



# THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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

## Kristin Degnan-Boonin celebrates 40th anniversary

By Cally Williams

Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff

The Conservatory in the Dorothy Darte Center plays a pivotal role in student life and growth of talents. Kristin Degnan-Boonin, one of the founders of the Degnan Ballet Center and Wilkes' dance program is celebrating 40 years since she and her late husband, Peter Degnan, founded the Degnan Ballet Center.

Degnan-Boonin and her late husband founded the Degnan Ballet Center in 1983, but added their previously existing dance studio to campus later. The conservatory consists of the Degnan Ballet Center, Indian Classical Dance, instrumental and vocal music lessons.

The conservatory originally focused on theater rather than dance until the Degnan Ballet Center was added by the couple.

Throughout its 40 years, the Degnan Ballet Center has moved around from five different locations. At its founding, the studio was located in the back of the third floor of the Hotel Sterling (now torn down) in Wilkes-Barre. From there, the ballet center moved to other locations in Wilkes Barre, Kingston and

finally the campus of Wilkes University.

When Degnan-Boonin started teaching, she was still dancing professionally in Pittsburgh and working with Nicolas Petrov. Her late husband was still dancing professionally as well. The two had to commute from their jobs as dancers about five hours to their jobs as dance instructors.

Degnan-Boonin described it as a "transition period" between being a dancer and a teacher. Many dancers end up pursuing careers in teaching dance to pass down their knowledge of training to future generations of dancers. Dance is passed down all the way from some of the most famous and influential dancers and choreographers from teacher to student by repeating the artistic cycle.

In 1991, Degnan and Degnan-Boonin added dance to Wilkes University through the Encore summer intensive program. This was a program offering intensive classes in music, theater and dance to high school students. They taught this program from 1991 to 1998 while also teaching and running the Degnan Ballet Center.

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Photo Courtesy of Wilkes University Faculty and Staff



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# News

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

## Student Government notes: Nov. 1 weekly meeting

By Zach Paraway  
Contributing Writer

Student Government held another meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 1. The remaining amount in the SG account is \$9,345.84.

The first order of business was a fund request from the Fly Fishing Club. The presentation was given by club president Jacob Smith. The Fly Fishing club is a conservation group that also teaches and takes students to fly fishing in local bodies of water. They came to request funds in order to purchase materials to do a fundraiser. They would like to do a clothing sale with shirts, hats, patches and more. The money made from this would

go to club business such as fly fishing trips, upgrading some of the equipment and to send students to conferences. The total request was for \$700. It was voted on this week and approved for the full amount.

The second and final order of business was a club report by Sports Management Club. The presentation was given by president Christian Reino and vice president Nick Splain.

Voting occurred for club and member of the month. Voted club of the month was the Speech and Debate Club. Member of the month went to Victoria Corbo, sophomore pharmacy major who serves as a class representative.

SG's next meeting in Nov. 8 in the Miller Room.



## Beacon Briefs: Upcoming

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

Spring 2024 Commuter and Resident Student Parking Applications

Commuter and resident parking permit applications are available now until Monday Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. The applications will not re-open again once they are closed.

The link for parking applications: <https://www.wilkes.edu/campus-life/safety-security/parking/student-parking-permits.aspx>.

Any questions contact parking 570-408-7275, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

HPSC Give Kids the World Fundraiser

Join the Honors Program Student Committee in community service by donating children's books and Halloween costumes to Give Kids the World, a nonprofit that helps make dreams come true for Make a Wish children with a critical illness. Monetary

donations can also be made. Donations will be accepted in the honors office until the end of the semester.

Any questions, email [jennifer.mclaughlin1@wilkes.edu](mailto:jennifer.mclaughlin1@wilkes.edu).

Spring Break Trip to London and Paris

The International Business trip is now open for registration. The trip leaves the Philadelphia Airport March 2, 2024 and returns March 9, 2024. The total estimated cost is \$3,500, which includes airfare, hotel, breakfast and dinner expenses.

Contact Dr. Matus at [justin.matus@wilkes.edu](mailto:justin.matus@wilkes.edu) for more information.

Diploma Order Form May 2024

Bachelor's degree candidates, now is the time to complete your diploma order information and degree audit review for processing for May 2024 Commencement.

Now is the time to complete your

Diploma Order information and Degree Audit Review for processing for May 2024 Commencement. The deadline to submit your Diploma Order is Dec.18.

Use this link to complete your Diploma Order information: <https://etcentral.wilkes.edu/#/form/4>.

Further Graduation information can be found here: <https://www.wilkes.edu/academics/registrar/graduation.aspx>.

Free Professional Portrait Sessions

The Center for Career Development and Internships is holding professional portrait sessions for students on Nov. 7 and 9 during club hours. Spots are limited. The Colonel's Clothing Closet also has professional wear that is free for all students.

Link to register: <https://forms.gle/ZHx3rvsGEb2RCXUo8>.

Contact Lois Grimm at [lois.grimm@wilkes.edu](mailto:lois.grimm@wilkes.edu) or 570-408-4060 with any questions.

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### Upcoming Events: 2023 Fall Semester

**November**  
9 - Giveaway  
16 - Fast Food Bingo  
30 - Break-FEST

**December**  
7 - Bingo

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: [Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu)



# Gender and Sexuality Alliance hosts Halloween party

By Emma Broda  
News Staff Writer

Although Halloween for college students is not as filled with costumes and candy as Halloween for children, many students still find ways to be festive. The Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) Halloween Party was just one of the Halloween celebrations held recently on campus.

The party had an array of snacks and a Halloween movie on for everyone to watch. Students wore costumes of their favorite characters, or Halloween figures for the club's costume contest.

Ozzie Priebe, a first year history, political science and sociology major, said he was dressed as Shinzo Abe, former Japanese prime minister, and that he was planning on "eating lots of candy" later that evening.

Another student Alyssa Brown, a first year psychology major, shared that she was dressed as a wizard and that she would be

"spending time with friends" to celebrate Halloween.

One of Brown's friends, Astrid Overby, a first year pharmacy major, shared that she would be watching horror movies, but also doing homework.

Finally, the club's vice president, Brian Guzman, a senior business major, said he planned to spend time with friends. His costume: Where's Waldo.

Other fun costumes included Aaron Haber, asophomore digital design and media art major, dressed as Denji from "Chainsaw Man"; Jackie St. Claire, a senior digital design and media art major, dressed as an archangel; Kaitlyn Schuyler, a sophomore psychology major, was dressed as a devil; Logan Dickson, sophomore environmental biology major, was Choso from "Jujutsu Kaisen"; and Liz Keller, a first year political science major, was Fiona from "Adventure Time."



From left to right: Logan Dickson, sophomore environmental biology major, Aaron Haber, sophomore ddma major, Kaitlyn Schuyler, sophomore psychology major and Jackie St. Claire, senior digital design and media art major.



From left to right: Mia Decker, junior history major secondary education major, and Kamea Paresa, sophomore math major.



From left to right: Alyssa Brown, first year psychology major and Abigail Malin, first year psychology major.

Photos: The Beacon/Emma Broda



# What is... Multicultural Student Coalition (MSC)

By Morgan Steiner

Contributing Writer

Wilkes University has more than 80 clubs to join, many of which celebrate the unique differences of the campus community members. They encourage participants to explore different cultures and identities.

Of all the different groups on campus, only the Multicultural Student Coalition, or MSC, is solely dedicated to celebrating multiculturalism in all its forms.

"We have such a unique experience at Wilkes that MSC gets the privilege of taking a deeper dive into when we learn and share all of our cultural, ethnic, and diverse backgrounds with one another," said Kathrine Ermeus, senior political science major, and president of MSC. "This is MSC. It's not just what we do, but

it's who we are."

Erica Acosta, the director of diversity initiatives and advisor for MSC further elaborated.

"This club differs because it focuses on being the umbrella for multiculturalism," said Acosta. "This club highlights and educates the community on cultural awareness and promotes diversity inclusion."

With so many clubs that focus on diversity on campus, there are aspects of MSC that make it stand out from others.

"Having groups that focus on diversity here at Wilkes helps to educate the community on these topics," said Starr Sandt, vice president of MSC and junior psychology major. "While the education aspect is important, having these groups that focus on diversity allow the creation of an inclusive space where everyone can

feel like they have a home within Wilkes community."

Sandt explained that she got involved with MSC because of Acosta.

"I was speaking with her during my first year here at Wilkes and she told me about a club that she thought that I would enjoy being a part of, and that club happened to be MSC," said Sandt. "She later introduced me to our president Kathrine Ermeus and the rest was history."

MSC hosts a variety of events, ranging from fun with pumpkin carvings, one world, and the annual talent show, to serious, with regular "real talks," which gives students a safe space to come and talk honestly about different topics, from professional etiquette to celebrating Hispanic heritage.

MSC plans to continue with its yearly tradition.

"We want to be more communicative with our General Board this year and really reach the masses as a club," said Ermeus.

"So if anyone is interested, don't be shy, come say hi," Sandt added. "We try to make diversity, equity, and inclusion less of a 'scary' topic to talk about and if there are any events that you want to see on campus, please let us know about them and we will make them happen to the best of our ability."

MSC meets from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month in the Savitz Lounge on the second floor of the SUB.

To get involved with MSC, you can email [msc@wilkes.edu](mailto:msc@wilkes.edu) or [kathrine.erneus@wilkes.edu](mailto:kathrine.erneus@wilkes.edu). Keep up to date, on Instagram [@wilkes\\_msc](https://www.instagram.com/wilkes_msc).

