



THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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

WEBS and Title IX: Paving way for gender equity in STEM

By Amanda Montgomery
News Editor

In recent developments, the Women Empowered By Science (WEBS) program has found itself at the intersection of Title IX compliance and the pursuit of inclusivity. Title IX, a statute designed to protect students in educational institutions from discrimination based on sex has prompted the program to undergo significant changes.

An email was sent out to Elizabeth Leo, university counsel and Title IX coordinator, as well as to President Cant from a professor emeritus for the University of Michigan. This professor learned of the Wilkes WEBS program, and let the university know that he filed a complaint with the office of civil rights who will do an investigation on the matter.

This professor has made over 850 Title IX complaints from more than 2,000 civil rights violations at more than 750 colleges.

"He's kind of been very prolific in his quest to eradicate programs that benefit one gender, and I believe they're all those that have programs designed for girls or women to go into traditionally male-dominated fields," said Leo.

In his email, the professor contacted

the office of civil rights (OCR), the agency that oversees Title IX violations. To be proactive in compliance, Wilkes determined to remove all gender-related information from the program and from the website to make it compliant with Title IX.

If the OCR did do an investigation, they would examine the policies and practices, interview the individuals affiliated and ask for documentation. The investigation could vary from asking for a position paper, to conducting an on-site investigation.

WEBS, in compliance with Title IX, invites everyone to participate, regardless of their gender and identity, to join in their existing mission of empowering women in science. While they never directly excluded individuals from participating with the program, they are involving a more diverse population than they had previously done.

"We're inviting everyone regardless of gender and identity to join us in that mission of empowering women and helping them maintain their interest in science, but then also cultivate their interest through being armed elbow to elbow with other professionals from the community and also on campus," said Debra Chapman, faculty of practice for

the biology department.

Over the summer, the WEBS program held a summer camp which took place at the university. It provided young science enthusiasts with an exciting opportunity to explore various scientific fields through hands-on laboratories and activities.

"This summer I saw males in the program and a week ago I saw two young boys doing a WEBS project with one of the WEBS coordinators, so we never excluded other genders or other folks that identified in other ways, just that it was always predominantly girls," said Leo.

The program started 21 years ago, and the focus of the camp was to involve young women who had an interest in science.

"The reality is that women will work with other people of all kinds of genders and identities when they are even here at Wilkes, but then certainly when they join the workforce," said Chapman.

Title IX is an umbrella term that ensures there is comity between the benefits and opportunities that men and women have in colleges.

"The university is committed to complying with Title IX in all of the aspects of Title IX," said Leo.

Title IX Presence at Wilkes University

Policies and Procedures

Title IX's policies and procedures are all available under the Title IX Compliance Office at Wilkes.

Website

It is available to research and read at www.wilkes.edu.

Contact

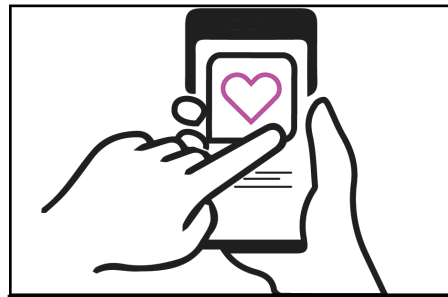
If you feel unsafe, you can call 911 or public safety at (570)-408-4999, or you can file a harassment report under Title IX.



Division of Global Cultures Celebrates Dr. Kuiken's book publication, page 3



WUPB's cooking demonstration at the casino, page 7



Analyzing fandoms: the pros and cons of fan culture, page 18



Celtics championship favorites as season approaches, page 19

News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor Amanda Montgomery: Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu

Student Government notes: Sept. 20 weekly meeting

By Zach Paraway
Contributing Writer

Student Government held its fourth meeting for the semester on Sept. 20. SG currently has \$48,277.84 in their account.

The first order of business was the Alumni Office in a fund request for Homecoming weekend. The presentation was given by Bree Freeman of the office and Brooke Coleman, a junior student intern. This was week two of two for the request. The request was for \$500 to cover 50 student tickets for the weekend's events. The motion was passed and allotted for the full amount.

The next order of business was a fund request from Kappa Psi, a pharmaceutical fraternity on campus under the chapter Delta Omicron. Presenting was regent Phil Davis, a P4 student. This was week two of two for their request. They requested \$2,226

in order to attend two conferences over the fall semester. The conferences provide networking opportunities and allow for voting on changes that affect all chapters. Locations include Buffalo, New York and Boston. The motion was passed for the partial amount of \$1,726 in order to fund the trip to the NEP conference in Boston.

The next order of business was the Pre-Law Society coming in for club recognition. The presentation was given by Sean Greco, a junior political science student. This was week two of two for the club. The club has been in operation for two semesters without full SG recognition and has a full e-board and general board of over 20 members.

The group holds events to help others understand law and helps members in the seeking of higher education. The vote was passed for the club to be fully recognized.

The next order of business was a fund

request from the Wilkes Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). GSA serves the campus community in the promotion of conversation and of the rights for all people that may identify outside of heterosexual. The presentation was given by Morgan Steiner, junior political science student. The request is for GSA and its guests to be able to attend the Mid-Atlantic LGBTQ+ conference being held Nov. 3-5 in Bloomsburg, Pa.

The conference would help students send work for the conference in the form of papers, projects and workshops. It also gives many of the members a chance in order to present formally and gain that experience. This was the first week of their proposal and will be voted on next week.

The final order of business was an internal presentation given by Michael Nowak, senior electrical engineering student and vice president of SG. This was for a fall event getaway for

members of the student community. The trip would see them travel to Roba's farms, the Taste of Autumn and a scavenger hunt. This would occur over fall break from Oct. 13-16 and give many students a chance to have an activity for those who would not be able to go home during the shortened break. The cost and fund request for the trip was \$3,600. This was week one of two and will be voted on next week.

SG will meet again on Wednesday, Sept. 27.

Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

Scholarship Opportunity for Students of Polish Descent

The Polish Room Committee Scholarship (\$3,000 top award) welcomes applications from Luzerne County residents. To be considered, applicants must write a brief description of their Polish heritage and what that heritage means to them.

This letter must be submitted, along with the applicant's name, WIN and contact information to Allison Naumann, Alumni House.

Applications can be emailed to allison.naumann@wilkes.edu with the subject line "Polish Heritage Scholarships."

Deadline for applications is Oct. 13 at 4:30 p.m.

Volunteer with ChalkFest

The Riverfront Parks Committee hosts their annual ChalkFest event on Saturday, Oct. 7 starting at 9:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity for students to volunteer and serve their community. Please email john@riverfrontparks.org with the following information: name, phone number and email address.

If you have any questions, contact John Maday at john@riverfrontparks.org or call 570-825-5763.

Sam's Club Membership Drive

University Staff Advisory Committee (USAC) invites all students to visit the representative of Sam's Club on Oct. 2 to sign up for a discounted membership,

valid through the 2024 year. The event will take place on the first floor of the Student Union Building (SUB) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The offer is only available until Oct. 14.

Contact Corey Moore at corey.moore@wilkes.edu with any questions.

BACCHUS Alcohol Awareness Walk

The Alcohol Awareness Walk will take place on Oct. 24 from 11a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Fenner Quad. Food will be provided.

Sign up before Oct. 3 to receive a shirt using this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNyDEgn46xXBHJOoHfI0ZxA Vn86xTBJ4PhezOR0S6xr0EReA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>.

Table of Contents

News.....	2
Life, A&E.....	7
Opinion.....	14
Sports.....	19

Upcoming Events:

October
 5 - Hoedown Throwdown
 8 - Statue of Liberty Boat Tour NYC
 12-15 - Fall Break
 19 - Couch Potato
 23-27 - Freak Week
 28 - Dorney Haunted Park

November
 2 - Silent Disco
 9 - Giveaway

Want your event featured in the calendar?
 Email: Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu

Division of Global Cultures celebrates Dr. Kuiken's book

By Emma Broda
News Staff Writer

Students, faculty and friends all gathered in Kirby Hall recently to support Dr. Jonathan Kuiken's newly published book.

Kuiken, associate professor of history and the director of the Honors Program, had his first book published, "Oil for Britain: The United Kingdom and the Remaking of the International Oil Industry, 1957-1988." The book was published earlier this year.

The book covers the United Kingdom's involvement in the international oil industry during the late 20th century. Writing a historical book requires considerable research and work, and this was no different for Kuiken.

"Writing a book is difficult in the best of circumstances," said Kuiken. "Monographs focusing on history require you to do a lot of secondary source reading and a significant amount of primary source research in libraries, archives, etc."

The book had been a long time in the making for Kuiken with many other

responsibilities taking up his time.

"The biggest challenge, however, is finding both the time and the energy to do serious research and writing," said Kuiken.

"At Wilkes we have a pretty heavy teaching and advising load on top of our other responsibilities such as serving on committees. Obviously teaching is an amazing privilege, but it also takes a lot of time and, even more, a lot of energy."

The hard work put into the book was celebrated with a party with refreshments and a speech from Kuiken. Many of those in attendance were aware of the time and effort Kuiken put into this achievement.

"I know he was stressed so I could imagine he was relieved," said Megan Novak, junior environmental science major. "I felt proud to see it finished."

There was a definite sense of pride and excitement from all attending the party, and there were even some tears shed during his speech.

"It was wonderful recognizing Dr. Kuiken's big achievement," said Dr. Chelsea Chamberlain, professor of history and colleague of Kuiken.

Mia Decker, junior history major, said

that attending the event put a smile on her face.

