The Beacon - September 29, 2015

MITTER BEACON

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

Camine Cadet:
Wilkes AFROTC launches new initiative - pg 12-

Beacon/Gabby Glins

News

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

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Beacon Briefs

Important Network News - Internet Upgrade

On Sept. 29, the ITS Network team and Frontier Communications will work on upgrading the Internet circuit from 260MB to 340MB. Work will begin approximately at 5 p.m. and will last till approximately 6 p.m. During this time users will not be able to access the Internet, or any systems that depend on that

Party on the Square

Bring college ID to Party on the Square to receive giveaways from area businesses, a money-saving discount card and other items. The event will be held on Public Square from 5-7p.m. on Sept. 30, rain or shine. Valid college ID required.

Chase Parking Lot Closed on Oct. 1 for Homecoming Pep Rally

The parking lot in between Chase Hall and Stark Learning Center will be closed at 4 p.m. on Oct. 1, for the Homecoming Pep Rally. Questions or concerns, can be directed to Kara Serfass at kara.serfass@wilkes.edu

Bystander Intervention Training Program Recruiting Student Trainers

The Bystander Intervention Training Program is in the process of recruiting student trainers once again. This program trains members of the student body, peer to peer, to safely intervene in situations or potential situations of sexual violence. If interested, the remaining training session is: Sept. 27 12 - 3 p.m. in the Miller Conference Room.

Retraction:

semester begins.

SG Notes: Bubble Bash; club report; new board

By Jen Baron Staff Writer

Week 3

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

As a part of the Bubble Bash, there will

As a part of the Bubble Bash, there will be a soap and shampoo drive. Those who donate will be given tickets that can be used at Casino Night.

Some news in sports includes that Wilkes will have a men's volleyball team beginning next year and the tennis court renovations have been completed.

Keep in mind that on Sept. 29, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., the Wilkes Internet will be unavailable due to maintenance.

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parking permits once the semester began.

determined on a wait-list system once the

This is incorrect as parking permits are

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Week 4

The Bubble Bash will be on Oct. 9 from 4 to 8 p.m. This event has replaced the Fall Fest.

The Homecoming dance will be on Oct. 2 at the Woodlands. The last day to buy tickets is Sept. 29, in the SUB during club hours.

Also on Oct. 2, there will be a Gateway Dedication Ceremony from 4 to 5 p.m.

The Ski and Snowboard Club gave its annual report. Some fundraising ideas include Gertrude Hawk, Krispy Kreme, T-shirts and hat sales.

For community service, the group is looking to participate in the Alcohol Awareness Walk, a trash cleanup and making Christmas cards. Trips that are being planned are college nights at Montage and Big Boulder Mountain on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The group is also looking into a Vermont trip.

New members of Student Government were installed. From the senior class, Tom Schmidt was installed as a class representative. In the junior class, Scott Vandine and Emma

In the junior class, Scott Vandine and Emm. Leach were installed as representatives.

In the sophomore class the following were installed: Jeremy Yeoman, president; Paige

Gallagher, vice president; Nate Barnhart, treasurer

The following members of the freshman class were installed: Jeremy Tomaine, president; Kyle Thomas, vice president; Jasmine Quintana, treasurer; Ian Valles, secretary; Noah Yurkanin, Joseph VanderWagg, Harrison Eckert, Caitlin Brossman, Ydalisa Rodriguez and Shannon Festa were installed as representatives.

Student Government will vote next week on the hours the Club Hub will be open, the allocation of funds and the amount of money that will go toward the work-study positions.

The council reviewed the treasurer's report and there was no change from last week.

The current budget is as follows: All College: \$1,528.84, General Funds: \$23,956.00, Conference: \$5,000.00, Spirit: \$2,000.00 for a Student Government total of \$32,484.84.

@wilkesbeacon jennifer.baron1@wilkes.edu

'Noble' act saves family of four Celebrating pharmacists

By Gabby Glinski Asst. News Editor

Don Noble was at the right place at the right time.

Minutes before a van ignited in flames in early-August, the Wilkes University 2nd shift Public Safety Patrol Sergeant rescued the driver and passengers, including two young

"You don't make a plan, you rely on your training," Noble stated. "I did what was the most important thing at the time, getting

On Aug. 8 at 3:51 p.m., Noble witnessed a car crash while patrolling his regular route on the corner of South Franklin and West Northampton streets.

Without a second thought, he rushed toward the smoking van and pulled the occupying family out. After forcing the front passenger door open, and conducting a medical assessment, the two young girls and family were found to be unharmed.

Soon after the rescue, the van caught fire; Wilkes-Barre's fire department arrived shortly on the scene.

Noble, now a lieutenant, started as a Patrol Officer at Wilkes late 2013. He also works as an officer at a local municipality's police department, also holding position as Deputy Sheriff for seven years. Noble reflects on his position as a Wilkes Public Safety officer and compares it to being a regular police officer.

"Dealing with bad guys takes a toll. Here, I'm working with good guys," said Noble on transitioning from the outside community to Wilkes' campus community.

"As a police officer, I mostly spend time arresting people. At Wilkes, I get to actually help people; educate and warn them about dangerous behavior. What I do on campus matters, I get to know the community."

Wilkes' Public Safety Department has approximately 30 members; patrol officers, administrators and coordinators working 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Noble said that there is a lot of experience in the department and safety is Wilkes' number one priority. Four officers have more than 20 years of experience in police work. Wilkes conducts national searches to find the best and most highly trained officers to serve the



The Beacon/ Gabby Glinski

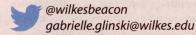
Patrol Sergeant Don Noble, above, explains that in a moment of crisis, relying on training is crictical as there may not be time to make a full plan.

Wilkes continues to provide training to all of its officers. Officers are certified under Act 235, The Lethal Weapons Training Act and continue to receive training. Noble was sent to an armours course and firearms instructor's course. The lieutenant is glad the addition of firearms to the force didn't change the way the campus views officers.

I just hope everyone knows we are here to help because we are part of the community too. It's not just the people, we are not above

Noble said he prefers to stay out of the spotlight when incidents like the car accident occur. "It takes a specific skill set that not a lot of people have, to do what I do. The job

The Wilkes' Department of Public Safety is located on South Main Street, next to University Towers.



To report an incident, crime, or safety related issue, contact the Department of Public Safety at (570) 408-4999.

By Meghan Burns Staff Writer

During the month of October, the Wilkes University chapter of the American Pharmacist Association will be celebrating American Pharmacists Month.

During this month, pharmacists try to break the misconceptions that the public may have about their trade. The chapter on campus is trying to raise awareness to the students and staff of Wilkes University about the various things pharmacists do other than just stand behind the counter.

The chapter's slogan is "Know your medicine, know your pharmacist."

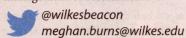
In order to raise this awareness on campus, the American Pharmacists Association will be holding a health fair every Tuesday for the month of October in the Henry Student Center during club hours. The health fair will feature presentations from Wilkes pharmacy students on a variety of different topics such as heart health, blood pressure, smoking and poison control.

The association is hoping to make this health fair an annual event, Keri Diehl, the association's co-chair, said.

"It is nice to get out into the community, but we want to bring it back to our core."

According to pharmacist.com, American Pharmacist Month is celebrated annually during October and serves to promote pharmacists as medication experts, an integral member of the health care team and people who are directly involved in patient

American Pharmacist Month aims to educate the public, policy makers and other health care professionals about the role pharmacists play in the reduction of overall health care costs and the safe and effective management of medications.



Contact the Beacon to cover your event. Look for us on Twitter and Facebook.

'Tobacco Cessation Treatment' offered Internet issues Help students kick smoking habit in the "butt"

By Sarah Bedford **News Editor**

As the Wilkes University community adopts a new smoking policy, measures have been taken to give students the opportunity to quit smoking, right from campus health services.

Susan Biskup, Campus Counselor in Health and Wellness Services located in Passan Hall, completed the Tobacco Dependency Program at Rutgers University this past summer and has since become a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist.

Tobacco Cessation Treatment has been available at some universities but will now be a service offered at Wilkes, according to

"Treatment interventions for students include: education, assistance with setting a quit date, and development of a plan through counseling, individual and group, sessions," explained Biskup. "Additionally, nicotine replacement therapy can be a part of treatment through Health and Wellness Services."

Along with the intervention sessions for students, faculty can contact Human Resources and Health and Wellness Services to find services available through University health insurance plans.

"There is also web-based support and telephone support by calling your state Free Quitline at 1-800-quit-now (1-800-784-8669)," Biskup added. "This free Quitline offers smoking cessation services 24 hours per day/7 days per week."

Quitline services include up to five coaching sessions by phone, unlimited calls to the Free Quitline as needed, educational materials on quitting tobacco use and free Nicotine Replacement Therapy, up to eight weeks of patches for qualified callers.

"The most beneficial aspect of tobacco cessation treatment is that the service provides students who would like to quit smoking the counseling support and treatment necessary to take the first step. Since tobacco dependence is a chronic disease, a person will be more likely to have a successful quit attempt with treatment."

Biskup explains that helping an individual quit smoking is more than just handling addiction, but building up that person's self-



The Beacon/Jesse Chalnick

Students can find out more information on the Tobacco Cessation Treatment by visiting Health and Wellness Services.

mental illness or addiction are at least double that of the general population," she said. "We know that most smokers want to quit and often feel ostracized due to their smoking behavior. In supporting a person through quitting, we are also promoting positive self-

Biskup also explained that in a youth centered culture, students may be motivated to quit smoking because of the physical effects it leaves on the body.

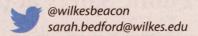
"The reality is that there is a 50% chance that a person who continues to smoke will die prematurely from smoking," Biskup said.

Biskup explained that smoking also ages people prematurely, changing the skin, teeth, and hair as well as affecting fertility. It can also compromise the strength of the heart, lungs, and bones.

Not smoking for minutes can have positive "Smoking rates in individuals with a changes to the body too, according to Biskup.

