmoyer
Asst. News Editor

This past Saturday, Sept. 14, saw Wilkes host its annual Family Day event. Families arrived at 9:30 for registration and brunch in the Henry Student Center. Families gathered in the lounge in the student center where they ate food and spent time catching up with their children.

"We are really looking forward to just spending time with our daughter," Nick Polivka explained, "We are also looking forward to the whole day in general." Nikki Polivka is a pre-pharmacy major of the class of 2023/2025, and attended with her father Nick and her mother Rhonda who added that they were also excited for the marching band later in the day.

Felicity Deemer, first-year nursing major and member of the marching band was with her family who expressed that they were excited to see her perform during halftime at the football game.

Deemer's and Polivka's families were not alone in their excitement for the marching band and football game. Jason Percival jr. a senior computer science major, was with his father, mother, and sisters who were excited to see him perform in the marching band, and participate in the paint and sip later.

Rachel Kepp, first-year nursing major, was

with her mother Karen and her father Tony who expressed they were looking forward to the football game.

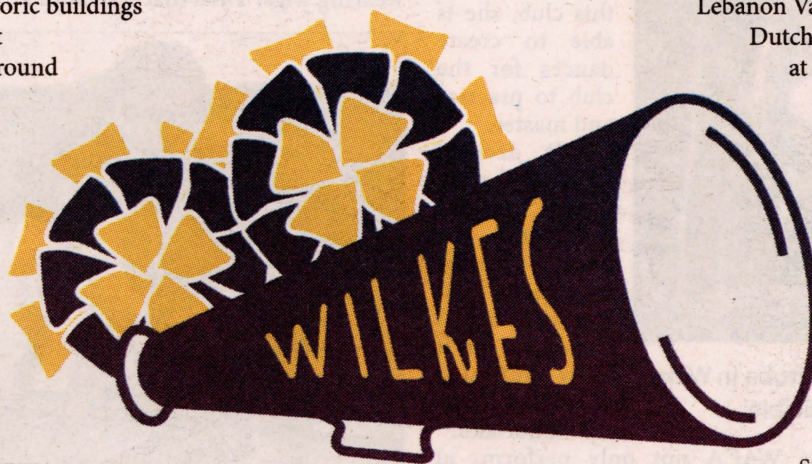
After brunch, families had many different options to choose from for activities around campus. Families could visit the bookstore, explore the historic buildings that surround

campus, or enjoy the football tailgate lunch that was held on the Fenner Quadrangle Greenway.

Families who participated in the lunch could gather in tents set up on the greenway and talk with other families as they enjoyed their meal. Wilkes also had Student Development handing out Wilkes

pennants and pillows to families. An ice cream truck and a large inflatable set up for cornhole were also available.

At noon the weather held and many families got their wishes to not only see the Marching Colonels play but to watch the Colonels take on the Lebanon Valley Dutchmen at the



Schmidt Stadium, where the Colonels won 30-24 over Lebanon Valley College.

Other sporting events were sprinkled throughout the day as well, as the Wilkes' women's soccer team took on the Bard College Raptors and the women's field hockey team took on the Alvernia Golden Wolves.


"I am also excited for the women's soccer match, I played soccer for 17 years, and she (Rachel Kepp) played since she was young," said Tony Kepp when asked about what else he looked forward to besides the football game.

After the game families could enjoy a visit to the Sordoni Art Gallery to see the current exhibition "Rust Belt Biennial", which is described as by the gallery as "a celebration of photography with work realized throughout the Rust Belt Region in all its manifestations."

There was also an open wall climb hosted by student leaders in Wilkes WAE, a paint and sip held in the SUB lounge, bingo and a movie screening of the Secret Life of Pets 2.

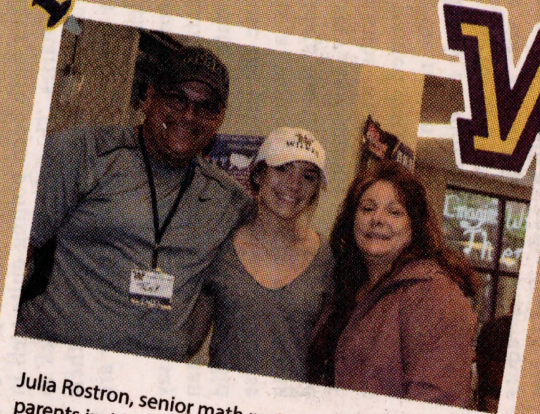
Student Development made a small change to Family Day this year by providing each of the families with name tags that not only had their names on it but also their relation to the students.

Despite the overcast weather had plagued the early morning family day as a whole was an event filled with smiles, laughter and joy as families came together with their children who are students at Wilkes, and with other families as well.

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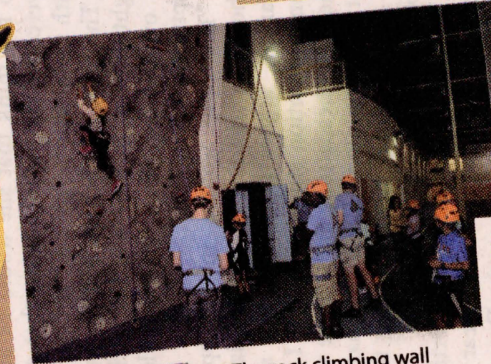
First-year students Ar'riyavna Fleming, Amaya Roane and Sennie Viramontes enjoy lunch on the Greenway and get in some well-deserved family time.



Julia Rostron, senior math major, poses alongside her parents inside the Henry Student Center.



Attend Family Day @ Wilkes ✓



The rock climbing wall inside the UCOM saw great success as families attempted to reach the top.

WILKES



One of the many activities available to families included a large inflatable cornhole set up in front of the Henry Student Center.



Hosted by Student Government, attendees select from their choice of university apparel and other give-away items.



Page Design: The Beacon/Madison Hummer
Photos: The Beacon/Sean Schmoeyer

omen's soccer years, and ce she was asked about o besides the ld enjoy a ry to see the Biennial, gallery as "a ith work Belt Region in l climb hosted WAE, a paint ge, bingo and et Life of Pets e a small ur by ; with name ames on it but ants. er had nily day as ith smiles, ime together udents at es as well.

Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact the opinion editor: Neil.Murphy1@wilkes.edu

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2019-20

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Our Voice

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

Is America ready for a female president?

In the 2016 election, two candidates were in a very heated race. A lot of contention didn't come directly from their policy, but rather from their gender identities.

While many people were incredibly excited at the prospect of flipping the Mister President to Madam, the glass ceiling remains unshattered.

There are many bright prospects in the upcoming 2020 election. Those contenders being Warren, Klobuchar and Harris.

There is a wide variety in their policy, and they have been polling quite well in the primaries. Though, this goes back to the place we were in in 2016. Can their policy overshadow the fact that they are females?

According to Politico in 2017, they say yes stating, "Sexism costs every woman candidate votes. But Hillary Clinton did not lose the presidency in 2016 because she is a woman. She was the wrong candidate for the time. She personified the very institutions voters despised. Americans wanted more than change; they wanted disruption."

So, the notion still stands, are any of the female candidates in the running the right one for now?