"Dr. Kuiken is one of my favorite professors, and every class I've had with him has been lovely and I wanted to support his achievement," said Decker.

Even during his speech Kuiken expressed he does not necessarily enjoy things where he is the center of attention, especially a party like this one. He shared that this one, however, was different.

"Researching and writing can be a pretty lonely experience so the importance of having the support of friends, family, colleagues, and students - many of whom were at the book party - is hard to overstate," said Kuiken. "It's easy to doubt yourself, and hard to fight the temptation to give up, so having people there to cheer you on is really appreciated."

One particularly memorable moment from the party and his speech was his thanks to his children, Madeline and Thomas, whom the book was dedicated to. During his speech he also shared that the two were part of the reason why the book took so long to finish. However, he shared why he decided to dedicate it to

them.

"But in all seriousness, having children is one of the greatest motivations to be the best person you can be," said Kuiken. "They are a tremendous source of joy in my life, and their ability to help me put the importance of my work into proper perspective made my dedicating the book to them an obvious choice."

It was clear from the party just how well respected and loved Kuiken is at Wilkes.

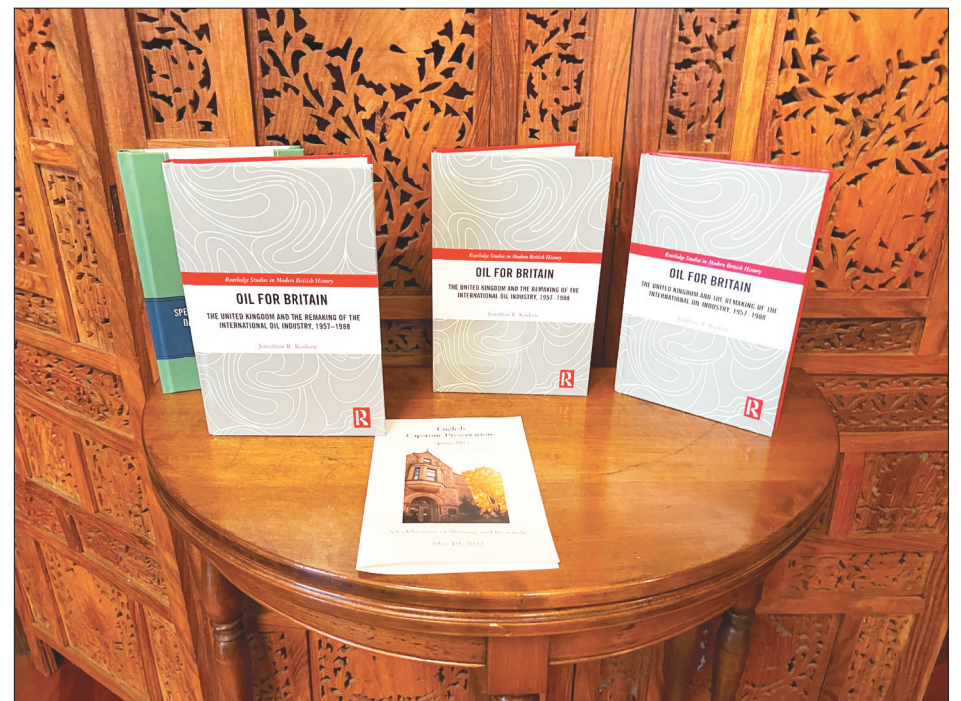
"If you had one conversation with Dr. Kuiken, you would remember him forever," said Kamea Paresa, sophomore math and secondary education major. "He holds the kind of character that inspires you and encourages you. He is an incredibly talented and intelligent professor who has done so many great things."

"He's just such a humble and well-rounded individual. My experience at Wilkes wouldn't be the same without him. He gives great advice and is also very personable. He's just an overall great person."

Photos: The Beacon/Emma Broda



Dr. Kuiken poses with his new book, "Oil for Britain: The United Kingdom and the Remaking of the International Oil Industry, 1957-1988."



Copies of Kuiken's book were displayed at the event. The book features United Kingdom's involvement in the international oil industry.

The College of Business and Engineering hosts career fair

By Amanda Montgomery
News Editor

The annual College of Business and Engineering Career and Internship Fair recently took place in the McHale Athletic Center. More than 50 companies and organizations participated in the event.

The fair was open to all students interested in working in the business, engineering and technology fields. Students had the opportunity to meet with prospective employers and internship sites for those interested.

The Center for Career Development and Internships helped prepare students by conducting mock interviews, reviewing resumes and preparing students for interviews and networking skills.

The Colonel Clothes Closet also provided students with the opportunity to find professional wear for the event free of charge.

For first-year students in business, engineering and technology fields, the

Career Development Center conducted a first year career bingo which consisted of questions students can ask employers, as well as questions related to their interests.

Once the students spoke with employers, they received a sticker which they placed on the appropriate section of the card. When students “won” bingo, they handed their card to the registration table and were entered in various gift card giveaways.

Some of the different companies and organizations in attendance included Target, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Proctor and Gamble, Mountain Productions, Hershey Entertainment and Resorts and Kearney and Company. Each organization offered a variety of opportunities for students, including internships, jobs and graduate school opportunities.

For those who missed the fall semester career and internship fair, there will be another held during the spring semester.

Photos: The Beacon/Amanda Montgomery



The career fair displayed an archway made from blue and gold balloons before entering the variety of employer tables.



One of the prizes available for first year students who participated in the first year career bingo. In addition, there are various gift card giveaways that the bingo participants can win.



Business, engineering and technology students networking and learning more about the different opportunities available to them. There were over 50 employers that students could meet and interact with.

What is... the Wilkes University Programming Board

By Morgan Steiner
Contributing Writer

Thursday nights at Wilkes are dedicated to the Programming Board. Many students are familiar with Thursday night bingo events, which always have a theme. There is always a "back to school" bingo which starts the fall semester off, and a "techno" bingo which rounds out the spring semester.

While bingo is only once a month, the Programming Board hosts events for the entire campus community to enjoy every Thursday night of the school year.

"[Programming Board is] one of the mega councils on campus and we host an event every Thursday night," said Kim Wheeler, junior p1 pharmacy student and president of the Programming Board. "Along with our monthly bingos, annual concert and giveaways, we also host an array of events to engage the campus community. All of our events are planned with the help of our executive and general board."

Programming Board is very flexible with general board members, and encourages them to attend general board meetings even if they're not on the executive board.

"I wish students knew that they could get involved with Programming Board at any point during the school year," said Addie Hazlet, the activities coordinator for student development and advisor for programming board.

"We would not be successful if it were not for our gen board participation so I encourage students to get involved with our club."

Kylie Jayne, junior nursing major, started off her first semester as a general

board member for Programming Board, and is now the analytical chair.

"I got involved with the Programming Board last year because my roommate told me that it was fun and I should join," said Jayne. "I enjoyed the events and thought it would be fun to spend time with her this way."

Other members of the executive board also got their start in Programming Board during their freshman year.

"I got involved with Programming Board my freshman year during club day," said Wheeler. "None of my friends wanted to sign up for the club so I took a leap of faith and decided to join by myself."

While Programming Board is known for bingo nights, they also host a variety of different events, including their fall 2022 "Wild Wild West Night." The night consisted of Mission BBQ, games and a mechanical bull.

"Programming Board is awesome to be a part of but like anything it comes with its challenges," said Jayne. "Thursdays tend to be busy days when we are trying to set things up. The most challenging thing would have to be the last minute changes we need to make when someone goes wrong or does not show up in time."

We all work as a team and it gets done together."

Posters of their fall semester event schedule can be found around campus, and on their Instagram @wilkesupub. To become part of the general board, students can email wupb@wilkes.edu or kimberly.wheeler@wilkes.edu.



Members of the 2023 executive and general board with Trevor Wallace, an American comedian, writer and actor, after his comedy show last spring.



WUPB executive board, fall 2022; back row L-R: Addie Hazlet (advisor), Brynn Marlow (junior), Jessica Kunkle (junior), Nicole Middleton (p3) and Kaelin Hughes (senior). Front row L-R: Shelby Brazes (senior), Kimberly Wheeler (junior/p1), Rebecca Ax (junior) and Lauren Beaver (junior).

Graphic: The Beacon/Amanda Montgomery

Photos Courtesy of Kim Wheeler

WUPB UPCOMING EVENTS

HOEDOWN THROWDOWN	10/5
COUCH POTATO	10/19
FREAK WEEK	10/23-27
SILENT DISCO	11/2

GIVEAWAY	11/7
FAST FOOD BINGO	11/16
BREAK-FEST	11/30
BINGO	12/7

Dr. Monique Woodard returns to Wilkes as assistant professor

By Zach Paraway
Contributing Writer

Dr. Monique Woodard recently joined Wilkes as assistant professor of game and emergent technology.

Woodard is a Wilkes graduate, and explained that the time was right to return.

“I felt as if it was time to move from my past job to a new one, and the fact that Eric (Ruggiero) had been reaching out to me a couple of times to apply for this position. So, I was like alright, this is it,” she said.

Woodard graduated from Wilkes in 2015 with degrees in integrative media and theater. She then received a masters in digital media, and later a doctorate in education with a STEM concentration from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pa. in both 2018 and 2023, respectively.

“I was a student here from 2011-2015,” said Woodard. “My time here was pretty fun to be honest with you. I do not have any complaints outside of the usual ones. I like my professors and I made really good friends here in the IMAD department and also with my other major of theater when I was here.”

Over the past three years, Woodard has been working on a project to help



Photo courtesy Dr. Woodard

Black girls get involved in the world of STEM through coding. While Woodard was completing her graduate degree at Drexel University, as part of her job as research assistant she went on to create Black Girls STEAMing through Dance.