"After 20 minutes of not smoking your blood pressure and pulse rate and the temperature of your hands and feet have returned to normal. After 48 hours, damaged nerve endings have started to regrow and your sense of smell and taste are beginning to return to normal," Biskup said. "After one year, your excess risk of coronary heart disease, heart attack, and stroke has dropped to less than half that of a smoker. After ten years, your risk of being diagnosed with lung cancer is between 30% and 50% of that for a continuing smoker."

If a student would like to receive tobacco cessation counseling and/or other therapies, they can contact Health and Wellness Services to schedule an appointment by calling (570)408-4730.



Bandwidth, connection

By Dian McKinney News Copy Editor

As of late, Internet connection problems have been among the most popular complaints across campus.

Simply scrolling through Yik Yak, one can identify several posts explaining that Wilkes students are constantly unable to "Netflix and Chill" after a long day of classes. However, the issues with the broadband and wifi Internet connection do not come as a surprise to the IT department.

Over the summer, many changes and upgrades were made regarding Internet accessibility campus-wide, along with other major projects such as the new Gateway. However, these upgrades could not be made until the IT Department identified and carefully picked through the major problems.

Beacuse a number of years had passed without upgrades, it took a year to identify all of the system problems and organize a master plan. Beginning in June 2015, IT began making the necessary changes.

Compared to last year's 1,800, there are on average 2,300 devices online at any given time on campus, including phones, iPods, laptops, desktop computers and tablets.

In addition, during the 2014-2015 school year, there were 243 Wifi Internet access points in residence halls across campus. Now, there are approximately 560 access points, including huge upgrades in Evans Hall, Roth Hall, Fortinsky Hall and University Towers.

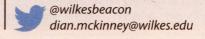
In the past week, Wilkes University students should have received an email from the IT Department explaining that there will not be any internet access between the hours of 5 and 6 p.m. on Sept. 29. During this time, the entire broadband will be expanded by 1/3 of what it currently is.

In summary, this will help more devices be able to connect and flow through the web faster and more efficiently.

Dean John Stachacz, a librarian and one of the individuals behind these changes, concurred that the entire project cost equals more than \$1 million dollars. In addition, switching to the newer, more efficient tools of Internet access also saved the entire university almost \$300,000.

Although some may think that the IT Department would be tiresome of complaints, they are surprisingly and humbly happy to accept any and all comments about the problems and kinks regarding Internet connection.

In the words of Dean Stachacz, "The only way we can find out if there is a problem is if students call in and report it."



Wilkes University Homecoming 2015 to be a family affair

By James Jaskolka Editor-in-Chief

Held Oct. 2 through Oct. 4, Wilkes University Homecoming 2015 will have something for everyone, thanks to this year's theme - Family of Colonels.

Director of Alumni Relations Bridget Giunta explained that since Wilkes is a close-knit community, it made sense to pay homage to the "Family of Colonels" - even if the family isn't blood-related.

"There are greater opportunities here to cultivate that culture of a family of Colonels because everyone can come together more frequently than at a larger school," Giunta

"We have athletic teams that become so close they're like a family, friends who are like family, as well actual families [as alumni]," Jacki Lukas, alumni communications and events manager, said. "It kind of just fit with what we wanted to do and how we wanted to bring things to campus."

The newest initiative is the launch of the "Colonel's Kids Club," which allows alumni to register their children or grandchildren to receive a birthday card from the Colonel every year. Giunta said that familiarizing children with the university early on



The Beacon/ Jesse Chalnick

helps "add another layer" to the "Family of Colonels" concept.

Additionally, the annual Tailgate Tent, held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, at the Ralston Athletic Complex, will now feature the Colonel's Kids Corner. This will bring a variety of activities for children, including face painting and a bounce house. Student clubs and organizations will host activities and demonstrations of their own, making it suitable for older children as well.

"I really think there's going to be something for all kids," Lukas said.

At left: Anthony

Stocker prepare

for homecoming

festivities in the

is the theme for

place Friday, Oct.

Oct. 4, with various

activities thoughout

"Family of Colonels"

Wilkes Homecoming

Alumni office.

Fanucci and Makia

"This year, we wanted to really focus on kids and make sure alumni know it's a family event" Giunta explained.

Alumni without children will still find plenty of activities, however. This year marks the second installation of the "Share the Spirit" event, a celebration of school spirit with a focus on athletics, held 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday in the Recreational and Athletic Center in the University Center on Main. Kevin Gryboski, '95, will be making a return as a guest of honor at the event.

In addition to the familial focus, many events this year are centered around the recent changes on campus, the biggest of which is the new gateway from South Main Street. The official campus dedication and opening celebration will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 2.

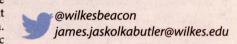
To showcase the changes, several events including "Pints with Professors" at 6 p.m. Friday - will be moved to the parking lot behind Weckesser Hall.

Since Lukas has been updating the alumni Facebook page with photos of the progress since construction began, she is excited about sharing the changes with former students.

"We want the alumni to be able to see the gateway," she said. "Nothing beats seeing it in

Following the opening ceremony is a small reception, both of which are open to the public as a way to remind the community that Wilkes really is a "Family of Colonels."

"Everyone's a Colonel at Homecoming," Giunta said.



Student government changes: New faces and spaces

By Alyssa Mursch Social Media Director

Elections have come to a close and Student Government welcomed 17 new board members and unveiled a new office.

The freshman class appointed Jeremey Tomaine as its president, Kyle Thomas as vice president, Jasmine Quintana as treasurer and Ian Valles as secretary. There are also six representatives from the freshman class, including Noah Yurkanin, Joseph VanderWaag, Harrison Eckert, Caitlin Brossman, Ydalisa Rodriguez and Shannon

The sophomore class elected Jeremy Yeoman as class president, Paige Gallagher as VP, and Nathan Barnhart as treasurer.

The junior class selected two class representatives, Scott Vandine and Emma Leach.

The senior class chose Thomas Schmidt as their representative.

Purvit Patel, Parliamentarian for Student Government, said that this was the "biggest election in years," and that they had many candidates running for various positions.

Each new member will be appointed

mentor to help them acclimate to their new role in Student Government. The mentors will provide advice and guidance to the new board members, helping them successfully maneuver through their duties.

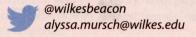
Through the election process, the election committee encountered a slander offense by a student running for office, which caused the other candidates to be monitored more closely, as Patel noted.

The members are not the only things that are new, however. There is also a new office and Club Hub, which is a store stocked with supplies that clubs may need.

The Club Hub will be open to all clubs and will run on a point system. Each club will be allotted a set number of points and can use them to purchase items they may need for crafting, events, and the like.

There will be a work study position open to monitor the Club Hub, which there will be more details on shortly.

For more information about Student Government or Club Hub, contact President Anthony Fanucci at anthony.fanucci@wilkes.

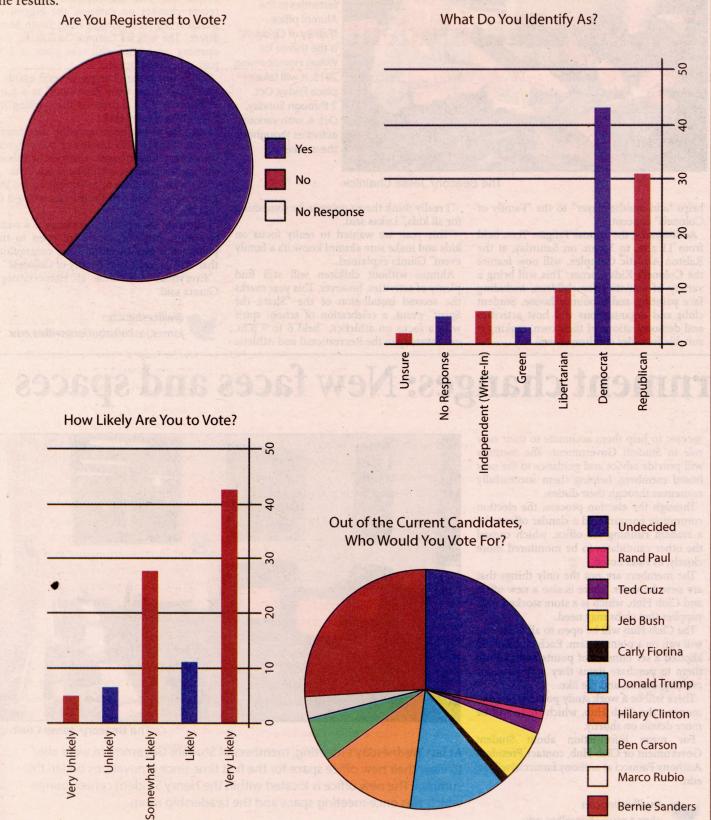




At last Wednesday's meeting, members of Student Government were able to view their new office space for the first time since renovations began this summer. The new office is located within the Henry Student center lounge which was once meeting space and the Leadership room.

We asked 100 students about politics: Debate

As the presidential primary date comes closer, the Beacon staff set out to find what the campus community's political views are. In this survey, 100 students selected at random were asked if they were regesistered to vote, to which party do they identify, if are they likely to vote and who are they likely to vote for. The charts below contain the results.



Schedule:

Republican

Wednesday, October 28 CNBC Republican Debate Aired On: CNBC

November, 2015* Fox Business/WSJ Republican Debate Aired On: Fox Business Network

December 15 CNN/Salem Republican Debate Aired On: CNN

Democrat

Tuesday, October 13, 2015 **CNN Democratic Primary** Debate Aired On: CNN

Saturday, November 14, 2015 **CBS** News Democratic Debate Aired On: CBS

Saturday, December 19, 2015 **ABC** News Democratic **Primary Debate** Aired On: ABC

Bernie Sanders

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^{*} Sponsor has yet to determine debate date.

Life, Arts & Entertainment

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

A new perspective: gender fluid student speaks on experience

By Justin Topa Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

Editor's Note: This article has been written using gender-neutral pronouns, such as using "they," "their" and "themselves" in the singular. These are just a few examples of gender-neutral language.

In most ways, junior Elliot DeMesa is similar to the majority of students at Wilkes University. DeMesa enjoys listening to their music a bit on the loud side, losing track of time hanging out with friends and finding the perfect courses within their major, psychology.

DeMesa, who many met as Danica, chose psychology based on a lifelong interest in the human psyche.