We vote no. While some of us adore Warren and would be enthralled to cast

our vote for her in 2020, we as a whole do not think that she would be able to overcome the innate sexism that comes with the position.

Though we do believe that she has the right policies to have a stronger chance at overcoming where Hillary failed in capturing voters.

"The only woman in my opinion who has a standing chance is Elizabeth Warren," argues Natalie Carleo, senior communication studies major. "I think she's very headstrong and I agree with a lot of her opinions, I think she has what it takes to make actual change in this country."

With that in mind, it is important to keep the ideal that to win this year at all, let alone with a woman, the Democrats need an impervious candidate. Someone who can speak to the moderates and catch up with the voters that swung red in the 2016 election.

This is where we think women have the hardest time.

"I think there is potential for one of them to win the Democratic nomination but I'm unsure if they could win the presidency, unfortunately," argues Kayla Acker-Carter, junior environmental engineering major. "I would love to see a female president but with what's going on with our current president, I'm not

sure if this country is ready for a female president.

"However, I believe that a female president will be able to help heal this country from the negativity of the current state we're in."


Women have to prove to these voters that not only do they have what it takes to be president, but also that they are worthy of even standing on this platform at all. Women have an extra barrier in trying to become president, mostly due to the idea that women are too emotional, too irrational, too motherly.

To be quite frank, we are not so sure that the current candidates can do this, and prove to the general public why they are worthy of being considered.

Every step that these women take is under the microscope just that much more.

The women running this election cycle are phenomenal. They have amazing policies, some that we would love to see in our government. However, they have too much to overcome in society to win.

While women may be the best option, we do not think that the general public is ready or willing to elect a female president.

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Bipartisan Banter: The end of the two-party system?

By Neil Murphy
Opinion Editor

We all get told that politics, among other things, is something that shouldn't be brought up at a dinner table. Why is it that people perpetuate this statement?

I'd say it's because politics isn't viewed as something healthy. When something isn't healthy, we decide to stray away from that particular thing.

Politics has become incredibly divisive over the years. According to a Pew Research study from December 2017, 86% of Americans say that conflicts between Democrats and Republicans are either strong or very strong.

From the same study, 90 percent of Democrats and Democrat leaners say that there are very strong or strong conflicts while the number for Republicans and Republican leaners is 87 percent. These are overwhelming and quite alarming numbers to have.

While perceived conflict between political parties exists, we should look at the public's general perception of party image.

Individuals feel very strongly towards their counterparts, so it's very hard not to get a biased answer.

If we are to look at the general public's perception of the two biggest political parties, perhaps we would then have a less biased view.

According to a longitudinal study by Gallup from 1993 to 2019, the percentage of people who view both the Democratic and Republican Party favorably has dropped between 9 percent for the Democratic Party and 16 percent for Republican Party.

In 2019, 37 percent of people view the Republican Party as favorable and 45 percent of people view the Democratic party as favorable.

With the data showing that individuals are having a decreasing view towards political parties, would it be wrong for one to assume that political parties are failing?

Former Republican congresswoman Mickey Edwards had even stated that political parties are "undemocratic," in an interview with St. Louis Public Radio in 2018.

The concept of political parties in the United States was so bad that George Washington urged the United States to not create political parties in his farewell address.

I would argue that both Washington and Edwards are completely correct with their statements about political parties.

Political parties have a "you're either with us or against us" mentality. Think about it, partisanship is held in such high regard in our country.

When asked about our political beliefs, we typically stick to our guns and never really budge on our issues. We try and be very loyal to our political ideology.

Dr. Russel Dalton talks about partisanship in his research article from the University of Oxford published in May 2016.

He and his team found that individual perceived partisanship in the United States ranks above the average, ranking second only to France.

This statistic is very interesting given the strong partisanship in European countries.

Going even further into this research article, you can find what is known as the "dark side of partisanship."

Obviously as stated above, perceived conflict between groups is bad. But do we have any mindset into why that is?

"Partisanship might act as blinders that shield partisans from discordant information that is necessary for making informed choices. If friends of my friends are always friends, and friends of my enemies are always enemies, then partisans are unlikely to see alternatives for discourse and compromise—and making of better choices," Dalton stated.

With partisanship taking the reigns over bipartisanship, conflict seems to

arise between both groups, whether pitted against one another or internally.

That being said, is it possible that the end is near for the two-party system?

Logically, for the two-party system to go away, there should be an alternative to the two-party system.

Is there an effective system that the United States can put in place to get rid of this issue? The answer is no.

However, only a parliamentary system guarantees that alternatives to a two-party system have any chance of being effective. It would be impossible to implement this in the United States.

The electoral college that we have practically ensured the success of a two-party system.

All a third party would do is take away votes from one party and give votes to another.

The only way a third party could have an effect is if everybody rejected the parties they belonged to and voted for a third-party candidate.

Throughout the entire history of our two-party system, we have seen only two parties dominate in politics.

However, this isn't to say that parties will not change.

If you look back long enough, we can see that parties have changed and evolved throughout the country's history.

From 1792-1824, we had the Federalists and the Democrats. From 1828-1854, the Whigs emerged from the Republican Party and then we still had the Democratic Party. From 1854-1932, the country saw the rise of the Republican Party and the



Design by Madi Hummer

Democratic Party.

However, from 1890-1932, we got to see ideals shifted from both sides. The Republican Party became the Democratic Party and the Democratic Party became the Republican Party.

Sounds crazy right? But that is how it happened. Look at flowcharts from any political science book.


From 1932 to the present, we have our current political parties. For better or for worse, we have our Democratic Party and we have our Republican Party.

Of course, we have third parties, but sadly in the broken system we have, they are virtually "nonexistent" in the grand scheme of things.

In conclusion, we shall see if a new change in political parties can occur. It is more feasible to see that occur compared to a dismantling of the two-party system for obvious reasons.

The two-party system isn't going anywhere anytime soon. Maybe this can be viewed as a blessing or better yet a curse?

Expect a follow up to this article to find out.

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Freshmen and all majors welcome!

Whitney Reviews: "The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance"

By Nicholas Whitney
Staff Writer

Earlier this year, fantasy television fans went through a fairly harsh break-up with the acclaimed series *Game of Thrones*.

Following a highly-contested final season, *Thrones* fans were left wondering where they could go for a new fantasy series.

Enter streaming juggernaut Netflix. On August 30, 2019, Netflix released *The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance*.

Based on the 1982 Jim Henson movie *The Dark Crystal*, this new show pays a wonderful tribute to the original film and the legacy of Jim Henson, while also breathing new life into both the original source material and puppetry at large.

The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance brings viewers back to the fantasy world of Thra, another planet that is home to the *Crystal of Truth*.

The Skeksis, the reptilian antagonists of the series, have been secretly corrupting the Crystal, unleashing the apocalyptic *Darkening* on Thra.

Thra is also home to seven different clans

of Gelfling. Three Gelflings, Brea, Rian and Deet, are the main protagonists of the series. They work to expose the Skeksis and inspire the Gelflings to rebel against Skeksis rule.

Though the show does not explore every clan of Gelfling in detail, the evidence of the development of each culture is evident.

