

The Beacon - February 7, 2017



Est. 1936
Pa. Newspaper
Association Member
Volume 70 Issue 10

THE BEACON

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

Remembering Brianna

Full story on page 4

Photo Courtesy of Wyoming/Lackawanna County Dairy Princess Committee

┐

News

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

Beacon Briefs

Come to the Cultural Film Series

All are welcome to the Cultural Film Series, *Crying Earth Rise Up*, a documentary by Native Americans about the impact that uranium mining has on the Sioux Nation land, water and health, on Wednesday, Feb. 8 in Stark 259 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. There is no charge for this event.

Attend a Free Screening of Gender Revolution

Wilkes University, the Wilkes University GSA and the NEPA Rainbow Alliance will show an advanced screening of the National Geographic documentary *Gender Revolution*, which follows Katie Couric as she explores the complexities of gender identity. The film will be followed by a panel discussion with local community members. The screening is free and open to the public. The screening will be on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. in Breiseth Hall, Room 107.

Save the Date for Career Day

Come to Career Day on Tuesday, Feb. 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in UCOM-RAC. Career Day features recruitment/information tables from organizations seeking employees, interns and volunteers. A variety of employers are registering, so get your professional attire and resume ready. Stop in at Career Services in Conyngham 215 on Walk-in Wednesdays for a Resume Guide or feedback.

You can also email us at careers@wilkes.edu for an appointment. Any questions? Contact Wilkes University Career Services at (careers@wilkes.edu or 570-408-4060) or visit their website. For jobs and resume tips, visit College Central Network.

V-Day is Here - Annual Performance of The Vagina Monologues

Wilkes University's annual performances of the award-winning play *The Vagina Monologues* will take place on Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. Both shows will be held in the Henry Student Center Ballroom. Admission is free for Wilkes University students (with ID), \$5 for non-Wilkes students (with ID), and \$10 General Admission. Arrive early to peruse the merchandise table featuring snacks and other concessions, as well as reduced-price "vintage" merchandise from past performances. We are also taking donations of feminine hygiene products and infant formula for the Alternative Spring Break Dominican Republic trip. These items will benefit the women in the local community where ASB students visit and perform service. All proceeds from the event will benefit the DVSC, the VRC, and the V-Day organization to aid in their work to alleviate and eventually end violence against girls and women.

Wilkes University Student Government notes

Staff Report

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

Kristin Osipower the campus Interfaith Coordinator gave a guest report. Osipower recently joined Wilkes to fulfill the position. Her goal is to help students on their spiritual journey and assist in any way. She hopes to create an interfaith council which will feature student leaders of various religious and cultural backgrounds to better gauge what Wilkes students need. Osipower is also running the campus food bank and hopes to spread the word on its availability to students.

The Psychology Club presented week 1 of 2 for a fund request. The group hopes to attend the Eastern Psychological Association conference in Boston in March. The conference has networking events and workshops for students. The group is looking for funds of \$1,296.50 for parking, hotel, registration. The board will vote next week.

SAAC presented week 2 of 2 for their non-club fund request for the Wilkes vs. Kings basketball games. The spirit committee is

also participating by donating pom poms and mini foam fingers for the blackout event. The group requested \$1,320. The motion was passed 26-0-4.

The Vagina Monologues presented for its non-club fund request. The Vagina Monologues is a performance where funds raised go to community programs to help victims of violence and women's sexual health. This year, funds will be donated to the Victim's Resource Center and the Domestic Violence Service Center. Last year approximately 200 people attended the event and it is expected for a bigger turnout this year with a cast of 22 performers. The fund request is for \$1,000 for the cost of 200 student tickets. The board will vote next week.

Adventures in Science also came in for a non-club fund request. This years event will take place on April 28 and over 200 Wilkes students are expected to participate. Berwick will be the visiting school with fifth grade students. 248 students are anticipated to attend. The group is requesting \$2,800 for the cost of drawstring bags and shirts. The board will vote next week.

Block Party was presented in its week 2 of 2. With changes made to the budget and the involvement of other campus clubs, the request on the table was for \$14, 820. The board voted and the motion was passed to allocate the full amount, 30-0-1.

Spring Fling was also presented at the meeting for its week 1 of 2. The dance is to take place on March 24 from 6-11 at the Woodlands. The theme is related to the beach and sea with palm trees, seashells and sand as main decor. The total fund request is \$19,811. The board will vote next week.

The final item on the agenda was a Capital Projects fund request. Student representatives are looking to purchases exercise equipment for the Marts gym including a triple rack, two benches, Try bumpers and new bars and attachments. The requested amount is for \$30,223. The board will vote week.

The treasurer's report is as follows: All College: \$49,898.82, General Funds: \$17,423.03, Conference: \$5,000 and Spirit: \$2,000 for a SG total of \$74,321.85.



@wilkesbeacon

table of contents

news.....2

life, a&e.....7

spread.....12

opinion.....14

sports.....19

Professor says policy cohesion key to handling academic dishonesty

By Alyssa Mursch
News Editor

A student stays up all night studying for an exam and walks into a test exhausted and anxious. Halfway through the exam, they look up to see another student has carved out a calculator and put an iPhone inside. The device is used to look up the answers online.

This is not a fictitious example of academic dishonesty, but rather a scenario that has been seen in the Wilkes University engineering department.

Cases of academic dishonesty in the department have gotten increasingly out of hand in recent years, with the department hitting its peak last semester, said Dr. Edward Bednarz, assistant professor of mechanical engineering. To help combat such violations in all majors, Bednarz would like to see a more explicit academic honesty policy outlined for faculty and students.

There have been three expulsions in the last two years, and although there was some miscommunication with administration, Bednarz now feels confident they can work together to uphold the department and entire university's integrity and merit.

"I want to assure students that are doing the right thing that we do catch cheaters," Bednarz said. "Crime doesn't pay. I would be really shocked if anyone cheated now."

The Wilkes University academic integrity policy is laid out in the student handbook. However, there can be confusion as to the correct steps faculty should take and how to best handle situations of academic dishonesty. This is an issue that the department faced when confronted with several cases of blatant cheating in the fall semester, Bednarz said.

The emphasis now needs to extend to the entire university in working together

in a collaborative effort to combat academic dishonesty across all majors, Bednarz continued. If all incidents are reported to department heads or The Department of Student Affairs, it would be easier to identify repeat offenders and handle them accordingly.

Although it has become customary to handle academic dishonesty situations internally, Bednarz believes it would be better to involve administration right from the start and follow the handbook's policy.

"Academic honesty is one of the most important values that a university protects, and it's important that there is consistency and enforcement across the university," said Vice President of Student Affairs Paul Adams. "With hundreds of faculty, it can at times be difficult to have that consistency."

Adams continued to explain that many faculty have established their own approaches in dealing with academic integrity and that very few go as far as to report it to Student Affairs. There is a continuum of punishments that professors can use at their discretion, ranging from a stern warning to failure of the course.

One way to combat instances of academic dishonesty is to work together under a central policy rather than as separate departments. A policy change is in the works to make communication among departments easier and to have each professor report instances of academic dishonesty to the chair or dean of the department, who can then communicate with each other.

One thing that should be avoided, however, are generalizations and stigmatizations. The Family Education Rights and Education Act (FERPA) forbids professors from disclosing students' educational records without their permission or unless certain criteria are met.

Although generalizations should be avoided, there have been students who feel

stereotyped when it comes to cheating. This can be seen with international students, explained senior engineering student and teaching assistant Abdul Sheikh.

"Most of the students work hard ... while some people use the easy way out to get the grade. This is unfair," Sheikh said. He explained that when international students cheat, it creates a stereotype that others have to work hard to break.

"That's what I'm facing."

Bednarz believes the university's engineering program is excellent, and estimates 95 percent of its students are honest and hardworking -- including the international students. He noted that cultural differences may play a part in academic dishonesty issues, such as those involving intellectual property. Individual ideas are highly valued in American culture where other cultures are more accustomed to working as a community.

Sheikh rejects that claim, however, arguing that collectivism pertains to working together for homework. It is still not acceptable to work together on exams in his culture, Sheikh explained.

He also said that Wilkes effectively emphasizes the no cheating policy to international students, even having them sign a contract saying their visa will be terminated if they violate the contract.

There is free tutoring offered on campus and a mentoring program in the Saudi Club, of which Sheikh is president. This added resource is helpful for those that may not feel as comfortable working with American students, he explained.

But international students are not the only ones who violate academic integrity policies, Sheikh said.

University Provost Anne Skleder agreed, saying that there are not more cases of academic dishonesty involving international

students.

"Domestic students cheat too, but those that truly can't handle engineering tend to switch majors much sooner than an international student whose country requires the engineering degree," said an engineering student who wished to remain anonymous. He expressed concerns about why blatant cases of cheating were not handled more aggressively.


"With (some of) the international students' countries paying full tuition, I feel Wilkes does not want to lose that major source of income."

"There are few values protected on campus by our faculty more than academic integrity," Adams said. "It isn't reasonable to think that our faculty would ever compromise their principles in favor of the University's economic gain."

Each is dealt with on a case-by-case basis based on the level of cheating and circumstances surrounding it, Adams and Skleder explained. Whether the student is international or domestic does not make a difference.

"The faculty and staff at Wilkes care about all students, and strive hard to ensure that students and retained, are successful in their studies, graduate on time, and are successful after graduation in their professions and in life," she added. "This is what we owe our student, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, home country, or any other characteristic."

As far as educating those about the consequences of cheating, Adams recommends that professors make their policy clear to students right from the start. Skleder added that there should be a strong focus on teaching academic honesty and integrity.

 @wilkesbeacon
alyssa.mursch@wilkes.edu

Wilkes University's academic integrity policy: What gets lost in interpretation

The policy for cheating is laid out in the student handbook. However, confusion can still arise.

According to the student handbook, instructors are expected to report violations to both the Dean of Students and the Provost.

However, many faculty members choose to initially deal with incidents of cheating within their department. Penalties for violations may range from failure in the particular assignment, program, or test to failure for the course.

Confusion can arise when multiple

cases of cheating involving one student are dealt with within the department. If the department does not involve student affairs from the beginning, the first report to them is, as far as they know, the student's first offense. Therefore it is unlikely that drastic measures will be taken right away.

Instructors also have the option referring the case for disposition to the Student Affairs Cabinet. The academic sanctions imposed are the purview of the Faculty; the Student Affairs Cabinet determines disciplinary sanctions. The appeal of a failing grade for academic dishonesty will follow the academic

grievance policy. The appeal of a disciplinary sanction will follow the disciplinary action policy.

According to the student handbook, the following are considered to be serious violations and will not be tolerated:

1. Plagiarism: the use of another's ideas, programs, or words without proper acknowledgment
2. Collusion: improper collaboration with another in preparing assignments, computer programs, or in taking examinations
3. Cheating: giving improper aid to another, or receiving such aid from another,

or from some other source.

4. Falsifying: the fabrication, misrepresentation, or alteration of citations, experimental data, laboratory data, or data derived from other empirical methods.

There is a policy change underway which involves faculty reporting all cheating incidents to department chairs. The hope is that there will be more communication among departments across the university so that there can be consistency in dealing with academic dishonesty as well as a collective effort to put an end to it.

Remembering Brianna Smarkusky

Friends, family, professors reminisce

By Amanda Bialek
Assistant LAE Editor

Brianna Rose Smarkusky was a beloved daughter, sister, granddaughter, girlfriend, niece, aunt and a friend to many. Several individuals in the Wilkes community have reflected on the beautiful life Smarkusky led and how this loss is affecting them.