Photos: The Beacon/Morgan Steiner



From left to right, Kathrine Ermeus, president, Abel Gonzalez, treasurer, Starr Sandt, vice president and Erica Acosta, adviser.



Participants during the annual cookout event during Welcome Weekend this past August.



# New photography exhibit open at Sordoni Art Gallery

## University Press Release

Framing Moments: Photography from the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts (KIA) opened at the Sordoni Art Gallery on Nov. 7. It runs through Feb. 4.

Framing Moments offers a distinct and inclusive overview of photography in the United States and beyond. Curated by Deborah Willis, the exhibit features selected gems from the KIA's significant photography holdings. Works range from the mid-nineteenth century to the present and reveal how photographers can uniquely preserve moments, people and places.

Expressly interested in highlighting the time in which these photographs were made and collected, Willis imagines the stories and events that encouraged KIA curators to acquire these images over the past 60 years.

The seminal exhibition includes nearly 100 photographs that juxtapose a diverse group of photographers who reveal everyday life across rural and urban communities, explore modern

photographic aesthetics, document pivotal moments of social change and conflict, and present artists as both celebrities and ordinary people.

In connection with the exhibition, the Sordoni Art Gallery will host an Art in Context lecture, Kalamazoo: a Place, a River and Home, at 5 p.m. on Nov. 9.

The Art in Context lecture will be presented by Mary Whalen, photographer and teaching artist at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and the Education For the Arts program in the Kalamazoo Area Schools System.

Whalen's photographic work is a testament to her ongoing evolution as a visual artist. The journey continually incorporates and expounds upon exploring techniques, some of which harken back to the 1800's and the creation of photography. Through time, these techniques have been paired with new ideas and creative concepts that have added immense depth to her body of work.

Whalen will discuss this evolution and body of work, which serves as a personal



history of an artist, educator and member of her community and brings viewers into that life and place.

The lecture is free and open to the public with light refreshments to follow.

The Sordoni Art Gallery is open 10

a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays; noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; and is closed Mondays and university holidays

For more information, visit [wilkes.edu/sordoniartgallery](http://wilkes.edu/sordoniartgallery).

# Menghini named president of state financial aid group

## University Press Release

Jared Menghini, vice president of enrollment management at Wilkes University, will serve as president of the Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (PASFAA) for 2023-24.

The PASFAA represents more than 300 educational institutions, lenders and other organizations involved with higher education in the state of Pennsylvania.

The organization assists with professional development for its members and other constituents, advocates for access to post-secondary education and helps to educate the public on financial aid and funding opportunities.

Menghini has more than 13 years of experience in higher education, with seven years devoted to financial aid.



Jared Menghini

He joined Wilkes in 2021 as executive director of student financial services. Prior to Wilkes, Menghini served as the associate vice president of enrollment management and director of financial aid at King's College.

In his role as PASFAA president, Menghini will focus on the long-term health of the organization. He intends to build a five-year strategic plan, update the policy and procedures manual and make more connections with business partners.

According to Menghini, his presidential position shows the value Wilkes places on leadership roles for its people.

"It's important to have administrators involved on the state level to advocate for financial aid for our students and their families," he said.



# Gina Harrison: Passan School of Nursing, faculty of practice

By Zach Paraway  
Contributing Writer

When talking about higher education, people most want to learn from those who take pride in what they teach.

That is no truer than with Gina Harrison.

Harrison is a faculty of practice for the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program in the Passan School of Nursing. She works within the graduate program, helping those with completion of their master's degree.

Her name may sound familiar because she is a former adjunct faculty member at the university.

"I think that working with graduate students is very interesting because everybody has a life that they have already established so they come with a lot of experience and knowledge that they can really add to the class and bring their own flavor to the course," said

Harrison.

Her experience with Wilkes comes from growing up in the area of northeastern Pennsylvania. She was born in Plymouth and moved around the area throughout her life to places like HunLock Creek and Shickshinny, where she currently lives.

She completed her bachelor of science degree at Penn State Scranton in nursing. She then earned her master of science in nursing science at Wilkes and is currently working toward her



Photo courtesy Professor Harrison

doctoral degree in nursing practice, looking to be finished at the end of the current semester.

Not only does Harrison teach and learn at Wilkes, but she also serves in practice currently as a psychiatric mental health certified registered nurse

practitioner at the State Correctional Institution at Dallas.

"The job of working as a psychiatric professional in a correctional institution is very interesting," said Harrison.

"There is never really a dull moment and it is really needed too because a lot of people who are incarcerated require mental health treatment."

Harrison holds three major responsibilities in her professional life with holding jobs at Wilkes and in state corrections, while still working to complete her degree.

"I like to fill my time," said Harrison. "You have to be really dedicated and I think learning at Wilkes and Penn State and other local colleges has really prepared me to be diligent in studying to make sure that I can give back to the community. And to keep it growing and keep people in the area."

Harrison loves Wilkes from her time as a student here and hopes to show students the increased importance of mental health in the United States.

# Dr. Judy Williams: practicing nurse and educator

By Amanda Montgomery  
News Editor

Wilkes welcomes Dr. Judy Williams, a new addition to its faculty, as an assistant professor on the tenure track in the undergraduate nursing program. Originally from Greentown, Pennsylvania, Williams brings a wealth of experience and a passion for empowering students.

Williams' educational background began with an associate degree at Northampton Community College in 1976. She then pursued a bachelor of science in nursing at Kutztown University, followed by a master of science in health education from East Stroudsburg University.

Continuing her academic pursuits, Williams earned a PhD from Marywood University, and a second masters degree in management from Grand Canyon University.

Her decision to join Wilkes was rooted in the institution's commitment

to its vision and mission.

"I've heard a lot of good things about Wilkes University and about that they are true to their vision and to their mission about actually allowing the students, empowering the students to actually become very productive individuals," said Williams.

Despite not having a specific plan, Williams entered the medical field without a predefined path. Her journey into nursing was a personal choice made two years after high school, and she has since maintained a deep love for



Photo courtesy Dr. Williams

the profession, actively practicing today.

"I still work in the emergency room at William Memorial Hospital on a per diem basis and I do it because to keep my skills up as well as to still have be able to do the practice," said Williams. "There's something about bedside nursing that still is part of me."

Williams' favorite aspect of teaching lies in the interactions with students.

"What I love most is the type of students that I have and the faculty that I'm with," said Williams.

Looking ahead, her future plans

involve expanding into research and conducting studies, with a dream of writing a book. Currently, her research focuses on clinical instructors and the opportunities available to them.

Williams' proudest achievement is the long and challenging journey of obtaining her PhD. As for an interesting fact about herself, she humorously admits her openness, making it challenging to find something unknown about her.

Outside of academia, she enjoys running, engaging in hobbies like stained glass and embracing outdoor activities like boat riding, kayaking and paddle boarding.

In her time at Wilkes, Williams hopes to see her nursing students lead fulfilled professional lives.

Williams offers advice to all students, not just those pursuing a degree in nursing.

"Everybody needs to take ownership of their education and their learning," said Williams.



# Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor: [Morgan.Rich@wilkes.edu](mailto:Morgan.Rich@wilkes.edu)

## Honors Program sets up donation drive to GKTWV

By Morgan Rich  
Editor-In-Chief

*Editor's note: The author of this piece attended the first Give Kids the World Village trip in 2022.*

The Honors Program Student Committee (HPSC) is helping to make the Christmas holiday merry and bright by collecting costumes, books, and donations for Give Kids the World Village (GKTWV).

GKTWV is a non-profit organization resort in Kissimmee, Florida, that provides critically ill children and their families with Make-A-Wish vacations that are free of cost. Around half of all the critically ill children that are eligible for Make-A-Wish choose to visit Central Florida and choose to visit its themeparks including Universal Orlando Resort, Walt Disney World Resort, SeaWorld Orlando, and more.

GKTWV was founded in 1986 by Henri Landwirth who survived concentration camps in Nazi Germany and then decided to study hotel management. In 1954, he opened a Holiday Inn in Orlando; however, he was inspired to create GKTWV during the 1980s.

"One of the main values of the honors program is service, and I feel this is one of the greatest examples we can do to promote this value," said Nikki Polivka, P3 pharmacy major. "Supporting GKTWV is not only a wonderful experience for the kids, but for their families, as well."

Volunteers contribute their time to GKTWV and make up a majority of the workers and fill around 1,800 shifts each week. According to GKTWV's website, volunteers make up the heart and soul of the village.

"Doing something as small as running a carnival ride can mean the world to a child and their family," said Polivka.

During the summers, the honors



**The students who were able to attend the very first GKTWV trip with the honors program. The students are, from first row, Emma Freels, senior middle level math education, Jennifer McLaughlin, the assistant director of the honors and scholars program. From second row, Samantha Ugula, alumni musical theater, Mel Fouts, alumni environmental engineering, Kaelin Hughes, senior history and political science and Morgan Rich, senior communication studies.**

program makes it a priority to run a service trip to GKTWV so the students can volunteer. This started during the summer of 2022, and has since been a tradition every summer. During these trips, students get the volunteer in a multitude of ways, including cleaning tables, serving ice cream, breakfast, and dinner, driving a cookie cart around the village, attending different parties such as a Halloween party, etc.

"It's important for honors students, who are learning to serve their communities as leaders, understand the importance of helping others," said Jennifer McLaughlin, the assistant director of

the honors and scholars program. "This is especially true of children and their families who need support as they deal with terminal diseases in their lives, and the repercussions such news can have on everyone in a family unit. We go there every year, so we just like to help out in any way we can. Both from Pennsylvania and down in Florida."