“As a part of my degree, my research was in supporting black girls’ creativity as they learn to code in virtual environments,” said Woodard. “I ended

up teaching around 17 girls through the concepts of coding beginning in block coding and then transitioning them over to Python in order to have full understanding of the functions.”

Woodard wanted the program to help prepare them for high school and college with coding skills. She hoped the opportunity would not to just help them survive in coding, but thrive in coding.

As part of her job, Woodard teaches three classes this semester along with an independent study. She also has three students working closely with her for a research project.

While Woodard settles into her new job, returning to Wilkes after eight years, she hopes to inspire students to want to code and go into the path of media development. She also hopes to bring a program for black girls to Wilkes as she had at Drexel.

Dr. Joshua Harper joins Wilkes as assistant professor

By Amanda Montgomery
News Editor

Dr. Joshua Harper joined Wilkes this fall as an assistant professor of choral music and applied voice. He is also the director of choirs.

Harper received a bachelor of arts in vocal performance and a bachelor of arts in music composition and theory at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn. He then received a masters in choral conducting at University of Massachusetts Amherst in Amherst, Mass. He later received a doctorate in choral conducting at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in Bloomington, Ind.

Harper is from Huntsville, Ala., and now lives in Dunmore, Pa., with his wife. They moved from Arizona when she was offered a position at the University of Scranton.

“I had to get rid of my accent because choral music has a lot to do with vowels, and so I had a teacher tell me that if I wanted to be successful in my career, I would need to get rid of my southern accent,” said Harper.

Harper started his undergraduate degree as a finance major with a music minor.

“I’ve sung and played piano for most of my life, but when it came time to come to college, I didn’t think that I could make a career by singing,” said Harper.

After taking various business and music classes, he decided that music was his passion, and so he changed his business major to one in music.

“[I] learned a few years later that conducting voices was what really brought me the most amount of joy, and figured out that I enjoyed working with other people with students, and so I’m fast-forwarding through a lot of years,



Photo courtesy Dr. Harper

but ultimately being able to teach and conduct music is really what I love to do,” said Harper.

Harper currently teaches choir, voice lessons and music theory. He likes the fact that most professors at Wilkes do not just teach one class, as a lot of his past professors have.

“There’s so much culture.

There is, in my opinion, great weather and full four seasons, and just a lot of opportunities professionally as a conductor and musician,” said Harper.

Harper is excited to share his music with the community, both the university and town of Wilkes-Barre.

“Wilkes has a history of a really successful choral program, and there’s a lot of wonderful alumni I’ve already met

in the area, both because of COVID and how it affected everyone, just because of some other things that happened over the past couple of years, this program has a lot of room for growth, and I’m really excited to hopefully bring the choral music program in particular back to the reputation that it had for so many years,” said Harper.

In his free time, Harper enjoys English Premier League football, which is a fantasy sports league. He explained that there are about 10 million people who play in the world, and last year he came in 47,000.

One piece of advice Harper advises students is from an old professor of his. He explained that you don’t know who you are until you’re 30 years old so quit trying so hard to figure it out until then.

“I tell my students is also about becoming a better person and part of that is learning a little bit more about yourself and that may mean changing your finance major to a vocal performance major but that also could end up really being who you are and defining the rest of your life in your career as it has for mine,” said Harper.

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor: Zara.Lantzman@wilkes.edu

WUPB's cooking demonstration at the casino

By **Morgan Steiner**
Contributing Writer

Programming Board's events always draw a large crowd, but this week, seating was limited in the Chef's Kitchen at Rustic Kitchen. In a new twist on the Thursday night tradition, this week's event, a Cooking Class, had students stepping off campus and into the kitchen to take a cooking class with a professional chef.

This trip brought students to a cooking class at the Rustic Kitchen in Mohegan Sun Casino. Normally, a class like this would cost upwards of \$80. Through Programming Board, the trip was only \$5, transportation included.

"Programming board wants to add something different for people who didn't have events geared to their interests before," said Shelby Brazes, a senior criminology and psychology major, and treasurer of the programming board

Others shared their experiences at the event.

"It was like being in the live studio audience of one of those cooking shows," said Ellie Freiss, a senior mechanical engineering major. "The chef was really interactive and provided great cooking tips and entertaining commentary."

The three course meal included a salad, entree and dessert.

"The ribs were very good and fell off the bone," said Freiss.

Brazes said her favorite was the mixed-berry parfait they had for dessert and other students raved about the jalapeno-cheddar cornbread.

"I would definitely recommend it and go to an event like this again," said Freiss.

Brazes added that the club expresses interest in doing it again because of how much of a hit the event seemed to be.

Programming board hosts fun, engaging events every Thursday even each fall and spring semester.



Chef Kim Demonstrates in background with a stack of ribs and jalapeno-cheddar cornbread.



A cup that was filled with a delicious mixed-berry parfait.



The large center kitchen was surrounded and occupied by audience participants.

Photos Courtesy of Ellie Freiss



Club of the Week: NAMI

By Anthony Cazun

Asst. Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

Wilkes University houses a plethora of clubs for sports, art and media. Others, help those in need. This is the ultimate goal of National Alliance on Mental Illness.

National Alliance on Mental Illness, also known as NAMI, is a club and advocate group on campus that is an extension of the overall nationwide NAMI organization. The organization, and club by proxy, has the mission to bring attention to and educate about mental illness, fight for the rights of people struggling with mental illnesses and provide assistance to people that need it.

"We are trying to get rid of the stigma around mental health, and provide resources for those that need it," said Ashley Gangaware, senior nursing major. "We spend a lot of

time doing that."

Part of this destigmatization includes creating a discussion around the issue and allowing those that are struggling with easily accessible resources. That is why The Bandana Project was initiated. This project includes training students for certain emergencies and providing them with several resources in order for the student to effectively assist someone in need.

These students sport a green bandana on their person, which signifies that the wearer can be approached about mental health related issues and provide resources to help anyone that requires it. Green bandana wearers are approachable, understanding and wish nothing more than to assist in improving the wellbeing of others, so do not be afraid to tap one on the shoulder.

Anybody can be a green bandana wearer with the proper guidance, as well as a NAMI member, regardless of major.

NAMI welcomes everyone across Wilkes University, from arts to business and everything in between.

"We want it to be a campus wide thing," said Gangaware. "Any major is welcome to join, because everyone deals with mental health issues, not just people within psychological or medical fields."

NAMI is also very accessible, as while it is encouraged, members are not required to attend every meeting, so it is very flexible for those with busy schedules.

"NAMI is not one of those clubs where it's mandatory to come to all meetings," said Gangaware. "If you want to get all the information about stuff we are promoting off campus, you can still be a member but you do not have to come to every single meeting."

Those aforementioned promotions include various events where self help is encouraged and advocated for. NAMI attends many events where it can spread

awareness about mental illness and both help those in need and recruit people into the cause.

"There are important mental health events that we do, we have done suicide awareness walks and attended other events where we can spread the word," said Ashley Tommassacci, sophomore neuroscience and psychology major.

NAMI often collaborates with other organizations, event organizers and other schools in order to more efficiently build a defense against mental illness.

Whether it be apparent or not, people are always in need and not everyone has the ability or the push to make themselves feel comfortable within their own skin.

The goal of NAMI is to help people reach that point of comfortability.



Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff picks their favorite song of the week. Our very own Zara Lantzman has put together a Spotify playlist where you can scan it and listen to the Beacon's staff

Morgan Rich, Editor-in-Chief:

cowboy ike me - Taylor Swift

Amanda Montgomery, News Editor:

Clay Pigeons - Michael Cera

Emma Broda, News Staff Writer:

I'm Your Man - Mitski

Zara Lantzman, LA&E Editor:

that's how you make a villain - emyln

Anthony Cazun, LA&E Asst. Editor:

Whirring - The Joy Formidable

Cally Williams, LA&E Staff Writer:

Sofia- Clairo

Sydney Allabaugh, Opinion Editor:

Take It Off - Keshha

"Freeze," Opinion Staff Writer:

The Ninja in the Night - Lind Erebros

Adam Grundt, Sports Asst. Editor:

Nostalgia - Rod Wave, Wet

Lara Mullen, Designer:

The Narcissist - Blur

Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager:

Peppers - Lana Del Rey, Tommy Genesis

Graphics/Lara Mullen

The Dorothy Dickson Darte Center fall preview

By Cassidy Brumagin
Contributing Writer

The Wilkes University theatre department's fall season is underway.

This semester, the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts will be putting on two productions. The first performance will be Noël Coward's "Blithe Spirit." The second will be Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical "Carousel."

"Blithe Spirit" is a comic play centered on novelist Charles Condomine. Searching for material for his next book, Charles invites a local medium into his house. When the seance goes awry, the plan backfires as chaos and the supernatural ensue.

Playwright Coward describes the play as a farce, entailing dramatic

comedy scenes that are improbable, exaggerated and absurd for the audience.

The cast list for the production includes Caleb Flannery as Charles, Kasey Karoll as Ruth, Bella Ruiz as Elvira, Rachel Kern as Madame Arcati, Cally Williams as Edith, Kaiden Harris as Dr. Bradman and Olivia Scarborough as Mrs. Bradman.

The show will have performances at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 5; Friday Oct. 6; and Saturday Oct. 7. A matinee performance will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 8.

Next up for the fall season will be the musical "Carousel."

The story of "Carousel" focuses on the love story of carousel barker Billy Bigelow and quiet mill worker Julie Jordan.