Her kind smile, contagious laugh and caring nature will be deeply missed.

"She was super nice," Chloe Musselman, friend of Smarkusky said. "[Brianna] was the kind of the person that honestly would give you the clothes off her back if she could."

She was always worrying more about others more than herself, Musselman said.

"Though I did not have the privilege of knowing Brianna, I have come to know that she lived her life with such zest and enthusiasm, accomplishing so much in her young life," Susan Biskup, campus counselor said.

Brianna valued her family, friends, her boyfriend, Adam Werner, her farm and her farm animals the most Kasaundra Barclay, friend of Smarkusky, said.

Smarkusky was a humble and hard working young woman who aspired to be an optometrist. Dr. Kenneth Klemow, biology professor described her as an extremely dedicated, driven and diligent student.

"She was my star research student this year. Losing her from a personal level and a professional level really hurt. It was a big loss on so many levels," Dr. Klemow said. "My heart goes out to her family, and I think we are all pretty devastated about what happened."

Smarkusky inspired and even challenged fellow professors and students to work beyond their potential. She enjoyed seeing others around her succeed.

"I admired how Brianna always remained positive even when she would be taking 18 credits at Wilkes and then an extra four credits at Luzerne County Community College," Barclay said.

We would rely on each other often during classes, Musselman said. Both Smarkusky and Musselman would always do homework and eat lunch at Grille Works everyday together.

Smarkusky enjoyed talking about her future plans of attending graduate school and making her own name for herself, Musselman said. As a future optometrist, she was fascinated with eyes and loved sharing her knowledge of them.

Not only was she talented academically, but also with sports and 4-H clubs. She played softball, basketball, field hockey,

track and field and travel ball. Some of the clubs she was heavily involved with included Wyoming County Grow'em and Show'em, Elk Mountain Baconeers and Wyoming County Beef Club. Smarkusky was a dairy miss, dairy maid and dairy ambassador. She was also crowned 2012-2013 Wyoming-Lackawanna Dairy Princess.

"I don't know if there's really anything she wasn't passionate about. She put her heart 110 percent into everything she did," Musselman said.

"Brianna was special—she worked hard based on her many accomplishments, and she did so with love," Susan Biskup, campus counselor said.

Every year, Brianna attended the Bloomsburg Fair with her friends Kasaundra Barclay, Alexandria Gartner and James Ardoline. This was a tradition that was special for all of them.

"She always had a smile on her which people loved the most. She was so loving and caring and was always there for anyone who wanted to vent," Barclay said.

Biskup believes Brianna's life has touched many lives, and she truly lived a life worth celebrating.



Courtesy of Kasaundra Barclay

Left to right: Brianna Smarkusky, Alexandria Gartner, Kasaundra Barclay, James Ardoline.

Grief counselors and group therapy sessions are available on campus. Susan Biskup and Melissa Gaudio are located on within Health and Wellness Services on the

first floor of Passan Hall. You may contact them through email or by calling 570-408-4730. An after-hours counseling support line can be reached by calling 570-408-CHAT.



Courtesy of Kasaundra Barclay

Brianna Smarkusky passed away on Jan. 12. She was a senior biology major at Wilkes.

Online transactions: Use discretion or protection?

By Isaiah McGahee
Staff writer

Many students, staff and faculty are aware of the recent incident on the Wilkes University campus involving a robbery which occurred during a monetary transaction.

The robbery took place on Jan. 23 at approximately 8:45 p.m., according to a notice issued by Public Safety. The student involved posted an item for sale online and arranged to meet a responder toward the rear of University Towers on South Main Street.

Two individuals met the student; one grabbed him and before the transaction was complete both suspects fled the scene with the stolen property.

In response, Public Safety took swift action and is providing students with a safer alternative for these types of transactions to occur, directly in the lobby of the public safety office.

Officer Christopher Jagoe, director of Public Safety, stated that this would prevent robberies, since public safety would be present.

"Criminals don't want to be caught, they don't want to be apprehended," he said.

Jagoe also shared that this was the first time that an incident like this has occurred, but that once was enough.

"I'd rather be a little more proactive

than reactive to things... I hope students, faculty, staff, whoever, whether it's daytime or nighttime, if they want to do something like this, it's very safe in a public place."

However, when asked if he received any positive feedback from students specifically on campus, Jagoe said he had not.

When asked, students Aaron Baratta, Alyssa Schuler, and Jenna Skrinak all voiced similar stances regarding the new policy.

"Public Safety shouldn't have to provide for a poor decision," said Baratta, "Wilkes-Barre isn't the safest place, after all."


Schuler, much like Baratta, voiced a similar opinion.

"I don't believe they should have to provide for that. The student was obviously an older student because they were living in Towers... It's not like they were a freshman," she said.

Jenna Skrinak also agreed.

"No, I don't feel that they should have to do that."

The incident, aftermath and voiced opinions raise a very intriguing question: Does one need protection when completing a transaction or should one be a bit more scrupulous? Perhaps a bit of both has never done any harm.

 @wilkesbeacon
Isaiah.McGahee@wilkes.edu

Safety Tips from Public Safety for Online Sales

Creating an Advertisement

- Don't put any information that identifies you personally in the ad if it's not necessary. Keep in mind every piece of information you post may be used for other purposes. Limit your information to limit your risk.
- Don't put your phone number in the ad. Keep in mind that reverse look-up directories may provide information about you that can be used in ways you had not intended.
- Review photos in the ad for identifiable information. If there is some, consider masking it.
- If the service does not provide e-mail service (Craigslit and Expo, for example, do), then create a disposable e-mail account (such as a gmail account). In either case, pick a safe e-mail address.

Communicating With a Prospective Buyer

- Communicate only through e-mail until you feel comfortable that the individual's interest is valid.
- Be very wary of buyers who are out-of-area.
- If anything feels "off," stop contact. Trust your instincts.
- When you're comfortable that the buyer seems legitimate, ask the buyer

to give you his or her phone number. (Sometimes, the area code may indicate if they are in your area.) Try the phone number to find out if it's valid. If the person responds, talk on the phone for a bit about the item for sale and decide if the person still seems legitimate. Don't be afraid to walk away from a sale if you are uncomfortable.

- Make it clear that you will only accept cash for the item.

Showing a Transportable Item

- If possible, agree to meet during daylight hours in a public place and bring a friend to accompany you. Turn down requests to meet at your house, in an unfamiliar place or by yourself.
- The Department of Public Safety, located at 148 S. Main Street, is a safe harbor for selling both day and night. Well-lit and under constant observation, the lobby is open to the public for 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Don't hand over the item until you have cash in hand. Don't accept partial payment or anything other than cash for the transaction. If the method of payment changes, walk away from the deal.
- If the potential buyer wants time to consider and comes back later, follow the same procedures. Don't get careless the second time around.

AFROTC to offer accelerated program for seniors and graduate students

By Zachary Smith
Staff Writer

The Wilkes University Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) will offer a one-year accelerated program for seniors and graduate students in the 2017 fall semester.

The accelerated program will allow students to complete the training in one year instead of the four years that it typically takes.

"The material and lessons covered in the accelerated program are the same as in the four-year program, but just on a condensed level" said Major Melissa Bierma, an assistant professor to the department. "As with any accelerated program, the learning curve is much steeper in that sense, therefore we are looking for dedicated students ready for a challenge."

The corps is a professional training program offered in 145 higher learning

institutions throughout the country that prepares college students for future leadership roles as an Air Force Officer that they may pursue after graduation.

Officers make up just 20 percent of the military and serve in a wide variety of management and leadership roles based on their experience and education.

There are multiple career fields that are available to officers, including engineers, pilots, cyber operations, nursing, doctors and Judge Advocate General (JAG) just to name a few.

"This is a tremendous responsibility and the cadet program prepares students to take on these leadership roles," Major Bierma said.

For those who join, the corps offers students multiple benefits. Full and partial scholarships are offered to qualified students who are in the program. All scholarships also come with a \$600 allowance for student books as well as a monthly stipend that is

dependent on the class year of the student, ranging from \$300 for freshmen to up to \$500 for seniors.

Those who complete the program will also enter active duty service at the rank of Second Lieutenant.


"On average, a Second Lieutenant can expect to make around \$56,000 to \$60,000 in their first year on active duty," Bierma noted.

Active duty members are also provided with life insurance, no-cost health insurance, a gym membership and tax-free shopping on base. Any students interested in learning more can go to the Wilkes ROTC website at www.wilkes.edu/rotc or visit the national website at www.afrotc.com.

Classes occur on Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m. and student observers are welcome. Interested students can call their office at 570-408-4860 or email rotcdl@wilkes.edu.

AFROTC contact information:

- **Wilkes ROTC website:**
www.wilkes.edu/rotc
- **The national AFROTC website:**
AFROTC website at www.afrotc.com
- **AFROTC office phone:**
570-408-4860
- **AFROTC office email:**
rotcdl@wilkes.edu

 @wilkesbeacon
zachary.smith1@wilkes.edu

Executive Order on immigration sparks controversy, protests

By Toni Pennello
Assistant News Editor

On Jan. 27, President Donald Trump signed an executive order entitled "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into The United States" prohibiting the entry of all refugees into the United States for four months, and the entry of Syrian refugees indefinitely.

In addition, the order prohibits the re-entry of visa holders from seven countries - Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen - for three months.

The order sparked controversy, causing protests everywhere. Critics (as well as some supporters) are referring to it as a "muslim ban." Although the President's order does not expressly indicate a ban on the entry of Islamic peoples, the aforementioned countries are largely muslim.

On the evening of Feb. 3, Judge James Robart, appointed by George W. Bush and presiding in Seattle, halted the ban with a temporary restraining order. His halt was effective nation wide.

"The opinion of this so-called judge, which essentially takes law-enforcement away from our country, is ridiculous and will be overturned!" Trump tweeted on Saturday morning.

"I don't think it was well thought out or properly vetted by lawyers... the quickness, the rashness of it speaks to the issues that Trump is having now," Kreider said.

"The question would be, do you have to wait until a horrific event occurs before you do something? You can say no, but at the same time, what is the reason for the seven countries?" said Kyle Kreider, associate professor and chair of political science at Wilkes. Kreider specializes in Constitutional Law.

No one in the United States has been killed in a terrorist attack by individuals from the seven countries listed in the order.

"What is the common denominator? The common denominator appears to be the muslim predominance."

Trump has also stated that, under his executive order, favor will be given to Christian refugees, whom he said are "horribly treated," which, for Kreider, makes the ban extra fishy.

For many, this predominance is enough to consider the order a good idea - that even one Islamic extremist is enough to cause concern regarding refugees and immigration.

"I believe that President Trump is doing what he campaigned on, was elected to do and feels is best to protect our Nation," said Ron Ferrance, chairman of the Luzerne County Republican Party.

"Although he is being portrayed poorly

in the media, he is taking some of the same steps that both former Presidents Obama and Clinton took when they felt it was necessary to do so."

A similar ban ordered by Former President Barack Obama in 2011, cited by many supporters of Trump's executive order, prohibited the entry of Iraqi refugees and suspended visas.

Obama's order was in response to a specific threat (the fingerprints of Iraqi refugees living in Kentucky were found on a roadside bomb that killed US troops in Iraq) and was limited only to Iraq, as rescreeing of Iraqi refugees living in the United States took place.

Former President Bill Clinton ordered immigration bans on countries involved in ethnic conflicts in former Yugoslavia and those who were said to impede democracy in Liberia in the 1990s.