Each clan has a lead chieftess referred to as a Maudra, and every clan is ruled by the Al-Maudra. This sets up some interesting Gelfling politics that is reminiscent of *Game of Thrones*.

On top of the Gelfling culture, the Skeksis are also more fleshed out than in the original movie, which makes the Skeksis that much more compelling as villains.

Where *Age of Resistance* truly succeeds is in the details put into creating each character and location.

Every character has been carefully crafted by new creators under the helm of the original team that designed the characters for the movie back in 1982.

Lisa Henson, daughter of Jim Henson and executive producer for the series, has said that one of the best parts of making

this series is seeing old and new generations coming together to make the best tribute to her father's legacy she has ever seen.

The voice work of the cast, including Nathalie Emmanuel (*Game of Thrones*), Lena Headey (*Game of Thrones*), Mark Hamill (*Star Wars*) and many other notable castmembers, create such a deep and compelling story that invokes many of the story-telling techniques pioneered by the earlier seasons of *Game of Thrones*.

On its own as a show, I give this an 8 out of 10, but I also feel that the show merits a larger discussion on the reboot trend that the past few years have been experiencing.

From an artistic perspective, reboots should be a production that deepens the original story, expands on the world where it is set, employs new advances in production technology and honors the spirit of the original.

Age of Resistance has been perhaps the only reboot to tick all of these boxes. It deepens our understanding of the culture and mythos surrounding the world of Thra.

It expands on the information we already know from the original *Dark Crystal*.

It uses new technology to improve the construction of the puppets and lays in CGI where necessary.

Netflix granted a seemingly endless budget and creative freedom to the Henson team to create this new series and have ultimately given them a remarkable series.

As we continue in this age of reboots, hopefully future projects take note of just how much *Age of Resistance* got right.



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War or peace: why Trump should have chosen the latter

By Chris Smith
Opinion Editor

Last week through a storm of tweets, President Donald Trump informed the public of a canceled secret meeting with the Taliban and Ashraf Ghani, president of Afghanistan.

The purpose of this meeting would have been to broker peace with the Taliban and end the war in Afghanistan.

Things went south, however, as the Taliban killed eleven civilians and an American soldier in Kabul and Trump refused to do further negotiations.

With all that being said, and sitting through a moral conundrum about this issue, I think that Trump should have still made peace with the Taliban.

The War in Afghanistan was started on Oct 7, 2001, soon after the attacks on 9/11. That means very soon, people who were born on that date will very soon be the soldiers who we are sending off to

fight in the war.

It is the longest continuous American war and as Doug Bandow of the Cato Institute is quoted in a September 9th article from *The Intercept*, "(the Afghan War has lasted) longer than the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II and Korean War combined."

The same article from *The Intercept* also points out a few more data points that are relevant to the discussion, such as how American taxpayers have paid around a trillion dollars for the war.

It may be argued that if we leave now, the service members who lost their lives fighting have died in vain, however, we already toppled the Taliban government that controlled Afghanistan and installed a new Afghan government.

I feel that the longer we stay, the more American service members are killed in action. I want all of them to be able to

return home from the war.

Another interesting turn in this story is that the now-former National Security Advisor John Bolton and Vice President Mike Pence both warned the President not to pursue peace with the Taliban. Soon after peace talks broke down, Trump fired John Bolton.

According to the BBC, Bolton was in favor of war with Venezuela, North Korea and Iran. If your general policy of national security is bombing everyone who may be considered a threat to the United States, then you probably should not be National Security Advisor.

A National Security Advisor should be someone with a cool head who could objectively analyze threats to the United States and decipher which of these threats are worthy for war and which of these threats are worthy for limited involvement (i.e. economic sanctions).

I simply believe that Trump fired him

because he felt it was proven that Bolton was right and he was wrong.

Yet, maybe Donald Trump was right in pursuing peace. According to the *New Yorker*, the United States and its allies are killing more Afghan citizens than the Taliban this year, which is a turn around from all of the previous years of our involvement in Afghanistan.

According to the conservative think tank, the Charles Koch Institute, only fifty-three percent of Americans and around sixty percent of military veterans believe that America lacks a strategic objective in Afghanistan.

In conclusion, after almost eighteen years of involvement in Afghanistan, we should probably withdraw from Afghanistan and declare victory.

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Victim blaming: what it is and why we need to stop

By Sarah Weynand
Staff Writer

Let's begin with, sexual assault is the fault of the assaulter period. No excuses.

According to the National Institute of Health, 107 seconds is all that stands between two Americans being sexually assaulted. 107 seconds. If you're curious, that is about 293,000 sexual assaults per year.

Many of you know the statistic, we all hear it in our FYF classes. That comes out to 1 in 5 women, and 1 in 10 men on average are sexually assaulted in some capacity on college campuses.

This statistic often comes under fire from more conservative news media outlets. Though, this begs the question of is any number other than zero okay? Should we be comfortable even if that number is 1 in 30 or 1 in 40? I say no, until there is no account of sexual misconduct on college campuses, we should not be okay with the number in any capacity.

According to the victim's resource center of America, only about 64 percent of sexual assaults are reported to the police. On college campuses, the reporting is even lower, about 4-6 percent. Of the reported rapes, only about 6 percent of rapists go to prison.

That percentage is even lower on college campuses. According to Mother Jones Magazine, there are six main reasons that people do not report assaults. Those being,

The victim did not think that the rape was serious enough to report.

The victim thought that they were partly or fully responsible

The victim thought that it was unclear that a crime had happened

They did not want anyone to know

They did not have any proof

They did not think that the police would take it seriously

If you look at the main reasons that people do not report, half of these come

down to victim blaming, something that has in a sense become engrained in our society.

Victim blaming is placing responsibility of the assault onto the victim. That is an apparent cause for the lack of reporting when it comes to these crimes.

The victims are stuck between a rock and a hard

place. Between being able to see their crime as what it is, a crime, at the cost of being ridiculed and told their crime is their fault. Or take the other path and keep quiet about what happened because it saves the energy of dealing with those negative words against them.

There is no way that anyone would blame victims for a horrific act that was out of their control, such as a hurricane or a car accident. However, we seem to always blame the person not at fault when it comes to sexual misconduct.

This is because we do this without even realizing that we are doing so. That may

be the worst part about victim blaming.

Some of the most common questions asked of a victim when they come forward are: "What were you wearing?", "How drunk were you?", and "Well, did you go home with them?"

Rather we should be evaluating our values then ask them "How are you?"

With that comes the idea of consent. There are no blurred lines there either. No means no. No does not mean yes, or maybe, or later. Consent means that both parties say yes--a yes that is made out of free will. Consent cannot be given when being coerced. Consent cannot be given when under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Consent cannot be given when unconscious. Once consent is given, it can be taken away at any time.

If you are told to stop, you stop. If your partner becomes unconscious during the act, you stop.


With that being said, if the victim does not give consent, then the victim is not at fault. The victim did not ask for it. The victim was not a tease. The victim's clothes were not too short or revealing. The victim was not too drunk. The victim should not have expected it to happen.