The trips have the students volunteering around eight hours a day in different locations around the village every day. These trips that the honors programs take are also classified by two "relaxation" days. On last year's trip, the students traveled to Epcot at Walt Disney World

Resort and Universal Studios and Island's of Adventure at Universal Orlando Resort.

"I knew it was going to be an emotional experience for me, but it meant I got to have a better understanding of the meaning of life," said Emma Freels, senior middle level math education major, who went on the first trip to GKTWV in June of 2022 with the honors program. "That sounds crazy, but truthfully it gave me a new mindset of focusing on happiness and surrounding myself with people that support my goals. The families there understood that it wasn't a normal vacation but they were all focusing on the positives."

It is a competitive process to be selected for these trips, considering many students want to participate. In order to be selected, students must put their names in a lottery, where they are then randomly selected. Only five to six students, and a student leader, along with McLaughlin participate in the trip to keep the group small and intimate.

"The group I went with was also very supportive and I got to bond with everyone and actually better understand parts about myself," said Freels. "I hope that was the first of many experiences for me because I got to learn a lot about myself and the world."

Costumes and books can be donated in the honors office in Start Learning Center (SLC) 261 and monetary donations can be given to McLaughlin directly or by heading to the GKTWV website.

"It's the happiest and saddest place on earth to me. It's somber knowing why families are in the village, but everyone is just so positive and happy to be in the village that endless smiles occur, too. It's the true meaning of serving with a smile."

Donations can be made until the end of the semester and for more information on the donation drive, email [jennifer.mclaughlin1@wilkes.edu](mailto:jennifer.mclaughlin1@wilkes.edu).





**By Anthony Cazun**

*Asst. Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor*

There are many clubs across Wilkes University campus that seek to accomplish relatively simple tasks to varying degrees. Activities of enjoyment and interest, these clubs are incredibly important to students and campus life in general.

However there are some clubs that seek to create and advocate change on a grander scale than any one individual. Clubs such as The Wilkes UNICEF Club are an example of that idea.

The Wilkes UNICEF Club is a chapter of UNICEF, or United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. The general purpose and goal of this club is to educate and inform students and staff about current events

and crises across the globe.

The club does this in various ways; however, the club's primary methods are very clear.

"Advocate: become an active citizen. Fundraise: raise money directly for UNICEF programs," said Emma Guzdek, executive board member of UNICEF. "Educate: spread awareness about challenges childrens and families face around the world. Build a community: work with other clubs on campus and local organizations."

Events and fundraisers are a very common and integral part of UNICEF. They are incredibly active, holding a fundraiser nearly every month.

"In September we held a Voter Registration Drive. Throughout October we did an online Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF fundraiser, and we partnered with GSA in October at their Halloween Movie Night selling

candy, drinks, and snacks for our Trick or Treat for UNICEF fundraiser," said Guzdek.

UNICEF is known for its collaborative nature, always seeking out new partnerships and ways to assist the most people in need.

"UNICEF works with over 190 countries to help defend the rights of children and their families," said Guzdek, "Our UNICEF fundraisers and UNICEF funds go directly to providing emergency food, healthcare and other necessities to children and their families."

The Wilkes UNICEF club members are incredibly passionate about their work. They are always around campus looking for more ways to help those less fortunate all around the world. Their diligent actions reflect their firm belief in a better future for all people.

## Club of the Week: Wilkes UNICEF Club

"Understanding what is going on in the world around us is important to truly appreciating the rights and opportunities we have in the United States," said Guzdek. "As well as providing support to those who do not have the same rights and opportunities that we do."

Ultimately, that is the goal of UNICEF.

For more information about UNICEF and their mission, one can visit the organization's website. For details about Wilkes' very own UNICEF club, email [emma.guzdek@wilkes.edu](mailto:emma.guzdek@wilkes.edu).

Graphics/Lara Mullen



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

**Morgan Rich, Editor-in-Chief:**

Somebody Else - The 1975

**Amanda Montgomery, News Editor:**

Pink Rabbits - The National

**Emma Broda, News Staff Writer:**

Fast As You Can - Fiona Apple

**Anthony Cazun, LA&E Asst. Editor:**

Sabotage - Beastie Boys

**Cally Williams, LA&E Staff Writer:**

space girl - Frances Forever

**Sydney Allabaugh, Opinion Editor:**

Cobra - Megan Thee Stallion

**"Freeze," Opinion Staff Writer:**

Healthy Destruction - Sunlight Defect

**Adam Grundt, Sports Asst. Editor:**

Baller - NAV

**Sam Mullen, Sports. Asst. Editor:**

Apocalypse - Cigarettes After Sex

**Lara Mullen, Designer:**

Start Choppin' - Dinosaur Jr.

**Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager:**

Dealer - Lana Del Ray



**...Anniversary, continued  
from Page 1**

The Degnan Ballet Center was still on its own at the time, separate from the University. Twelve years later, the studio was finally added to Wilkes as part of the Conservatory. Degnan-Boonin felt like her and her late husband's studio belonged there. "It is such a supporting and nurturing community," said Degnan-Boonin. "As you begin something like this you can never fully realize the impact it had on your students and your own life."

Degnan-Boonin talked about how rewarding it was to see her students continue the ballet tradition. "You look back on this sea of generations."

Determining her favorite ballet memory was a challenge. She paused for

some time before providing any answer.

"It is so hard to pick just one," Degnan-Boonin stated, in thought.

Degnan-Boonin ultimately said that one of her favorite memories took place during last year's production of "The Nutcracker."

Her former students organized the annual holiday ballet in 2022, so Degnan-Boonin did not have to stage or teach anything. She recalled standing backstage and watching the "organized chaos" during the battle scene of "The Nutcracker."

Looking at all of the soldiers and the little mice, Degnan-Boonin thought about how the magic of the story and the artform continues on. She was worried

how it would go on without her, but seeing others so passionate about dance filled her with gratitude knowing that it could continue on.

"Seeing my students now after we started it and lived it, I have faith it will go on," Degnan-Boonin added. "I feel like the last man standing. I can see the tradition of what we started."

She also spoke of the impact and

influence that the Degnan Ballet Center has had on current and former generations of students. She remarked that countless young professional dancers have emerged from the ballet studio. One of her former students is currently a director for a professional ballet company in Maryland. Another former student of hers works as the artistic director for a ballet company in New York. Her daughter also danced professionally.

"Ballet training is a testament to success in other fields," Degnan-Boonin added.

She emphasized how ballet training builds discipline, confidence, time management skills and much more. Some students have gone to seek other careers outside of dance, but the skills that ballet requires helped them succeed in whatever field.

.....  
***"As you begin something like this you can never fully realize the impact it had on your students and your own life."***  
.....

~Degnan-Boonin



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If you are interested, contact Morgan Rich at [morgan.rich@wilkes.edu](mailto:morgan.rich@wilkes.edu)



# Number Sudoku

*Challenge your brain power with this number sudoku*

**Challenge your brain with some sudoku!**

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

	4			5	9	8	7	
	1	2		3	8	9	4	
	9	7	2			5	1	
			3	9			2	
		5		2		3	8	
		9		1				5
	3				1	2		4
9	6	4		7	2			8
	5	1				6		7

**Answer Key:**

2	5	1	4	8	3	6	9	7
9	6	4	5	7	2	1	3	8
7	3	8	9	6	1	2	5	4
3	2	9	8	1	7	4	6	5
1	7	5	6	2	4	3	8	9
4	8	6	3	9	5	7	2	1
8	9	7	2	4	6	5	1	3
5	1	2	7	3	8	9	4	6
6	4	3	1	5	9	8	7	2

**Credit for these puzzles goes to:**

[www.sodokutodo.com](http://www.sodokutodo.com)

Compiled by Morgan Rich, Editor In Chief



# The loss of a “Friend”: Matthew Perry’s beloved legacy

**By Cassidy Brumagin**  
Contributing Writer

Actor Matthew Perry, known for his role as Chandler Bing on popular television show “Friends,” died in his Los Angeles home on Oct. 28.

Published reports have stated Perry drowned. Respondents got to his home around 4 p.m. Saturday to find Perry dead in his hot tub.

Perry, 54, has starred in dozens of television shows and movies throughout his lifetime. His most notable character by far was the sarcastic Chandler Bing in “Friends,” which ran from 1994 to 2004, for a total of 10 seasons.

This role resonates with the university’s students the most. Saturday night, murmurs of, “Chandler Bing died,” could be heard throughout the campus and at neighboring Halloween parties. For many students, Chandler Bing was a favorite character from a show that many relied on as a comfort show.

“I see Chandler Bing as one of the most beloved sitcom characters of all time,” Jocelyn Cussatt, senior biology major, said. “I am genuinely devastated to hear about his passing. It will definitely be hard to rewatch any episodes for a while.”

Cussatt has watched “Friends” since freshman year of high school and considers it one of her go-to shows. With Chandler Bing so close to her heart, she took the news of Perry’s death hard, taking to Instagram to share her devastation with her followers and fellow “Friends” fans.

“Breaking my silence on the matter: I am the saddest ever,” Cussatt’s post read over a picture of a young Perry.

In addition to his acting work, Perry actively struggled with drugs and alcohol throughout much of his life. Coming out on the other side of addiction, Perry prided himself on his ability to help other addicts get sober towards the end of his life.