Many critics of Trump's order say it is unconstitutional on the basis of religious freedom, but Kreider has more constitutional qualms than that.

"I would argue that, as it was written originally, it is not constitutional," he said, adding that one issue is with the Due Process Clause of the fifth amendment.

"When the American government infringes on the liberty of any person on American soil, they must follow basic procedures," he said.

"I would argue that the executive order violates that, because the customs and the border officials at the airports didn't know what the order required them to do, so there was disparate treatment across the countries because there were different interpretations as to what the order was requiring them to do."

Kreider added that there was even confusion about whether the order applied to green card holders even among the administration.

Kreider also argued that the order violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

"The government must treat similarly situated groups the same way. The order apparently treats Muslims differently than Christians, so there seems to be religious discrimination there, when there is no clear basis for why you would treat those individuals differently."

Democratic Governor Tom Wolfe detailed his stance on the executive order during a press conference, held after meeting with a Syrian family, The Assali's.

The Assali's legally migrated to Allentown and have lived there for decades, but are affected by the travel ban.

"One of Mrs. Assali's brothers is 25 year veteran of the United State Army. He fought in Desert Storm. Dr. Assali's brother



The Beacon/ Toni Pennello

People of all kinds gathered in Public Square in Wilkes-Barre on Saturday to protest President Trump's executive order, which puts bans on immigration and refugees.

and sister-in-law had been working for an immigration visa for the last 13 years, since 2003. Yesterday, they were denied permission to enter the United States in the airport in Philadelphia," Wolf said.

"I think others can speak to the legal issues far better than I, but as a Pennsylvanian and an American, this is not who we are," he added. "Pennsylvania is a place of welcome. The United States is set up to be a place where people can escape oppression. This is not a place people come to experience oppression and that's what the Assali's family members experienced."

Wolf added that he was outraged.

In contrast, Republican Congressman Lou Barletta showed express support for Trump's executive order in a series of press releases.

"We are a compassionate nation, one built on legal and orderly immigration, and one which has always offered a place for people seeking better lives," Barletta stated. "Unfortunately, our enemies know this about us and are seeking to use our generosity against us."

"We know that ISIS has expressed their intent to use our refugee program to sneak their fighters and sympathizers into our country because they know our security measures are lacking. We cannot allow this."

Wilkes Administration is still unsure of what the executive order might mean for international students, and have not yet issued a response to its halt by Robart.

"Without clear understanding of what these immigration changes mean and how they will be interpreted and enforced, more questions have been raised than can be

answered right away," read a letter sent to students by President Patrick Leahy.

"We understand that for our international students, scholars studying on campus from a foreign country, or undocumented students studying at Wilkes, these changes in regulation create anxiety and concern."


"And, those on campus who care deeply for our international students and scholars, have also expressed their worry for how these policies will affect their friends and colleagues, and those from other countries who aspire one day to study at Wilkes."

Dr. Paul Adams, vice president of student affairs clarified that the undocumented students Leahy mentioned were those attending Wilkes who entered the country legally, but whose credentials may have expired.

Multicultural Student Coalition President Santana Velez has plans for open discussion on the topic for students.

"Whenever there's national events going on where people are marginalized we always talked about it and said 'you are welcome,'" Santana said. "At our next club meeting I'm trying to do an open conversation type of event. I've invited one of the sociology professors. I'm trying to get more people who can help guide the conversation."

Leahy stated in his letter that concerned students are encouraged to contact the Center for Global Education and Diversity, the Provost's Office, or the Office of Human Resources.

 @wilkesbeacon
toniann.pennello@wilkes.edu

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have a story or want your event to be featured? Contact the Life, A&E Editor: kimberly.hein@wilkes.edu

Alumni Return to Celebrate 45 Years of the Campus Radio Station, WCLH

By Kimberly Hein

Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

The campus radio station, WCLH, turned 45 on Feb. 6. In order to celebrate, the station held a birthday party that alumni and current staff attended.

"I'm here today, 35 years later, and it feels like we never left," Fred Pierantoni said.

The executive staff worked diligently to pre-produce a five hour show that was aired on Saturday. The show featured the past four decades that WCLH has been broadcasting along with alumni interviews and archived audio and music. Each staff member was in the show highlighting a different decade.

As an Environmental Engineering student, Cody Colarusso said the radio gives him a place to break the constant school work cycle.

"As a member of the e-staff, I have grown closer with students that I wouldn't have met if it weren't for radio since they're not in my major," He said.

Some alumni who attended the anniversary showed up with the friends they met through WCLH.

Tom McGuire said, "My best man DJ'd with me at the station, and if it wasn't for the radio, I wouldn't have met him."

"And I DJ'd that wedding," Rockin' Rich (Rich Nordeim) said as he rounded the corner to join the conversation.

WCLH has been providing the Wyoming Valley and surrounding areas with student produced programming since 1971. The station offers a variety of music genres including metal, alternative and hip-hop music as well as specialty programming and sports coverage.

Over the last four decades, WCLH has achieved some great accomplishments. A few years ago, the staff launched a new program, Receso Comunitario. This program is produced entirely in Spanish and can be heard across the globe through online streaming.

Like most college radio stations, WCLH is student-run and over the last four and a half decades, WCLH has achieved some great accomplishments.

The station received an award of excellence

in broadcast journalism from 1978-1980 as well as in 1985 by the Professional News Media Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Aside from that, in 1984, the Professional News Media Association awarded Wilkes with the Kewson Scholastic Journalism Award. WCLH has also been named the Best College Radio Station by entertainment weeklies The Weekender, Diamond City and Electric City. WCLH has also been ranked as one of the Top 50 College Radio Stations in the country (bestcolleges.com)

The alumni who attended the celebration were happy to see that the awards they got during their time at the station were still hanging with pride in the radio studio.

McGuire said, "It's awesome to see that the award we got for all of our hard work is still being showcased here," when looking at the awards on the wall.

Aside from the awards, they were shocked to see how different the station is today compared to their time here. Some even remember setting up the station right before

the Great Flood.

WCLH will be moving into the new Media Center on Main Street, so alumni were able to see the station how they remember it right before it moves in the fall of 2017.

"One the biggest highlights for WCLH has been the ability to keep our equipment and software current to reflect what's being used at commercial radio stations," Kristen Rock, station manager said. "From vinyl to cart machines to compact discs and MP3's, WCLH has been able to provide students with quality hands-on training while giving listeners great programming."

Rock said that she hopes people tuned in for the broadcast because it's an amazing opportunity "to hear where we've come from, where we are now and where we plan to be in the future."

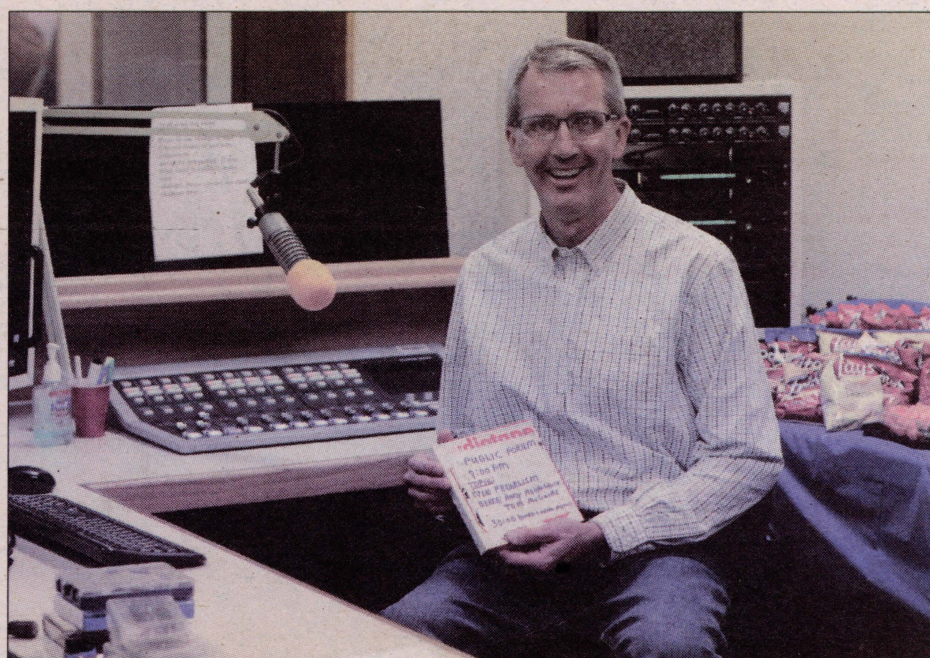


@wilkesbeacon
kimberly.hein@wilkes.edu



Courtesy of WCLH/Emily Bellanco

Alumni and current e-staff pose with the cake. Row 4: John Margo, Daniel, Tom McGuire Row 3: Wayne Marianelli, Basil Lynch, Christopher Rexer, John Kelly, John Szczepanski Row 2: Eric Casey, Rich Nordeim, Fred Pierantoni, Emily Bly, Kim Hein Row 1: Cody Colarusso, Emily Bellanco, Kendle Peters, John Michael Rey



Courtesy of WCLH/Emily Bellanco

Tom McGuire finds an old public forum that he recorded during his time at WCLH with Andy Mehalshick. He is sitting in the current production room where he used to spend a lot of time.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK:

Dried Beef mini Sandwiches

INGREDIENTS:

- Dark Wheat Honey bread
- Dried Beef
- Pepper Jack spreadable cheese wedge

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Slice bread.
2. Spread pepper jack cheese and place dried beef on bread.
3. Heat sandwiches in microwave.

*Mixing salty meat with sweet bread makes for a delicious sandwich. Enjoy with chilled lemon tea!!



Design by Nicole Kutos

Do you have a favorite dorm room recipe that's convenient for college students always on the go?

Submit it to Amanda Bialek, LA&E Assistant Editor

amanda.bialek@wilkes.edu

THIS MONTH, EARN UP TO...

\$250

* EARN CASH * SAVE LIVES *
\$10 BRING YOUR WILKES ID AND GET AN EXTRA \$10 ON YOUR FIRST DONATION!! **\$10**

FOR NEW, ELIGIBLE DONORS. MUST BRING PHOTO ID, PROOF OF ADDRESS OR SCHOOL ID, AND SOCIAL SECURITY CARD.

INTERSTATE BLOOD & PLASMA INC.
 665 CAREY AVE. WILKES-BARRE, PA
 (570)823-4119

Vagina Monologues Returns Feb. 10,11

By Peyton Neishman
Staff Writer

An award-winning play is back just in time for Valentine's Day.

The Vagina Monologues will be held at Wilkes University this weekend. It is a series of dramatic monologues.

The production was written by Eve Ensler and it shows the audience all about the experiences that women go through on a daily basis. The main purpose of the show is to give special attention to a woman's body and her sexuality, which are frequently ignored. The Monologues cover all different stages of a woman's life.

One is about an elderly woman speaking about her vagina the first time to a male sex worker who is obsessed with making many women happy in a sexual way.

This play is celebrating the female strengths and also their sexuality. Director of Vagina Monologues, Salena Diaz, said, "Students should see it because it is fun and informative. It is so important to realize that our bodies are nothing to be ashamed of and that we should be able to speak about them openly and proudly".

Students should be proud and confident with their bodies. They shouldn't be scared to talk about them.


The ticket sales proceeds will be going to the Victim's Resource Center and the Domestic Violence Service Center. Students will also collect feminine hygiene products and infant formula for the Community Center's work in the Dominican Republic at the show.