After falling in love, the relationship

between the two has its ups and downs. Ultimately, Billy is given a chance to mend relationships after his time on earth from beyond the grave.

The musical falls into the categories of drama and romance and features musical numbers including "June is Busting Out All Over," "If I Loved You" and "You'll Never Walk Alone."

The principal cast will feature Raven Whitefawn as Julie Jordan, Jahel Duran-Diaz as Billy Bigelow, Rachel Kern as Carrie Pipperridge, Olivia Scarborough as Nettie Fowler, Caleb Flannery as Enoch Snow and Jack Flynn as Jigger Craigan/Carnival Boy.

Performances are 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16; Friday, Nov. 17;

and Saturday, Nov. 18. There is also a 2 p.m. show on Sunday, Nov. 19.

The remainder of the 2023-2024 season includes productions of the musical "Fun Home" and the Harry Potter-based parody, "Puffs."

Dates for these productions are to be determined.

All shows will take place in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center. Admission for Wilkes students and faculty is free with ID.

General admission for the performances is \$20 for musicals and \$25 for non-musical productions.

Seniors and non-Wilkes student pricing is \$15 for musicals and \$10 for non-musical productions.

Graphic/Morgan Rich



**Want your
events featured
in the Life,
Arts, and
Entertainment
section of the
Beacon?**

Contact Zara
Lantzman, Life, Arts,
and Entertainment
Editor at zara.lantzman@wilkes.edu

Weekends at Wilkes: Basics of illustration with Kevin O’Neill

Find out what is going on in your campus community

By Cally Williams

Life, Arts, and Entertainment Staff Writer

Once classes end on Friday, it is time for the weekend. Although classes do not start up again until Monday, that does not mean that nothing is happening on campus.

Many students go home for the weekend, but there is always something going on at the university, even on the weekend. On Sept. 23, Wilkes hosted an event that stressed community and the importance of art.

The event going on that past weekend took place at Wilkes’ own Sordoni Art Gallery. The Sordoni Art Gallery is located in Karambelas Media and Communication Center and the exhibits in the gallery are always changing.

Currently, the Sordoni Art Gallery

is featuring the work of 20th century illustrator Rose O’Neill, who is most known for her creation of the Kewpie Doll. The exhibit, titled “The One Rose,” opened for the public and university community on Aug. 25 and will end on Oct. 8.

On Sept. 23, the art gallery hosted a special event taking inspiration from Rose O’Neill by teaching children ages seven through 10 the basics of illustration.

The event offered local children in the community a free opportunity to explore their artistic skills. Kevin O’Neill, a local artist, writer and graphic designer led the event and created a dinosaur mural with the children.

O’Neill is a staff artist for the Scranton Times-Tribune as well as a writer for the paper. Along with illustration,

O’Neill has worked with graphic design, watercolor and acrylic wood carving and does courtroom graphics. He attended a vocational-technical school to study graphic design and illustration, Rochester Institute of Technology for medical illustration and has a master in graphic design from Marywood University.

“I have been drawing for as long as he can remember,” said O’Neill, “I was always picked to create backdrops for plays.”

O’Neill also enjoys attending paint and sip events and woodcarving.

Many children, like the ones who attended the workshop, have an interest in art and illustration, but often are not encouraged to pursue artistic careers.

“Draw what you are passionate about,”

said O’Neill. “If you are invested in it, the end result is going to be much better.”

He also talked about finding an audience for your art.

“If you try and please a whole market, the work will not be as special,” said O’Neill.

Throughout the workshop, he also stressed the importance of enjoying art for the self, and not solely to please others.

The weekends at Wilkes not only serve as time for rest for students, but as time to reach out to the community. The Sordoni Art Gallery is free to visit and open to the public. It adds a special artistic touch to not only the university, but to the surrounding Wilkes-Barre community.

Photos: The Beacon/Cally Williams



Children worked outside of the Sordoni Art Gallery and learned about the basics of illustration before trying some of the techniques themselves.



Participants showed off the finished project that they created in the workshop.

Wilkes Sudoku

Think you know the university? Test your mind with sudoku

Challenge your brain with some sudoku!

How to play: Fill in the missing words. Each row should have 6 different words, no repeats. Each column should have 6 different words, no repeats. Each 2x2 quadrant should have 6 words, no repeats.

Answer Key:

WUPB	Dr. Cant	Colonel	Farley	Darte	Wilkes
Dr. Cant	WUPB	Farley	B + F	Beacon	Wilkes
Beacon	Farley	B + F	WUPB	Wilkes	Dr. Cant
Farley	Wilkes	Darte	Colonel	Beacon	Dr. Cant
B + F	WUPB	Beacon	Dr. Cant	WUPB	B + F
Darte	B + F	WUPB	Colonel	Darte	Farley
Dr. Cant	Colonel	SUB	Darte	SUB	Colonel
Colonel	Beacon	Farley	Wilkes	Beacon	B + F
Darte	B + F	Wilkes	SUB	WUPB	Dr. Cant
SUB	Dr. Cant	WUPB	Farley	Beacon	Colonel

SUB					B + F		Wilkes	
Darte				Dr. Cant		SUB		Farley
					SUB	Darte	Dr. Cant	
Dr. Cant	Colonel	SUB			WUPB			
				Farley	Wilkes			Darte
Farley				Beacon		WUPB		SUB
	Farley			Wilkes	Darte			Dr. Cant
					Beacon	Farley	Darte	WUPB
WUPB		Colonel	Dr. Cant	SUB				

Credit for these puzzles goes to:

www.edu-games.org

Compiled by Morgan Rich, Editor In Chief

**Featuring Photos
Courtesy of:
Reapers Revenge**

By Cally Williams
Staff Writer

With Halloween coming up next month, what better way to celebrate the spooky holiday than attending a Haunted House? NEPA is home to several fantastically scary attractions including: Reaper's Revenge, Gravestone Manor and Horror Hall. Here are some Haunted Houses to check out this October.



NEPA HAUNTS

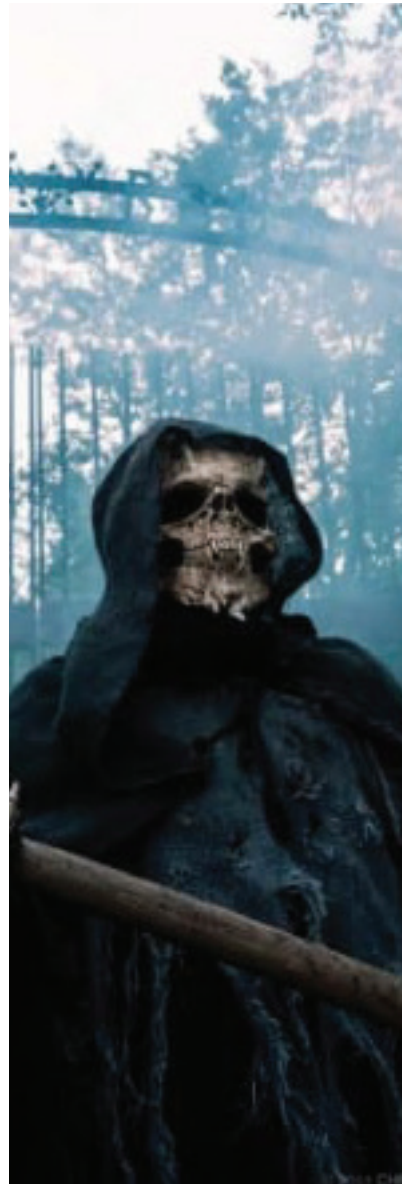
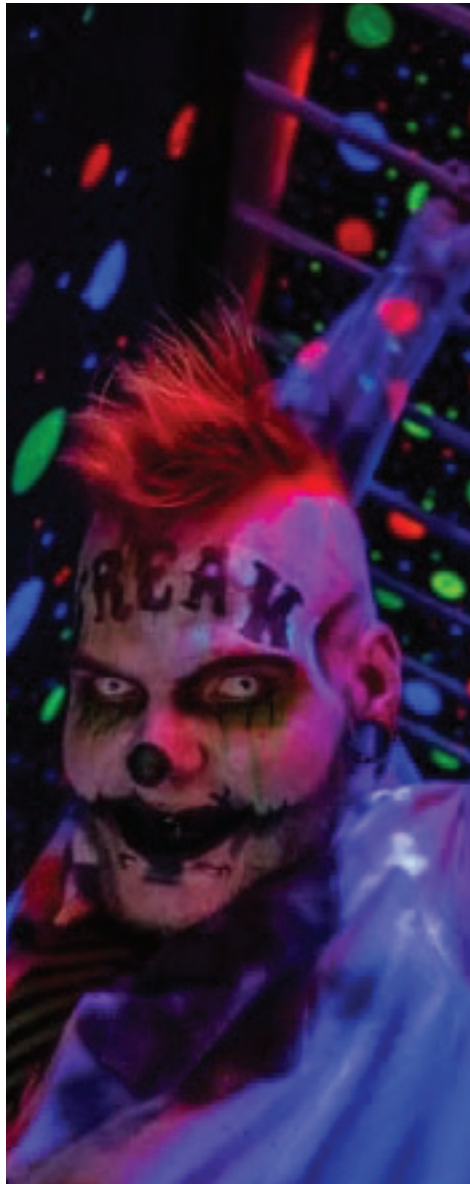
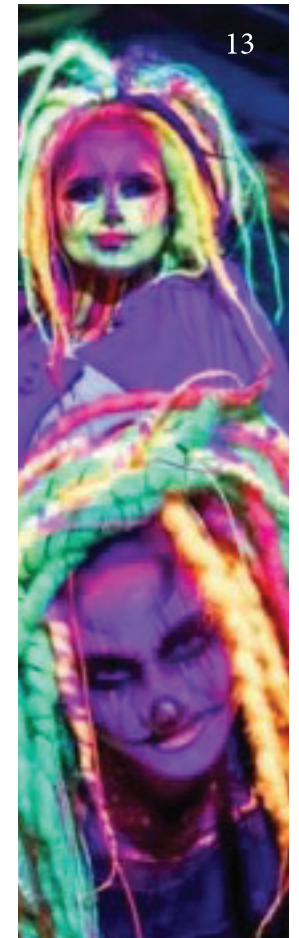
The Beacon - September 28, 2023