“I find it devastating because he was so young in the grand scheme of life,” Emilie Protsko, senior political science and criminology major, said. “I know

he struggled for a long time with drugs, which is unfortunate with his career.”

Protsko continued to share her thoughts on being open with struggles.

“It’s a shame to see people-celebrities and characters- you admire going through a struggle, especially when they’re so open to let people know they’re not alone,” Protsko continued. “For him to pass so suddenly is very upsetting.”

Perry opened up about his addiction in his memoir “Friends, Lovers and the Big Terrible Thing”. Perry recalled struggling with alcohol since his first drink at the age of 14 along with addiction to painkillers after being prescribed them for a jetski accident. Some fans were shocked to learn that Perry would even drink on the set of “Friends” throughout the show’s filming.

Of all the many sitcoms students have reported watching throughout their lifetimes, the pattern seems to put “The Office” and “Friends” at the top of the list based on popularity. This comes as no surprise, seeing as “Friends” topped the Netflix charts when it was streaming on the service.

Even students who were not familiar with the show themselves reported the palpable sense of dismay at the news.

“When you watch someone close enough, it almost feels like you’re friends in some way,” Sidney McNeil, senior pharmacy major said. “I wasn’t familiar with Matthew Perry, and I’ve never seen ‘Friends’, but the shock and sadness was unavoidable that night.”

McNeil reported she was with friends who were fans of Perry and the show when she saw news of his death.

“You could tell that someone special was gone, someone that made all of my friends laugh and smile,” McNeil continued.

At this point in time, the exact cause of death is unknown. Initial reports found that there was no

trace of drugs at the scene. Investigators are, however, still waiting on in-depth toxicology results. Reports state that it could take months to complete a full report.

In the meantime, thousands of fans, family members, and friends have taken the time to share their grief at the loss of someone dear to them. “Friends” co-stars Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Jennifer Aniston, Courtney Cox and David Schwimmer released a statement

to People magazine on Monday, Oct. 30.

“We are all so utterly devastated by the loss of Matthew. We were more than just cast mates. We are a family,” the group stated. “There is so much to say, but right now we’re going to take a moment to grieve and process this unfathomable loss.”

Graphic by Morgan Rich





# GETTING DOWN PROGRAMMING BOARD

WITH

By Morgan Steiner  
*Staff Writer*

On Tuesday, Nov. 2, programming board hosted a silent disco for their Thursday night event.

Silent Discos, which first originated in 1997, are a special kind of dance party. Instead of blasting one specific setlist from speakers, partygoers get their own pair of wireless headphones that play the music directly to them. This allows participants to control the volume, change the station, and take breaks as needed.



Students danced the night away, listening to their favorite songs!

WUPB had three stations in which students could move the dial on their headphones to change not only the station, but the color of their headphones.

"We asked our General Board for input and we also put out a poll on Instagram," said Lauren Beaver, a junior nursing major and secretary for programming board. "People dropped their recommendations and the executive board filled in the blanks."

Red meant you were listening to traditional club music, like "Low" by Flo Rida or "Hotel Room Service" by Pitbull. Green corresponded to country music, featuring hits like Carrie Underwood's "Before He Cheats". The Blue channel only played Taylor Swift.

"I really like that there are different options because my friend likes rap and I like Taylor," said MaKena Sanderson, a sophomore elementary and special education major.

Brynn Marlow, a junior nursing major and the Major Events Chair for Programming Board, said, "We saw other schools around the country doing it and thought it would be very cool! It seemed like a nice way to encourage students to relax and vibe with each other."



General and Executive Board members pose at the photo backdrop

Dancing wasn't the only thing at the Silent Disco. Students who dressed in a groovy outfit were entered to win the door prize, which was a disco basket. There was also a table of giveaway items, including glow sticks, glasses and glitter. On the other side of the JPAC, a mocktail station was set up, featuring shirley temples and blue lagoons.

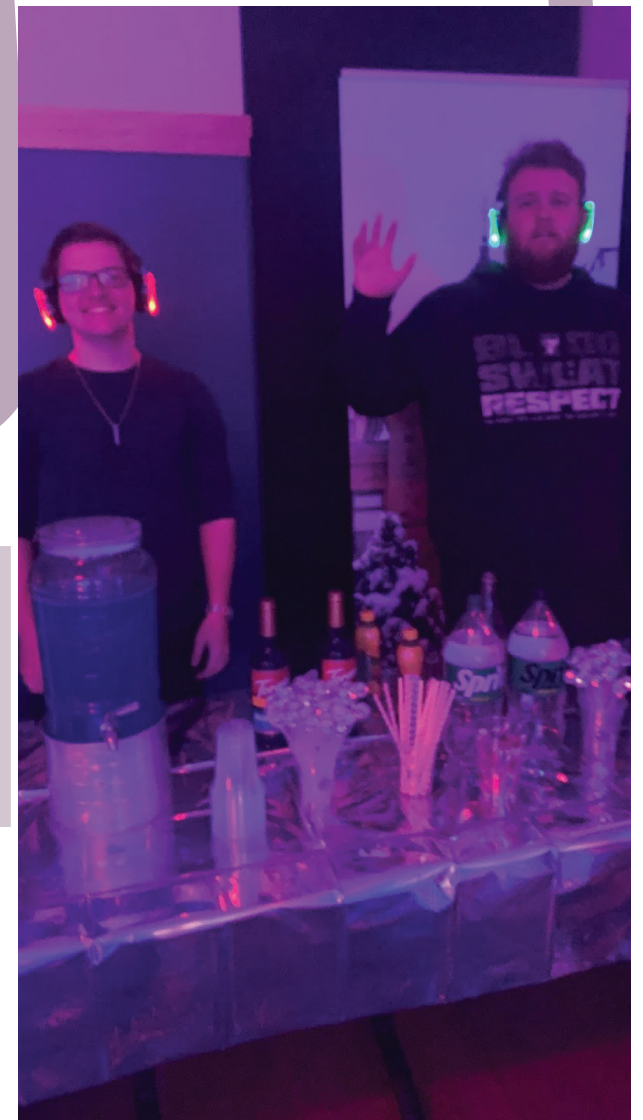
"It allows everyone to interact in a way that we usually don't get to," said Marlow. "You can

really show off your personality, since you can listen to a different station than your friends."

Programming Board hosts events every Thursday. On the 9th, they'll be hosting a Giveaway, followed by Fast Food Bingo on November 16th.

**Design: Lara Mullen**  
**Photos: Morgan Steiner**

General Board members monitor the mocktail station





# Opinion

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

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## Our Voice

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

# Mariah Carey defrosting overshadows career

Inevitably. There are certain things in life that will occur no matter what, and we call these things inevitable.

Few things are truly inevitable in life. We are also all very familiar with these things. Death and taxes are just examples of things we all as humans must go through without any exception, whether they are good or bad.

Within the last 10 years, however, we can add one more thing to this exclusive list. That would be Mariah Carey "defrosting" every year come November.

To explain before giving an opinion, Mariah Carey is one of the most successful pop stars from the 90s and 2000s, selling millions of records and having multiple records that have gone platinum.

And out of those many songs she has made, only two have gone diamond. One is her 1995 song "Daydream," which is a bop if you never heard it. And the other is the topic of today, her 1994 song, "All I Want for Christmas is You." The song is played every year once the calendar turns from Oct. 31 to Nov. 1. It is synonymous with the Christmas season as that shows in the charts, and the impact the song leaves.

Every year since 2019, the song has

reached number one on the Billboard charts for all music and it has led to a term for this. "Defrosting" is what it is called now, to tell about how Mariah Carey is unfrozen every year to have this song be played over and over again.

It has gained a lot of traction over the last four years, with Carey not only topping the charts again despite not making a charting album since 2011, but also allowing her to also go on tour again. Her new tour will be the first since 2019 and has already sold well, with her adding three more shows to the now 16 show tour.

The defrosting of Mariah Carey is real, and even she knows it, having created online videos the last two years for Nov. 1 to mark the return of her dominance. With all of this information, the question to be raised is is defrosting overrated? In short, yes.

Now before throwing away the article and turning the page, just hold on. The song is amazing, fits the season well and is a culture marker for the holiday season. The reason to say yes is because of what this has done to Carey's career.

Carey's first album came out in 1990 and last came out in 2018. That is almost 30

years of music that she has made, and also, it's 30 years of music that performs very well. Excluding her last three albums, every single one of her 12 studio albums have gone platinum, including two diamond albums. She is one of just 22 artists to ever have two or more diamond albums, putting her with names such as Garth Brooks, Led Zeppelin and Michael Jackson.

She has many songs off those albums that have charted even higher such as the aforementioned "Daydream," "Someday," "Touch My Body," "Heartbreaker" and many, many more. And this is just her impact as a singer, not mentioning at all her ability as a producer and songwriter. She has also written hit songs for Faith Hill and Trey Lorenz, and she produces many of her own songs.

The defrosting memes are funny and great for this time of year. It's funny to laugh at how we go from spooky Halloween music and joy to just spamming Carey's song over and over again. This song has brought Carey a lot of success, but the career that came along with it is arguably more prolific. Next time someone plays the hit, remember that Mariah Carey just makes bangers, period.

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# The Icebox: “The Legend of Zelda Breath of the Wild”

By “Freeze”

Opinion Staff Writer

Welcome to the Icebox! A friend of mine suggested that I should spice up my game spotlights with a unique title, so now you can learn to be cool. Today, the Icebox presents to you one of the most legendary video games of all time. “The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild” is a masterpiece that will go down as one of the greatest experiences ever delivered to the gaming side of humanity.