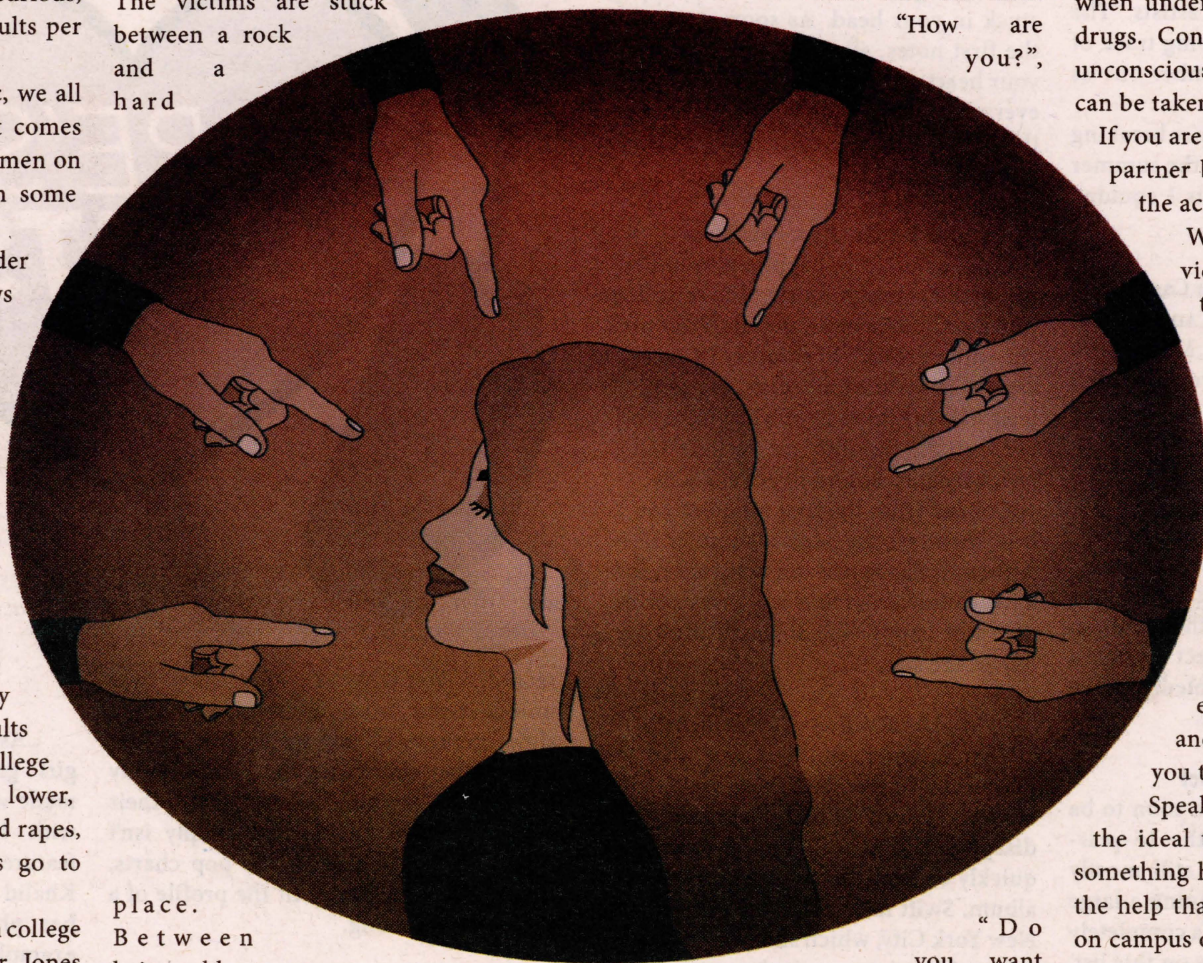
Victim blaming is an awful thing that is way too apparent in our society. To ensure that victims are happy and healthy, be careful with how you talk to the victim.

Speak with compassion, speak with the ideal that they have been through something horrific. Help the victim find the help that they need, whether that be on campus or in the world outside of our campus community.

If you need help you can reach out to our Title IX coordinator, Samantha Hart at samantha.hart@wilkes.edu or (570) 408-3842. You may also reach out to off campus help at the Victims Resource Center. They are found at 71 North Franklin Street Wilkes-Barre, Pa, 18701 and can be called at 570-823-0765. There is also a 24 hour Support line through the university. The number for that is 570-823-CHAT.

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Bre's Beats: the biggest hits of Summer 2019

By Breanna Ebisch
Opinion Writer

Class is back in session and summer has come to a close, but the hit songs are still being played and breaking records. In 2019, the summer songs were full of surprising collaborations, new sounds and multiple releases from artists. The Top 40 charts were busy keeping track of which song would claim number one as tracks soared to the top.

This week in Bre's Beats, we're breaking down my favorite songs from the summer and why they became the hits I couldn't get enough of.

OKAY OKAY - Alessia Cara

Alessia Cara had a busy summer as the opening act for Shawn Mendes on tour, but also released several singles leading up to the release of her new EP "This Summer." "OKAY OKAY" is an ode to girl power and confidence with an extremely catchy pop beat. It's hard not to immediately fall in love with the feel-good, encouraging lyrics and irresistible upbeat melody of the song. With the perfect release time during the summer, the single became the perfect fit for a sunny day and will undoubtedly make you want to get up and dance.

Face To Face - Ruel

One of three singles from a soon to be released sophomore EP by the 16-year-old Australian native, who's still mostly undiscovered but quickly gaining a large following, "Face To Face" has a completely different feel than most songs on this list. With accents of the soul, alternative and pop genres, Ruel creates the perfect sultry hit that you simply can't stop listening to. At such a young age, his voice is like no one else's in the industry right now, and just from the first notes of this song you're hooked. The lyrics follow a story of the singer being in love, but only behind a screen and hopes that the feeling is mutual if the pair ever meets in person. Although this isn't the typical summer song, it became one of my favorites.

If I Can't Have You - Shawn Mendes

Canadian singer/songwriter, Shawn Mendes released this irresistible single in May, but it quickly became the song of the

summer. "If I Can't Have You" instantly skyrocketed to the top of the charts, becoming Mendes' highest-debating single on the Billboard Top 100 at the time. Right from the beginning, the song pulls you in with the high energy level and catchy beat that matches excellently with the lyrics, which immediately get stuck in your head. As soon as you hear the first notes, all you want to do is sing your heart out and you can't help but love everything about the song. Nothing says the perfect summer anthem than Mendes' killer pop hit.

Sunday Best - Surfaces

If the emotion of happiness could be expressed through music, this song does it perfectly. The indie-pop duo captures the entire essence of summer in every aspect. From start to finish, the song feels like sunshine in musical form and between the instantly catchy beat and lyrics that are bound to get stuck in your head from the first moment you hear them, it's the perfect summer hit. Although this is just one song from the wide collection of Surfaces' music with the same happy vibe, this one's fit for a day in the sun.

London Boy - Taylor Swift

The summer finished out with the release of Taylor Swift's seventh studio album, "Lover," which certainly didn't disappoint. Track eleven, "London Boy," quickly became one of my favorites of the album. Swift has a widely known love for New York City, which she has written into a few of her songs over the years, but the lyrics of this one are all about London. The melody alone is enough to pull you in and has enough power to make you want to dance. However, throughout the verses and chorus, the lyrics point out multiple things Swift loves about the city after falling in love with an English boy. After one listen of this song, you won't be able to stop singing it.