Center



13



HAUNTED ATTRACTION OPENINGS AND SCEDULES

REAPER'S REVENGE OPEN NOW

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
5:30 PM - 10:30 PM
SUNDAY
5:30 PM - 9:30 PM

**460 GREEN GROVE RD.,
BLAKELY, PA 18447**

TICKETS
REAPERSREVENGE.COM

HORROR HALL OPENS SEPT. 30TH

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
6 PM - 11 PM
SUNDAY
6 PM - 10 PM

**11 E. POPLAR ST.,
NANTICOKE, PA 18634**
TICKETS ONLINE OR AT
THE DOOR

GRAVESTONE MANOR OPENS SEPT. 29TH

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
7 PM - 10 PM
SUNDAY
7 PM - 10 PM

**1095 PA-315,
WILKES-BARRE, PA 18702**

TICKETS
GRAVESTONEMANOR.COM

Page Design:
Lara Mullen

Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact opinion editor: sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu.

Editorial Staff 2023-24

MANAGERIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief - Morgan Rich
Social Media Manager - Liz Cherinka
Adviser - Dr. Kalen Churcher

SECTION EDITORS

News - Amanda Montgomery
LA&E - Zara Lantzman
Opinion - Sydney Allabaugh

ASSISTANT EDITORS

LA&E - Anthony Cazun
Sports - Adam Grundt

DESIGNERS

Designer - Lara Mullen

SECTION STAFF WRITERS

News - Emma Broda
LA&E - Cally Williams
Opinion - "Freeze"

**Want to join The Beacon?
Several positions are open!
Contact :**

**kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu or
morgan.rich@wilkes.edu**

**141 S. Main Street
Clayton and Theresa Karambelas
Media & Communication Center
Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766
Phone - (570) 408-5903
www.thewilkesbeacon.com**

**Want to advertise in *The Beacon*?
Contact: Kalen Churcher at
kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu or
Morgan Rich at morgan.rich@wilkes.edu**



The Beacon
Est. 1936
Pa. Newspaper
Association Member

Our Voice

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

The career fair should include all majors

In a world that thrives on interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation, it's essential that educational institutions, like ours, foster an environment of inclusivity and opportunity for students from all academic backgrounds. The annual college of business and engineering career and internship fair, while undoubtedly beneficial to business and engineering students, has the potential to be so much more if we extend its reach to encompass all majors.

The fair predominantly features employers and opportunities that align with the fields of business and engineering. Tables and representatives from renowned companies in these sectors are abundant, and the fair often hosts companies that are tailored to the interests of business and engineering students. While this tailored approach benefits those students, it inadvertently sidelines others who don't fall into these categories.

Students from majors such as liberal arts, social sciences, natural sciences and the arts are often left feeling like outsiders at the event. While the fair may have a few representatives from non-business and non-engineering sectors, the overall atmosphere and focus remain predominantly centered

around these two areas. This imbalance can lead to students from other majors feeling excluded from a crucial aspect of their career and professional development.

Traditionally, career fairs tend to be centered around specific schools or colleges within an institution. While this approach can be beneficial to those in their respective fields, it can limit opportunities for students who don't belong to those particular facilities. In addition, students in different majors and fields may not have the same level of support and preparation for the professional world.

This disparity is particularly evident when we consider programs like the personal and professional development (PPD) program, which cater specifically to business students. This program equips business students with a range of essential skills and tools that prepare them for success beyond the classroom. Students in this program receive guidance on crafting effective resumes, optimizing LinkedIn profiles, creating professional business cards, honing their interviewing skills and mastering the art of networking.

However, this situation isn't as focused upon for students pursuing other fields of study. Unless they happen to encounter specific professors or extracurricular

activities that offer similar training, they may not receive the same level of preparation for their future careers. This inequity not only hinders their professional growth and development, but also perpetuates the idea that certain majors are more "employable" than others.

To promote inclusivity and fairness, it's essential that our college extends the benefits of programs like PPD to students across all majors. While it might not be practical to create identical programs for every discipline, we can work towards a more equitable solution.

With the number of employers increasing each year, the idea of including other majors, or possibly creating new career fairs for other majors and departments, should be considered. Expanding the career fair to include a broader range of majors makes sense when there is an increase in employer participation.

Looking ahead, it's our hope that our university takes significant steps towards fostering greater inclusivity in our career fair initiatives. Whether by expanding the existing career fair to include students from all majors or by creating new specialized career fairs for the other academic departments, there's

Letter to the editor policy: *The Beacon* welcomes letters to the editor from differing viewpoints. Letters must contain contact information, including name, city, state and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published but may be used for verification purposes.

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

Email: morgan.rich@wilkes.edu

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

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

The Return of The Red Raven: An original story

By Leah Smith
Contributing Writer

PART 3. Rick hauled the heavy VHS collection box into the passenger's seat of his Subaru and slammed the door with a grunt of exhaustion. He took a moment to catch his breath and then hopped into the driver's seat to start the car.

As he was driving his way to the police station, he loosely held onto the steering wheel. Old memories began to spin around his head like a film reel.

He was taken to a time when both he and Isabelle were much younger and much closer. He was sitting on a squishy red sofa inside of a massive beach house in Malibu. It was 3:05 p.m. and as if on cue, the front door opened indicating that Isabelle was home from school. Cameron, who just started making lasagna in the kitchen, turned to the front door and smiled.

"Hey Izzy, how was school today?"

Isabelle looked down at the floor and grumbled, "Fine."

Cameron stopped what he was doing, quickly washed his hands and knelt down to Isabelle. He was looking at her face-to-face because as a psychologist he knew that the first step to having a client open up to you was to get close to their level and express affection. The same can be said for children.

"What's wrong, Izzy?" He inquired.

Isabelle sniffled and tried to hide her tears, "Boys at recess said mean things to me."

"Oh no, sweetheart, I'm sorry to hear that," Cameron held onto Isabelle's hands as he expressed his sympathy.

He looked over to see Rick on the couch watching TV.

"Rick, honey, can you come over here please? Isabelle needs both of our help."

The television's trance on Rick faded away when he heard Cameron's voice. He leapt from his seat on the sofa and met Cameron and Isabelle by the front door.

"What's wrong, honey?" Rick asked with concern.

Isabelle repeated, rubbing her arm again, "These boys at recess were saying mean things to me."

"What did they say to you?" Rick tried not to sound aggressive in his demand.

"Today was career day in Mrs. Peterson's

class and I went up and told the class that I wanted to be a police officer and Calvin and his friends laughed at me. Then, at recess, they chased me around the playground and kept telling me that a girl couldn't be a police officer and that I should be something girly like a cheerleader and I told them I don't want to be a cheerleader. Then, they pushed me down and-

Isabelle bursted into tears as she was trying to explain what happened, revealing the purple bruise on her right arm.

Cameron hugged Isabelle tightly. "It's okay, Izzy. What those boys said isn't true. A girl can be a police officer and I know that you'll be a great one."

Isabelle cried onto Cameron's shoulder as Rick knelt down and patted Isabelle's head.

"It's okay sweetheart, like daddy said, you'll be a great police officer when you grow up and you wanna know something about me?" Rick asked.

Isabelle lifted her head and said, "What?"

"Your daddy is a superhero." Rick beamed.

"Really?!" Isabelle squealed. She turned her head back to Cameron, "Is it true, daddy? Is daddy a superhero?"

Cameron gave Rick a distasteful look, but nodded and said, "Yes, daddy was a superhero."

Isabelle's sadness was washed away as she gasped, "That's so cool! What superhero are you, daddy?"

Rick took Isabelle's hand and led her into the kitchen where a poster of him in a red cape, mask and hat,

was displayed proudly on the wall. "I was the Red Raven. A masked hero in red who would solve mysteries and bring justice to the city," Rick stated.

"Woah. You fought bad guys too?" Isabelle asked, excitedly.

"I did. You know, I have videos of me as the Red Raven if you want to watch them with me?" Rick asked.

Isabelle nodded enthusiastically, "Yes! I wanna see daddy as a superhero!"

Rick held Isabelle's hand as he turned on the VHS, which already had an episode of "The Red Raven" inside of it. The episode began and Isabelle sat on Rick's lap as she watched in awe of what she believed her dad could still do.

To be continued...

STUDENT HOUSING
for 2024-2025

OPEN
HOUSE

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 14, 2023

from 12 - 2 PM

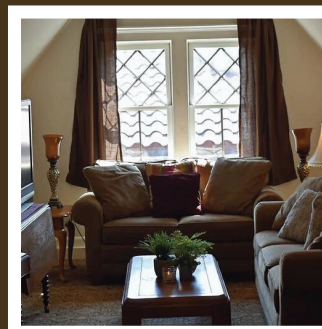
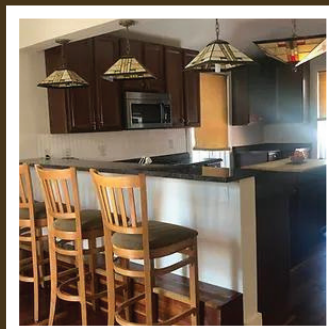


Scan this QR code
to sign up for the
Open House!