The show is being held Friday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. The event takes place in Wilkes' Henry Student Center Ballroom.

Admission is free for Wilkes students with valid I.D., \$5 for non-Wilkes students with valid I.D. and \$10 for the general public



@wilkesbeacon
Peyton.neishman@wilkes.edu



THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

{V M}

WILKES UNIVERSITY JOINS THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT
TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Feb 10 - 7 PM & Feb 11 - 2 PM

**Henry Student Center Ballroom
(2nd Floor of SUB)**

Wilkes Student Admission: Free with Student ID
Non-Wilkes Student Admission: \$5 with Student ID
General Admission: \$10

**Proceeds benefit various local charities preventing violence
against women and children**

HELP WOMEN IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:

Alternative Spring Break is in need of
feminine hygiene products & infant formula
Donations will be taken at the door

Five ways to heal your winter blues at Wilkes

By Kimberly Hein

Life, Art & Entertainment Editor

1 Hot Yoga:

Wilkes Adventure Education (WAE) offers hot yoga classes to students every Tuesday at Melt Hot Yoga from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Transportation leaves Henry Student Center at 11 a.m. and the cost for students is either \$20 per semester or \$2 per class. Mats and towels are provided for the participants.

2 Start Something New:

Although your semester may already be packed with things to do and you're too exhausted to do anything more than what is asked of you, try something new.

Join a new club. Pick up a new hobby. Read for fun. Learn how to play a new

instrument. Take an art class. Try a new workout class at the YMCA. Purchase a tanning package.

You understand what I'm saying, right? Try something new, and take life for all its worth. You won't regret it.

3 Break out the goodies:

With dining halls repeating the same meals constantly, this is the perfect time to develop your inner Rachael Ray. If you have access to a kitchen or maybe you can share with a friend, try out a fun new recipe (maybe even from our recipe section that's updated every week).

Aside from that, see what you would enjoy cooking. Would you like freshly baked French toast, cinnamon rolls, or monkey bread? Try something that you wouldn't normally be up for.

4 Spring Cleaning:

As a college student, you may not have cleaned up your room or touched your laundry in awhile. Simply starting your spring cleaning habits early, may help you feel less stressed, and help get rid of your winter blues. The best thing about cleaning is, you can do it while binge watching your favorite show!

5 Plan a trip:

Plan a summer trip with your friends, whether that be a weekend beach trip to New Jersey or a month long trip abroad... it may help get you out of your winter blues. When planning a trip, keep Groupon in mind, it really helps cut back on the cost of travel.

How do you handle the winter blues?

Let us know!

Email:

kimberly.hein@wilkes.edu



@wilkesbeacon

kimberly.hein@wilkes.edu

Visit NEPA's Only Board Game Cafe!
Gourmet Coffees & Teas
Delicious Pastries
Lunch & Dinner Options
200+ Board Games

FREE Play for Wilkes Students!
Pick up your free play voucher at the Henry Student Center Info Desk!

1112 Highway 315 - Wilkes-Barre, PA
In the 315 Plaza by Leggio's & State Farm Insurance - TheGameChateau.com

Student groups & clubs, call (570) 855-2968 for special Wilkes group rates & reservations!

facebook.com/gamechateau

KEEP IT PLAYFUL

ATTENTION
off-campus students:

Please submit your updated
off-campus address:
Head to Wilkes.edu and
search "off-campus address
form"

WU Programming Board hosts “Game Night”



On Feb. 2, the Wilkes University Programming Board hosted “Game Night” in the Henry Student Center first floor lounge. Students played an array of games from “Apples to Apples”, checkers, “Janga” and more. While gathered, students enjoyed tasty snacks.

Above and below: Students gather to play board games, cards and more while enjoying pizza and snacks with their peers.

The Beacon/ Jesse Chalnack



“Apples to Apples” was just one of many games and activities students could participate in on the Thursday evening event.

**Join Programming Board every Thursday
for an on-campus event**

Emergency Blood Drive

By Toni Pennello
Asst. News Editor

Blood drives happen four times a year at Wilkes, but some are more dire than others.

Wilkes University held an emergency blood drive on Feb. 2 in response to a local blood shortage.

"Typically, in the winter months, from thanksgiving until now, usually they have a dip in giving," said Megan Boone Valkenburg, student development coordinator, who organizes the Red Cross blood drives at Wilkes. "However, for whatever reason, with the late flu coming in, people being sick a lot, travel, weather... they are in a really tight spot with the number of donations they have."

In preparation for the drive, student development had early signups in the Henry Student Center and Red Cross made personal phone calls to previous donors.

"Currently, there is no substitution for

blood. It can't be created in a lab, you can't magic it into reality, so it really takes a special person to be able to donate and know that donation can save up to three lives," Boone Valkenburg said.

Junior pharmacy major Maria Torsiello donates whenever she can for this reason.

"I like the fact that I'm saving three lives every time I donate," Torsiello said. "I'm healthy. I might as well."

Boone Valkenburg added, "It doesn't take much time and you can do it in between classes, you can take a day off at the gym... I really don't see any negative reasons why students shouldn't donate."

In addition to this, all of the donations collected by the Red Cross remain local.


"I think it's a misnomer that it's sent out to somewhere else and people are purchasing

your blood on the black market... not true," Boone Valkenburg said. "If there is a critical need, say New York City needs blood donations, then of course Red Cross will send it, but in general most of our donations stay at Geisinger and General... anywhere in Luzerne County that needs it."

This makes donating extra rewarding for Alex Miner, junior chemistry major, who also donates whenever he can.

"It's a way to give back to the community and help people," Miner said. "I'm healthy."

Students are encouraged to keep an eye out on Wilkes Today for future blood drives. Students with type "O" blood, especially, are a commodity because "O" is the universal donor.

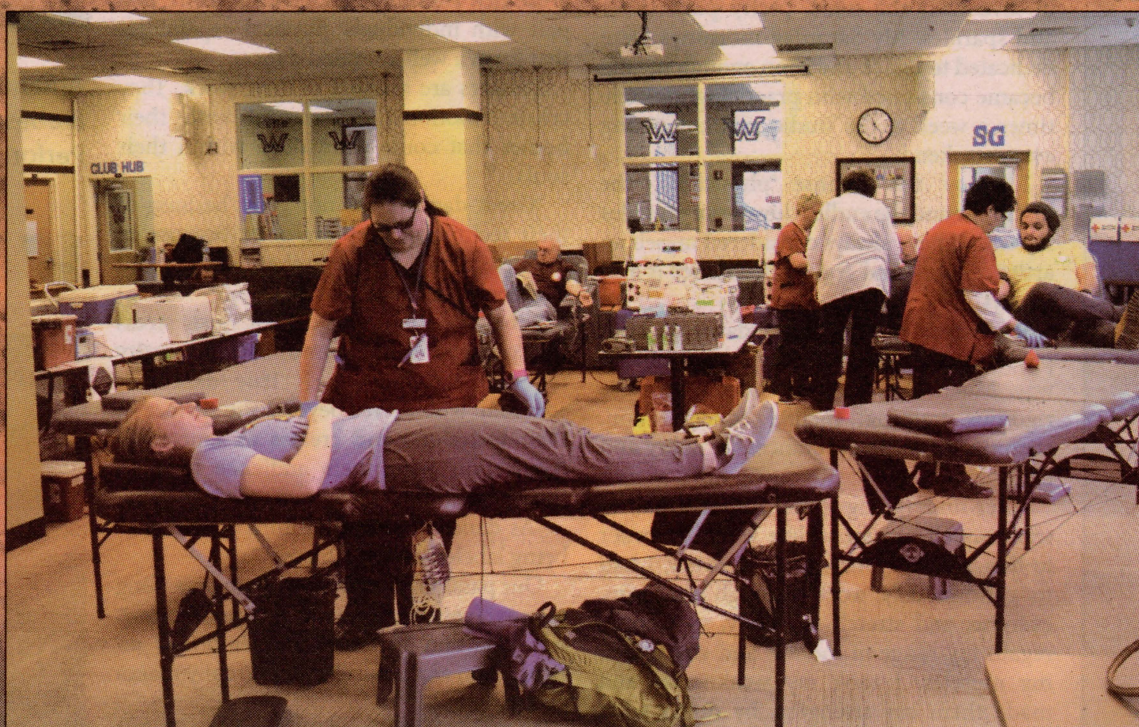
 @wilkesbeacon
toniann.pennello@wilkes.edu





Blood drives happen four times a year at Wilkes, but some are more dire than others. Wilkes University held an emergency blood drive on Feb. 2 in response to a local blood shortage.

Students with type "O" blood, are encouraged to donate because "O" is the universal donor. All blood types can take blood type "O-" or "O+".



Student Carsara McCleaf donates blood during the emergency blood drive. Students are encouraged to keep an eye out for future blood drives.

Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact the opinion editors: mark.makowski1@wilkes.edu or andre.spruell@wilkes.edu

Editorial Staff 2016-17

MANAGERIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief - Sarah Bedford
Managing Editor - Gabby Glinski
Managing Editor - Rachel Leandri
Adviser - Dr. Kalen Churcher

SECTION EDITORS

News - Alyssa Mursch
LA&E - Kimberly Hein
Opinion - Mark Makowski &
Andre Spruell
Sports - Taylor Ryan & Danny VanBrunt

ASSISTANT EDITORS

News - Toni Pennello
LA&E - Amanda Bialek
Opinion - available
Sports - Luke Modrovsky

DESIGN EDITORS

Nicole Kutos - Senior Designer

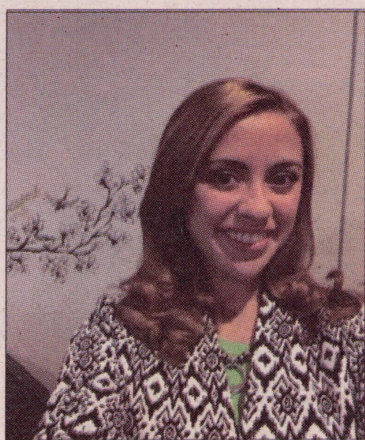
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Purvut Patel
Jesse Chalnick

Interested in joining the Beacon? To learn more about the positions we offer and what you can do, contact rachel.leandri@wilkes.edu

130 S. River St.
First Floor, Conyngham Hall
Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766
Phone - (570) 408-5903
www.thewilkesbeacon.com

Our Voice Oh my feet! Are dancers artists or athletes?



By: Amanda Bialek
LA&E Assistant Editor

Dance has been part of my life since I was two years old. As a little girl, I fell in love with the tutus, pretty pink shoes and sparkles. My Saturday mornings were dedicated to dance and soon enough my life became consumed with practicing multiple times a week at the studio and competing every weekend.

I enjoy the intense physicality, the discipline and the endless joy dance provides me with. I have always considered myself an artistic athlete and argued that dance is also a sport.

Regardless of the genre, dance is both physical and mental every step of the way. Much like athletes, dancing requires rigorous training, mental concentration, stamina, drive, perseverance, flexibility and endurance.

After undergoing spinal fusion, I had to train myself like an athlete would in order to dance again. During my recovery, I had to continuously work through the pain, exercise, and stretch my body, so I could regain my range of motion and strengthen my muscles. I took my weaknesses and made them my strengths, by doing what needed to be done and, as a true dancer should, trained my body in the pursuit of elegant, precise movement.

As an "athlete," I encouraged myself to

focus on improving my physical skill and flexibility.

As an "artist," I was driven to find the joy again that would allow me to become the dancer I once was.