Teeth - 5 Seconds Of Summer

The pop-punk band returned this summer with not just one, but two singles that made it onto the charts while taking fans by surprise. Full of bass, falsetto from frontman Luke Hemmings and a very different vibe from their previous



Graphic by Madi Hummer

record, "Youngblood", this song was unique right from its release. With a slow increase of energy leading to the chorus that showcases the band's ability to create original music with their respective instruments that simply isn't found anywhere else on the pop charts, the single immediately fit the profile of a great summer song.


Truth Hurts - Lizzo

No one knew Lizzo was going to make such a splash this summer, including Lizzo herself. "Truth Hurts" was released in fall 2017 without charting, but then this summer rose to the top of the charts after a TikTok meme parodying a line from the song became popular. As of September, Lizzo has reached the top of the Billboard Hot 100. A fun pop-trap hybrid beat is the background to Lizzo pondering confidence and womanhood. The Houston-based singer starts the song out with "Why men great 'til they gotta be great?" a question that everyone was repeating all summer.

Motivation - Normani

As a former member of the popular girl group, Fifth Harmony, Normani made waves in the industry this summer with her newest single. After being featured on tracks with big names such as Khalid and Sam Smith, the singer found her place with "Motivation", a classic example of a pop song that is guaranteed to be on repeat after the first time you hear it. With her debut performance at the 2019 VMA's that included a full dance break and insane vocals, the song has only gained more recognition, pulling the captivating tune to the top of the charts during the summer.

If you're ever missing summer, give these songs a listen and your mood will instantly be brightened. What were your favorite songs of the summer?

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Sports

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MLB: Who will claim the National League's final playoff spots?

By Kevin Singhel
Asst. Sports Editor

September is slowly winding down, and the end of the month coincides with the end of Major League Baseball's regular season. This is usually the time of the year where we step back and take stock of the league's division races; however, this year the division races aren't particularly close.

Instead, most of the league's postseason drama resides in the Wild Card races, and in the National League (NL) Wild Card race in particular. Six National League teams are battling for the final two Wild Card spots, meaning the race will be tight and down to the wire.

Who has the best shot of grabbing the final two playoff spots and sneaking into the postseason?

The Washington Nationals had a rough offseason, and an even more difficult early season stretch. Last winter, they lost their franchise player Bryce Harper to the Phillies, a detrimental blow to the team. Washington looked as though they would be unable to move on from Harper, struggling mightily during the first few weeks of the season. However, Washington has since recovered and is now presenting themselves as a premier playoff contender.

The Nationals are one of the hottest teams in baseball right now, and many think they could pull off a deep postseason run. They currently hold the first Wild Card slot, and have a decent sized cushion in the form of a multiple game lead.

The team also has several star performers like Anthony Rendon, Juan Soto and Max Scherzer helping to pave their path to the postseason.

While they've been in Washington, the Nationals have never won a postseason series, and this group is looking to make history, something that is entirely possible with this talented group.

The Chicago Cubs are fresh off of breaking their hundred-year-old drought a few years ago, and are looking to add another title. After a pair of early playoff exits in 2017 and 2018, the Cubs are back again and looking to go to the postseason for the fifth year in a row.

Chicago has been hovering around playoff contention all year, currently being in control of the second Wild Card. The team is extremely talented, retaining a significant number of players from their 2016 championship team to provide big-game experience and expertise.

However, they have been faltering as of late and have been unable to get a firm grip on the second Wild Card spot. There are many teams breathing down their necks, and they are in danger of slipping out of the

impressive campaign this season. Many had him as the favorite to win MVP again, claiming that Yelich has almost single-handedly kept the Brewers in contention.

However, Yelich will miss the last few weeks of the season due to injury, meaning the Brewers will have to continue their postseason push without their star. It will be a tall task, but perhaps the Brew Crew can prove they are more than just a one-man show by qualifying for the postseason without Yelich.

The

Phillies to reach their full potential.

The New York Mets were left for dead after the All-Star break, as they entered the second half of the season with the second worst record in the National League. However, a miracle second half run has the Mets in the thick of playoff contention and only a few games back of the second Wild Card.

New York is led by rookie Pete Alonso, a phenom who is on pace to set the MLB rookie home run record. The Mets also have a stellar rotation, consisting of last year's Cy Young winner Jacob DeGrom and superstars Noah Syndergaard and Marcus Stroman.

A few months ago, the Mets making the postseason would have been a pipe dream, but now it is close to becoming a reality. The Mets have an easy portion remaining in their schedule, consisting of bottom-feeders like the Rockies, Reds and Marlins, meaning it's entirely possible that this team can continue its miracle run and sneak its way into the postseason.

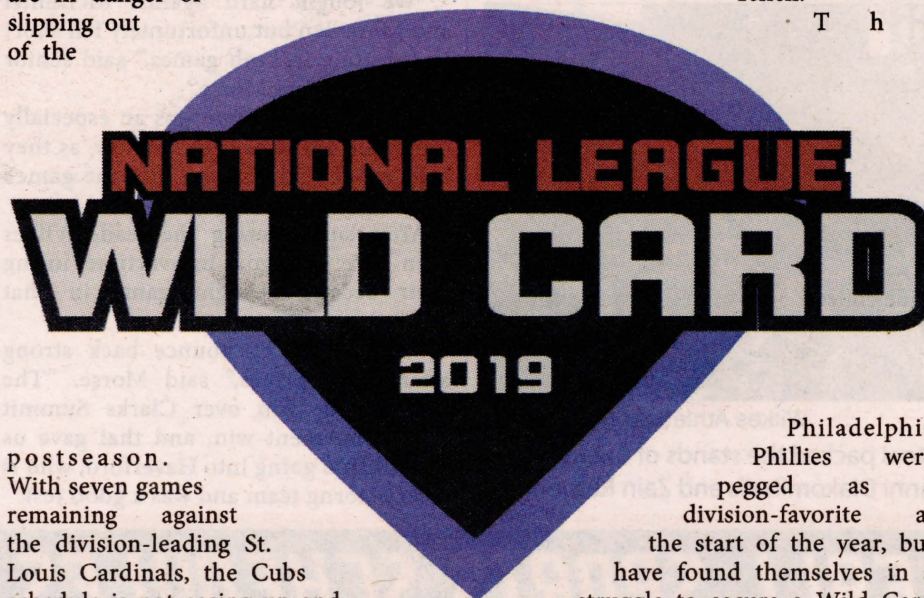
The Arizona Diamondbacks are the last NL Wild Card contender, and they enter the race as a dark horse.

The team traded away franchise player Paul Goldschmidt in the offseason and weren't expected to contend this season. However, the D-Backs have come as a surprise to fans and analysts alike and have been fringe playoff contenders virtually the entire season.

The team even remained in contention after trading star pitcher Zack Grienke to the Houston Astros at the trade deadline.

Arizona may not be the most talented team on the list, but they certainly do have the heart to battle into a Wild Card spot. Perhaps, they have one last surprise up their sleeve and can sneak their way into the playoff field.