COME GET A TOUR OF OUR UPSCALE,
CLEAN, ALL-INCLUSIVE MANSIONS!

Sign-up for housing as singles, doubles, triples or quads. We offer the best in affordable off-campus housing, and are only steps away from your classes!

Tour begins at 281 South River Street.



ZN PROPERTIES feature...

- multi-bedroom, shared mansion-living
- 3.5 bathrooms
- fully-furnished
- all-inclusive rent (all utilities, WIFI)
- fully stocked kitchen with appliances, pots and pans, dishware, etc.
- living room
- dining room
- full laundry facilities
- secure entrances

Contact us: 570-592-3113 | znpropertiesllc@gmail.com

D.B. Cooper's escape from the FBI and how he survived

By **Bryce Greco**
Contributing Writer

On Nov. 24, 1971, a middle-aged man in a suit, trench coat and sunglasses sits in the back of Northwest Airlines Flight 305 enroute to Seattle, Washington. With him was only a briefcase and a small paper bag. He hands a note to the flight attendant. She drops it into her purse, assuming it's some lonely businessman's phone number. The man whispers for her to look at the note, which reads:

"Miss - I have a bomb in my briefcase and I want you to sit with me."

After holding the flight crew and passenger's hostage, the FBI gave into the man's demands: \$200,000 in cash and four parachutes. The passengers were released. None of them knew they were being held hostage. By nighttime, the flight took off again. The man is its only passenger. He wants to fly to Mexico, but the flight needs to stop in Reno, Nevada, for refueling. The crew is to remain locked in the cockpit. Flight 305 lands in Reno. The stairwell on the backside of the plane is opened. The man is gone. Although the name on the man's ticket was "Dan Cooper," a miscommunication with the media led to the creation of "D.B. Cooper," the infamous hijacker who remains missing to this day.

The FBI officially closed the D.B. Cooper case in 2016 and suspended all investigations. Most agents claim that he died after his daring jump, and investigators have failed to uncover any clue of Cooper's motive. However, plenty of armchair detectives, internet sleuths and historians believe Cooper's story has a different ending. I believe that the D.B. Cooper stunt was all done for the sake of proving it could be. Not only did he survive his jump, but he continued to baffle the FBI for decades after the incident. D.B. Cooper is the world's most infamous phantom thief, and I believe that he got away with it.

Analyzing Cooper's story in full reveals that this stunt was no easy feat. After threatening the flight attendant, he proceeded to show her the contents of his briefcase, which she believed to be four sticks of dynamite attached to a battery. He issued his demands to her,

which she relayed to the pilot, who then relayed them to the FBI. Once the flight landed and the money and parachutes were given to Cooper, the passengers exited the plane. The four parachutes Cooper demanded were for two people, since a parachuter would use both a back and front parachute for additional safety. Cooper likely did this so that the FBI did not sabotage the parachutes, since he may have used the second set to take a hostage. During refueling, the flight attendant asked him why he was doing all this, and he laughed and told her:

"It's not because I have a grudge against your airlines, it's just because I have a grudge."

After the plane departed for Reno, Cooper asked the flight attendant to instruct him on opening the "aft stairwell," or the door that opens via the underside of the plane. After she did, he sent her to the cockpit, where she remained for the rest of the flight. This was the last time the crew saw or heard from Cooper.

Given the evidence remaining on the plane, it is theorized that Cooper was an inexperienced parachutist. Only one parachute remained on the flight, and it was opened with a knife and had the cords removed. One of the parachutes was a teaching chute which did not open, and this is one of them that Cooper used. The FBI believes that Cooper jumped to his death with an unfunctional chute, but I believe that claim can easily be refuted.

I think that Cooper was not only a parachutist, but a parachutist with military training. Out of the parachutes at Cooper's disposal, the one he cut into was a brand-new civilian chute which

would require minimal experience to use. The two Cooper used were old military chutes that would require some degree of military experience to operate.

Cooper was an ex-soldier, returning to America with a grudge against the government that sent him to war. He likely used the teaching chute as a bag for the money, which was given to him in a loose bank bag, and then used the cords from the civilian chute to tie all three bags to his body before jumping.

There is even more evidence pointing to Cooper's military background. In 1954, a comic series titled "Dan Cooper," the same name D.B. Cooper used on his ticket, was published in France, featuring the tales of a daring parachutist. However, this comic was never translated into any other language other than French. I believe this points to D.B. Cooper being a military soldier stationed in Europe or France during the Cold War who held a grudge against the country due to something that happened during his deployment.

Cooper is regarded by the FBI as a common thief, but I believe he was much more of a master criminal. The flight attendant was charmed by him, stating how gentlemanly and polite he was to her, and even shared a cigarette with him on the flight.

The hijacking may have been Cooper's first stroke of genius, but it was not his last. The money the FBI used for the ransom had its serial numbers recorded. Any bank or business that processes money with these serial numbers is required to contact the FBI, but no contact was ever made. Cooper never spent the money, as it would be nearly impossible to. Once the serial number was reported, the FBI would have

known his approximate location. So, it is likely that Cooper hid the money with the intention to keep it hidden.

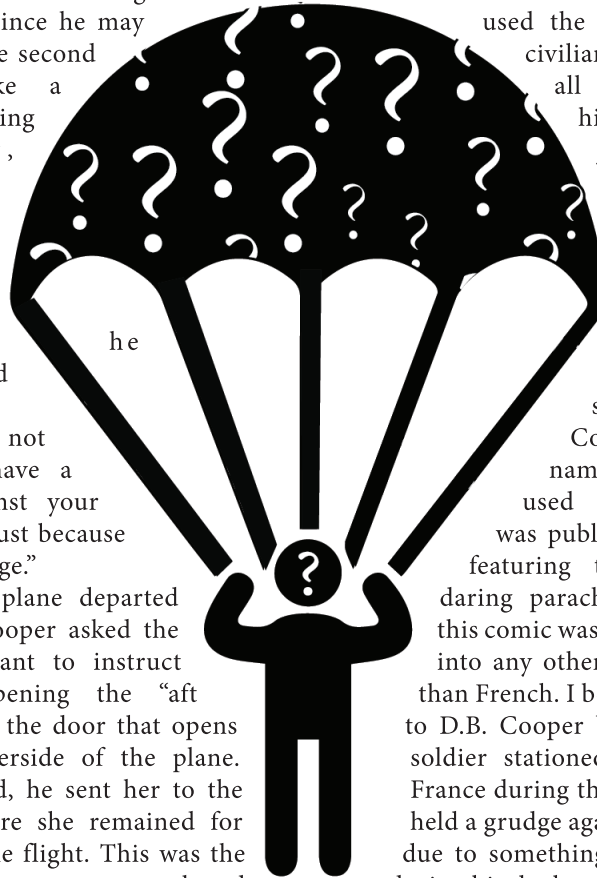
However, even though Cooper did not use the money, he certainly kept it. In 1980, nearly a decade later, an 8-year-old boy and his father were camping along a river in Vancouver, Wash. The boy discovered three bundles of cash, totaling to be \$5,800, buried in the sand. The money was reported to the FBI, and it was revealed that these bundles were in fact three of the same bundles given to Cooper as part of the \$200,000 dollar ransom.

However, this only led to more questions than answers. The money was found nearly 17 miles away from Cooper's projected drop zone, meaning it would be impossible for it to have fallen from the sky during his jump. The money was found upstream of the river, which means even if it had fallen, it would have had to float against the current to reach its location. And to top it all off: the rubber bands on the bundles were new.

Although this left the FBI stumped, I believe that it is evidence of Cooper's survival. Cooper returned a decade later and planted this money. With his case starting to get cold, he decided to warm it back up with some new evidence in an ingenious way: purposely placing it in an impossible location.

The D.B. Cooper case is a fascinating mystery. The FBI seems to insist that Cooper was a common crook who died during his jump, but I believe that this is only to mask the fact that they failed to solve the case. D.B. Cooper was likely a trained military paratrooper turned mastermind thief, and his successful hijacking was merely a stroke of criminal genius to get back at the country that deployed him.

Looking back on the case 52 years later, I believe that the evidence, though rather speculative, is clear: D.B. Cooper pulled off an impossible crime, left the FBI clueless and stole not only the money but the hearts and minds of Americans fascinated by his escapade to this day.



On-campus suggestions

Dining options at Wilkes

By Samara Carey
Contributing Writer

Welcome to a new column that called “Campus Suggestions.” In this section, we will be discussing and writing about various things on and off campus that can make our lives as students better. Today, I will be talking about everyone’s favorite thing about campus: The food!

Unless you live under a rock, you would know that a frequent complaint recently has focused on food. On campus, the

main food sources include: Which Wich, Burgers and Fries (B+F), Greens to Go and the dining hall. Whether you like the food or not, chances are you have firmly established opinions on each one of the locations listed here. As for myself, I feel justified to talk about my feelings on food due to my owning a food Instagram account myself.

Which Wich

Which Wich is basically like a more expensive Subway. While I will say that

the hoagies served are decent, I can genuinely only eat them every once in a while. I can not say for certain that this is something that I will eat on a daily basis. On that note, I can always expect it to be good in times when I am desperately in need of food. Normally, I like to get a buffalo chicken hoagie with lettuce, bell peppers, pickles and mayo. That being said, I have never had any other sub that they serve there. Overall, not the worst on this list.