Although there are many physical attributes that align with athletes, it is important to remember that dancers are artists.

Growing up in the dance world, I began to realize that this weekly activity was so much more than some fun fitness. There are so many elements beyond physical agility and strength dancers need to possess.

With every beautiful pirouette and arabesque, dancers appear effortless. They have rhythm, grace, balance, technique, beauty and passion. Dancers have the ability to draw the audience in and speak volumes through their movement. There is a great need for expression, musicality and creativity. These are the key components that pair with individuals' physical capabilities that form a well-rounded dancer.

Dancers are masters of their work. They create emotional experiences with their bodies that come from deep within their souls.

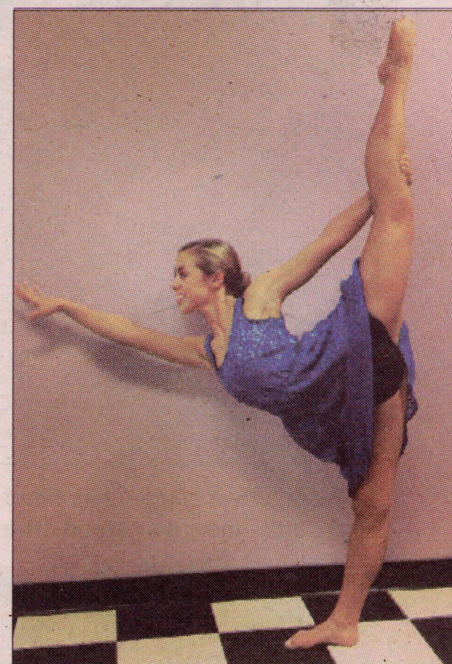
"Great dancers are not great because of their technique, they are great because of their passion," Martha Graham, dancer and choreographer said.

I believe that we cannot just stress the physical musculature and virtuosity required for dancing. A true dancer is someone who delves beyond the surface of their technique and creates an emotional connection with their audience through their expression.

As dancers we cannot limit ourselves to being labeled as just athletes.

Our passion for creativity, giving meaning to movement, making a story out of a song, our attention to detail and emphasis on expression and soulful choreography makes us artists.

"It takes an athlete to dance, but an artist to be a dancer," Shanna LaFleur said.



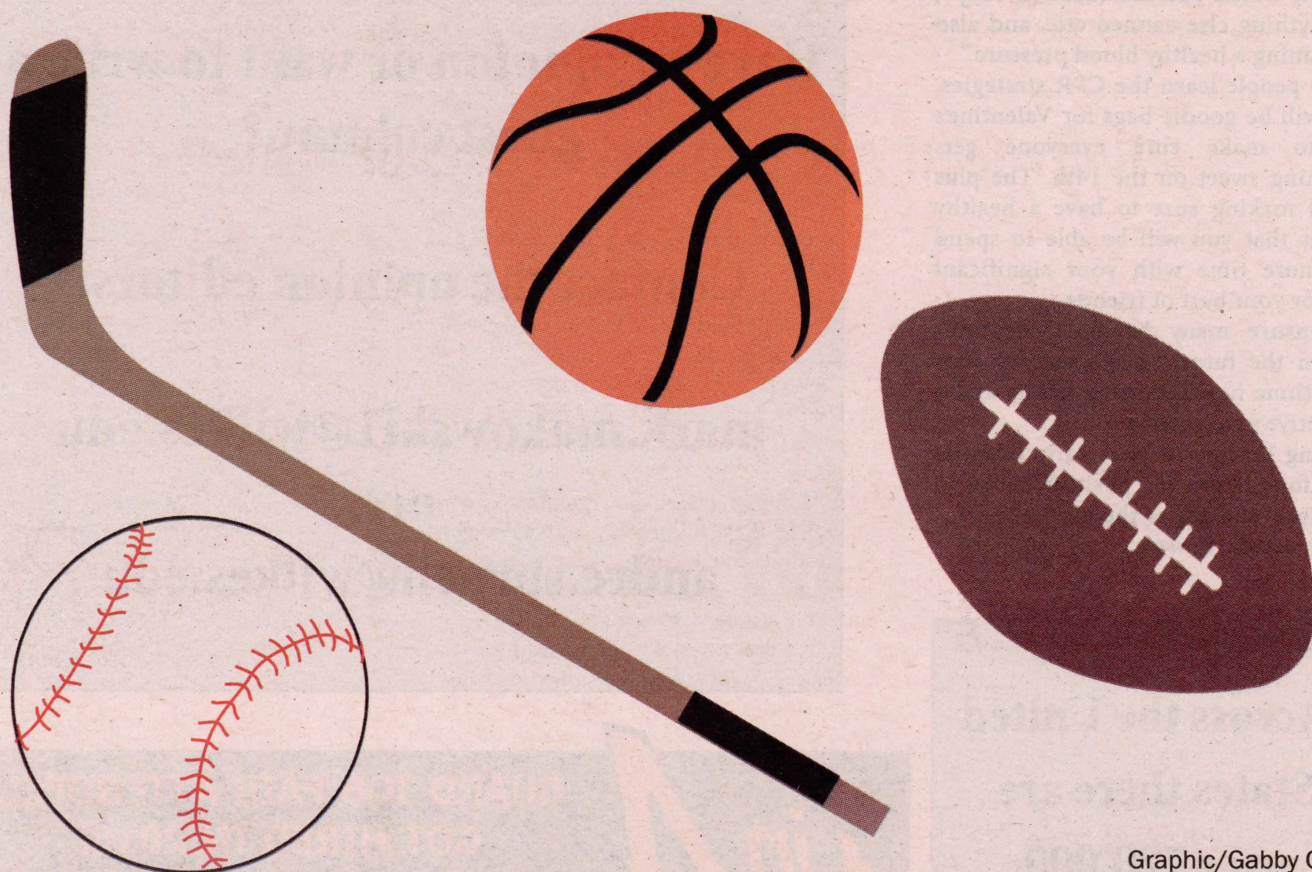
Amanda Bialek demonstrates an arabesque at the Lehigh Valley Performing Arts

[@wilkesbeacon](https://twitter.com/wilkesbeacon)
amanda.bialek@wilkes.edu

**Each week a Beacon editor
will take a stance on a
current topic.**

**Note: The views expressed
are those of the writer.**

Major talent for minor amounts of people watching



By: Andre Spruell
Opinion Co-Editor

Becoming a professional athlete is a difficult feat for anyone to accomplish, but being recognized as one of the best in the league is even harder.

The four major professional sports in the U.S. are football, basketball, hockey, and baseball, and they all have all-star games to recognize the players that have stood out above the rest during the first half of the season. While it is honor for an athlete to be named an all-star in their respective sports, these games don't gain the type of viewership that is expected.

This is odd because what sports fan wouldn't want to see the best in the game go at it to highlight their uncanny ability and extraordinary talent.

The National Football League (NFL) has always had trouble gaining the same number of viewers for their all-star game that is referred to as the Pro Bowl.

About 10 years ago, it used to be a whole weekend that consisted of skills challenges for players to show off their throwing

ability, hands, speed, and/or strength. After many years of not having those skills challenges, the NFL attempted to bring that back this year which was rather lackluster.

As for the game itself, there are so many rules put in to limit the chance of players getting injured in this exhibition game that it is pretty much a game of two-hand touch.

This year, the Pro Bowl went back to its normal AFC vs NFC format, which puts players from each conference against each other for bragging rights. Prior to returning to the old format, the last four Pro Bowls consisted of two NFL hall of famers drafting their own teams, sort of like a real life fantasy football. There isn't much that can be done to make this less difficult to watch than it already is.

At least the Super Bowl takes place the week after the Pro Bowl which is something to look forward to.

The National Basketball Association (NBA) and the National Hockey League (NHL) play their seasons around the same time and even have similar formats by having an all-star weekend. Both

leagues have a celebrity pick-up game that occurs on a Friday, skills competitions on Saturday, followed by the actual all-star game on Sunday.

Unlike the NBA all-star game where the eastern and western conference play against each other, the NHL does a 3-on-3 tournament with the best players from its four conferences as opposed to its usual 5-on-5 game.

The highlight of NHL all-star weekend is the actual game while the slam dunk contest in the NBA is the event that usually steals for the simple fact that the average cannot dunk a basketball on a 10-foot hoop.

While the dunk contest has been tedious the last 10-15 years, but last year's showdown between non-all-star players Zach Lavine of the Minnesota Timberwolves and Aaron Gordon of the Orlando Magic was one that will go down in the history books with Lavine defeating Gordon by one point in an overtime round.

Despite not having a whole all-star weekend, Major League Baseball (MLB) does it a little differently. The day before

the all-star game, there is a home run derby which like the dunk contest, was rejuvenated, but through rule changes.

Instead of having 10 outs, the batter has five minutes to hit as many home runs as possible and get extra time for hitting balls at certain distances.

As for the all-star game itself, it was worth watching because the winning conference, the American League or National League, would gain home-field advantage in the World Series. This upcoming baseball season the league will get rid of that, making the game more of an exhibition like its fellow competitors.

Out of the four major sports, NBA all-star weekend is probably the best to watch because it is the most entertaining. The weekend as a whole is entertaining.

The first night has the celebrity game where actors, comedians, former NBA and WNBA players play, and many more. That game is followed by the U.S. vs the world game which consists of likely future all-stars playing against each other representing the U.S. or an international country.

The skills competition follows the next day which is entertaining in it of itself with the dunk contest as the main event, but the event right before the dunk contest that may highlight the skills competition even more than the dunk contest is the three point contest. Especially considering that the game is becoming more of a 3 point happy shooting league.

And the best of the worst is the Pro Bowl. The NFL already has an enormous amount of issues and simply put, the Pro Bowl can be added to that list of problems that it needs to attempt to resolve.

Players that get the achievement of being named to an all-star team worked hard to get there and deserve to be honored for that.

With nothing at stake in these all-star games, it doesn't give fans a reason to watch these games other than to see the greatest pickup game of the year.

@wilkesbeacon
andre.spruell@wilkes.edu

Hearts in February aren't just for Valentine's Day

By: Olivia Macdonald
Opinion Writer

February is the month of love... for your significant other and your heart. That's right, the little organ in your body has its own month to focus on being healthy and to be able to thrive for several years to come. Heart disease is the number one cause of death for both men and women in the country claiming about one million lives annually.

Luckily it is also one of the most preventable diseases by making heart-healthy choices. It is also very important to know and understand your family's health history and which diseases to look out for as you get older. As college kids, we are not thinking about our heart's health as much as we should. Senior, Ryan Dailey says that the main way he keeps his heart healthy is by "eating right like white meats and protein based foods, and making sure to work out regularly whether it be cardio or weight training," Dailey says.

College students are at a prime age to determine their future health whether it be for their hearts, or any other organ. Wilkes provides two gyms for students to workout at, sadly they always seem to be empty... time to start hitting those treadmills.

According to theheartfoundation.org, about 720,000 people in the United States suffer from heart attacks each year with one happening every 34 seconds. We all know the simple rules to have a healthy heart; not smoking, exercising daily, and eating proper foods.

Yet, not everyone knows what to do in case someone around them does not have such a healthy heart. Around Wilkes' campus, the nursing program will be spreading awareness for heart health and ways that people our age can start to protect themselves and others.

On Feb. 14 the BACCHUS club and Wilkes' nursing program will be teaming up and teaching students how to do different forms of CPR in case of emergency situations.