"Growing up, I noticed that what interested me most was people and the various ways we all interact with each other," the junior explained.

DeMesa does differ in one way from the majority of other students roaming the greenway. DeMesa identifies as gender fluid.

Gender fluid or non-binary individuals do not exclusively identify as male or female. Instead, they identify as multiple genders, identify as no particular gender or they choose to switch between a combination of all genders.

In many ways, DeMesa said their

experiences at Wilkes University are on par with the rest of the Colonel population. The student's daily routine does differ in one major way, however.

"The main difference between me and many of my classmates comes from getting the classroom.

ready in the morning," explained DeMesa. "Being gender fluid, I experience body dysphoria, which is feeling like my physical body doesn't match the gender I am."

A 2012 survey by the Equality and Human Rights Commission found that as much as 1 percent of the United States population identified as 'gender variant' to a degree - more than 3 million people. The causes of gender dysphoria still aren't completely understood.

"So, depending on how severe my dysphoria is in the morning, I choose whether or not to wear a binder, which looks like a sports bra, but its function is to flatten breasts to make a female look like they have flat chest, therefore more masculine. I choose how feminine, masculine, or neither I feel comfortable looking that day."

Ruby Rose, actress and model, has been making headlines since their role in season three of "Orange is the New Black." Rose is gender fluid in real life.

"Gender fluidity is not really feeling like you're at one end of the spectrum or

the other," Rose said in an interview with Elle magazine. "For the most part, I definitely don't identify as any gender. I'm not a guy; I don't really feel like a woman, but obviously I was born one. So, I'm somewhere in the middle, which in my perfect imagination is like having the best of both sexes. I have a lot of characteristics that would normally be

DeMesa

present in a guy and then less that would be present in a woman. But, then sometimes I'll put on a skirt".

DeMesa's gender identity also plays a part in the way they present themselves in the classroom.

"Being fluid makes difficult for me to have to identify as a girl in class. I don't comfortable telling my professors, and consequently telling strangers in class, that I have a preferred name and pronouns," DeMesa said.

The classroom is an environment in which DeMesa feels uncomfortable a times.

"What tends to happen is something

like the professor splits the class into teams of boys and girls, and I don't feel comfortable having to choose girls," they explained. "Just because I'm a female, it doesn't mean I'm a girl."

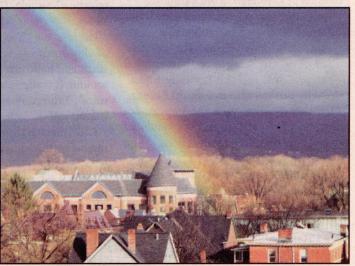
They also find an issue with the use of generalizations within the classroom, including insulting comments regarding sexual orientation and gender.

Outside of the classroom, the student's experiences have been more comfortable.

"The RA staff has been very supportive in using my preferred name (Elliot). I've noticed that it's a little harder for people to get into the habit of using gender-neutral pronouns, but I really appreciate when people use them," they added.

DeMesa, who also identifies as lesbian, said they find that sometimes identifying as a queer person is a political statement.

"It's a sort of sign of bravery to admit that you're queer and you're willing to show people that you exist," DeMesa said. "I do it both for those who haven't had much experience with queer people and for those who are queer and feel like there's no one



The Beacon/Gabby Glinski

For more information about the Gay-Straight Alliance, a resource for anyone, students are asked to e-mail Dr. Ellen Newell, interim adviser for the organization.

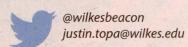
else out there like them. I'm very active on campus, so if I'm possibly helping a closeted person see that there are other queer people at Wilkes that they can connect with, I'm all for it."

DeMesa does this by volunteering and

taking part in LGBTQ+ related activities and wearing various patches on their jacket. They said the spotlight is often pointing in their direction, but it is often because they put themselves there.

Identifying as something other than a hetero/cisgender student has some advantages according to DeMesa.

"A lot of people don't or can't take the perspective I do, as a female who is gender fluid, a lesbian, and Asian," said DeMesa. "Bringing my experiences and perspective to class, I hope, opens others to seeing that there are queer people close to them and that we don't have the privileges that cishet people do."



OPINION: The Butterfly Effect in practice How I saw this phenomenon happen at Wilkes University

By Emily DeAngelis Staff Writer

I feel that I stand among a crowd of stellar examples of kindness on our campus.

I might be biased, but there are stories that must be shared of individuals much to humble to own them. The resident assistants on our campus are best defined by the principle of "The Butterfly Effect," coined by mathematician Edward Lorenz.

This theory delves into the importance of every single action and its potential positive or negative ramifications on a large scale.

For example, suppose a butterfly beating its wings in Wilkes-Barre could affect the weather conditions in Central America. If our actions reached that large a scale, would you act differently?

What if actions already have such drastic reactions that we can barely fathom all the effects of some of the smallest things we do?

I speak from experience when I say, as an RA, sometimes you realize how even the smallest things can have the largest responses. How do the 52 RAs on campus do it? Why do they do it? Here's some insight:

Put yourself in their shoes: Although Kayla Hiryak is most commonly seen wearing crocs, they are merely a façade for the several shoes that the P1 Pharmacy student sports on a daily basis. How does Kayla relate to others and make it seem so effortless? Simple. She puts herself in their shoes.

Hiryak says, "You never know what kind of day someone is having and a simple smile and hello can change their whole day around. It really helps you to remain openminded and compassionate, which is super important."

I find that it is through her compassionate mentality that others are affected most by her.

Never Underestimate the Little Things: I know of a member of Residence Life who once casually told a student that a position for president of MSC was available. They thought nothing of this small comment until that student, then a graduating senior, sought out the Residence Life member and told them that without that suggestion to join the Multicultural Student Coalition, they might not have continued their education at Wilkes. That's huge.

Open Door Policy: In school and in life, RAs keep their doors open. Towers RA Kaitlin Yurko noticed in her first few weeks on the job how much a simple action such as keeping her door open could touch several residents.



Photo Illustration/Israel Rodriguez

She said that within the first few days, she "had four residents asking about the role of the RA, and what it takes to be one. All of these residents said they are interested in being an RA and that they didn't apply last year simply because they didn't think they would be good at it, or they didn't know anything about it."

Because of her open door and open

mentality, Yurko has recruited potential RA's and made residents feel confident and capable in their abilities to make a positive impact on campus.

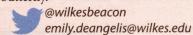
Right your Wrongs: Sometimes, the littlest thing can come off wrong to another.

Be it as small as not saying "hello," when passing someone on the greenway, or as large as hurting another's feelings or reputation, it takes courage to admit to one's shortcomings.

RAs knowingly do not have all the right answers, and even if it is as simple as apologizing for a delay while they search for the answer to a question, they are always cautious to treat others with the respect that they deserve. When mistakes are made, genuine apologies are

readily available and forgiveness is never an afterthought.

These are things we can all carry into our everyday lives. Actions, big and small, create consequences as large as changes in the weather just like the wings of a butterfly.



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Blogging for the future: Students attend national conference

"The blog is you,

essentially; your

interests, your writing,

your self is being

put into this blog."

~Simenkiewicz

By Nicole Zukowski Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Social media has grown from a way to virtually connect with friends and family into a methodical way of making a name for one's self or landing a dream job.

With the rise in social media usage, many could feel a pressure to get their own digital footprint out there, but have no idea how to transmit their personalities through to the virtual public.

One way of creating one's own niche footprint is through blogging.

"I think blogging is more popular

now because the Internet is popular. There is so much content on the web that people don't know where to start, but with their own interests. There are blogs about cooking, reading, crafting and basically anything ever," Allison

Simenkiewicz, senior intergrative media major, said.

"People look for other people with their own interests and blogging has almost become another form of social media. The blog is you, essentially; your interests, your writing, your self is being put into this log. Everyone wants to find and connect with people who think the same as they do, and blogging is just another way to do that," Simenkiewicz added.

Simenkiewicz recently attended NEPA BlogCon, a conference hosted by East Stroudsburg University. The conference was about the importance, advantage and enhancement of blogs and social media. The conference reportedly had people attend from across the country along with students from various colleges up and down the East Coast.

"There's over 18 million blogs out there according to the one speaker," Simenkiewicz said.

With so many blogs already in existence,

there is one question that comes to mind: "What is the point of creating my own blog?"

The answer is to better market yourself.

"Blogs are great for marketing yourself because it is essentially you, in digital form. You have to take the time to write content with your voice and you really put yourself out there by doing that," Simenkiewicz said. "If you upload really good content about your niche subject, then people will take notice and your 'market value' will surely increase. I think that blogging is a way to get your voice out there."

At NEPA BlogCon 2015, keynote speaker,

Ashley Ambirge, CEO of the creative agency House of Moxie, Inc., spoke about her 'Middle Finger Project' blog and her social media career.

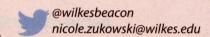
Adam Lubas, senior communication studies major who also attended the conference, said, "She was inspirational in the way she has grown and changed over life.

Not only was her speaking strong, but her presence and overall attitude towards life was very interesting. It showed that if you do have social media as your career you could make a profit from it."

Lubas also mentioned that Ambirge was particularly inspiring to him because she completed her undergraduate degree in 2006 from the Department of Communication Studies at Wilkes University, focusing in public relations.

"It was beneficial to me to realize that I could have her success one day," Lubas added.

Despite the route a student may take after college, the conference served as an opportunity to teach those in attendance the benefits social and professional blogs could have on expanding their personal and professional lives.



HUMANS OF WILKES UNIVERSITY

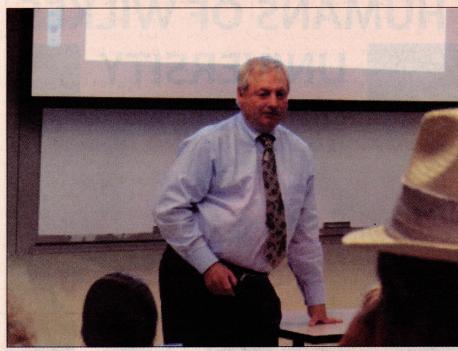


The Beacon/Alexandra Devarie

"Last fall, I lost my grandfather and my best friend within a month. I wanted to withdraw at the time, but you find other things and people who love you that make you do what is good for yourself. When the whole entire world feels like it's flipping upside down and it is falling apart around you, it's nice to have someone and something to fall back on and realize that you have to do this. This is good for your life. It makes you stonger everyday and I am here for them."