Burgers and Fries (B+F)

Burgers and Fries is probably the best thing on this list. While I feel that this may seem controversial to some, I can justify it by saying that their chicken tenders absolutely saved my life during my freshman year here at Wilkes.

However, recently we have stopped receiving the “chicken sauce” that they used to serve with every meal that the students would get. This was shocking to me, especially due to the fact that I have heard multiple people say that one of their favorite things to get is the sauce, both by itself or with different items on the menu.

Of course,

chicken isn’t the only thing that this restaurant is known for. Besides chicken tenders, they also have cheeseburgers, fries, cheesesteaks, sandwiches and the list goes on.

Greens to Go

While this is also famously known as “The P.O.D.,” this is the place that I go to the least out of everything listed. My reasoning behind this is that I am fully convinced that our new food ordering system, GrubHub, has messed up how we get our food made.

When I did go, I used to get a chicken caesar salad. A few weeks ago, I ordered my usual order, not thinking that I was going to be devastated with the end result. When I opened up my food, I was met with one of the worst salads I have ever had in my life. There was entirely too much chicken, and it tasted like it was sitting out for hours before it was actually touched. While I do want to give them the benefit of the doubt, I do not picture myself going back for some time.

The Dining Hall

Last but certainly not least, I’ll be review the dining hall. If I am being honest, with every single time that I have eaten in the dining hall, I do not think that I have ever truly enjoyed or felt comfortably full. I’m sure there is nothing truly wrong with it, but I don’t think that I can eat that right now.

While it is fun to occasionally make fun of and eat the foods that come in and out of campus, it is important to appreciate and respect those who are working behind the scenes to make sure that our stomachs are filled each and every day. It is important to note that they are not in charge of the food being served to us, and they are simply just there to make and serve the food that we order.

This all being said, if you are someone who feels strongly that the food at Wilkes is not where it should be, reach out to the student government. If enough people care about wanting to make a difference in the foods being served, perhaps we can get new ingredients and different meals.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

What is your favorite place to eat on campus?

Which Wich

Greens to Go

Burgers + Fries

Henry's Dining Hall



LET US KNOW

SEE NEXT ISSUE FOR RESULTS

Analyzing fandoms: The pros and cons of fan culture

By Shawn Carey
Contributing Writer

Why do we self-identify as fans? There really isn't one solid answer to this question. If you were to ask someone why they're a fan of a certain franchise or person they'll probably end up giving you multiple responses.

Anything from finding a sense of belonging in a larger group, a form of escapism or even just being able to brand yourself as a supporter. There isn't anything wrong with any of these answers. They're all valid in their own ways. Being able to find joy and gratification in something is great, and it's even better if you're able to express yourself through it. This seems to be the public's general opinion on fan culture.

Fan culture, also known as fandom, has become more widely accepted in recent years. Stuff that was once seen as nerdy and niche is now cool and popular. You can walk around campus right now and see dozens of people wearing graphic tees plastered with comic and anime characters. We even have whole conversations created just to celebrate our beloved franchises.

The idea of fandom extends beyond just what is considered nerdy. We can find some of the most devoted fans within the realm of sports. It doesn't matter the sport. If there's a team, there will be fans.

Football fans are the loudest and proudest of them all. Fans from all

around the country adore their teams' colors and fill stadiums, homes and bars every Sunday to watch their favorite team play. It's not uncommon to have a room in your house dedicated to a football team, filled with countless pieces of memorabilia.

As popular as sports are, I wouldn't even say it's the media with the biggest fan base. No, that title goes to music. I know just saying "music" is a little too general, but I believe it works. Everything from specific artists, albums and even genres, has diehard fans. While it's possible to find people who don't practically care about any franchises or sport teams, you'll find it much more challenging to find someone who doesn't have a preference when it comes to music.

I generally like to divide fandom into the three categories I just listed: entertainment, sports, and music. It's not limited to those three classifications; you can be a fan of pretty much anything. However, those three tend to be the most common.

With all that being said, fan culture isn't as innocent and fun as it seems. The deeper and more involved you get into a fan base the more likely you are to find some aggression. There are many forms of hatred you'll eventually end up encountering.

I would say gatekeeping is the most common type of aggression. The act of gatekeeping honestly confuses me a little bit. Pushing people away from something you enjoy just because they don't "understand" it the same way you do.

This seems to mainly happen with fans of music artists. I'll be using Taylor Swift fans as an example. From what I've witnessed, there seems to be some sort of what I can only describe as a civil war going on among them.

The conflict first started when tickets for the "Eras Tour" went on sale. This was a dream come true for many fans, old and new. This was a problem. This sparked a debate on who was worthy of seeing Taylor.

Being the artist's biggest concert ever, it came as no surprise that tickets for the

show quickly sold out. This made a lot of older fans that were excited to see Taylor perform her classic songs live again angry, especially when they discovered who purchased the tickets: newer fans who didn't "get" Taylor the same way as they did.

A divide formed among Taylor's fan bases. Instead of supporting the artist as a collective, it became more about just how much and how long they have supported her for.

The idea that you must show a certain level of support is common in most fandoms. There isn't an exact way to measure this through, so at what point do you become a true fan? Is it based on how much money you spent or is it more of a time thing? What exactly is a true fan?

Some may argue that being a true fan of something means having it as the only source of enjoyment you consume. Only fake fans would dare to enjoy something else.

This way of thinking has caused many ultimatums among fans of franchises. Marvel or DC? Sonic or Mario? Pokemon or Digimon? The list goes on.

Being able to say your favorite franchise is the best of its kind is a good feeling. You're on the right side of history, supporting what you believe to be the objectively best option. In reality, you're just missing out.

This is something I feel we all must have participated in at one point or another. I sure know I have.

I would often partake in the infamous Marvel vs. DC debate. I grew up on Marvel media, so I naturally took the side of the "House of Ideas." I made all the classic arguments. "DC is so dark and edgy" and "Marvel has better movies" were my go-to.

That all changed one day when I decided to actually sit down and read a DC comic. It didn't take me long to realize that I made a mistake. I spent years missing out on great stories and characters for the sake of being able to say that what I liked was better than something else.

Showing your undying gratitude to your fandom is common among hard

core fans, and sports fans illustrate this perfectly. Once again, football fans serve as the underlining example.

Football fans are known for their enthusiasm. They always show up and give their team their all. It's almost as if they are a member of the team themselves, which some fans genuinely believe.

If you've ever talked to someone about football, you probably noticed that the word "we" is thrown around a lot. For example, if you asked about how the season is going, they'll possibly respond with, "We're doing pretty good." This may seem like something minor but it's part of a bigger picture.

Many fans act like they're a physical member of their team, getting as mad as the players do when they lose. It's perfectly normal to be passionate about something you like but there is a certain level you should probably keep things at.

It's not weird to see fights break out during sporting events. Rival fans could do something as simple as looking at each other in a funny way and all hell breaks loose. There's a sort of mentality based around defending your fandom from those who dare go against it.

There's a sort of mindset that comes with being a fan, a mindset I can only describe as knightly. You stand vigorously, ready to defend your source of enjoyment from anyone who would dare harm it, all while looking for an opportunity to get in close and attack any enemies.

I always believed that parasocial relationships were to blame for this ideology. People grow attached to their fandom, extremely attached. They see it as something bigger than themselves and find a sense of comfort in it.

It's nearly impossible to avoid deeply devoted fans once you get into something. No matter what it is. Fandom will never truly be a peaceful place, but even all that I believe there is still plenty of good to be found in it. While it's not perfect, it is still a fantastic way to celebrate something you love, something you feel proud being a fan of.



Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact the Sports Editor: Adam.grundt@wilkes.edu

Celtics championship favorites as season approaches

Celtics favorites to win Eastern Conference and make first finals appearance since 2022, defending champions favorites to win Western Conference

By Adam Grundt
Asst. Sports Editor

The new NBA season is right around the corner, and the favorite to win the title before the season opener is a team that has not won a championship since 2008.

For the second consecutive season, the Boston Celtics are the league's favorite to raise the Larry O'Brien Championship Trophy at the end of the season. This comes after the Celtics locked up star player Jaylen Brown for the next five seasons.

Brown's five-year, \$303.7 million super-max contract extension remains the richest contract in the history of the National Basketball Association (NBA). His teammate, Jayson Tatum, is slated to eclipse that contract next season when he becomes eligible.

Brown's contract, paired with the Celtics signing talented forward Kristaps Porzingis, gives the Celtics the best chance at the trophy on paper.

The defending champions and team who defeated the Celtics last June, the Denver Nuggets, are coming off of their first championship in franchise history led by Nikola Jokic and Jamal Murray.

Jokic, coming off his second consecutive Most Valuable Player award, is slated to lead the Nuggets into another deep playoff run this upcoming season.

After the Cleveland Cavaliers were eliminated in last season's playoffs by the New York Knicks in four games, center Jarrett Allen had a rather surprising quote to describe his team's performance.

"Even for me, the lights were brighter than (we) expected," explained Allen.

The Cavaliers are looking to get used to those bright lights as one of

the league's most promising teams in the 2023-24 season. Following an off-season in which they acquired depth pieces Max Strus and Georges Niang, the Cavaliers are looking to contend in their second season with Donovan Mitchell.

After recording 51 wins in 2022-23, they are certainly a team worth keeping an eye on in the competitive Eastern Conference.

On the other hand, a team that could end up surprisingly disappointing this year is the Philadelphia 76ers. During the offseason, star guard James Harden called 76ers the President of Basketball Operations, Daryl Morey, a liar on two separate occasions.