These six teams are sure to make the NL Wild Card race for the final two spots exciting, hopefully resulting in some quality baseball games to close out regular season play.



postseason.

With seven games remaining against the division-leading St. Louis Cardinals, the Cubs schedule is not easing up and will make it rough for them to hold on to the number two spot.

The Cubs are strong contenders with lots of postseason experience, but that simply may not be enough to lock in their playoff spot.

The Milwaukee Brewers were expected to build off of their NLCS (National League Championship Series) appearance from last season, but this has proved to be a more challenging task than they expected.

The team has struggled to maintain consistency. Rather than fighting for the NL Central crown, the Brewers are fighting to secure a Wild Card spot.

Despite the inconsistencies, one positive for the team has been MVP candidate Christian Yelich. Yelich was the NL MVP last year, and has had an equally

Philadelphia Phillies were pegged as a division-favorite at the start of the year, but have found themselves in a struggle to secure a Wild Card berth.

The team had several key offseason additions, including former all-stars Bryce Harper and JT Realmuto. Despite these additions, the Phillies have struggled to stay consistent and have had trouble stringing together consecutive wins.

Preseason expectations for this team were very high, and for good reason. On paper, Philadelphia should be a threat for a deep postseason run. However, the team's starting rotation and bullpen has struggled, and the Phillies haven't exactly gotten what they expected out of their offseason acquisitions.

As a result, the team sits a few games out of the second Wild Card with a brutal portion of contests remaining in their schedule. This team certainly has the talent to lock up a Wild Card, but it may



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WREST: Final X hosted at Marts

By Luke Modrovsky
Operations Manager

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. -- On Labor Day, Sept. 2, Wilkes University was on the national stage when the completion of a Final X wrestling series was held in the Marts Center.

Tickets -- sold by USA Wrestling -- were sold out within an hour and a capacity crowd of approximately 2,300 packed the gymnasium.


According to Wilkes wrestling head coach Jon Laudenslager, "This was probably the greatest wrestle-off in USA Wrestling history, and we were very excited to have it here at Wilkes."

On June 8, Yianni Diakomihalis and Zain Retherford competed in a best-of-three freestyle series for the final spot on

the World Team at 65 kg. Retherford won the first match 10-4 before controversy ensued in the second match.

In August, arbitrator Matthew Mitten ruled the results from the second match were to be thrown out due to protest that was lodged by Diakomihalis claiming the officials improperly allowed a challenge by Retherford's corner. Retherford maintained a 1-0 match lead meaning Diakomihalis would have to win twice to qualify for the World team. As a result, match two was re-wrestled and Retherford won again 2-1.

"Both Zain and Yianni are truly great competitors and the fans had the gym rocking," Laudenslager reflected. "Having a packed Marts Center for those six minutes was well worth being a great host."

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Wilkes Athletics/Vince Scalzo

On Labor Day, approximately 2,300 spectators packed the stands of the Marts Center for the Final X rematch between Yianni Diakomihalis and Zain Retherford.

MSOC: Wilkes has 1-0-1 week

By Ben Mandell
Co-Sports Editor

The Wilkes men's soccer team kept a "goose egg" in the loss column after defeating Clarks Summit Wednesday and a tie with Haverford on Saturday.

After a solid week, the Colonels now sit at 2-2-1 overall.

The season has had some ups and downs for Wilkes, and the schedule has not helped them. After opening up with two home games, Wilkes has played their last three games on the road.

Wilkes will go over two weeks without playing a home game at Schmidt Stadium, going from Sept. 2 to Sept. 18.

The two losses the Colonels suffered were difficult to swallow, as both of the games were within reach.

"We fought hard against McDaniel and Moravian but unfortunately fell short in overtime in both games," said senior captain Zephryn Morse.

The Moravian game was an especially tough pill for Wilkes to swallow, as they held a 1-0 lead heading into the game's final 10 minutes.

After surrendering the lead, Wilkes then gave up a goal in overtime, losing their second straight game in that fashion.

"We needed to bounce back strong after those games," said Morse. "The 5-0 shutout win over Clarks Summit was a statement win, and that gave us momentum going into Haverford, who is a very strong team and was a good test."


The Colonels had a strong performance against Haverford, holding the reigning Centennial Conference champions off the scoreboard.

"We fought hard to earn a tie and that was a good result for us," Morse said.

It is still early in the season, and for the younger players, they are finally adjusting to the speed of the college game.

"The underclassmen have really done a good job proving their worth to this team and they continue to do so everyday," Morse said. "We are looking forward to building off of the momentum we've built this week and carrying it into future games."

Wilkes returns home to face Susquehanna on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. before another home game on Saturday against Keystone at 1:00 p.m.

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Come out and support the men's soccer team host Susquehanna on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Cross Country (Men & Women)

- 8/30 @ Misericordia Invite, 4th & 3rd
- 9/15 @ Queensborough Invite, 10 a.m., Both 3rd
- 9/20 @ Elizabethtown College Short Course Invite, 5:45 p.m.
- 10/5 @ Paul Short Invite (Lehigh), 9:30 a.m.
- 10/12 @ Golden Eagle Invite (St. Joseph's), 9:30 a.m.
- 10/19 @ Hood College Invite, 9:30 a.m.
- 11/2 MAC Championships (Hood), 11 a.m.
- 11/9 ECAC Championship (Mount Saint Mary), TBA
- 11/16 NCAA Mid East Regional (Lehigh), 11 a.m.

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES

Women's Volleyball

- 8/30 vs. PSU-Hazleton, W 3-0
- 8/31 @ Penn, L 3-0
- 8/31 @ Clarks Summit, L 3-2
- 8/31 @ Lycoming, L 3-2
- 9/3 @ Lancaster Bible, L 3-1
- 9/5 @ Marywood, L 3-2
- 9/7 vs. Albright, W 3-0
- 9/7 @ Wilson, W 3-1
- 9/10 vs. Keystone, W 3-0
- 9/14 vs. Cedar Crest, W 3-0
- 9/14 vs. PSU-Harrisburg, L 3-1
- *9/18 @ Stevens, 7 p.m.
- 9/21 @ Clarks Summit, noon
- 9/21 @ Rutgers-Camden, 2 p.m.
- *9/24 vs. FDU-Florham, 7 p.m.
- 9/27 @ Wesley, 6 p.m.
- 9/28 @ John Jay, noon

- 9/28 @ Farmingdale State, 2 p.m.
- *10/2 @ Delaware Valley, 7 p.m.
- 10/5 @ Neumann, noon
- 10/5 @ Widener, 2 p.m.
- *10/8 vs. Eastern, 7 p.m.
- *10/16 @ King's, 7 p.m.
- 10/19 @ New Jersey City, 11 a.m.
- 10/19 @ Baruch, 1 p.m.
- *10/22 vs. DeSales, 7 p.m.
- 10/24 vs. PSU-Berks, 7 p.m.
- 10/26 vs. Rutgers-Camden, 11 a.m.
- 10/26 vs. Messiah, 3 p.m.
- *10/30 vs. Misericordia, 7 p.m.
- 11/2 vs. Cazenovia, 11 a.m.
- 11/2 vs. Hood, 3 p.m.
- *Denotes MAC Freedom match

