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The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

Mixed reactions arise to condensed semesters

By Kirsten Peters
Editor-in-Chief

When considering education at college campuses, students, faculty and staff are tired of the implications on the educational experience due to COVID-19.

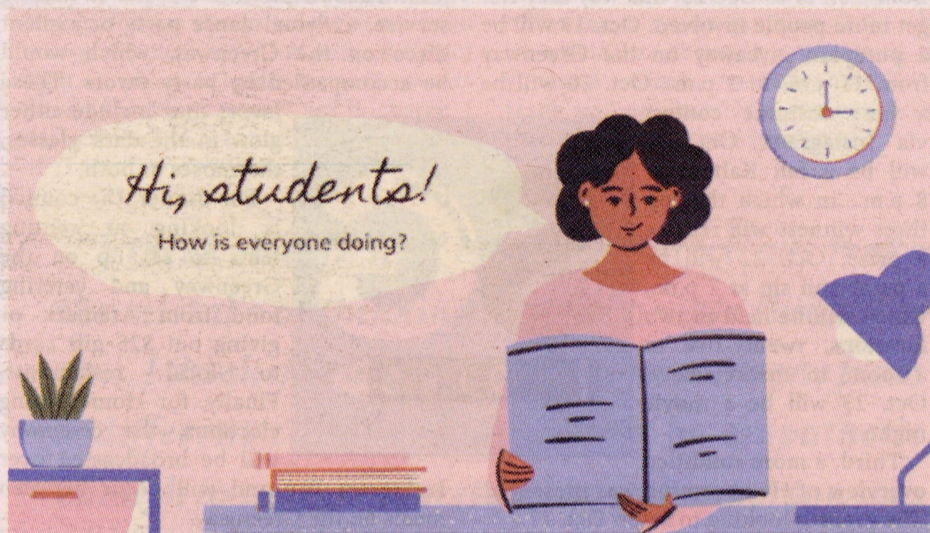
"I believe the compacted schedule has put extra strain and stress on both students and faculty," said Dr. Scott Bolesta, associate professor and professor of practice in the pharmacy department. "I know that for the courses I normally teach in the fall, everything is happening at such a rapid pace that it is a challenge to keep up."

Bolesta is referring to Wilkes' Fall 2020 semester, which is operating under a condensed schedule where classes began a week early on Aug. 24 and will commence face-to-face instruction and examinations by Nov. 25. The semester is devoid of its usual fall break and will allow for the completion of any virtual assignments or online final examinations to conclude by Dec. 4.

With the fall semester underway, President Greg Cant recently announced the revised calendar for the Spring 2021 semester, outlining the Jan. 25 start date, removal of spring break and the conclusion of face-to-face instruction and final exams by May 15.

In the Sept. 28 announcement, Cant said, "Our planning continues, but we wanted to share this new information with you as soon as possible. Monitor your inbox and our website for details in the weeks to come."

Monitoring is exactly what students, faculty and staff will be doing.



With the fall semester in its eighth week, most professors have administered midterms and have reached the half-way point in their courses, allowing for assessments to be made in regard to the successfulness of the Fall 2020 semester.

"My attitude is: We are in an extremely unusual situation, but higher education is important so we are going to keep going as safely as we can," said Dr. Chris Zarpentine, Global Cultures department chair and associate professor of philosophy. "Luckily, we can adapt higher education to the situation. It may not be ideal, but there's no such thing as a 'perfect' semester anyway. So, I think all of us (both faculty and students) are doing the best we can. And, from what I've seen, we

are making it work, so I think this is a sign of success."

Adapting has been a key theme this semester for students and faculty alike. For Dr. Marleen Troy, Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences department chair as well as professor of environmental engineering, adaptation for her courses has been limited.

"My teaching experience has been going well this Fall 2020 semester," said Troy. "I was fortunate because I have been teaching several completely online courses for several years now and am familiar with the Learning Management System - LIVE/D2L ... So far, this semester is all OK."

MIXED REACTIONS, page 4

Family Day 2020 hosted virtually by Student Development

By Emily Cherkauskas
Life, Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer

Student Development hosted a series of virtual meetings on Oct. 8 to celebrate Family Day 2020.

According to Student Development, family day is an annual fall tradition held on the Wilkes campus, providing an opportunity for families to reconnect with their Wilkes student while getting a first hand look into a day-in-the-life at Wilkes.

Family Day is among one of the many Wilkes traditions originally held in-person that was moved to a virtual format. The sessions were free for families and students, who received links to Zoom sessions after signing up to register for any sessions they were interested in.

"Even though we are restricted with COVID policies in place to keep campus safe, we felt it was very important to reconnect families and students halfway through the semester," said Melissa Howells, director of Student Development.