There will be a table in the Henry Student Center offering a quick lesson on how to perform the different forms of CPR, and lots of information pertaining to the subject matter. Senior nursing students, Marissa Viglianti explains,

"to promote heart health: healthy diet, exercise, watch sodium (canned soups, and anything else canned etc., and also maintaining a healthy blood pressure."

Once people learn the CPR strategies, there will be goodie bags for Valentine's Day to make sure everyone gets something sweet on the 14th. The plus side of making sure to have a healthy heart is that you will be able to spend even more time with your significant other, or your best of friends.

To ensure many healthy Valentine's Days in the future, make sure to start or continue healthy eating habits and a productive gym regimen.

Staying healthy in your early twenties is the foundation for positive habits in the future, starting is the hardest part... so why not start now!

Across the United States there are over 720,000 heart attacks. One happens every 34 seconds. Learn ways to promote good heart health at:

theheartfoundation.org



@wilkesbeacon
olivia.macdonald@wilkes.edu

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column?

Contact the opinion editors:

mark.makowski1@wilkes.edu

or

andre.spruell@wilkes.edu

1 in 4

GUARD JOB FAIR ATTENDEES GOT HIRED IN 2016!

(AND OUR NEXT ONE IS COMING SOON!)

Career Fair 2017 & Open House

Thursday, February 16th, 2017 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at our home office at 16 South River Street, Wilkes-Barre

FULL-TIME POSITIONS & PAID INTERNSHIPS!

- Entry level; no insurance experience necessary
- Potential for paid internships to evolve into fulfilling careers
- Full-time positions with a competitive salary
- Exceptional benefits and opportunities for advancement
- Flexible hours and comfortable working environment
- Nationwide operation with downtown Wilkes-Barre location
- Part of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Group
- Opportunities for students in a host of majors/disciplines



Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Companies

Parking: From S. Franklin Street, turn left onto Market Street, then left onto Frazier Lane. Shuttles will be available for Wilkes University students! (Contact Career Services for more details.)

EOE

Colonels Talk Back

Super Bowl LI Final Score Picks

Interviews by
Peyton Neishman
peyton.neishman@wilkes.edu

Photos by
Jesse Chalnack
jesse.chalnack@wilkes.edu

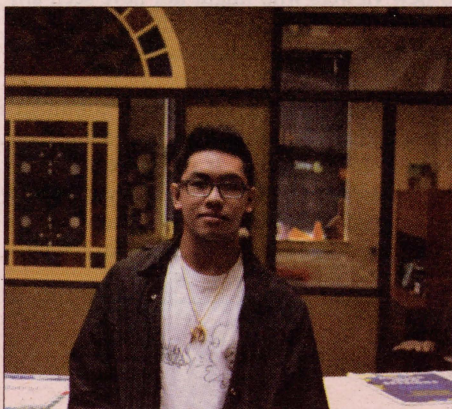
Students were asked what team is going to win Super Bowl LI and receive the "Vince Lombardi Trophy" and also what they think the final score will be.

Want to be in the next Colonels Talk Back? Email peyton.neishman@wilkes.edu

Steven Ramos
Junior
Engineering

"I think the New England Patriots are going to win the Super Bowl. I don't really have a favorite team. I just like watching every team play the game."

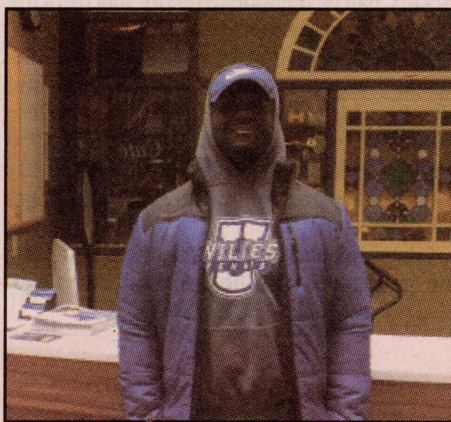
Final Score: Patriots 28, Falcons 8



Richmond Owusua
Junior
Sports Management

"The Patriots of course. I'm a die-hard Patriots fan and come on now, Patriots. Tom Brady, Bill Belichick, what else can I say."

Final Score: Patriots 31, Falcons 27



Alec Norton
Freshmen
Sports Management

"I think that Atlanta Falcons are going to win the Super Bowl this year. I think their offense is too high powered for the Patriots to handle."

Final Score: Falcons 31, Patriots 24



Jacquelyn Gallo
Junior
International Studies/ Political Science

"I think that the New England Patriots are going to win the Super Bowl."

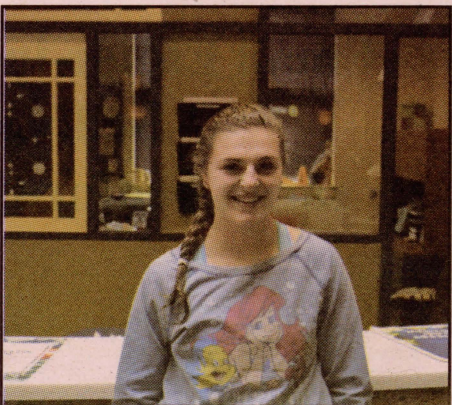
Final Score: Patriots 27, Falcons 16



Micaela Oilverio
Junior
Communication Studies/Musical Theatre

"I definitely think that Tom Brady and the New England Patriots are going to win Super Bowl LI."

Final Score: Patriots 49, Falcons 37



Ema Sabovic
Junior
Finance

"If I had to pick a team to win the Super Bowl this year. I would definitely pick the New England Patriots."

Final Score: Patriots 55, Falcons 49



From the big screen to the small screen: TV shows based on films

By: Mark Makowski
Opinion Co-Editor

Have you ever been watching television and see a commercial for a new show based on your favorite movie?

It is something we see more often in this era as we have essentially ran out of new ideas for TV show story lines.

Now don't get me wrong, some of these TV adaptations have been a major success. One example I think of is Fargo which is entering its third season on FX.

The original Fargo was a dark comedy crime thriller that was released in 1996. This success has given the idea to producers and directors across Hollywood to adapt these big screen movies into smaller screen TV shows.

Unfortunately, success does not grace the doorstep of all these programs. One failing example is Rush Hour. The premise of the of the show is based off of the popular film franchise Rush Hour, Rush Hour 2, and Rush Hour 3 which combined grossed over \$849 million.

However, the developers for the new CBS aired program believed that slapping some of

the main characteristics from the movies in the show could make it a success. The show lacked the chemistry of the main characters that were seen in the movie franchise with Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker.

The show would not hit the ground running, surviving 13 episodes with a little over 1.5 million viewers for the season/series finale according to showbuzzdaily.com.

Many of these developers believe that if they slap the main points from the movies then the cast doesn't matter and it will sell. This is a plan that is a total failure.

I have always been a fan of the Rush Hour movies. The story lines were great, with the equal amounts of comedy, action, and drama. But the chemistry between Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan as mentioned before was the icing on the cake of the movie franchise.

Another show that I am not too fond of is Lethal Weapon, based on another successful film franchise. Lethal Weapon is a franchise which had four films which grossed over \$950 million. Mel Gibson and Danny Glover would play the characters of Martin Riggs and Roger Murtaugh.

Like most buddy cop films, there is usually the good cop and the bad cop. Murtaugh

would be the by the book cookie cutter cop, while Riggs would be the off the rails cop that would do anything to achieve the best for the greater good.

However, the Lethal Weapon TV series has had decent ratings averaging about 6 million viewers per episode according showbuzzdaily.com.

Now these ratings aren't spectacular but they were deemed well enough for Fox to order a full season of the show.

But when I watch it I don't get any special feelings to it. Once again it seems like it lacks the chemistry that the movie franchise had.

Also the writing isn't anything special, most of the scenes in episodes of the show are exact copies of events that had occurred in the movie. But if the show can possibly branch out to new viewers who might not have seen any of the original movies. So if this is achievable then the show should have some longevity to it.

However, through all of my comments about Lethal Weapon, it does have some tools to be a major success. If the writers start to branch away from the movie story lines and create original writing then the show will be a success and be a mainstay in the fox lineup.

Want to write
a TV Show
or Movie
review?

Email
Mark
Makowski to
learn how!

The Beacon Wants YOU



Want to explore writing? Have an
opinion you'd like to share? Want to
uncover the latest breaking news?
Passionate about sports?

Join the Beacon!

Email Editor-in-Chief, Sarah
Bedford at:
sarah.bedford@wilkes.edu

Sports

Want your sport covered? Contact the sports editor: taylor.ryan@wilkes.edu or daniel.vanbrunt@wilkes.edu

Chander: "...an emotional, mental and physical rollercoaster."

By Danny Van Brunt
Sports Co-Editor

Pankil Chander is a 133-pound senior wrestler for Wilkes University who won three matches in a row at the Marts Center to earn the MAC Wrestler of the Week award. On top of that, Chander is a Beacon sports writer as well as an intern for the Sports Information Department.

He chose to do an internship with the department because of his passion for sports. The department is usually busy taking care of the 20 plus teams on campus, so Chander decided to highlight coaches and athletes on campus for them.

As a student-athlete himself, Chander understands that student-athletes are the life and blood of Wilkes athletics. He also looks to the coaches for leadership. It is very rewarding for him to tell their stories. Chander has felt and seen the influence sports have on athlete's lives.

Chander decided to highlight coaches and athletes by both interviewing them on-camera and writing feature stories about them. After shooting on-camera interviews, he felt that it was easier than writing the feature stories. Chander likes to go more in-depth with athletes and coaches, so he finds writing feature stories as a better way to tell their stories.

The most important piece of work he has created so far is a feature story he wrote about Chris DeFrancesco. DeFrancesco is a first-year football player who has battled cancer throughout his life, yet continues to play sports. The story made Chander realize how grateful he is to stay healthy through his long career in sports.

"I have seen the influence that sports have had on people. Sports are a big part of the world and athletes are the toughest people out of everyone. Student-athletes are the ones who go unnoticed, and it is not easy to compete for four years while getting a four-year degree," Chander said.

Chander has taken various lessons learned from being a wrestler and has applied them to his own life. The most important of all lessons to Chander is learning to be disciplined. Being disciplined can apply to many facets of life. Chander describes this as his gateway to excelling in life.

Ever since 12 years old, Chander has submerged himself into sports. Until his second-year of high school, Chander played football, lacrosse and wrestled. He was the most competitive in wrestling, and that is why he stopped playing other sports.

"I don't think there is any other sport where you have to harbor such a great deal of toughness. There are not many sports where you have to cut weight every week and actually monitor your calorie intake. Going to practice is like having a two-hour fight everyday, but still have to carry on with your day afterwards. It is an individual sport where your strength and resilience are always tested," Chander said.