First of all, one should understand that there is no clear-cut way to describe “Breath of the Wild.” In fact, there is absolutely no review out there, whether it’s a video, book or an article like this one, that can do the game any bit of justice. That certainly doesn’t mean one can’t try, right? However, my focus will be on why you should play the game, given that you haven’t already.

The most noticeable thing about “Breath of the Wild” is the unique artstyle. Even if one isn’t playing the game, they can certainly enjoy the jaw-dropping views that it offers. The game seems like an elaborate painting, with bright and vibrant tones and shadows that correspond to the various times of day and regions of the map. There are mountains, valleys, canyons, cliffs and natural beauties that have players mesmerized. To this day, people share beautiful screenshots and compliment the developers for the highly-artistic style of the game. The visuals in this game are one of the best ways to immerse yourself in this experience.

Another aspect of “Breath of the Wild” that really places it on the top are the mechanics, of course. The mechanics include stamina-based running, jumping and climbing, while also incorporating combat skills that are fairly easy to master compared to other titles such as “Dark Souls.”

The enemies in the game have an hierarchy that determines their power, such as bokoblins, moblins, lizalfos and their color alterations that are based on their location on the map as well as the player’s progress through the game. The boss battles, mainly forms of Ganon, the force of darkness, each have their own unique mechanics as well.

There is also the Sheikah slate which offers the main character, Link, unique

abilities. Stasis allows a player to freeze an object, and sometimes an enemy, in time to build up damage and momentum. Cryonis is the ability to form up to three ice blocks at once on surfaces of water. Magnesis enables Link to lift objects made of metal. Remote bombs, which have an impulse-effect when detonated, come in the cubicle and spherical variety. There is also a camera rune that players can unlock later that allows Link to take pictures of wildlife, enemies and plants in order to register them in a personal compendium.

That brings up the next point, which is that “Breath of the Wild” isn’t just about fighting enemies and destroying Ganon to free Hyrule. There are more than a handful of other things that are available for players of all types.

Interested in clothing? Check out Link’s wardrobe and visit the dye shop. Are you a chef? Well, Link is even better at cooking up delicious meals and elixirs. The best part is that they enhance his abilities: stamina, strength, defense, resistance and more. Do you like scenery? The developers want you to appreciate it. Do you like wandering around? That’s why Korok seeds, treasures, shrines, temples, towers and all kinds of things are scattered across the map. Are you an animal lover? You can tame a horse, befriend dogs and even ride a bear! And if you are hungry, you can always cook those too.

Perhaps you’re not so great at combat, like my older sister who absolutely loves this game despite being terrible at progressing the story. That is completely fine because it’s about how you enjoy the experience. “Breath of the Wild” offers plenty of side quests, some that involve searching for an item, some that require cooking a certain meal and some that help to hone in on your skills with a bow and arrow, sword, spear, claymore or even Link’s trusty paraglider.

Even if a player doesn’t do anything in particular, they can still enjoy the adventure. Maybe they want to relieve their “collector’s anxiety,” a term coined by speedrunner PointCrow in regards to the item collection in any large-scale video game.

# The Return of The Red Raven: an original story

By Leah Smith

Contributing Writer

## PART 6

Rick sat in his seat, motionless. His hand shook slowly as the mystery caller laughed, indicating they were still on the other side.

“You better move now, Mr. Greenblatt, or Cameron is dead,” the caller threatened.

Rick pulled the car out of park and began to drive quickly back to his house. If the killer was speaking, Rick couldn’t hear them because the beating from his heart occupied his hearing. He was sweating profusely and felt the phone slide off of his hand and hit the floor of his seat. He looked down and almost hit the car in front of him at a traffic light. The driver honked at him and gave him an icy glare. When he finally made it home, Rick parked the car, grabbed his phone and ran up to the front door.

He opened the door and screamed, “CAMERON!”

There was no response and the house looked suspiciously untouched. Rick held the phone up to his ear and the killer laughed.

“It’s so cute that you think I’m that predictable,” the killer teased.

“Predictable enough to be using material from my show!” Rick shouted back.

“Fair point, but I’m not that dumb. I’m going to send you something. Don’t bother sending this number to the police, either. They’ll never trace it,” the killer said.

Rick’s phone vibrated against his cheek, and he pulled it away from his face. He tapped on the messages app to see the unidentified number of the killer. The killer sent him a link to a video.

“Press that link,” the killer demanded.

Rick did as he was told and pressed the link. The call ended. However, the link took him to a livestream from a strange website where a tall person in a black top hat and tuxedo stood. The person was also wearing a skeleton mask to not only keep themselves covered but to disguise themselves as one of the Red Raven’s arch rivals, Father Destiny.

The room looked like a basement, but Rick couldn’t tell because of the dim lighting and barren scenery. The Father Destiny-inspired killer stood in front of a chair where a man with his head down was tied up.

“I’m so happy that you’ve decided to join us, Mr. Greenblatt,” the killer said.

“You forced me. I’m trying to protect Cameron, now where is he?” Rick demanded.

“Don’t fret, Mr. Greenblatt. He’s safe here with me,” the killer said. They grabbed the man by his receding brown hair and lifted his bruised and bloodied head to the camera.

Rick gasped seeing the condition the killer put Cameron in. His mouth was duct taped, his forehead was bruised and his torso was covered in cuts and blood. The killer held onto Cameron’s head tightly and displayed it like he was presenting a grand prize to a winner of a game show.

“Why did you do this?” Rick asked in a tear-choked voice.

“I’ve always been a big fan of yours, Mr. Greenblatt. I have just about all of the merchandise ever made that comes from ‘The Red Raven.’ It’s become a part of my personality, really. All of these other franchises and caped hero stories don’t do it like ‘The Red Raven’ did. There was always justice, always adventure, always some sort of mysterious intrigue that I can’t quite explain. God, it was just so perfect in every way,” the killer praised.

Shortly, they added, “But, nobody seems to understand it. All they want these days are newer, flashier, edgier superhero stories, but that’s not what they should be about! Heroes are meant to be pure and seek out justice not these foul-mouthed action and sex-crazed beings! This generation is poisoning the purity of heroes, of storytelling! I can’t bear to see that! Not only that, but they have no idea who the Red Raven even is! Do you know how sad that is?!”

Rick watched as the killer went on their rant, horrified by how passionate they were. Although, Rick believed they did have a few points. The killer readjusted themselves.

“That’s why I’m here. I’m here to teach people about the Red Raven. I’m here to express what makes him so great and it’s so great to see you playing along, too.”

“But I’m not—” Rick tried to speak.

“But you are. You answered the call and this is going exactly like a conversation between Red Raven and Father Destiny. You understand me.”

*To be continued...*



# The “Five Nights at Freddy’s” movie has been overly criticized

By Sydney Allabaugh  
Opinion Editor

Immediately following its release on Oct. 27, the long-awaited and highly anticipated “Five Nights at Freddy’s” movie has been ripped apart by movie critics. These critics, however, are analyzing this movie through an incorrect lens and failing to appreciate the highlights of the movie or to assess it for what it was intended to be.

On Rotten Tomatoes, “Five Nights at Freddy’s” has scored a 30 percent amongst critics, with their consensus being that viewers who are not fans of the game will find this movie “muddled and decidedly unscary.” Other common critiques are that the story is not engaging and that the pacing issues make it boring.

As someone who has never played “Five Nights at Freddy’s” and is only vaguely familiar with the franchise, I think this movie adaptation can be appreciated by all audiences and shouldn’t be evaluated as if it were just another horror movie.

There are many aspects of the movie that are simply incredible, most notably the set and prop design. The attention to detail

to Freddy Fazbear’s Pizza, an abandoned arcade from the 80s, is phenomenal. The old pinball machines, 80s style arcade furniture, dark and dingy hallways, outdated security room and, of course, the intricate animatronics created an eerie yet mesmerizing atmosphere.

Impressively, all animatronics were genuinely brought to life with actual animatronic puppets, not CGI, which further added to viewer immersion.

Although critics argue that the story is uninteresting and poorly paced, I found it to be the opposite. I found myself invested in characters like Mike, a man who attempts to find his missing little brother’s captor in his dreams, and Abby, his little sister who uses drawings to express her connection to

the supernatural. It was interesting to see how the different characters connected and the plot unfolded.

I did not find that the movie dragged. If anything, I felt as though I was left with unanswered questions about Abby’s

connection to the animatronics and what happened to their aunt Jane, for example.

Admittedly, there were some tonal issues with the movie. Dialogue and emotional reactions sometimes felt like they came out of nowhere or were unfit for the situation. I also

wasn’t sure how I was supposed to feel about the animatronics, wondering if I should fear them, feel sorry for them or find them funny.

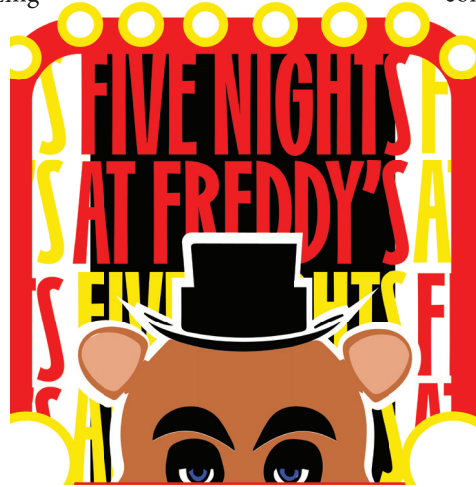
But for me, the highlights of the movie

outweigh potential problems. I think critics feel otherwise because they are going about their criticism the wrong way, analyzing it as a stand-alone horror movie instead of a video game adaptation intended mostly—but not exclusively—for fans.