Field Hockey

- 8/30-31 @ CHC, W 2-1 (OT)/ L 4-1
- 9/4 vs. Keystone, W 3-1
- 9/7 vs. Widener, L 2-1
- 9/11 @ Cedar Crest, W 4-2
- 9/14 vs. Alvernia, L 3-2
- 9/18 vs. Moravian, 4 p.m.
- 9/21 @ Wilson, 1 p.m.
- 9/23 vs. Bryn Athyn, 7 p.m.
- 9/25 @ U. of Scranton, 7 p.m.
- *9/28 @ Eastern, TBD
- 10/2 vs. Elizabethtown, 7 p.m.
- *10/4 vs. DeSales, 7 p.m.
- *10/12 @ FDU-Florham, TBD
- 10/15 @ Marywood, 4 p.m.
- *10/19 vs. Stevens, 5 p.m.
- *10/23 @ King's, 7 p.m.
- *10/26 vs. Delaware Valley, 1 p.m.
- *10/30 vs. Misericordia, 7 p.m.
- *Denotes MAC Freedom match

FOOTBALL, from backcover

"It was a great feeling to find the end zone," said Harrison, reflecting on his touchdown. "All I was thinking about was playing one play at a time and taking care of business. It was a great play call, and I'm glad I could get Project Mayhem (tight ends/fullbacks group nickname) in the touchdown column."

With DeSpirito's extra point, Wilkes stretched their lead to 10 with 3:31 left on the clock. However, the quarter was far from over.

Wilkes secured back-to-back touchdowns when Acker capped the drive with a three-yard scoring run. A 15-yard pass to junior wide receiver Richard Ermeus, a 13-yard pass to Nelson and a defensive pass interference call against the Dutchmen allowed the Colonels offense to march forward before Acker's run.

After the first touchdown to "D-Rock," as Acker affectionately referred to Nelson, he noted that the Colonel offense stalled and had to refocus before Harrison and himself could score.

As for his own touchdown, Acker states that he's not one for stats, but he's glad that he could put points on the board.

With 39 seconds on the clock, Wilkes had established a lead of 20-3.

However, the next 34 seconds were arguably the Dutchmen's finest of the game. Sparked by a Wilkes unsportsmanlike penalty, Lebanon Valley was able to drive 75 yards in just four plays.

The Dutchmen capitalized by picking up yards by bunches that resulted in a 17-

yard touchdown pass to bring their deficit back down to 10. Those 34 seconds gave the Dutchmen momentum going into the second half and brought the Colonels back to reality that the game was not over.

In the third quarter, Wilkes forced a fumble on the opening kick, but failed to come away with points after DeSpirito missed a 36-yard field goal. The Colonels did strike first in the second half though when a 20-yard DeSpirito field goal sailed through the uprights to increase Wilkes' lead to 23-10.

On the next Dutchmen possession, the Colonel defense stepped up yet again, stopping Lebanon Valley on a third-and-two from their own 28 to force another three-and-out punt.

"The game plan defensively was pretty simple -- stop the run and force LVC to throw the ball," said defensive captain Bud Moyer, giving some insight as to the Colonel defense's approach heading into the contest. "They're a run-heavy offense, so it was very important to make them uncomfortable by forcing them to throw the ball."

With the defense executing their game plan, the Colonel offense was on a roll. Wilkes marched all the way down the field for a five-yard touchdown run by freshman running back JaQuan Sheals, putting the Colonels up 20 with 10:29 remaining in the contest. Ermeus proved to be the dark horse of the offense, completing a 31-yard pass from Tabora prior to Sheals' touchdown.

This touchdown became the insurance

that the Colonels needed, as the Dutchmen were able to put back-to-back touchdowns on the board to close the gap 30-24 with only 4:29 remaining.

Drach and the Colonel offense strategically chose to run the clock down. Tabora connected with Yanik for an 11-yard pickup across the middle, allowing Wilkes to enter victory formation for two kneel-downs to conclude the game.

"We didn't have to adjust too much," said Harrison on the game overall. "We were well-prepared and we played a solid game offensively."

Acker, who finished with 37 yards on 14 carries and one touchdown, echoed these sentiments.

"Coach Drach studied them (Lebanon Valley) to a T -- it was over," said Acker. "Coach Drach is a master mind. There was nothing Lebanon Valley did that we didn't practice all week."

With this monumental victory against Lebanon Valley, the Colonels have their sights set on starting the season 3-0 against Lycoming on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 1:00 p.m. in Williamsport.


Being a transfer from Lycoming, Harrison noted that this upcoming matchup is important to him.

"It's one of the biggest games of the year, and I take it personally every time we play them," said Harrison. "I don't think there's too much of an advantage for me, but it'll be a great test for us to see where we stand as a team moving forward."



The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Offensive lineman Cory Berrien (79) and wide receiver Derek Nelson (7) jump up in celebration after the first successful flea-flicker resulted in a Nelson touchdown.

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FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES

◀◀◀◀◀

Men's Soccer	Football	Women's Soccer
8/30 vs. PSU-Berks, W 4-1 9/2 vs. McDaniel, L 1-0 (2 OT) 9/7 @ Moravian, L 2-1 (OT) 9/11 @ Clarks Summit, W 5-0 9/14 @ Haverford, TIE 0-0 9/18 vs. Susquehanna, 7 p.m. 9/21 vs. Keystone, 1 p.m. 9/25 @ U. of Scranton, 4 p.m. 9/28 @ Immaculata, TBD *10/5 vs. FDU-Florham, noon 10/9 @ Hartwick, 7 p.m. *10/12 @ Stevens, 6 p.m. *10/16 @ Misericordia, 7 p.m. *10/19 vs. Eastern, 3 p.m. *10/22 vs. King's, 7 p.m. *10/26 @ DeSales, 3 p.m. 10/29 vs. Penn, 7 p.m. *11/2 @ Delaware Valley, 1 p.m. *Denotes MAC Freedom match	9/7 @ Hartwick, W 38-21 9/14 vs. Lebanon Valley, W 30-24 *9/21 @ Lycoming, 1 p.m. *10/5 vs. Alvernia, noon *10/12 @ Albright, 1 p.m. *10/19 vs. Delaware Valley, noon *10/26 @ Misericordia, 1 p.m. *11/2 vs. FDU-Florham, 1 p.m. x*11/9 vs. Stevenon, noon y*11/16 @ King's, noon *Denotes MAC match x-Senior Day y-Mayor's Cup	8/30 vs. PSU-Berks, W 2-1 9/4 vs. Ithaca, TIE 0-0 9/7 @ RIT, L 2-1 9/11 vs. William Paterson, POST 9/14 vs. Bard, W 3-0 9/18 @ Susquehanna, 7 p.m. 9/21 vs. Arcadia, 3:30 p.m. 9/24 vs. U. of Scranton, 7 p.m. 9/28 @ Marywood, 1 p.m. *10/5 vs. FDU-Florham, 3 p.m. *10/12 @ Stevens, 3 p.m. *10/15 @ Misericordia, 7 p.m. *10/19 vs. Eastern, noon *10/23 vs. King's, 7 p.m. *10/26 @ DeSales, noon 10/29 @ Oneonta, 3 p.m. *11/2 @ Delaware Valley, 7 p.m. *Denotes MAC Freedom match



Getting to know...