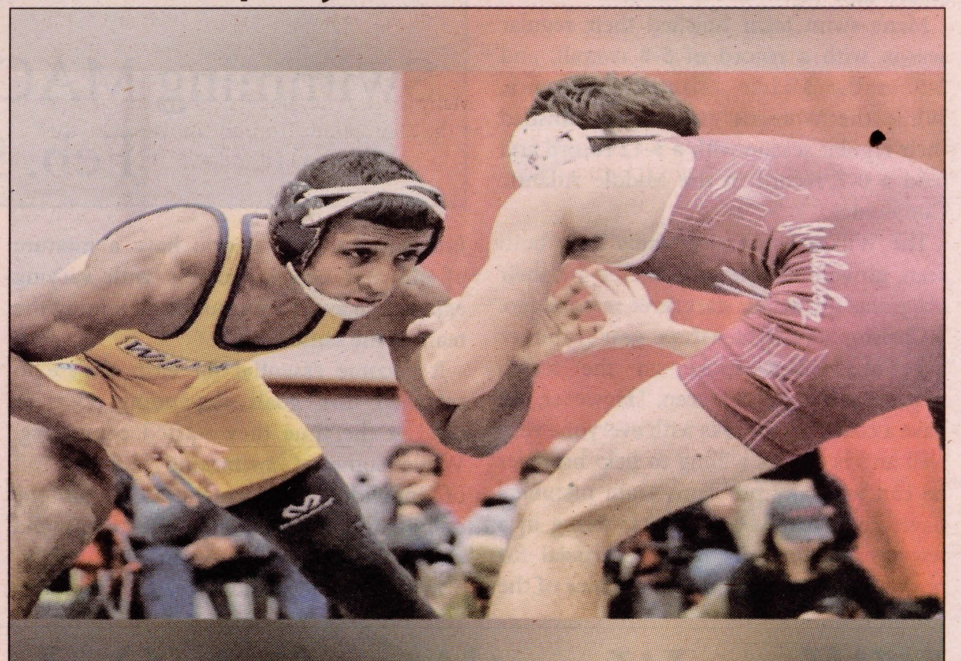
Wilkes wrestling has not only taught Chander about discipline, but evolution as well. When he graduated high school, he knew that his GPA was low and he was not very involved in extra-curricular activities. He has transformed into a student who is involved in extra-curriculars and is always changing himself to be the best wrestler he is able to be.

Chander stands with a total record of 81-48 after nearly four years of wrestling at Wilkes. He described his wrestling career in a short statement:

"My wrestling career at Wilkes has been an emotional, mental and physical rollercoaster. Emotional comes first," he said.

This season, Chander is 19-7 and appears to be at the peak of his career. In his final year, he has taken an unconventional route. Most wrestlers will wrestle at one weight class for their first few years and then move up a weight class for their final years. This is because younger wrestlers generally have less experience than older ones, which leads younger wrestlers to lose more weight to find a position on the team for themselves. However, Chander has wrestled the 141-pound weight class for the past three years and is now wrestling at the 133-pound weight class. It was a tough transition for him, but he still believes that he would be able to defeat his previous self every year, which is a testament to his growth.

Two members of the wrestling team, Gueseppe Rea and Matt Grossman, have both been ranked nationally this year as well as previous years and are both somewhat close in weight to Chander. Chander practices with them on a daily basis. To



Courtesy of Josh Evans

Pankil Chander wrestling with an opponent from the neutral position.

Chander, he does not see them as nationally-regarded wrestlers, but more of teammates and friends. Rea is very close with Chander because they are roommates.

"It is truly amazing to see what my friends have accomplished. I have seen them during their lows, but it is amazing to see how they have grown and are now performing at the best they ever have," Chander said.

All of them have different wrestling styles, but their energy is contagious to Chander. He refers to practicing with them as 'iron sharpening iron.'

In the home quad match against Oneonta, Keystone and Washington and Jefferson, Chander won all three matches to earn the MAC Wrestler of the Week award. In his first match, he faced a wrestler from Oneonta who was ranked eighth in the nation, and Chander defeated him with a takedown in overtime for the sudden victory with a score of 10-8. His second match resulted in a 12-9 decision against Keystone, and Chander defeated his third opponent from Washington and Jefferson by a 15-0 technical fall in four minutes.

"This award is positive affirmation that I must be doing something right, and I will continue to amplify that. It is nice to be

recognized, yet title and accolades do not change who you are. You are who you are, and ultimately it matters what kind of person you are; it matters if you are kind to others and live with integrity," Chander said.

The team's record sits at a respectable 13-4 record. Chander described the team that he was on during his first year at Wilkes as the best team he has ever wrestled on. However, he acknowledges that that team he was on in his first year was also a team full of older wrestlers. In comparison, Chander describes this year's team as the youngest out of the past four years. Although the team is young, Chander noticed that the team has a very diverse set of skills. All of the wrestlers have different positive qualities, and that is an advantage compared to other teams that only teach one style of wrestling.

"I took a hard look at quitting the sport altogether after my sophomore year, and transfer to a school closer to home. I am glad I saw this great opportunity I had at Wilkes through," Chander said.



@wilkesbeacon

Daniel.vanbrunt@wilkes.edu

Wilkes Swimming splashes into MAC Championships

By Taylor Ryan
Sports Co-Editor

As both the Men's and Women's swimming teams wrap up their third season of competition, there is many successes to review and vast strides to admire.

Men's swim team finished their regular season with a record of 5-8 overall, and 2-5 in the Middle Atlantic Conference. While the Women's swim team finished their regular season with a 3-12 record and held a 0-7 record in the Middle Atlantic Conference.

The Wilkes University teams have both seen growth and improvements in their programs since their start three seasons ago.

Christopher Bright, a three-year swimmer here at Wilkes, spoke on the team's improvements he has seen, "However, we have a coach who works with everyone very well and is always willing to help however he can with any problems team members have. Each year is a chance to bring in a few more swimmers that are crucial for not only improving the performance of the

team, but also for creating a base with our current members that can be carried in to the future."

As a newer program at the college level, recruiting becomes a challenge, Bright noted, "New programs can be difficult to

huge successes in their relay teams victories.

Against King's College, on Jan. 28, the men's team had one of their relay teams finish first in the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 3:56.87 and another finish third in the 200 medley relay with a time of 1:50.63.

Swimming MAC Championships: Feb. 9 - 12

find success with as you have a mixture of old and new swimmers with varying experience and backgrounds all joining the team at the same time."

It become essential for each athlete to set their own goals, depending on their level at the time they started competing. While some of swimming is based off of individual performances, all of the competitors contribute to the teams end results throughout the season.

In recent meets both teams have seen

The Women's swim team also performed exceptionally well in the relays they competed in at King's College. The Lady Colonel's won the 400 meter freestyle relay with a time of 5:03.05. Another women's relay team, finished second in the 200 meter medley relay finishing with in 2:02.30.

These placements of the relays in the conclusions of the season, not only show the successes and hard work of the individuals competing but the team work that must be put into this sport and especially these

events. These strong times show the overall improvement of a strong-willed team in a short time.

When asked what this teams greatest strength was, team leader, Bright, said quickly, "Perseverance. There are always struggles with any sports team but our swimmers have shown tremendous perseverance over the course of the season in an effort to achieve personal and team goals.

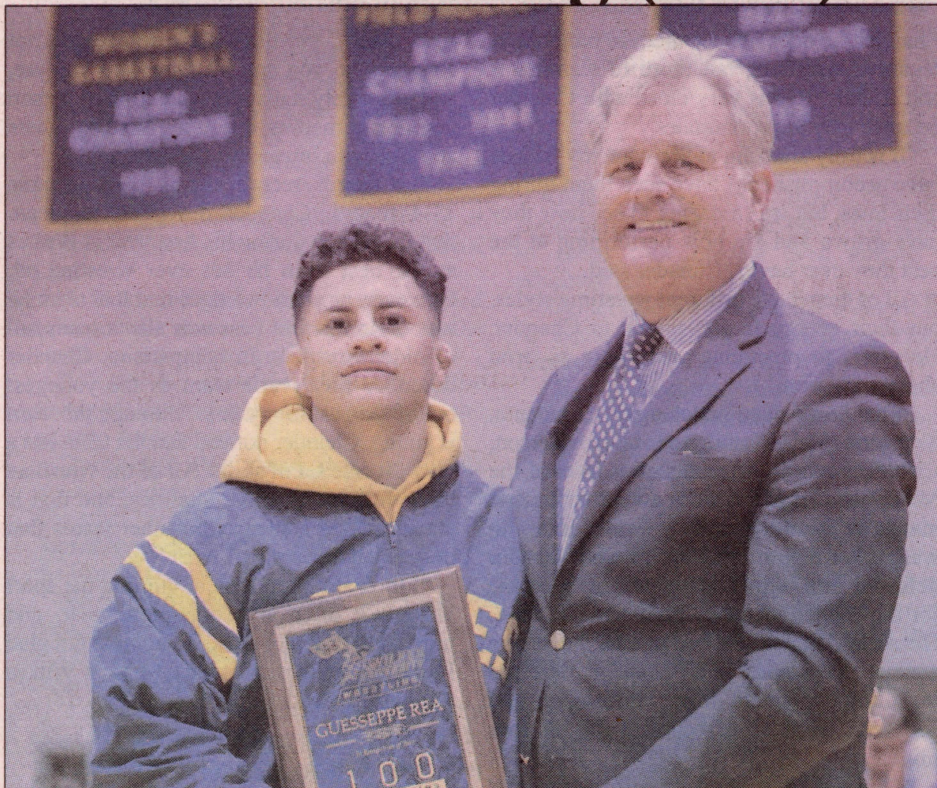
These two teams, work off of each other and continue to push forward and grow as the program develops in years to come. Each athlete expects to see vast strides made in the next couple years. The recruitment process will become easier as well as gain athletes from a wider area span, as well as the experienced swimmers are able to gain more collegiate competition both in and out of the Middle Atlantic Conference.

We wish both swim teams best of luck in the MAC Championships.



@wilkesbeacon
taylor.ryan@wilkes.edu

Wilkes Wrestling (14-4) defeats TCNJ at Marts, 27-16



Courtesy of Josh Evans

Dr. Paul Adams hands Guesseppe Rea a plaque for his 100th career victory.



Courtesy of Josh Evans

Fans were pleased to see Wilkes win their only home dual match of the season.

Bruised, but still cruising; Wilkes Wrestling continues to grind

By Luke Modrovsky
Asst. Sports Editor

Bruised but still cruising, Wilkes Wrestling battles injuries.

With a huge Senior Night 27-16 win over The College of New Jersey, Wilkes Wrestling Head Coach Jonathan Laudenslager said this year's team is peaking at just the right time.

"For us to be 14-4, I've been pretty impressed for how well the guys have been wrestling," Laudenslager said.

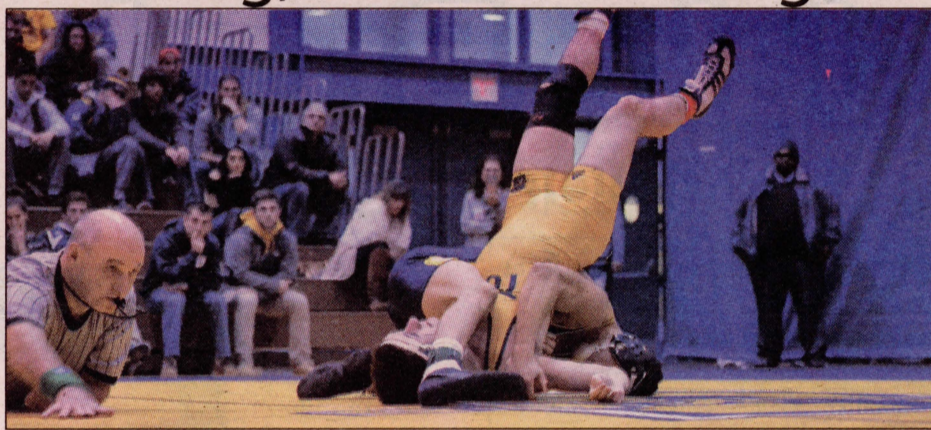
Starting at 141 pounds, Matt Grossmann, Kyle Medrow and Nick Racanelli each captured victories in the first three matches of the evening.