To my understanding, the horror component of the “Five Nights at Freddy’s” video game franchise relies on disturbing storylines, jump scares and a frightening, suspenseful atmosphere, all of which were implemented in the movie. Although some may fail to find this to be scary, I think this lighter lean into horror, leading to a PG-13 rating instead of R, was likely to include the diverse fanbase that spreads across many age demographics.

And among these fans, most enjoyed the movie, with an 88 percent audience approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes. The movie may be appreciated most by fans, but the thought-provoking storyline, the elaborate sets and intricate characters are accessible to and can be enjoyed by general audiences. Do not let the critics deter you from seeing this movie.

Graphic by Lara Mullen



## Campus Suggestions: you should be kind to others on campus

By Samara Carey  
Contributing Writer

Hello everyone! Welcome back to another installment of “Campus Suggestions!” Today, I will be talking about all of the hate that has been circulating on campus recently.

I have seen this especially through the popular college app, YikYak, where people like to talk about campus happenings and also complain a lot. Some of the things that I have seen getting hated the most include: the Esports team, the freshmen and theater majors. Now, if you want my honest opinion, I do not believe that these things deserve to be hated on as much as they do.

For starters, I have heard that Esports has been getting quite the beating recently, with people saying things like “it isn’t a real sport,” or “they don’t do anything.” I believe it is actually the opposite. I feel this way because the people on Esports

have actually been killing it recently. To my knowledge, they have been winning their matches more often than people originally thought.

Looking at their statistics, I have noticed that they are most successful when they are playing games like “Overwatch” and “Super Smash Bros.” While, admittedly, I do not know much about Esports and how winning and matches work, I can confidently say they have won more than some other sports teams (who will go unidentified). Therefore, we should be giving them more credit, especially because of the fact that they have won and have the opportunity to win more than some traditional sports teams.

The second thing that I have noticed recently is that people have been absolutely ruthless to the first-year students. Now, maybe this is just the E-Mentor in me coming out (again), but I feel like they do not deserve half of the negativity that they have been receiving recently.

In my experience with working with the freshmen, a lot of them are very kind and just nervous to be in a new place with new people. Also, to give them the benefit of the doubt, they were also experiencing COVID first hand, with it directly affecting them since their first-year of high school.

Therefore, a lot of them may not be used to social cues that you would usually expect them to know. All of that being said, they are obviously going to be some not-so-good apples in the bunch, but we need to look at our freshmen in a better light.

Lastly, one of the things that I see people bashing rather consistently are theater majors. I have noticed that people like to call them “annoying” or “taking the easy way out.” However, this is also not the case. If you ask me, those who have decided to take the theater route during their college career are extremely courageous and are following their dreams.

Also, let’s get the elephant out of the room and say that they are also very talented. I have seen two separate musicals that the theater department has put on, and I was blown away by the talent and the production that came out of the shows.

Those in the theater department, both cast and behind the scenes, put their heart and soul into what they do, and they should be given more credit.

After all, you don’t see people bashing people who chose pharmacy or engineering as their majors, do you? Everyone is on their own path and we should treat everyone equally because we all want different things for ourselves.

At the end of the day, we are never going to be able to stop the negativity across campus; we all do it. Honestly, I have had my fair share of hating around campus, but we must give credit where credit is due, and hopefully I changed your mind.

# Modern children's media and its effects can be concerning

## *How will graphic content and influencers impact kids?*

**By Shawn Carey**

*Contributing Writer*

The media that we consume at a young age tends to really stick with us. We often feel a strong sense of nostalgia for old movies and shows. This happens for several reasons. Everything from having an appreciation for its message, enjoying the general aesthetic, liking the characters or even just associating it with a simpler time.

This is something that affects our generation heavily. It's not uncommon to see a person wearing something like a "SpongeBob" hoodie or seeing excitement over the announcement of a sequel show. I am extremely guilty of this as I still obsess over series I grew up with such as "The Legend of Zelda" and "Godzilla." Those two franchises alone have had a huge impact on me and greatly influenced my current taste in media.

The other day I was talking to one of my peers about how I attribute my love of writing to the many stories I experienced at a young age. Soon after that conversation I found myself thinking about something I hadn't given much thought to before. How will what kids enjoy now shape their future?

This isn't really a question we can just answer. Every child is different and therefore enjoys different things. However, we can look at what is currently popular and make a sort of hypothesis. To get a proper idea of what kids enjoy today I asked my 9-year-old brother Nicky the following three questions:

1) "What do the kids in your class enjoy watching?"

2) "What toys do they like to play with?"

3) "What games do they like to play?"

I received a variety of answers. Some I expected, but many of them came as a surprise. I also learned about a lot of series I wasn't previously familiar with. I decided I would sit down and experience some of the latter myself. I would come to regret this.

First off, let's go over the obvious. Kids still enjoy superhero franchises, mainly "Marvel." Not really a surprise considering

the popularity of the "MCU." However, the choices of heroes are very different.

Heroes like the "X-men," "Fantastic Four" and most cosmic level characters seem to be wildly unknown among current kids. They gravitate more towards heroes like "Iron-man," "Hulk" and strangely enough "Daredevil."

What I find interesting about this is how "Spider-man" is treated. "Peter Parker," the first and original spidey, seems to no longer be the most popular

version of the character. That honor now goes to "Miles Morales," which I think is great. Miles is such an interesting and fun character to watch/read. More importantly however, he's an icon to so many young kids.

Games like "Minecraft" and "Roblox" are also still enjoyed. More specifically "Roblox." Kids spend hours every day playing the popular MMO, my brother included. While I was never into it, I understand the appeal. The app offers a seemingly endless amount of different games and activities for kids to enjoy.

Additionally the game also contains a chat and friend system. I really don't like this. I find it strange that a game with a mainly young player base has something like this in the first place. I'm sure we all know that the internet can be a dangerous place for kids and to be this is a disaster waiting to happen.

Now, there is the option to turn all chatting off, which is something I have done on my brother's account. However, I don't believe that this is a widely known feature. The game's description barely says anything about online interactions so it's something most parents wouldn't even know about.

The ill-informed parent will be a constant

theme throughout the rest of this paper. One of the conclusions I came to while researching this is that parents either need to do background checks on what their kids like or simply just talk to them more. This can best be seen with the next topic.

Kids love anime, which isn't really a surprise. There's a lot to like about the media such as the huge battles, larger than life characters, epic transformations and grand adventures. Within the last few

years, the medium has become extremely mainstream, so it makes perfect sense that kids have learned about it and become fans of a few shows. The shows in question, however, are certainly a choice.

There is a child in Nicky's second grade class who is a fan of "Chainsaw Man." Now, let me continue by saying that I consider myself to be a huge fan of the show. But in my opinion, it's absolutely not something a kid should be watching.

For those unfamiliar with the series, "Chainsaw Man" is about a highschool-aged delinquent named Denji trying to live a normal life. To maintain his way of living he must turn into his alter ego, Chainsaw man and battle monsters known as devils. It's a complex series with themes of body horror, dismemberment, sexual content, an extreme amount of blood, and much more.

Seeing stuff like that at a young age can be extremely traumatic and I'm sure that if their parents knew that they were watching the show like that they would take it away from them. That is the thing however, parents don't know. "Chainsaw man? That sounds like one of those superheroes you like!"

The last few things I went over are enjoyed by a variety of different kids in his class. One thing they all share a love for is video

sharing platforms, with Youtube, Twitch and Tiktok being the most popular. The old days of watching "Cartoon Network" and "Disney Channel" are over as it's not about watching people live stream their day.

People like Kai Cenat, Adin Ross and xQc are the Internet personalities kids are currently obsessing over. To get an idea of what they're like, I went to Tiktok and watched a few dozen clips from their live streams.

I sat down for two hours and watched these men say the most hateful and heinous things. Adin Ross is by far the worst of the three. His content is mainly just him making sexist, homophobic, racist and transphobic comments.

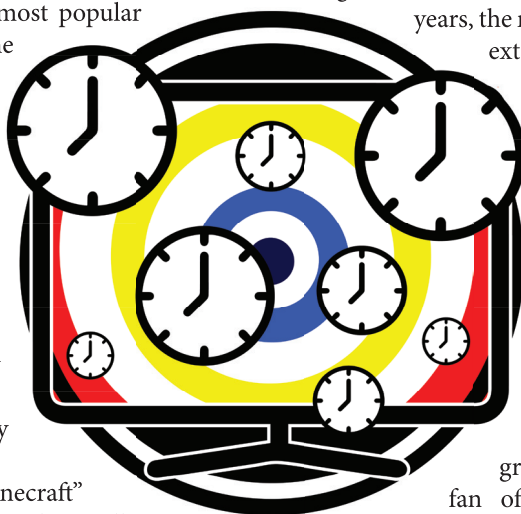
Kai Cenat and xQc seem to be in the same ballpark as Adin but with slightly less of a focus on being a completely terrible person. They seem to care more about obnoxious flexing and constant shouting. They do tend to interact and collaborate with Adien on a somewhat frequent basis.

There is still much more I would like to talk about, such as the reliance on shorter form content such as Youtube Shorts and their unexplainable love for horror video games. While those are certainly topics that could be discussed, I believe them to be less relevant in the grand scheme of things.