-Jillian Ehret Pictured with puppy Gino

Constitution Day



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees

In honor of Constitution Day, Wilkes hosted a lecture by attorney Al Flora Jr. Flora is a private-practice attorney who has worked in northeast Pennsylvania for 37 years.



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees

Attorney Al Flora's lecture was entitled "Gideon's Trumpet and the Constitutional Right to Counsel: Has Justice Failed the Poor?" Flora has argued appeals before the U.S. Supreme Court and handled over 2,000 criminal cases.

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Adventure Education continues taking on great outdoors

By Amanda Bialek Staff Writer

At Wilkes, there is no excuse to be bored.

Student development offers Adventure Education, WAE, as an extracurricular program for students to get become active.

This department hosts adventurous activities like rock climbing, camping, biking, ballroom dancing among others.

Recently, WAE received a grant to participate in the 2015 National Outdoor Challenge. This contest challenges 59 colleges to compete against each other to prove who can get the most students active in the outdoors. Over a six week

period, students have the opportunity to create an account and post pictures of outdoor activities that they participate in.

There are a variety of things that students can do outside that will qualify for the challenge. This program is designed to encourage students to get involved with the outdoors and meet new people.

"Most of my daily activities have been simple things like walking or playing frisbee with friends. The challenge has helped us to get so many people outdoors that would not have done so otherwise, and I believe that is the ultimate mission of the whole thing," Adventure Education Student Coordinator Anthony Fanucci said.

Students can create an account on outdoornation.org and log a photo every time they complete an outdoor activity.

The Adventure Education Program will also be giving away prizes for students who participate in the challenge.

"If it weren't for the On Campus Challenge, I probably wouldn't have ever had the opportunity to enjoy nature and the amazing sites," student Allie Grudeski said.

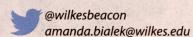
Wilkes University is the only East Coast school in the top five for this challenge.

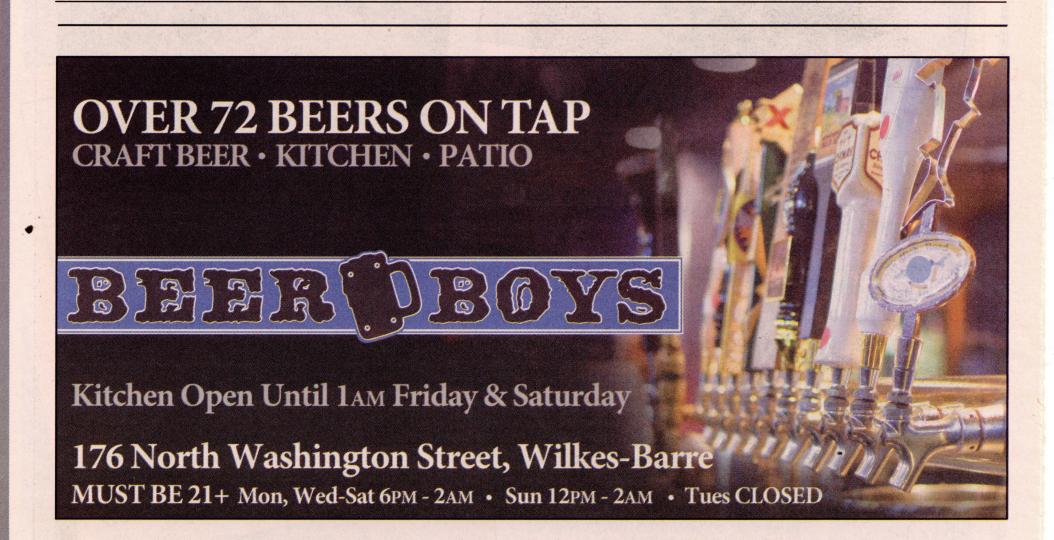
"What is truly amazing is out of the 59 teams in the nation, we are currently in fourth place," WAE Coordinator Jill Price said.

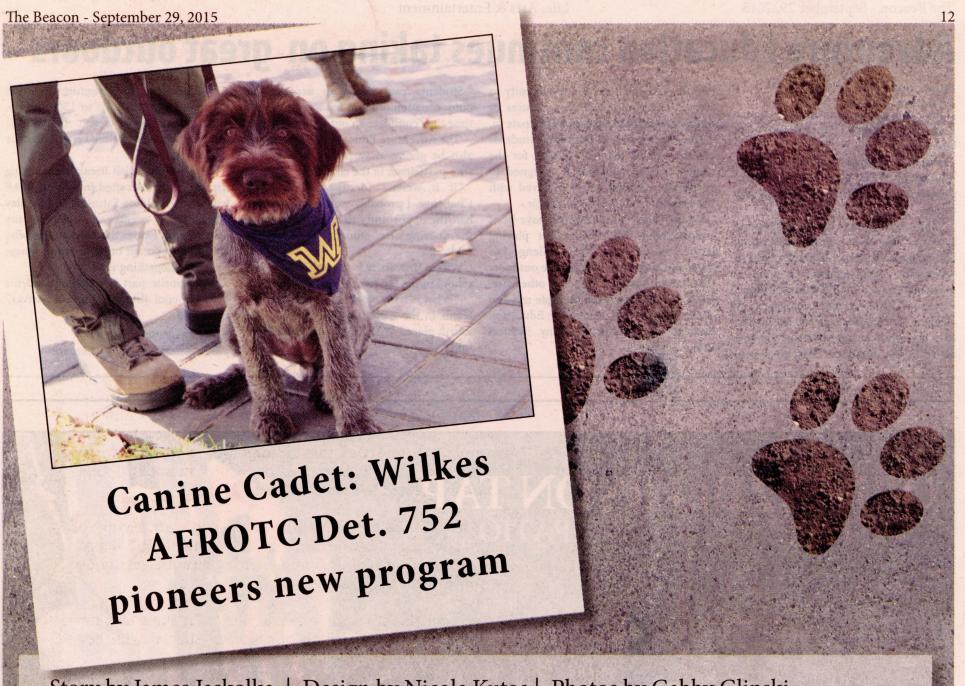
If Wilkes wins, the Adventure Education Program could earn up to 1500 dollars. This money could result in another camping trip or additional equipment for the program.

There will be a Fall Break backpacking trip for those interested in joining. WAE will also be holding Saturday and Sunday hikes. These events are open to any student who enjoys the outdoors or who is willing to go out of their comfort zone by trying something new.

"My favorite part is watching students discover cool things about themselves," Price said.







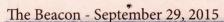
Story by James Jaskolka | Design by Nicole Kutos | Photos by Gabby Glinski

Wilkes University Air Force ROTC Detachment 752 recently launched a new initiative where the members will help train a psychological service dog.

Affectionately called the detachment's canine cadet, the 3-month-old wirehaired pointing griffon named Libby will provide emotional support for the campus community at large. Eventually she also will be used off campus. Psychological service dogs assist those they come in contact with by improving social, emotional and cognitive function.

Lt. Col. John "Slick" Baum, the detachment commander who launched the initiative, explained that spending five to 15 minutes with a service dog has been proven to change one's brain chemistry by boosting endorphins, reducing stress hormones and even aids building neural pathways. This can help people better cope with stress, depression and trauma. Baum believes Libby exemplifies the Air Force Core Value of "Service Before Self."

Baum notes that, to the best of his knowledge, this is the first time any AFROTC unit has implemented a psychological service dog.





Baum said the canine cadet will operate under different "spheres of influence;" in other words, she will be utilized in different ways to help different parts of the university appropriately. The first "sphere" or layer is the U.S. Air Force Cadre, the active-duty members currently stationed in at Wilkes University. Baum said Libby acts as a "bonding agent" for them, a necessity as the cadre adjusts to not being around other airmen, support functions or service facilities found on a normal Air Force base.

"From a social standpoint, we're kind of just alone doing our jobs," Baum said. "Libby helps bring some stabilization."

From there, Baum hopes to implement Libby to help AFROTC cadets, as well as the faculty and student body. Ultimately, Baum said he hopes to use her as "a tool on campus," to provide support to those who need her. For example, Baum states that if someone were to have to deliver bad news to a student or faculty member, Libby would be present to help break the news.

"As we work to continue to socialize her, we're trying to figure out the right times and places to plug her in," Baum said, citing homecoming and various alumni events as examples. "She's a great icebreaker."

Eventually, Baum said he would like to "make a face for (Libby) on campus," which he's already started with her own instagram feed: @cadetlibby.

Obtaining a psychological service dog has been a threeyear process for Baum. He had been working with a breeder to find a dog that would be virtually shed-free and "very active" as to suit the needs of the community.

In the three weeks she has been on campus, Libby has already won the affection of everyone she has met, Baum said. Additionally, her behavior on the flight from Colorado to Wilkes-Barre suggests that she will be a great fit for the campus and the Air Force ROTC.

"She flew like a champion," Baum said.

Opinion

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

Ahmed's Clock: Islamophobia in a post-9/11 world



This photo of Ahmed Mohamed went viral after authorities arrested him.

By Mandy Stickles
Opinion Editor

Ahmed Mohamed, a freshman at MacArthur High School in Irving, Texas was arrested for bring a 'hoax bomb' to school, when he told officers several times that it was actually his homemade clock.

The crafty 14-year-old, who reportedly enjoys creating his own gadgets from scratch, was excited to bring his homemade clock to school to show all his teachers his hard work. However, the reaction he received was not the one he was hoping for.

After showing his engineering teacher his homemade clock, he was advised by his teacher to not show anyone else and to keep it in his book bag for the remainder of the day.

- Mohamed listened to his teacher until the clock made a beeping noise in his English class. When asked to show his teacher what made the noise she said, "It looks like a bomb."

Mohamed proceeded to tell her it was a clock he made. The teacher did not seem to care and confiscated the clock from him and told the principal, who then contacted local police. Mohamed had a strong feeling he would never see that clock again.