Ricky Fornaciari dominated TCNJ's Sean Tonry with a technical fall in the sixth bout of the evening, giving Wilkes a 17-7 lead.

It would be Guesseppe Rea who came away with a pin in 3:43 to clinch the dual. Pankil Chander's 11-3 major decision victory would take on another four points for the 27-16 win.

"We have an abundance of talent with guys who can put together solid wins and guys who can go out there and let it fly and have it be fun to watch," Chander said.

Getting to this point of the season can



Courtesy of Josh Evans

Senior wrestler Guesseppe Rea pins his opponent to seal the victory over TCNJ.

be extremely difficult when not everyone is healthy. As a matter of fact, seven wrestlers have been sidelined to the remainder of the year with injuries.

"I think we are starting to wrestle our best right now," Laudenslager said. "It's been a challenge. We've had so many injuries."

At one point, Wilkes was forced to forfeit at heavyweight in a dual against Oneonta College in an effort to preserve their chances of winning the remaining two in a recent quad match.

"Especially with the upper weights, we've been piecing them together, specifically heavyweight," Laudenslager said.

This year's roster features two nationally ranked wrestlers, Guesseppe Rea and Matt Grossman, according to the latest InterMat Wrestle rankings.

Rea placed 2nd at the Messiah Petrofes Invitational, Wilkes Open, and the Middle Atlantic Conference Championships as well as a 1st place finish at the Will Abele Tournament.

Senior Pankil Chander also has three 2nd places finishes at the Messiah Petrofes Invitational, Will Abele Tournament, and the Middle Atlantic Conference Championships.

"G-Rea and Pankil have been spot on since they got here, even as freshman," said Laudenslager.

Looking forward, Rea and Chander said they are hopeful they and their fellow teammates will see some postseason success.

"Some guys are still recovering and some guys are battling through it. Those guys are strong," Rea said, "We will have our best on the mat by the end of this month. We have had our ups and downs but I think we are heading to the right direction as of now."

"We are diverse bunch of guys and when we wrestle to our strengths even if it may be unconventional, we are a resilient team," Chander said.

On Feb. 25 and 26, Wilkes Wrestling will head to the Mideast Regionals hosted by York College. But not to be forgotten, there are still three dual meets left in the 2016-17 campaign.



@wilkesbeacon
luke.modrovsky@wilkes.edu

JANUZZIS

Pizza & Subs

Next to Movies 14 • For Delivery- Call 825-5166 • Wilkes -Barre, Kingston, Plains, Plymouth, Nanticoke

\$13.95 + TAX

large 16" 1-topping
pizza & 2-liter soda

\$7.95 + TAX

each for 5 or more
large plain pies

\$16.95 + TAX

3 hot & cold subs
mix & match

\$20.95 + TAX

large 16" pizza & 12
cut tray sicilian pizza

\$17.95 + TAX

2 large plain pizzas
toppings extra

\$20.95 + TAX

24- cut Sicilian pizza

\$17.95 + TAX

12- cut Sicilian pizza
& 1 order of wings

\$11.95 + TAX

12 -cut Sicilian pizza

\$23.95 + TAX

2 tickets to Movies
14, 1 med- 1 topping
pizza & 2 drinks

\$12.95 + TAX

small 12" 1-topping
pizza & choice of
any sub

\$18.95 + TAX

large 16" pizza, 1
sub, & an appetizer

\$28.95 + TAX

3 large 1- topping
pizzas

Getting to know...

Jake Brook

Senior Wrestler

By Purvit Patel
Sports Writer

Name: Jake Brook
Year: Senior
Major: Accounting
Hometown: Layton, NJ
High School: Kittatinny Regional
Weight Class: 184 lbs.

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

A: The wrestling program at Wilkes was a major reason for me coming here. I knew that they were very good and I had two high school teammates, Sean Lombardi and Eric Bach, that also got me very interested in the school.

Q: Post-graduation plans in terms of a Career?

A: After graduation, I plan on getting my CPA license. My dream job would be to work for the FBI doing forensic accounting but I also have a lot of interest in taxes so I could definitely see myself in an accounting firm.

Q: What are your hopes for your season as a Colonel?

A: I plan on finishing out the year strong by helping win the East Region tournament as a team and qualifying for NCAA Division 3 National Tournament.

Q: When/Why did you first begin wrestling?

A: I began wrestling when I was 4 years old. My mother said that I was a bad child growing up so my parents signed me up in hope that I would learn some discipline.

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

A: If I could improve some things in the Wilkes Athletic Program, I would upgrade the weight room and gear that we get.

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

A: Other than wrestling, I play football here at Wilkes. I also spend a lot of time fishing back home and hanging out with my friends.

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

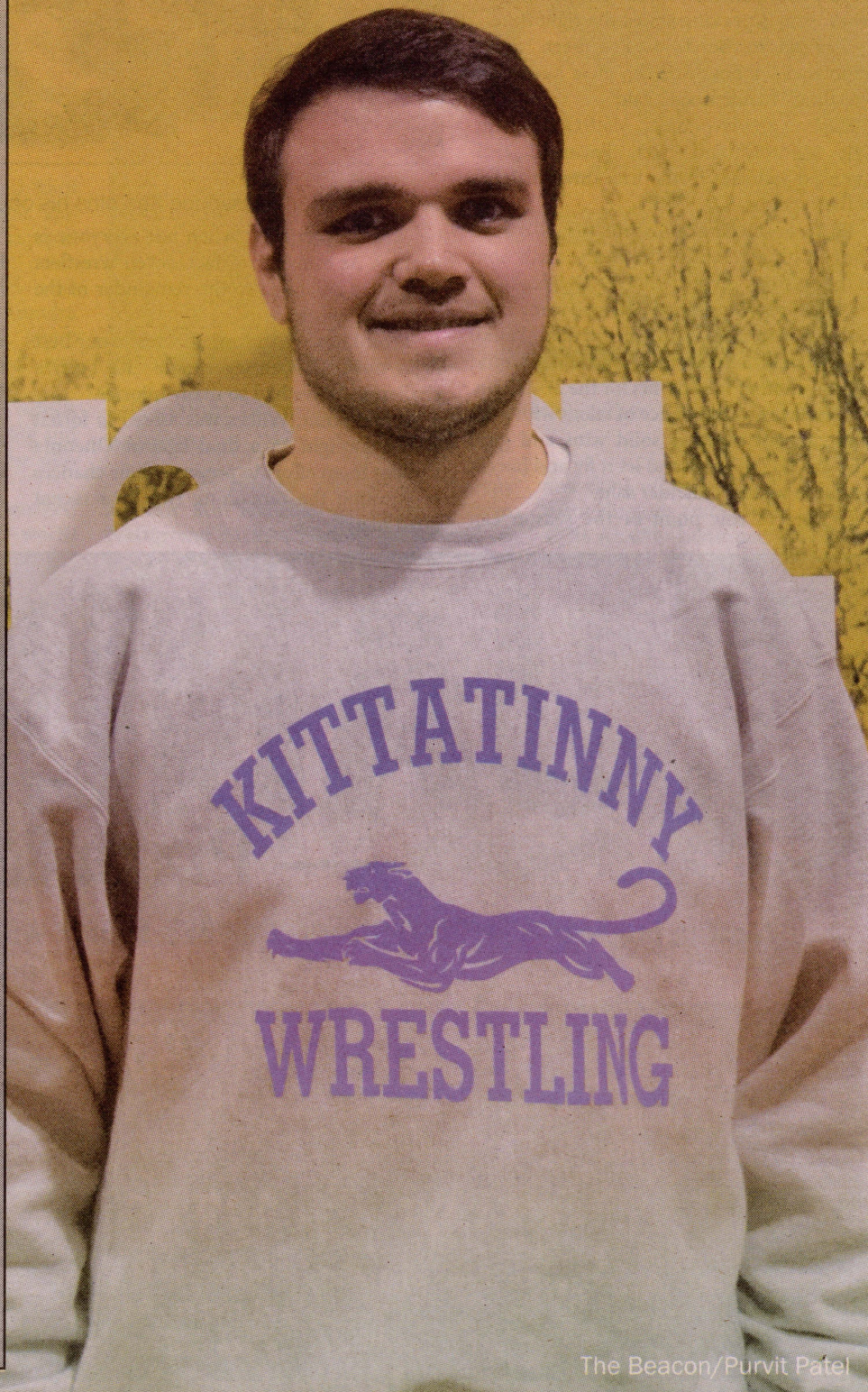
A: I would have to say that both of my parents are the most influential people in my life. They have always pushed me to be the best that I can be in sports, academics, and as a man. They are always there for my brother, sisters and I no matter what it is. I can only hope to grow up and be the same way with my kids.

Q: A quote you live your life by?

A: "When you come to a fork in the road, take it" -Yogi Berra

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

A: To me, "Be Colonel" means to be great and united. Do as much as you can whether it is in the classroom, socially, or athletically. Be a great student, meet new people, help others, and just strive to be a better person. Everyone here has the same motto so if everyone is being "Colonel" than the school and community will be a better and more fun place to be.



The Beacon/Purvrit Patel

Getting to know...

Maura Clarke

Freshman Swimmer

By Purvit Patel
Sports Writer

Name: Maura Clarke
Year: Freshman
Major: International Studies
Hometown: Plains, Pa.
High School: Coughlin High School
Position: Butterfly and mid-distance freestyle

Q: What was the driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?
A: To be able to participate in AFROTC and be on the swim team.

Q: Post-graduation plans in terms of a Career?
A: To be a pilot in the United States Air Force

Q: What are your hopes for your current season as a Colonel?
A: To break my personal records at MACs.

Q: When/Why did you first begin swimming?
I first started swimming when I was 8 at the CYC because I always really enjoyed being in the water.

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

A: It would be nice if we could have our own pool.

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

A: AFROTC

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

A: Majeed Al-Mutairi, fellow swimmer

Q: A quote you live your life by?

A: "We cannot become what we want to be by remaining what we are"

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

A: Having pride in Wilkes and my team

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

A: Slim Shady



@wilkesbeacon
purvit.patel@wilkes.edu

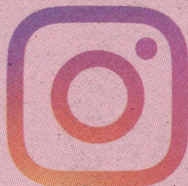
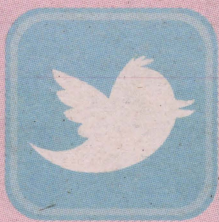
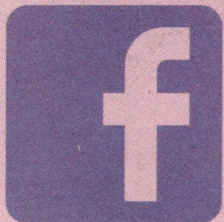


The Beacon/Purvrit Patel

Follow us on Facebook,
Twitter and Instagram!

Facebook: The Beacon

Twitter: @wilkesbeacon



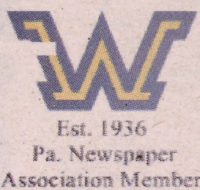
**FUTURISTIC
INNOVATIVE
GRAPHICS**
INCORPORATED
SCREEN PRINTING • EMBROIDERY • PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

**WELCOME BACK
STUDENTS!**

**RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR
CLUB OR TEAM WITH A
CUSTOM ONLINE STORE.**

156 SOUTH PENNSYLVANIA • WILKES-BARRE
NEXT DOOR TO CURRY DONUTS 570.823.9272

4T-SHIRTS.COM



THE BEACON

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

BEACON HIRES: WRITERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, EDITORS

By:
Staff Writer

This could be you!

If you have a passion for writing,
design, or photography, join us!

All majors welcome!

sarah.bedford@wilkes.edu