I came to the conclusion that kids like the idea of feeling older than they actually are. They enjoy experiencing media that makes them feel like a teenager or young adult. The edgy jokes, blood and ability to talk to anyone is what they believe to be a part of that.

I would like to believe that in the future they will look back and laugh at their behavior, but I don't think that's entirely true. There are countless videos of kids saying openly horrible things so casually. Even my brother isn't safe as I had to correct him a few times.

I don't think all is lost however, seeing how kids look up to characters like Spider-man and even Tanjiro makes me feel good. I hope some of what those characters stand for rubs off on them and hopefully improve their outlook.





# Westside Gunn's newest album falls flat and is decent at best

## *An in-depth review of "And Then You Pray For Me"*

**By Logan Colonna**

*Contributing Writer*

"And Then You Pray For Me" is a direct sequel to Westside Gunn's 2020 project, "Pray for Paris." "Pray for Paris" is near and dear to my heart as it's easily my favorite project from Westside. It's also his first album in a year, which typically is normal for artists. For Westside, however, is a large gap in time considering he releases new music at least two times a year.

After the introduction, "FLYGOD DiD," the album kicks off with "Mamas PrimeTime." This track was underwhelming from the beat to the artists' performances. While none of the verses were bad, there wasn't anything compelling about them.

Westside rapped with his usual flow, but JID and Conway the Machine missed the mark in terms of their usual work. Because of this being the opener, I was expecting much more.

The next track, "Kostas," is even more unbearable as the beat just doesn't match Westside Gunn at all. The features, Conway the Machine and Benny the Butcher, do quite well here.

The song just doesn't seem to really care for the same kind of vibe that was given off from the prequel to this album.

The project starts to increase in quality with "Suicide in Selfridges." The instrumental was created by Conductor Williams, a long-time collaborator with Westside Gunn.

I'm so glad he's helping out with this record because the beats were getting boring and nothing like "Pray for Paris" tracks. DJ Drama helps out on the track by being Westside's hype man. I truly

love whenever he's there just to shout stuff. It's subtle but adds a lot when you realize. Gunn's performance here is great as well, one of the best verses of the album so far.

Possibly the best track on the album is "KITCHEN LIGHTS." From the orchestral instrumental, to the amazing chorus sung by Stove God Cooks, to his and Westside Gunn's

fantastic verses. Everything about this track is perfect. My favorite part of the song is the outro, which is the isolated instrumental, letting the listener digest it for what it is.

"DunnHill" showcases another dip in quality. The beat is recognizable as a Rick Ross one, as he's on the track. However, it doesn't fit Westside's usual style or the rest of the album. When Rick Ross does eventually come over the beat, he's painfully average.

The chorus includes a guest appearance with Estee Nack whispering the lyrics and is barely audible, so it just seems like a bunch of

mumble over the beat. What could have been one of the best on the album if executed correctly, turned out to be one of my least favorites.

The next track, "JD Wrist" is my guilty pleasure song of the project. Objectively, I think this song is decent at best.

I personally love this song, however. This track is a throwback to classic trap songs from the 2000s, even offering ad libs and such from DJ Trap-A-Holics, a staple in the early trap industry. My only dislike about this song is the runtime for it. It's just over six minutes, which is way too long for a song like this.

A personal favorite of mine is "LL BOOL GUNN." A lot of critics dislike this song for being unrememberable and lazy to some.

While I get their point of view, I cannot disagree more. The track is one of the shortest songs clocking in at roughly two minutes.

The instrumental is great and I love Westside's approach to his performance,

slowing things down a lot compared to the rest of the album.

"Jalen Rose" offers one of the worst features on the album. Boldly James' verse is the most boring verse I have ever heard from an artist. He keeps the same monotone voice throughout his whole performance. I'm almost certain he's even rapping off-beat.

The sound selection is painfully average as all it is is just a basic piano beat accompanied by snares here and there. Westside's verse is decent but not something to brag about. Overall, this song is certainly a lowlight of the project.

The album is saved yet again with "The Revenge of Flips Leg." Conductor Williams is behind the production yet again, thankfully. I truly did wish that he was utilized more on this project as my main dislike against this album is the soundscape as a whole.

Rome Streetz and Westside offer pretty good verses as well. Nothing really stands out about the track, but I'm glad it's good at least.

The title track and outro, "AND THEN YOU PRAY FOR ME," is a decent ending to close out the album. My only complaint is that Westside Gunn isn't even on his own song. The feature, KayCyy, is on the entire song. He does really well with his singing and rapping performances, it's just odd, in my opinion, to not have yourself on your own last track.

From the abysmal feature performances, the subpar sound selection and even the decent-at-best Westside Gunn verses, this album fell flat pretty early on for me.

What upsets me even more is the speculation that this may be Westside Gunn's last album as he decides if he whether or not he wants to retire.

At the end of the day, this album is decent at best.



Graphic by Lara Mullen

# Sports

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

## Wilkes championship hopeful as season begins

*The Wilkes Mens Ice Hockey team is set to kick off their season and are hopeful to contend for a championship.*

**By Adam Grundt**  
Asst. Sports Editor

Head coach Tyler Hynes is set to begin his fifth season at the helm of the program. He led the Colonels to a record of 13-10-3 last season, and a conference record of 11-7-2.

“We had a really good September and October as a team,” Hynes said. “Getting to practice eight times in September was huge. We have a group that loves competing and getting on the ice so that was a lot of fun getting a head start this season.”

Senior Jimmy O’Kane commends the effort the team has put in throughout preseason practices.

“Preseason showed that we have potential to have an explosive offense and can beat teams with our speed,” O’Kane stated. “As a team we feel that if we have everyone’s legs going there is not a team we can’t beat.”

Graduate student Billy Berry is certainly a player to watch this season. Berry tallied 7 goals and 5 assists for 12 points last season in 26 games. As a silent leader of this year’s team, he understands the value of the preseason practices the team had.

“The preseason practices were very valuable for this team,” Berry explained. “It is the first time since I’ve been here that we have been able to add eight more practices to our preseason with our coach. Our practices were filled with intensity, competitiveness, and purpose, which I know will carry onto the ice during the season. We have a group full of relentless competitors who want to get a little better every day, and those preseason practices made it possible to develop our habits as a team early and be prepared for the season.”

The Colonels season ended last year in the UCHC quarterfinals last year in a



4-1 loss against Manhattanville College.

As the Colonels send a more mature team out onto the ice this season, expectations remain high within the squad for the upcoming season.

“Our expectations for the season are high,” Berry continued. “We have a lot of returners this year who are hungry for more. Our season ended earlier than we wanted last year, so we know there is a lot more meat on the bone left for this group. It is our last year in the UCHC and we want to finish what we started before changing leagues.”

Coach Hynes highlighted three specific players slated for breakout seasons this upcoming year.

“Billy Berry, Joe Johnson, and Matt Carlson have been excellent and guys who just bring it every day in practice,” Coach Hynes explained when asked about players to watch this season.

“Quiet leaders with loud actions. They aren’t the only guys who have been good, but they are setting a bar that makes all of our young men better every day.”

The Colonels welcome Coach Phil Erickson to the staff this season. Erickson skated with the Colonels for five seasons from 2018-2023 as a forward, tallying 82 points in 117 games.

“The biggest addition has been having Phil Erickson on our staff this season and it has paid immediate dividends for our young men,” Coach Hynes explained. “Phil has transitioned seamlessly from captain of our team last season to coach this season.”

After the ending of last season, the Colonels reflected upon how they could build toward successes this season through the help of Coach Erickson.

“I think the difference this year compared to last year is experience,” Berry said. “Last year our roster was

loaded with freshmen and a younger squad who needed to understand what it is like to win college hockey games. This year we have a lot more experience and chemistry as a group. We also gained a new assistant coach, who previously was our captain, who continuously gives great perspective and insight. He works as a huge asset for us, someone who played Wilkes hockey for five great years.”

The ending of last season raises expectations for the team within the locker room, and the team’s expectations for themselves couldn’t be higher.

“I would say our expectations for this season is to win the conference and earn a bid to the national tournament,” O’Kane explained. “It is something that Wilkes has been close to achieving but has never done and we want to be the first to do it.”

The Colonels ended their preseason in a game against SUNY Cortland, in which they lost 5-2. The Colonels’ goals were scored by Billy Berry and Matt Carlson.

“We are fast and we want to play fast,” said Coach Hynes. “Playing fast is more than moving fast on the ice but I’m happy we have a group that is willing to make mistakes fast. That’s on our staff to reign them in a bit, but I’d much rather have a group as eager and excited to compete like we have right now. They want to be coached and we feel like we’ve gotten a little bit better every day.”

The Colonels open up their conference season on Nov. 10 in a game against Manhattanville College. They return to their home rink at the Toyota SportsPlex on Nov. 18 against Utica University. For more information on the Colonels ice hockey team and all of the other Division III sports teams at Wilkes, please visit [gowilkesu.com](http://gowilkesu.com).





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# Wilkes dance team recognized as club sport

By Samantha Mullen  
Sports Assistant Editor

*Editor's note: Due to factual errors in a previous version of this story, The Beacon has chosen to rerun a new version of the piece.*

Dance has been celebrated as an art form where individuals can express themselves, tell stories, and bring cultures to life. Continuing into this year, Wilkes University Athletics recognizes the dance team as a club sport with a roster on the athletics website.