He was then taken out of class and taken into a room where four police officers awaited him.

One officer made a comment saying, "Yup. That's who I thought it was," explained Avi Selk, from The Dallas Morning News.

That one comment right there just proves how real Islamophobia is and the effects caused by 9/11. After all those years people

are still fearful of what happened on 9/11 and many do not know how to deal and cope with the aftermath of it all.

But for a police officer, who is supposed to serve and protect the people, no matter their race, religion or ethnicity, to make such a discriminatory remark about a 14-year-old boy just proves that Islamophobia is alive and well. It is a problem that must be addressed and diminished.

Dafer Alshiban, a Wilkes University foreign exchange student from Saudi Arabia, feels bad about Ahmed's situation and the stereotypes being placed on him based on his skin color.

Alshiban shares a story of an experience he had at a university while attending an international student luncheon. A student from Africa began to ask Alshiban about his religious beliefs and culture. As Alshiban explained his religion and what it was like at home, the African student was shocked at how similar they were and how mislead he was about Saudi Arabia.

"People should not be judged by the way that they look. People follow the media too much. Get to know someone first before putting labels on them," said Alshiban.

Mohamed is fully aware of the discrimination that he and many of his Muslim people have to deal with on a daily basis. However, I do not think he ever thought he would have to deal with his principal threatening him with expulsion if he did not explain himself with the so called 'bomb' and his reasons for bringing it.

No one seemed to care what Mohamed had to say. Mohamed and his family told police and the school several times how he likes to invent technology savvy things and this was not out of the ordinary for Mohamed to do something like this. Mohamed has even stated that his homemade clock was not even one of his more elaborate projects. He was able to put his clock together on a Sunday night in just under 20 minutes.

"He just wants to invent good things for mankind," Ahmed's father, Mohamed Elhassan Mohamed, said in an interview with the Dallas News. "But because his name is Mohamed and because of Sept. 11, I think my son got mistreated."

Dr. Andrew Wilczak, a sociology professor at Wilkes, is quick to blame the media for incidents like this.

"Post 9/11 fears and current fears in the world have people worried of secret invasions, which are obviously ridiculous. But, people buy into this and are easily mislead into believing something that is not true or so outrageous due to news outlets and other social media sites," Wilczak said.

Because of these ridiculous fears that people have about other people just based on their skin color or religion is resulting in a 14-year-old boy being suspended from school. Why? For being technologicaly savvy and wanting to show his teachers something he created with his own two hands? Mohamed should not be punished and accused for doing something wrong, he should be praised and encouraged to

continue what he is doing and to never stop inventing.

In order for these stereotypes to stop people need to be more open-minded and understanding. Not everyone will think or act the same and people need to be willing to accept that.

"Most people don't care to do this [be open-minded and understanding] and want to keep their head in the sand. People would rather be told what the world is like rather than them think for themselves," Wilczak said.



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#IStandWithAhmed Celebrities take to Twitter for support

Hillary Clinton: "Assumptions and fear don't keep us safe--they hold us back. Ahmed, stay curious and keep building."

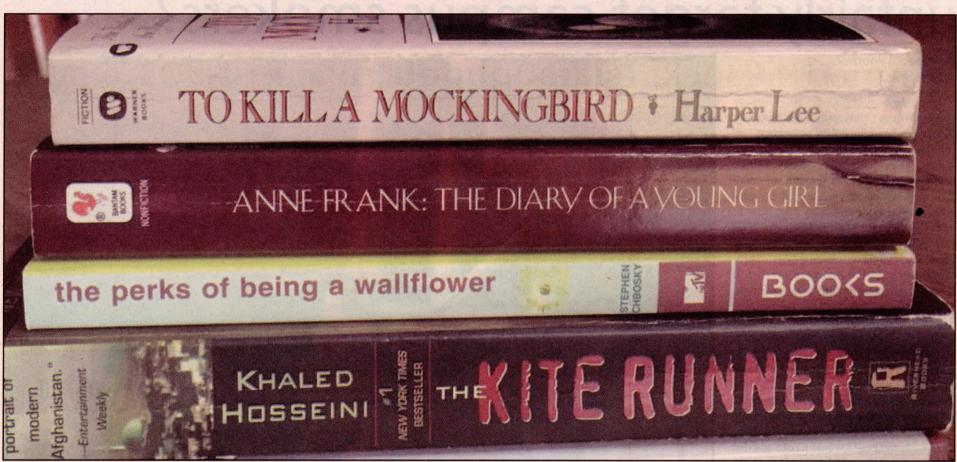
President Obama: "Cool clock, Ahmed. Want to bring it to the White House? We should inspire more kids like you to like science. It's what makes America great."

Russell Simmons: "#IStandWithAhmed--stay strong little brother. You are a genius and we all support your incredible passion for innovation and technology."

Sophia Bush: "When a kid who loves robotics builds a clock and wants to show his classmates, we should celebrate him. Not arrest him. #IStandWithAhmed."

Shannon Woodward: "That moment when school can't tell the diff[erence] b/w[between] a clock and a bomb but since the kid is brown, they arrest him just in case. #IStandWithAhmed."

'Censorship' is the dirtiest word in the English language



The Beacon/Sara Pisak

Banned Book Week, held Sept. 27 - Oct. 3 this year, celebrates various literature considered unfit to study in public schools, including the above titles.

By Gabriella Romanelli Guest Writer

English professor Jack Grier addressed his English Teaching Methods class on the first day of school with a piece of advice for the three aspiring high school English teachers. He told us that "the only bad word in the English language is censorship."

His statement was very intriguing to me, as I sat listening with my two peers in the intimate setting of Kirby 103, wondering what this experienced teacher with the unicorn bicep tattoo might mean by his seemingly rebellious announcement. Professor Grier's insight on the issues of censorship in schools is becoming clear to me now, as a future educator, and as I prepare for Banned Book Week with my fellow members of Sigma Tau Delta, the

English honor society.

The Wilkes University chapter of Sigma Tau Delta will hold a Banned Book Reading, in honor of Banned Book Week, at noon on Tuesday, Sept. 29, on the steps of Kirby Hall.

According to the American Library Association, "Banned Book Week is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. Typically held during the last week of September, it highlights the value of free and open access to information." This week designated to controversial literature calls attention to how harmful censorship is to students whose schools are preventing them from reading what could be very educational and culturally informative books.

As many educational books get banned from schools, educators, librarians, parents and readers take a stand by challenging the unacceptable censorship to the Office of Intellectual Freedom.

The official website for Banned Book Week notes that since 1982, when Banned Book Week began, more than 11,300 banned books were reportedly challenged to the Office of Intellectual Freedom. In 2014, there were 311 books reportedly challenged.

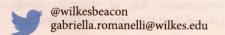
Number three on the list of most challenged books in 2014 is a 2005 children's picture book written by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell, called *And Tango Makes Three*. The book tells the true story of a couple of male penguins who were given an egg to hatch by another male-female couple who had two eggs and could not take care of both. The male couple named their chick Tango, hence the title of the book.

Reasons for banning this heartwarming children's story include the story being allegedly "anti-family," and "promoting

the homosexual agenda," according to the official website of Banned Book Week. These are just two of the many ridiculous reasons why this book has been banned from schools instead of focusing on the book's heartwarming message.

Number eight on the most challenged list of 2014 might be familiar to young adult readers and movie buffs. Steven Chbosky's The Perks of Being a Wallflower has been banned for "drugs/alcohol/smoking," "offensive language," and "date rape and masturbation," to name a few.

Banning such educational and culturally and emotionally eye-opening literature is a disservice to our students that Banned Book Week aims to call attention to.



Does the new Wilkes smoking policy unfairly target campus smokers?

By Rebecca Voorhees
Staff Writer

As students and faculty may already know, Wilkes University has recently changed its smoking policy on campus.

Before the fall semester commenced, Wilkes University President Patrick Leahy notified students through an email that smoking on campus would be very different.

He indicated the following: "Our new policy, scheduled to go into effect beginning Monday, August 31, 2015, establishes a smoke-free zone of 20 feet from any university building door, window, or ventilating system. This smoke-free zone is meant to eliminate exposure to second-hand smoke for people entering and exiting our facilities."

After the declaration, there was a decent amount of celebration on campus. The new smoking policy seemed like a reasonable notion, but how fair is it really? Why should we isolate smokers and discreetly remove them from campus? I would like to add that I am not a smoker, and I feel as though the smokers on campus have been targeted.

I want to bring attention to some actions influenced by this topic, which primarily took place last semester. Pharmacy student Nicholas Stauffer promoted ideas for a non-smoking campus; he handed out brochures filled with health risks, and gave away stickers to those who supported the cause. That was a completely appropriate manner to raise awareness on campus. Some students however, took the "movement" too seriously.

For example, sidewalks were covered with statistics and negative comments towards smokers in chalk. Smokers wanted to erase the messages by pouring water over them, but they didn't want to endanger other students by creating sheets of ice on the walkways. The approach to the situation by non-smokers was not only offensive, but also extremely immature.

Corresponding with President Leahy's announcement, lots of students openly expressed their concerns about secondhand



The Beacon/Jesse Chalnick

Wilkes' new smoking policy requires smokers to stay 20 feet away from buildings.

smoke on campus. It is well-known that secondhand smoke can be harmful, but a great deal of health effects caused by secondhand smoke are due to long-term and/or constant exposure. Occasionally walking past a smoker on campus would not put anyone at immediate risk for respiratory problems, or even lung cancer.

I also believe it was not the smokers' fault that the designated smoking areas on campus were relatively close to building entrances. If you walk through the Greenway, you will see that there are still cigarette disposal containers less than twenty feet away from Breiseth's and Stark's doors.

Sophomore history major Courtney McMonagle shared her opinion on the subject matter.

"Part of me agrees with it [the smoking policy] because if they're not supposed to smoke indoors, why should they be allowed to smoke directly outside of building doors? It seems counterintuitive. But on the other hand, this is a small campus. Where else are they supposed to smoke where they feel safe?"

"Social smoker" and senior finance major, Michael Zudjelovic, offered a different reaction.