Harden, after requesting a trade during the offseason, is still questionable as to if he will report to the team upon the season's beginning. 76ers owner Josh Harris commented on Harden's actions.

"Listen, we're hard at work," Harris explained. "I respect James. I want to, obviously, accommodate what he wants. At the same time, I have to think about a championship-contending team, what we can get back. I'd love to convince him to stay. I understand that is not what he wants to do right now."

The success of the 76ers organization will depend on if Tyrese Maxey will take on that bigger role if Harden is to eventually get traded. The 76ers certainly have enough talent to win a championship, but with Philadelphia, it is a matter of putting the pieces together.

This was evident during the 2022-23 season when Ben Simmons chose not to report to the team after requesting a trade. Eventually, he was traded to the Brooklyn Nets, and the 76ers made an Eastern Conference semifinal appearance led

by star center Joel Embiid and Harden.

Meanwhile in the Eastern Conference, the Miami Heat are coming off a very successful season that ended in an NBA Finals appearance after clinching the playoffs through the play-in tournament.

Jimmy Butler is in the prime of his career, and seems to have found a home with the Heat.

Butler and center Bam Adebayo are the backbone of this team, and the Heat remain one of the leading contenders to acquire Portland Trailblazers guard Damian Lillard.

Lillard requested a trade following

a disappointing few years with the Trailblazers. If the Heat are to acquire Lillard, that will undoubtedly boost their championship odds significantly, making them a powerhouse team in the Eastern Conference and a force to be reckoned with.

Graphic/Morgan Rich



Wilkes women's volleyball off to a strong start

By **Samantha Mullen**

Contributing Writer

With the volleyball season underway, the Colonels are already making a good name for themselves. The season started with the team by taking consecutive wins over Keystone College, Penn State Hazelton, and Delaware Valley University.

The team was also able to take a win over Penn State Harrisburg.

On the offensive front, the Colonels have been nothing short of spectacular. Collectively, there has been a total of 318 kills with an average of 8.6 per set. Junior Alexis Reedy currently leads with 88 kills with senior Hope Ousey close behind with 78 kills.

The team has a total of 289 assists averaging 7.8 per set. Junior Alexa Cassel currently leads with 227 assists.

The Colonels have been able to display incredible defensive skills in just the first 10 games. As a team, they collectively have 499 digs, averaging 13.5 per set. Senior Ali Yordy currently has 138 digs and Alexis Reedy is in second with 83 digs.

Coach Joseph Czopek is excited to see what the rest of the season has in store. The team has been "preparing hard in practice to be competitive" especially with moving to the Landmark Conference from the MAC. They've already faced both former MAC competition Delaware Valley University, which they won 3-0, and Misericordia University, which they lost to 3-1.

Junior Alexis Reedy is off to a great start this season. With 88 kills on the season so far which makes her averaging nearly 3 a set. Reedy also has 83 digs, averaging at 2 per set.

When asked about how she feels about the season, Reedy replied "[they] play every game like it is [their] last time out on the court together" since many of the current starters on the team are seniors."


Senior Hope Ousey is off to a great start for her last season. Ousey currently has 95 kills and 59 digs. Even though the team has hit a bit of a rough patch, Ousey still feels confident in the team

to get back to having a winning record. According to Ousey, "(The) team connection is the strongest it's been in my time at Wilkes and that has led to a very strong support system." Having

a good mentality and positive attitude for games and practices will definitely help the Colonel's chance for success.

THE BEACON

SPORTS IS LOOKING FOR WRITERS



WANT EXPERIENCE WRITING
OR PHOTOGRAPHING?

CONTACT:

ADAM GRUNDT

ADAM.GRUNDT@WILKES.EDU

Eagles and Cowboys enter week three unbeaten

By Adam Grundt
Asst. Sports Editor

Week 2 of the National Football League (NFL) season has come and gone. Although it may be too early to tell, some teams are looking like Super Bowl contenders, and others are not.

The Philadelphia Eagles are 2-0 after a strong win on Thursday Night Football against the Minnesota Vikings, who fell to 0-2. Quarterback Jalen Hurts' play has been worth every penny of the \$228 million extension he signed with the Eagles through 2028.

"I think we just came out and played very efficiently," Hurts told the media following the Eagles 34-28 victory over Minnesota. "You know, last week I talked about the inconsistencies and

the urgency of communication, and it starts with me. We operated at a high level at the beginning of the game, and that's something we have to be able to sustain throughout the whole entire game."

The Dallas Cowboys are arguably off to the best start of anyone in the NFL so far. Through week two, the Cowboys defense was the third highest fantasy point scorer in the entire NFL, only behind San Francisco's Christian McCaffrey and Los Angeles Rams' Puka Nacua. It is almost unheard of to have a defense put up such astounding numbers this early in the season, and do it consistently for two weeks in a row.

The Cowboys were able to shut out the New York Giants 40-0 during week

1. However, Cowboys star cornerback Trevon Diggs tore his ACL in practice leading up to week three. It will be interesting to see if the Cowboys could keep up their high-caliber production without one of their shining stars in Diggs.

Josh Allen and the Buffalo Bills are off to a slower start than expected following a Monday Night Football loss to the New York Jets in week 1. They bounced back in week 2 with a rout of the Las Vegas Raiders, defeating them 38-10. They hope to take this win and form it into a streak when they travel to Washington, D.C. to face the Commanders in Week 3.

Recently extended franchise quarterback, Joe Burrow, and his Cincinnati Bengals could certainly be

considered the most disappointing team so far this season. After being completely shut down by the Cleveland Browns in week 1, 27-3, the Bengals lost a heartbreaker against the Baltimore Ravens in week 2.

Burrow is dealing with a calf issue, and he remains questionable for their week 3 Monday Night Football matchup with the Los Angeles Rams.

"My job is to go out and play," Burrow told reporters. "That's what I'm preparing to do. You have to practice one day. Maybe not full, but you've got to be running around throwing the ball. You just have to feel confident in your ability to go out and do your job."

Graphic/Morgan Rich

*The Beacon is looking for sports writers for the
Fall 2023 semester*

**If you are interested in sports writing,
editing, photography or graphics contact
Adam Grundt at adam.grundt@wilkes.edu**

Athlete of the Week

Nick Kinzler

Graduate Student, Men's Soccer

***The Beacon:* Male Athlete of the Week**

Kinzler was chosen as our athlete of the week after nearly posting two shutouts. Kinzler made five saves against Keystone College and stopped seven shots in a 1-1 tie with Rutgers-Camden on Saturday. He made 12 total saves and posted a goals-against-average of 0.50.

Major: 4+1 (Master's of Business Administration)

Hometown: Jackson, N.J.

High School: Jackson Memorial

What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?

Saving a penalty kick against a nationally ranked opponent (#3 Stevens) last season. It was one of my favorite moments because the stands were filled, my family was in attendance, we were playing a big conference opponent, and it happened to be against a school that I was looking at attending before choosing to come to Wilkes.

What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?

Manchester United

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Spending quality time with my family and friends or listen to music.

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?

Being able to wear the Wilkes "W" on my chest and represent the school, community, and environment that I call home is a feeling that is second to none.

What sports movie is your go-to

for movie night?

Coach Carter

If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?

Basketball.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Committing to further my academic and athletic career at Wilkes because it showed that all of my hard work from when I started playing sports until that decision finally paid off.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

It's tough to go against my mom's home cooking, so I will have to say homemade chicken cutlets and rice.

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?

Being selected as Athlete of the Week is something that I am extremely proud of and extremely thankful for because I know that I couldn't have done this without my teammates, coaches, family, and friends.

Compiled by Adam Grundt, Asst. Sports Editor

The Beacon/Anna Beckham

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."

Athlete of the Week

Carly Eidle

Senior Field Hockey Goalie

***The Beacon:* Female Athlete of the Week**

Eidle led the Colonels to a week in which they finished 2-1 and recorded their first Landmark Conference victory. Eidle made two saves in a 2-0 victory at Goucher College and made one save in a 2-1 victory at Neumann University. She also made seven saves in a 1-0 loss at Misericordia. Eidle finished the week with a .833 save percentage and a 0.65 goals-against-average.

Major: Pharmacy

Hometown: East Greenville, Pa.

High School: Upper Perkiomen

What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?

Winning against DeSales on Senior Night my sophomore year.

What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?

Philadelphia Eagles.

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Spend times with friends and family or go on walks.

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?

The support from the athletic and pharmacy departments to continue to play.

What sports movie is your go-to for movie night?

Remember the Titans

If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?

Gymnastics.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Senior year of high school, winning the conference championship with my team.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Wawa mac-and-cheese

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?

I am so excited to be selected as Athlete of the Week because I think it says a lot not only about my success but also the team's success so far this season.



The Beacon/Anna Beckham

Compiled by Adam Grundt, Assistant 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."

WILKES FOOTBALL

ALL GAMES BEGIN AT NOON UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

9/2

KING'S COLLEGE*

HOME

9/9

RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

AWAY

9/16

SUNY BROCKPORT

HOME

9/23*

ST. JOHN FISHER UNIVERSITY

AWAY

9/30

JUNIATA COLLEGE**

HOME

10/7

LYCOMING COLLEGE

AWAY

10/14

KEYSTONE COLLEGE

HOME

10/21**

SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY

AWAY

11/4

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA***

HOME

11/11

MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY

AWAY

*MAYOR'S CUP
**HOMECOMING
***SENIOR DAY

*4 PM @ ST. JOHN
**1 PM @ SUSQUEHANNA