The team has become an integral part of the campus culture while performing at basketball games, some football games (new this year) and on-campus events, such as homecoming and dance marathon. The team also attends open houses, Accepted Colonel's Day and different kick-offs to bring Wilkes spirit. The team also practices every Wednesday and Sunday for two hours.

"I love being on the dance team at Wilkes as it gives me an opportunity to continue my dance career in college, even with a busy class schedule," said Amelia Smicherko, junior biology major.

Dance, as an art form, often struggles to be viewed as a sport, despite the immense athleticism and discipline required. The dancers at Wilkes University have shown they practice rigorously and perfect their routines, demonstrating that they are both dedicated and hardworking.

Captain Amanda Merrick-Tompkins, senior early childhood education major, expressed that the dance team has allowed her to get closer to many people and highlighted how "it is always such a fun, stress-free and positive environment." Merrick-Tompkins additionally stated how during practices the team can be "ahead of the game and can finish early, or other days [they] need to practice certain things more so [they] stay later."

The official recognition of the Dance Team as a club sport has brought numerous benefits to both the team and the university as a whole. "The benefits of the program being recognized as an official club sport is to get more recognition to officially spread the love and art of dance, especially as a performance team," said sophomore biology major, Bobbi-Rose Smith.

Due to the fact that they are a club sport, funding comes from student government and as a club recognized by them, the team accepts everyone who tries out, regardless

of experience. This adds opportunity to individuals who want to learn dance without taking

ing a class and there is a 'practice' team in place for those who are unable to commit to the team for the full year, but can come when they are available to stretch, learn fun choreography and get together with the team.

Despite the team having a great future ahead of them, they sadly still do not have a coach and do not have the same resources as official athletic teams.

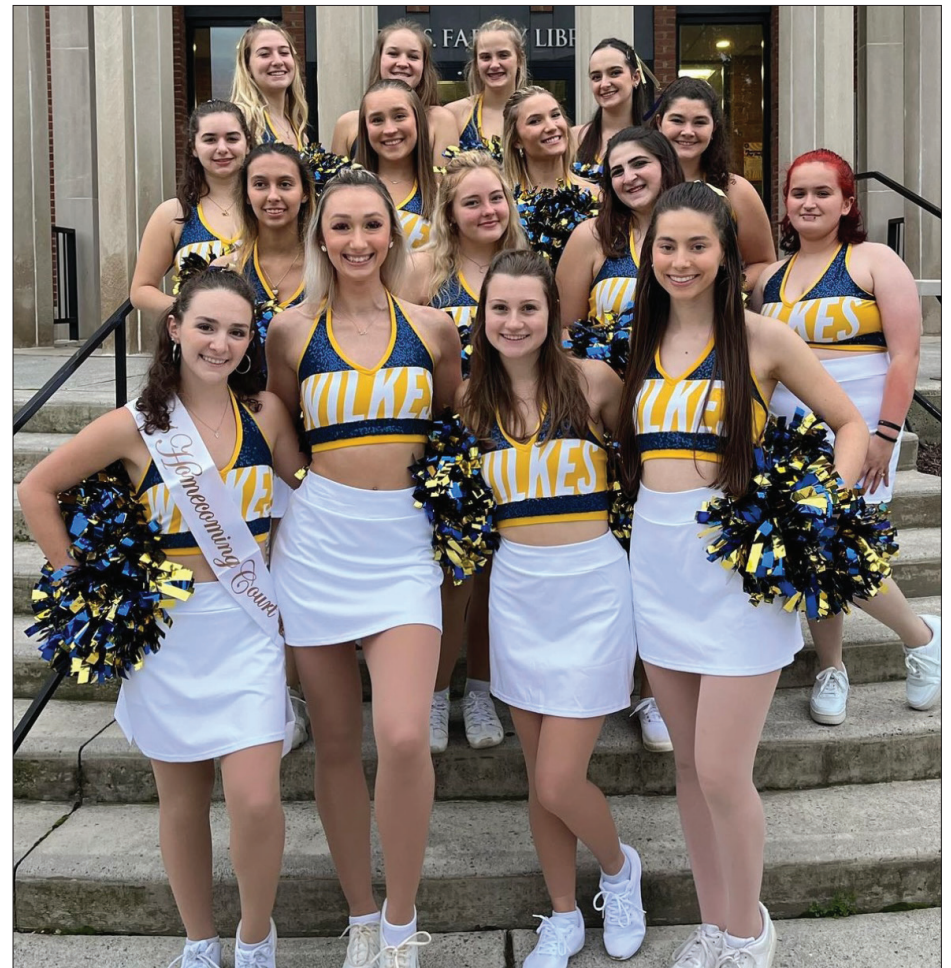
"I see a bright future for this team and with this continued trajectory for the team, I think it could go so much further," said Purdy. "My goal for the team has always been to get a coach, for one reason to alleviate stress off of the captains to run the team as it can be daunting and time consuming but also to go to competitions (and be good enough to win!) Having a coach, I believe, would tremendously make a positive impact on the team."

The captains, which include junior English major Mya Corcoran, senior early childhood education major Amanda Merrick-Tompkins, senior psychology major Carolyn Purdy, and sophomore pre-pharmacy major Jennifer Zemetra, hold a lot of responsibility for helping the team throughout the year. Purdy expressed how she and the other captains "keep the team on track with new choreography, fundraising, uniforms, meetings, and events."

The recognition of the Wilkes Dance Team is not just a milestone for the team itself but a celebration of diversity within the athletic department. This achievement allows for the team to be highlighted on the Wilkes athletic page under the athletic department and includes a full current 2023-2024 team roster.

"I, along with our advisor, Jeanne Rabel, got the ball rolling to be recognized on the Athletics website last year, I am so incredibly grateful to have it continued this year," said Carolyn Purdy, senior psychology major and one of the captains of the team. "With this recognition, my hope is that the team can be considered more of a sport. With all the time and energy everyone puts into it along with the technique training we do, we deserve just as much attention as the other sports."

In the next coming years, hopefully, the Wilkes community will see the dance team continue to push boundaries within their routines. Adding more to their jazz and hip-hop will bring attention to their hard work and dedication.



**Dance team members, fourth row from left, first-year biology, Emma Infante; first-year secondary education, Kelci Carle; first-year musical theater, Charley Cain; and senior communication studies, Morgan Rich. Third row, senior digital design and media arts, Lauren Stokes,; junior biology, Amelia Smicherko, senior pharmacy; Arrington Wall, junior pharmacy; and Morgan Andretta. Second row: first-year digital design and media arts, Krystal Crespo Clark; sophomore biology, Bobbi-Rose Smith; first-year psychology, Kaley Calpin; first-year pre-pharmacy, Astrid Overby; First row: captain senior psychology, Carolyn Purdy; captain senior early childhood education, Amanda Merrick-Tompkins; captain sophomore pre-pharmacy, Jennifer Zemetra; and captain junior English, Mya Corcoran. Not pictured: first-year pre-pharmacy, Kendyl Keefer; first-year neuroscience, Kylie Kilvitis; and senior hospitality leadership, Maybis Remicio.**

When talking to junior pre-pharmacy major, Morgan Andretta, she expressed how being recognized at Wilkes has led the team to "make routines that are enjoyable for the audience." Additionally, it helps not just herself but also her teammates to push themselves harder in practice.

The team debuted their Pom routine for the first time two years ago and will be doing it once again this year. "Pom is a style of jazz that uses pompoms and uses similar tricks as

cheerleading, but not the same technique," said Purdy.

Wilkes Dance Team will have their first halftime performance for basketball on November 9th for the men's basketball team's first game against Keystone College at 7 p.m. To keep up to date with the dance team, they post some of their performances on their Instagram @wilkesdanceteam, along with any fundraisers the team is doing.



# Athlete of the Week

## Jordan Ferry

First Year, Women's Ice Hockey Forward



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

Ferry lead the Colonels to a sweep to open their season against MCLA where she became the eighth player in Wilkes program history to record a two-goal game. Ferry also was 15 for 21 on faceoffs and totaled 19 shots on goal throughout the two games.

**Major: Mechanical Engineering**  
**Hometown: Bohemia, N.Y.**

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

*Playing in my first game.*

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

*New York Islanders.*

**What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?**

*Snowboard.*

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

*Having a built in family of teammates and coaches who are all helping each other accomplish their goals.*

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

*Miracle.*

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

*Basketball*

**What has been your favorite sports memory overall?**

*Winning states last year with my club team.*

**What is your favorite post-game meal?**

*Chicken and rice.*

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

*It's really exciting to be selected as Colonel of the Week, but it was definitely a team effort and I couldn't have done it without my teammates and coaches.*

The Beacon//Sam Mullen

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



# Athlete of the Week

## Mason McCoy

First year, Swimming

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

In a tri-meet sweep against Marywood University and King's College, McCoy won two individual races and was a member of the Wilkes 400 medley relay team that took first as well. In his first individual race, he was the first of four other swimmers in the 1,000 freestyle and won the 500 freestyle against two other swimmers.

**Major: Mechanical Engineering**

**Hometown: Essington, Pa.**

**High School: Interboro**

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

*When I finished my first ever 1000 meter free swim and at the same time our team won against Marywood and King's College.*

**What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?**

*Playing my guitar around my friends.*

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

*I like the meal plan at Wilkes, I never go hungry when I'm here.*

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

*The Tooth Fairy.*

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

*I would not want to play any other sport than swimming, it is my favorite.*

**What is your favorite post-game meal?**

*Chicken parmesan.*

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

*I feel very happy and honored to be selected for Athlete of the Week.*

The Beacon/Sam Mullen

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