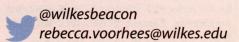
"I think the amendment to the smoking policy is perfect. We are already training our future healthcare professionals to treat symptoms rather than addressing the underlying disease of addiction [to tobacco]."

What students don't realize is that a

majority of smokers do know the risk they're taking when they light a cigarette. Informing people about the risks of smoking is obviously responsible and encourages prevention, but in the end, it's a personal choice.

We as a university should not discriminate against smokers just because they take part in something that isn't necessarily accepted. Smoking cigarettes is perfectly legal.

As long as smokers don't deliberately disturb students and dispose of their cigarettes appropriately, the smoking policy should not have required modification.



Elie Wiesel's Night: Mankind's must read text

By Sara Pisak
Assistant Opinion Editor

September 30, 2015 marked the 87th birthday of Nobel Peace Prize and Congressional Gold Medal winning author Elie Wiesel. Night, his most famous work, originally published in 1958 recounts Eliezer (Elie) and his family's imprisonment in the concentration camps known as Auschwitz and Buchenwald. Narrating Wiesel's tale is the teenage version of himself who recalls his three years of imprisonment and of torture. This marks my third time reading Night as it has become one of my personal favorites. Night should be required reading for not only every student or lover of literature but every human being as it portrays important life and literary elements.

First, Wiesel's narrative structure is to be admired. Wiesel composed Night at the age of 30, 14 years after being liberated from the Buchenwald concentration camp. It is obvious the harrowing events of his youth have remained with Elie. However, *Night* is not narrated by hindsight or retrospect. Instead, the text's narrator is thirteen year old Wiesel as he experiences these events. Wiesel masterfully weaves together the past and the present flawlessly.

Night reminisces the events of Wiesel's imprisonment by the Gestapo from the ages of thirteen through sixteen. Wiesel does look back, narrating events but it is the actions of a teenage Wiesel that presents the dialogue and action up close and personal. This combination of present and past leaves the reader with a corporeal, visceral experience. As his teenage narrator, Wiesel capably mixes a voice of wisdom and naivety. Floating between the narrative of an experienced adult and an innocent teenager, Wiesel finds the sweet spot of his narrative style.

The narrative structure of Night keeps the reader tight within its grasp. While and the other prisoners SS officers to run several miles between camps to avoid the advancing Allied forces liberation efforts, the reader feels as if they are required to run with frostbitten limbs in knee deep snow. It is Wiesel's crafting of the narration that allows a reader to be viscerally affected. Before the reader realizes it, the narrative combination of experienced adult and innocent teenage allows the reader to be caught up in the oppression afflicted on Elie and the other prisoners. By the text's conclusion, the reader is as deeply affected, unable to shake what they have read and experience. These experiences change the reader for the positive.

Fully experiencing Wiesel's narrative,

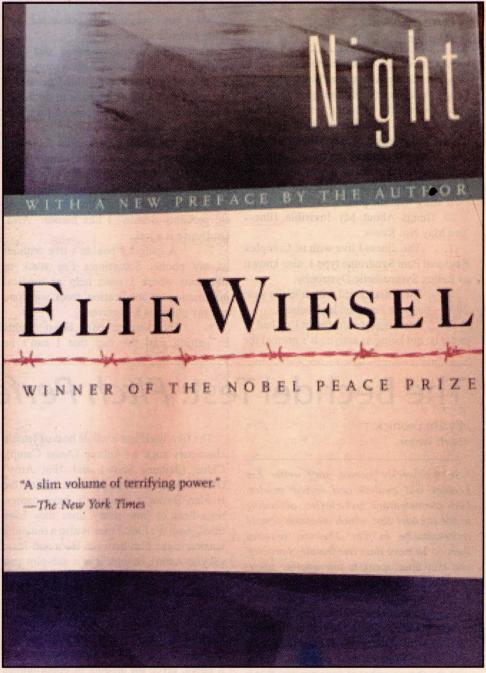
the reader is able to open their mind to the text's most profound message: we owe it to the victims of atrocities to remember our past fully; not to erase ghastly situations that neglect to conform to the perfect notion of history we weave. By erasing our past horrific moments, we dishonor and disrespect those, whose courageous actions, perseverance and strength allowed them to retain their humanity throughout these grisly circumstances.

The concluding sentences of Wiesel's text serves as a reminder that we must all take steps to ensure historical tragedies are not repeated. After his liberation, Wiesel concludes his text "One day when I was able to get up, I decided to look in the mirror on the opposite wall. I had not seen myself since the ghetto. From the depths of the mirror, a corpse was contemplating me. The look in his eyes as he gazed at me has never left me." The final scene Wiesel paints is shocking to read and to comprehend. Wiesel himself is so astonished that he does not refer to himself with the personal pronoun "I" but with the pronoun "he" therefore, regarding himself as a separate entity. Elie represents himself as someone who has been forever changed by the events of his life. He is no longer the same "I" as he was before the concentration camp. Readers also find themselves forever changed just by being privy to Elie's life.

What should transform a reader is remembering the text is nonfiction. No matter how unpleasant the text, a reader cannot deny the existence of these events. By denying the text's reality an even greater injustice is committed. The final sentence of Night proves to be as haunting as the events themselves. A reader cannot and should not be able to shake Wiesel's gaze, which represents millions of others who have suffered. Wiesel's gaze serves as a reminder that collectively we should not erase horrific past events but should work to ensure these events are never repeated as we strive for a more accepting and compassionate humanity.

Readers can further their knowledge, outreach and love of the text by going to the eliewieselfoundation.org and become acquainted with The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. The name of the organization says it all: *Night* and all of Wiesel's work focus on the good of man striving to shine a light on the dark side of humanity.

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Courtesy of Sara Pisak

Sara's Score:



Invisible Illness Awareness Week: the struggle you don't see

By Elyse Guziewicz Staff Writer

September 28 through October 4 is Invisible Illness Awareness Week, an event which seeks to educate the general public about the reality of living with a chronic illness. It was founded in 2002 by Lisa Copen, the founder of RestMinistries.com. The "Our 30 Things" meme, shortened to 20 for this article, is a way for people suffering from invisible illnesses to share their story with the public.

20 Things About My Invisible Illness You May Not Know.

1. The illness I live with is: Complex Regional Pain Syndrome type 1, also known as Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy.

2. I was diagnosed with it in the year 2009 – the year I entered high school.

3. The biggest adjustment I've had to make is: not being as active. It's normal for

me now, but I was a really active kid, and being sedentary was strange.

4. Most people assume that I'm not really sick because I push myself to function at the level of an abled person of my age. I feel a lot of pressure to do things that are very physically strenuous for me in order to not appear lazy.

5. The hardest part about mornings is getting moving. Actually forcing myself to get up, get dressed, walk the dog... after that, it's a little easier to stay moving.

6. My favorite medical TV show is: eh, probably Scrubs? I like humor. Also, Dr. House is a jerk.

7. A gadget I couldn't live without is: my phone. Sometimes I'm stuck in situations where I need help or medical information or medication from someone and my phone is a lifesaver.

8. The hardest part about nights is: getting past the fact that I can't be

comfortable in bed and just letting the sleep

9. Each day I take pills & vitamins.

10. If I had to choose between an invisible illness or visible I would choose: not being sick? Is that an option? But seriously, it's really a toss up. Passing as abled has its advantages and disadvantages.

11. The hardest thing to accept about my new reality has been: not being able to do the things my peers do because of the pain it will cause me.

12. Something I never thought I could do with my illness that I did was: work at a summer camp with no amenities.

13. The commercials about my illness: are nonexistent.

14. Something I really miss doing since I was diagnosed is: being able to run a lot. I can't really run anymore.

15. A new hobby I have taken up since my diagnosis is: visual art – a great, low-

impact outlet.

16. If I could have one day of feeling normal again I would: learn kickboxing.

17. Want to know a secret? One thing people say that gets under my skin is: "but you don't look sick!"

18. When someone is diagnosed I'd like to tell them: It's not going to be okay, but you're going to learn how to not be okay and still have a good life.

19. The nicest thing someone did for me when I wasn't feeling well was: sent me an e-mail. I know that sounds strange, but there was one girl I never got on with in middle school who sent me an email when I was in the hospital about her own secret health struggles. It was very encouraging.

20. The fact that you read this list makes me feel: full of hope for the future!



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The Bechdel Test: Pitch Perfect hits high and low notes

By Em Leonick Staff Writer

In this weekly feature, staff writer Em Leonick will analyze and review movies, both contemporary and classic, according to the Bechdel Test, which measures female representation in film. The test requires there to be more than one female character, and they must speak to one another about something other than a man.

Often times, to ensure that you'll watch a movie that passes the Bechdel Test of female representation it's easiest to pick a film with females as a majority of the cast. If nothing else, they're more likely to pass incidentally with the sheer number of opportunities that it has with so many female characters.

Pitch Perfect is one of those predominately female movies. This musical comedy, released in 2012, is the story of Beca Mitchell, played by Anna Kendrick, trying to make it through a year of college as an agreement with her father so she can move to LA with his help to peruse her dreams to produce music. In order to show him that she's trying, she joins the Barden Bellas, an all-female a cappella group, and takes part in getting them to the national competition for a cappella groups.

The film itself has a whole host of female characters such as Aubrey (Anna Camp), Chloe (Britany Snow) and "Fat Amy" (Rebel Wilson). Beyond them, all of the Barden Bellas miraculously have names, regardless of how many lines they have throughout the film. There is also a romantic tension in the film between Beca and Jesse (Skylar Astin), though it is a sub-plot that manages not to overshadow the rest of the plot of the film.

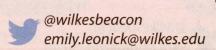
Pitch Perfect passes the Bechdel Test with flying colors, though it should be expected because the majority of characters in this film are women. It'd be more impressive if it failed, given the amount of opportunities within the plot for all the criteria of the test to be met.

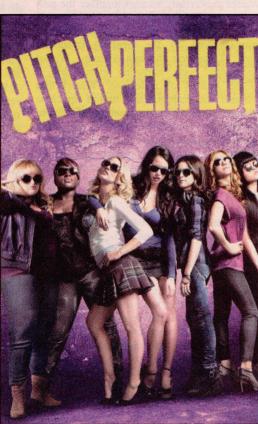
There are a plethora of female characters in the movie, maxing out at fourteen. Amazingly, all fourteen of these characters have at least a first name. In fact, only two don't have a last name, which is refreshing. Throughout the film, there are hundreds of instances of female characters talking to each other. Most of these conversations don't have to do with a man.