Nick Yanik

Junior Football Player

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week Sept. 1 - Sept. 7

Why Nick Yanik was selected: In Wilkes' first opening day victory since 2013, Yanik totaled 228 receiving yards and secured the final touchdown of the contest, beating Hartwick College 38-21.

Name: Nick Yanik
Year: Junior
Major: Communication Studies
Minor: Marketing
Hometown: Edison, N.J.
High School: Edison HS
Position: Wide Receiver

Most influential person(s) in your life?
It's tough to pick just one, but I would say my father. He has been through so much and still moves through life with such a happy vibe. He taught me to see beauty in everything, even if most people cannot.

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

Being a wide receiver, I loved how much Wilkes loves to throw the football. Also, I loved the scenery of campus and our Communications program. Everyone here is just so nice and welcoming.

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

Tupac. He is still very influential in the music industry. He had a great mind for creating music. Dying in his prime makes me really want to pick his brain about what life and music was like back then.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

I want to play football for as long as I can, however, my dream career is to be a journalist at Vice in New York City.

Favorite Professor?
Dr. Churcher. She's easy to talk to, caring and overall the coolest.

Favorite building on campus?

I'm a big fan of the Karambelas Media and Communications Center because of all its cool features. The TV studio, theatre, control room and music studio all provide me with the experience I need for my future career.

Coke or Pepsi?
Coke, preferably cherry vanilla.

Favorite meal to eat on campus?

Oof ... I'll go with the mozzarella sticks from Grille Works.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

I hope we can just take it one game at a time, and win each week. If we do this, our season will go down in history.

A quote you live your life by?
"Tomorrow hopes we learned something from yesterday." - John Wayne

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I started playing in elementary school because all my friends were playing at the time. Plus, I kept falling while skateboarding, so football was a better hobby for me.

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?
It means living life with purpose, no matter your situation, and being there for everyone. Anyone can be there for someone they care about, but being a Colonel means you have to be there for strangers as well.

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

I would throw more baby blue into our uniforms because the color is fire.

Anyone to give a shout-out to?
Shoutout to my team and everyone who believes in us, to my family and friends back home supporting and to my boy Waskiii.

Editor's note: Athlete of the Week selections are determined by the sports staff each week. At the end of the academic year, we will post a reader poll on Twitter @WilkesBeacon to crown an "Athlete of the Year."

The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

-Compiled by Kirsten Peters, Co-Sports Editor

Getting to know...

Morghan Murphy

Sophomore Field Hockey Player

The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week Sept. 1 - Sept. 7

Why Morghan Murphy was selected: Murphy scored her second goal of the year when taking advantage of a penalty corner in Wilkes' 3-1 home-opener win against Keystone. She also assisted junior Ali Dunn's solo goal in the Colonels 2-1 loss against Widener later in the week.

Name: Morghan Murphy
Year: Sophomore
Major: Nursing
Hometown: Mountain Top, Pa.
High School: Crestwood HS
Position: Forward

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?
In my free time, I enjoy binge-watching Netflix and Hulu.

Most influential person(s) in your life?
My two brothers, Connor and Sean.

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

I chose Wilkes because I had the opportunity to study in the exceptional nursing program while simultaneously being able to play the sport I love. An added bonus has been being so close to home.

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

What came first? The chicken or the egg?
The chicken.

Post graduation plans in terms of a career?

I plan to get a job as an emergency room nurse in a hospital.

Favorite professor?
Professor Kris Cross.

Coke or Pepsi?
Sprite.

Favorite building on campus?
The library.

Favorite meal to eat on campus?
A Grilled Chicken Sandwich from Grille Works.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?
I hope that my team and I bring our best attitudes and efforts to all our practices and games so we make it to the post-season MAC tournament.

A quote you live your life by?
"Live life with no regrets."

When/Why did you first begin playing?
I began playing field hockey in the sixth grade after participating in a college clinic.

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?
To be a Colonel means to be a leader by setting a good example to everyone around you.

Favorite thing to do during practice?
My favorite thing to do is tipping in shooting drills.

Anyone to give a shout-out to?
I would like to give a shout-out to my family who always supports me; my favorite person/roommate Lauren Shiplett, who always wakes me up for our early morning lifts and practices; and, most importantly, to all my teammates!

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

I would improve our consistency as a team.

-Compiled by Kirsten Peters, Co-Sports Editor



Editor's note: Athlete of the Week selections are determined by the sports staff each week. At the end of the academic year, we will post a reader poll on Twitter @WilkesBeacon to crown an "Athlete of the Year."

The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

FB: Team-first attitude leads Wilkes to first 2-0 start in 10 years

By Kirsten Peters
Co-Sports Editor

EDWARDSVILLE, Pa. -- How does it feel to be 2-0? This question rang through the Colonel sideline and locker room following Wilkes' 30-24 victory over Lebanon Valley on Saturday.

This non-conference matchup at Schmidt Stadium gave Wilkes their first 2-0 start since the 2009 season, when the Colonels began with three consecutive victories.

"For the first time in 10 years, Wilkes football has started the season 2-0," exclaimed interim president Dr. Paul Adams on the steps leading up to Munson Fieldhouse following the Colonels' win.

The theme of the contest was motivated by wanting to break the 10-year spell and start the season 2-0.

"Going into the game, our mindset was that Wilkes football has not been 2-0 in a very long time and that we need to get the job done," sophomore tail back Jeremiah Acker said, hitting home the importance of starting the season with back-to-back wins.

This was prevalent from the moment Wilkes had possession of the ball, making Lebanon Valley feel the sting of regret after



The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Offensive lineman Brendan Boris (left) shows his running back Jeremiah Acker (right) some love after he scores the third Colonel touchdown.

they decided to defer the coin toss.

Following three-and-a-half minutes of play, senior wide receiver Derek Nelson

found himself in the end zone. In a game where head coach Jonathan Drach would call for three flea-flickers, the first one had its

intended impact, allowing Nelson to receive a 39-yard touchdown pass.

"The game plan going in was to play hard for 60 minutes, and just make sure we take care of the ball on offense," said Nelson. "I believe we did that pretty well today."

Despite Nelson's ability to make it to the end zone, junior kicker Alexander DeSpirito was unable to convert the extra point.

However, challenges in the kick-game were not limited to Wilkes, as the Dutchmen's Nick Bentz struggled at the start of the game as well. Bentz's 26-yard field goal attempt sailed wide right after Lebanon Valley's first possession, leaving the score at 6-0 for the remainder of the first quarter.

After a Colonel possession resulted in a punt, Bentz refused to make the same mistake twice and cut Wilkes' lead to 6-3 with a successful 41-yard field goal attempt.

With 11:29 left in the first half, Wilkes began a 14-play, 73-yard drive. Senior quarterback Jose Tabora found junior wide receiver Nick Yanik for a 17-yard gain to the Dutchmen three, setting up senior tight end Bryce Harrison's two-yard touchdown reception on a shovel-pass.

FOOTBALL, page 21

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