It is frustrating, however, that it takes a female led movie for there to be a movie

that passes with such ease. This movie has plenty of representation, not only of women, but of different types of women. There are characters of color within the film, and there is also a character who is a lesbian. However, the representation of both has their problematic moments. For example, when Beca meets her roommate, Kimmy-Jin, she becomes the butt of a "do you speak English/under me" joke. There is also the fact Cynthia-Rose's sexuality is also the center point of a recurring joke. Both serve their purpose in the comedy of the film.

Pitch Perfect is a prime example of how a female-driven film can thrive. It became incredibly popular, even though it's about a group of women, which means representation of women isn't always something trivial. However, the way it represents certain types of people leave something to be desired.





Courtesy Creative Commons

Sports

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

Notable alumnus returns as homecoming guest of honor

By Rachel Leandri Sports Editor

In the midst of homecoming festivities, Wilkes University will continue on Saturday its second annual "Share the Spirit" event.

Kevin Gryboski, a 1995 Wilkes graduate and former Atlanta Braves pitcher, is this year's guest of honor.

Gryboski said he is looking forward to coming back to Wilkes, not only because he grew up locally, but also because he credits his love for baseball to the area. Growing up in Plains Township, Pa., Gryboski was instantly put into Little League. He then went through the ranks of American Legion, followed by high school varsity, then his career at Wilkes.

From playing in the MAC to MLB, Gryboski has left his mark on a multitude of teams while racking up a collegiate conference championship and professional records during divisional play.

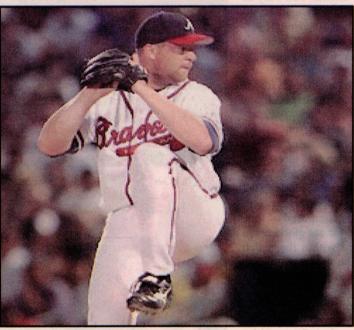
Gryboski is an ideal honoree and reflection of Wilkes pride, as he deferred his initial draft calling for the chance to graduate a Colonel and the opportunity to lead his team to a MAC Championship in 1994. Only a few credits shy of graduating, Gryboski's concern was fulfilling his life dream of receiving a college education and not letting down his family – this meant not turning pro.

"I figured that if I had another successful season I could have had another opportunity to play baseball professionally," he said. "I see lots of professional athletes who never go back to achieve their degrees, so I felt it was very important for me to do that."

Though playing for many years growing up, making the Pennsylvania Allstate baseball team and for American Legion in 1991 of his freshman year at Wilkes was a breakthrough for Gryboski and his potential MLB career.

On his journey to becoming an asset to the MLB, Gryboski struggled with whether that was the life he wanted for himself. Coming up through the minor leagues, he often asked himself if he would really ever make it to the major leagues.

"It's a tough lifestyle and not everyone realizes the time, work ethic, and effort put



courtesy of Alumni Relations

Gryboski pitching for the Atlanta Braves throughout his MLB career.

forth to make it big in the industry," he said. "Everyone just looks at the glory, but a lot is put into the minor team just simply to receive an opportunity to reach the glory part.

"At any time, you can be cut and released, which can easily be the last time you might have a chance to excel in both minor and professional leagues."

The balance between family life and a professional baseball career was surprisingly not a difficult obstacle for Gryboski due to the strong support system of his loved ones, and the caring and patience of his wife, Leah Gryboski.

"A lot of athletes say that their wife is the rock of their families, and I couldn't agree more," he explained. "Considering we play eight to nine months out of the year constantly traveling, I desperately needed the support of family and parents.

"The relieving thought of knowing my children were taken care of every day and getting tucked in to sleep every night was a big help to me keeping it all together."

Since Gryboski's career is considered

a widely known success story, he often is approached by individuals who ask the odds of having their child make it to the major leagues. He then shares the difficult truth.

Based on his professional

experience, Gryboski believes college athletes who potentially want to make it to the MLB should stay in college, study hard and graduate with a degree.

"There's 3.4 million kids that play youth baseball, 455,000 that play high-school baseball, 25,000 that play

college baseball, 7,000 that play minor league baseball drafted from their colleges, and only 1,280 that actually play Major League Baseball," he said.

"Too many people leave school early because of all the draft hype and excitement. All of that focus on a future professional career can lead someone to never going back to college to obtaining there degree which is one of the most important things in life."

Thankful for his opportunities, Gryboski feels that Wilkes shaped not only his baseball career, but his life as a whole.

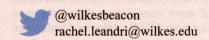
From minors, to Wilkes, to the major leagues, and now coaching his own children's baseball teams, Gryboski's opinion of the game has not swayed.

"I know what it takes to get to the next level and how much time and dedication that is demanded," he explained. "The message I try to get across in teaching kids today is that not everything in life gets handed to them.

"You have to go out with the right mindset and that is what I stress with my son every day. To improve with his own baseball skills, he needs to hit 200-300 balls a day, and he does. He knows the time and effort necessary and I want my kids and other children to be well aware that in life isn't always easy and motivation and hard work is necessary to get where you want."

Meeting different coaches while at Wilkes and still in contact with them today has helped Gryboski grow not only as a student athlete, but as a person. He owes his baseball career to Joe Folek, Bob Dubla, and Jerry Bavitz. They were there his entire college education and baseball experience.

Gryboski's brother, Brian Gryboski, is being inducted into the Wilkes Hall of Fame for basketball next year, having led the Colonels to the Final Four in 1998. Considering Kevin was already inducted for baseball, now both brothers will be trademarked within the Wilkes Chapter of Athletics forever.





courtesy of Alumni Relations Gryboski photographed when he was a student at Wilkes.

Men and Women's Tennis: The quest for another title

By Jared Powell Sports Writer

The tennis teams at Wilkes are coming off an impeccable 2014 campaign. Both men and women's tennis are known around the country for their visits to the NCAA playoffs year after year. The men's team has won the Middle Atlantic Conference the last eight seasons and this year's vision is no different.

"The team goals are to match last years performance at the MAC championships, and try to get past the round of 32 in the national tournament (NCAA) should we get that far," said senior Max Apello.

The team members appear to be embracing the target on their backs that comes with being a successful program, and every team wants to knock them off. The message has been simple from Coach Leichtas as he preaches the idea of family to his players.

"The message that Coach Leicht and I are sending to the freshman about the culture of Wilkes Tennis is to be united in a family atmosphere. Coach Leicht believes that a succesful team must have members who are very supportive and amicable," said Brian Murray.

The Lady Colonels are just as successful if not more considering they have won the last nine Middle Atlantic Conference championships, each win giving them a bid to play in the NCAA playoffs. The success comes directly from Coach

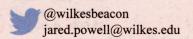
Leicht. He seems to be preaching the same family process to the women as he does to the men's team.

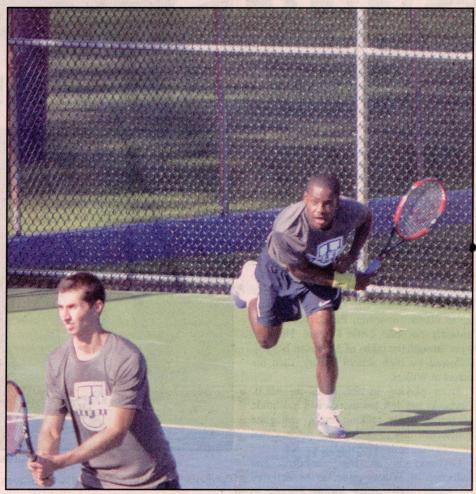
"Wilkes Tennis is a family. Boys and girls combined are not just a team, but stick together and help one another out. Play as a team, win as a team, lose as a team and like a family," said Olivia Hewison.

Anytime the team does not win the conference, the season is ultimately a failure. That just goes to show the expectations that Coach Leicht holds for his players, and even further the expectations the athletes hold for themselves.

The men's team is starting out strong this season with four huge wins and no losses. The women's team has three wins and zero losses. Combined the men's and women's teams are an incredible 61-2 in singles/doubles matches this season. Each full team match is composed of nine different events, and so far out of the seven total matches only two within the match have been losses by the men's team. The women's team has yet to give up a loss in any match.

"Wilkes tennis is very competitive, and we play to win. The motivation we have is unstoppable. However, we also try and show sportsmanship on and off the court," said Hewison.





The Beacon/Jesse Chalnick

Member of men's tennis team recovers from serve at last week's match.

Cross country team making strides toward the finish

By Andre Spruell Asst. Sports Editor

The Wilkes University Cross Country team is making strides to improve from its disappointing 8th place finish in the Middle Atlantic Conference last season for both the men's and women's teams.

In its last meet on Sept. 12 at the Cougar Classic at Misericordia University, the Colonels placed 9th out of the 15 teams that took part in the meet. Leading the way for the men was sophomore Jordan Lindley, who finished 28th overall with a time of 28:59, the thirteenth fastest time in school history for the 8k.

For the women, freshman Morgan Jones

finished with a time of 24:53, the seventh fastest time in school history for the 6k, and took home 11th place. With five more meets remaining, the men and women's teams look to keep making progress and finish as one of the top schools in the MAC.

"Each person has individual goals, but as a team I think we're trying to get the highest place we can," said sophomore sprinter Jordan Lindley. "Last year we finished 8th but I think we can definitely do better than that this year."

With the hard work that the team puts in, which includes certain male sprinters running up to fourteen miles a day and the women running about nine miles a day. Not only do the teams run, they also do things

like swim and weight train to incorporate other methods in an effort to improve.

Despite not having official captains on the team, the team leaders (according to other adds, "We made some team goals: to work runners) for the women is junior Tracey as a family, be a family, and not let anyone Hilker and on the men's side, seniors Tyler Sutton and Martin Tolbert. Despite running being an individual sport, many people fail to realize that cross country actually is a team sport -- in order for a team to place, it has to take into account the place of the top five runners from each school to see where they finished.

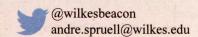
Female athletes must run a 6k, which is 3.8 miles, while the men run an 8k, which

Despite a shaky start, the Colonels look

to unite and finish the rest of the season on a high note.

Sophomore sprinter Carmen Hillman else quit, and just improve throughout the season individually and team scoring wise."

The Cross Country team's next race will take place on Sept. 26 at 10:30 a.m. in Carlisle, Pa., at Dickinson College when the team participates in the Dickinson Short/ Long Invitational.



Wilkes swim teams plan to come back strong this season

By Sean Grundy Sports Writer

In the Fall of 2014, Wilkes University introduced both a Men's and a Women's swim team. The athletic board chose to hire Mark Barnes to be the head coach of the both teams. Coach Barnes became the Colonel's first swim coach in Wilkes' history.

Barnes is no stranger to success. He has coached at two successful swimming programs in the Bloomsburg and Danville areas.

The Colonels have been working hard through the offseason to come back strong in the 2015 campaign.

The men's team started out slow, losing the first seven dual meets of the season. The men placed 5th at the Diamond Invitational, proceeding to win the last meet of the season against FDU.

The women also had a rough start to the season, losing the first five meets of the

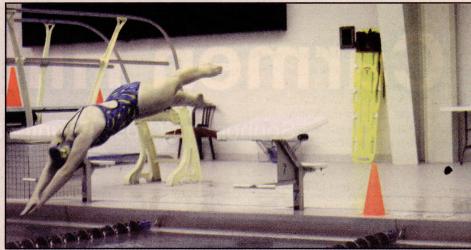
season before finally beating FDU and New Rochelle College. The women's team finished the season 2-7, and the men finished the season 1-7.

Even though both swim teams had a losing record, they fought hard in every meet. Coach Barnes said that his swimmers are a young group with enormous talent, but don't have the experience just yet.

Both the men's and the women's team have a lot of young swimmers. They have 13 female swimmers and three of them are directly out of high school. Many of them haven't swam for a swim team in a little while, so it took them some time to get back into competition mode.

The Colonels are looking forward to having a turnaround season with new addition of the freshman class that Coach Barnes brought in, but have already suffered a big loss with the injury to the men's team MVP Jeff Mastrantuono.

Mastrantuono is a two-sport athlete and suffered a torn achilles during football season.

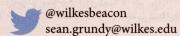


The Beacon/Jesse Chalnick

A member of the Wilkes swim team perfects her start in preparation for meets.

With the loss of Mastrantuono, the team is losing the 150 points that Mastrantuono scored last year. He also set nine individual records and four relay records.

Coach Barnes said he has talked to the men about stepping up to fill the role that Mastrantuono left when he went down. Both teams look to do big things this year and have already started the season. Their first meet of the season starts Oct 10 and will take place at Widener.



Colonels determined to get the win at homecoming game

By: Danny Van Brunt Asst. Sports Editor

The football team will be playing its homecoming game against Widener University on Oct. 3, at 1 p.m. in Schmidt Stadium.

"It would be a big step for this football team to win this game," said Ryan Dailey, the starting quarterback. "We just need to fight for all 60 minutes and stay strong, especially playing in front of all of our friends that are coming back for the game.

"It would mean a lot to get the 'W' on homecoming."

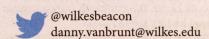
The Colonels so far are undefeated at home, prevailing over Delaware Valley University in a close game. The team came back very late in the game making it a strong comeback win 12-7.

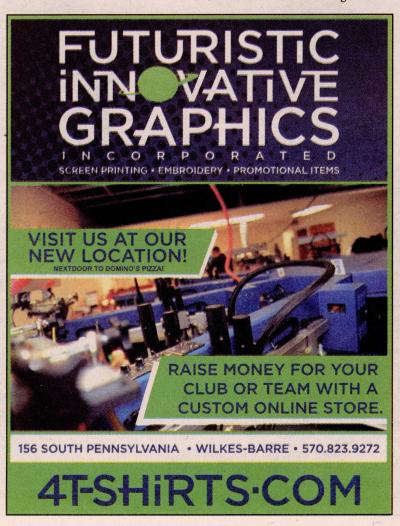
Muhlenberg, on the other hand, brought it to the Colonels. Muhlenberg defeated Wilkes 35-7 in a well-played game.

Wilkes also lost to Lycoming with a score of 24-48. The Colonels came out strong, but Lycoming slowly got the ball moving. Lycoming scored 21 points in the fourth quarter, which raised the score to 48 points.

The football team has continued to show substantial passing yards throughout their games. The players make up a strong team that can potentially find a spot in the end zone on Saturday at home.

Widener University has had a similar beginning to their season. After its first three games, the team stands at the same record as Wilkes, which is 1-2.





Getting to know...

rmen Hillman

By Purvit Patel Sports Writer

Sophomore Carmen Hillman from Urbana, Ohio, came to Wilkes last year to pursure a degree in criminology and run on the Cross Country Team as a vasity runner.

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

A. I was recruited for the cross country team my senior year, and I am from a small town in Ohio, so I wanted to leave and explore the country.

Q. Post-graduation plans in terms of cross country or a career?

A. I plan on continuing my running career in half marathons and my dream is to qualify for the Boston Marathon. In terms of my career, I would like to join law enforcement in a big city far from home, maybe Miami or Los Angeles

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

A. I would really like to improve my times from last year; everything was new last year, like the daily mileage and training but now I am used to it so I know I can do great things for Wilkes.

Q. When/Why did you first begin running cross country?

A. I began running my freshman year of high school because all of my friends told me it would be a great fit for me in terms of athletics, plus I was recruited by the one of

Q. If you had to choose one thing about Wilkes' XC Program that you could improve, what would it be?

A. We actually made a lot of improvements this year, and the program is more focused on preventives from injuries....It wouldn't hurt if we had a home course.

Q. Why did the Women's Team finish with no score during the Miseracodia Invitational?

A. In order to score in XC, a team must have five runners, and we had a number of scheduling conflicts, so only three girls were able to run, causing us to not score.

Q. Do you have other sports/interests/hobbies off of the course?

A. In the spring, our coach takes us to track meets and I competed in 1500m and the steeplechase.

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

A. My high school XC coach was an incredible role model for me all throughout my running career and my academic career; he was the one that originally told me that I

Q. A quote you live your life by?

A. "Work so hard that you no longer have to introduce yourself." This quote has been a driving force for my running and my inspiration for my professional career as well.

Q. Do you have any advice for the freshmen student athletes beginning their freshmen seasons and semesters?

A. If your sport demands more than you can give, give even more; if your coach is strict, be even more obedient. It doesn't get better or easier, but you will get stronger, and you love every minute of it.

Q. How do you feel about the changes being made to campus this year? What do you like or dislike?

A. It's been really annoying running through all of the construction around campus, but it is so amazing to see Wilkes making such tremendous improvements everywhere.

@wilkesbeacon purvit.patel@wilkes.edu



Getting to know...

John Scalese

Junior Golfer

By Purvit Patel Sports Writer

Junior John Scalese from Medford, NY majors in finance at Wilkes along with playing on the men's golf team.

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

A: I wanted to escape my hometown and see life from the view of another state.

Q; What do you hope to do with the degree you obtain from Wilkes?

A: As a finance major, I hope to work for an investment firm and manage stock portfolios.

Q: Any predictions for the upcoming season for men's golf?

A: We almost topped the MAC last year, so we hope to be number this year and bring home the wins for Wilkes.

Q: When/Why did you first begin playing

A: I first started playing seriously at 13, right before I started high school. Before that I played for fun, but at 13, I started to very seriously, in the attempt to make the high school golf team.

Q: If you had to choose one thing about Wilkes' golf program that you could improve, what would it be?

A: I wish more students wanted to play golf. It's a great atmosphere and everyone is so amazing, and all we want is more people to be interested.

Q: What is the biggest challenge you have faced growing up?

A: When I was 7, I was diagnosed with leukemia. Being so young and not being able to understand the seriousness of my illness, I did not know what was going on and I was scared but through the support of my loved ones, I was able to overcome my cancer in two short years.

Q: A quote you live your life by?

A: "Life is too short to be stressed all the time." -Tejuss Kakarala

Q: Do you have any advice for the freshman student athletes beginning their freshman seasons and semesters?

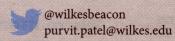
A: Love the sport you play, don't ever let mistakes guide your athletic life.

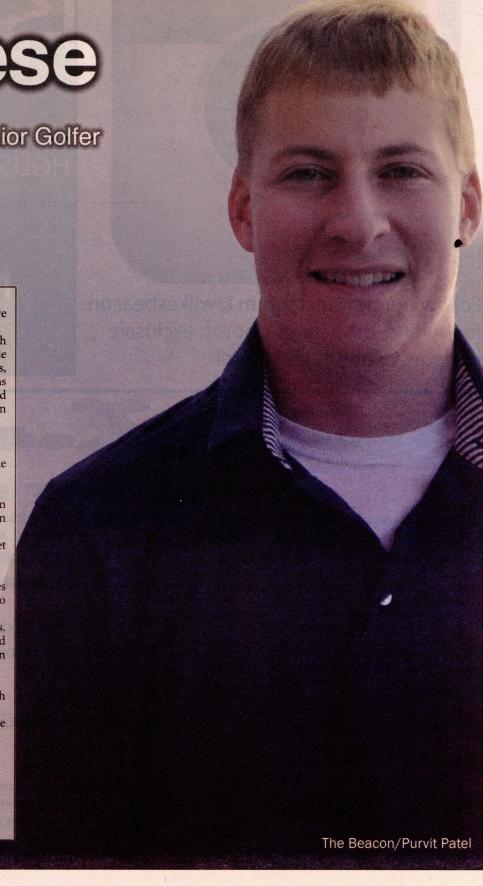
Q: How do you feel about the changes being made to campus this year? What do you like or dislike?

A: I love the new look this campus has. It has a great inviting image. I hate the loud construction outside my apartment in

Q: Which Wich or the Old Rifkin, which

A: Which Wich, 100%. I go there more than I eat at the café.







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