Despite the virtual meetings and sessions,

FAMILY, page 11



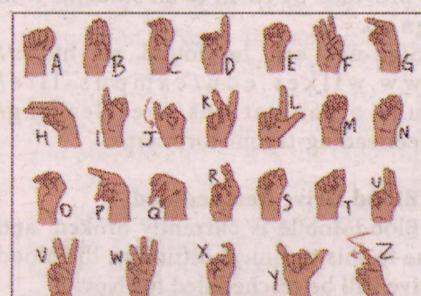
Courtesy of Wilkes Marketing

Wilkes honors 12 faculty and staff at 2020 TREC awards, page 6



The Beacon/Anna Culver

Honors Program Student Committee hosts pumpkin-carving contest, page 11



The Beacon/Zarqua Ansari

American Sign Language: Not all words need to be spoken, page 17



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Intramurals aim for participation in cornhole and esports, page 19

News

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

Student Government: Oct. 7 weekly meeting notes

By Maddy Kinard
Staff Writer

Student Government held its sixth online meeting of the semester, in which Vice President Paul Adams made a guest appearance and more planning was discussed for Fall Event and Homecoming.

First, Adams opened up the floor for discussion on student culture and how it has been impacted by COVID-19. There was an overall consensus that it has been challenging to manage online classes.

It has also been difficult to get direct feedback on assignments. As far as social life and involvement on campus go, students agreed that there has been a lower level of engagement with clubs since they have not been as active as previous semesters.

Second, Student Government discussed

Fall Event. Fall Event will run a week-long from Oct. 19 to Oct. 23, that way they can get more people involved. Oct. 19 will be a pumpkin giveaway on the Greenway from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Oct. 20 will be a best costume contest via Instagram; Oct. 21 will be a fall Kahoot at 8 p.m., in which the top three winners will receive a prize; Oct. 22 will be a paint and sip at 7 p.m., which will be held in two locations, twenty-five to a room, to ensure safety; Oct. 23 will be a movie night.

Third, a more solidified overview of Homecoming was presented. The event is looking to be on Oct. 17.

In the way of dancing, a couple of

options are still in the works: a free month subscription to a music streaming service, a virtual dance party or a silent disco on the Greenway, which would be accompanied by party favors. These

favors may include either glow in the dark glasses, thermoses or both.

For dinner, the council is looking at renting tents to set up on the Greenway and catering food from Aramark or giving out \$25 gift cards to local restaurants. Finally, for Homecoming elections, the ceremony will be broadcasted over

Instagram live and will occur between meals on the Greenway.

There will also be a prince and princess,

in which students can elect underclassmen by write-ins.

After a round-table discussion, Student Government took a poll on what options for dinner, dance and party favors were the best. A regular dance on the Greenway won, along with two catered dinners running at the same time and both glasses and thermoses in the way of favors.

In conclusion, the council voted on a member of the month, as well as a club of the month. With the nomination of Liam Flynn, Elena Patestos and Anna Culver, Elena Patestos won member of the month. College Democrats won the club of the month with no opposition.



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Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Sean Schmoyer

Colonel's Closet Changes Hours

The Colonel's Closet is now open for walk-in visits on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointments will continue to be accepted Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Only one student at a time may be admitted. All students are encouraged to use the online ordering system. Orders will be filled within 48 hours and available for pick up at the Info Desk in the Henry Student Center.

Please contact Kristin Osipower at kristin.osipower@wilkes.edu or ext. 5904 with any questions.

Barnes & Noble Hosts an Egg Hunt

Wilkes students can stop by the bookstore downtown on Oct. 14 and Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for a chance to find some eggs and bring them to the prize table to win prizes.

On Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Oct. 17 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wilkes and King's students can both attend again.

Prizes include restaurant gift certificates and Wilkes swag. Masks must be worn at all times, and social distancing should be followed.

Cheer Team to Hold Tryouts

Wilkes Cheer Team tryouts will be hosted on Oct. 29 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the MAC. Tryouts will be held individually with designated time slots to promote social distancing. Tryout material will be provided by email to all students who sign up.

Sign-ups can be found at: <https://www.wilkes.edu/campus-life/clubs-organizations/cheerleading/cheerleading-tryout-form.aspx>.

Blood Drive Rescheduled

BloodMobile is currently broken, and due to this technical difficulty, the blood drive will be rescheduled for Nov. 2.

Students' blood and donation efforts were and still are extremely valuable to those in need of blood products.

For students who were scheduled to donate but could not due to the technical

difficulty, a Red Cross team member should be in contact with them to reschedule their appointment for Nov. 2.

Students with any questions or who would like to sign up for the November drive, please contact Jacqueline.Dercole@redcross.org.

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Table of Contents

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

Upcoming Events: 2020 Fall Semester

October

- 13 - League of Women Voters Political Forum
- 15 - Virtual Career Fair
- 16 - Barnes & Noble Egg Hunt
- 16 - Virtual Professional & Graduate Fair
- 17 - Homecoming
- 19 - Pumpkin Giveaway
- 20 - Costume Contest
- 21 - Virtual Fall Kahoot
- 22 - Paint N' Sip
- 25 - Class Registration for Winter Courses
- 27 - Dr. Toll Zoom Lecture

- 29 - Cheer Team Tryouts
- 31 - Halloween

November

- 2 - Blood Drive
- 7 - Virtual Open House
- 11 - Veterans Day
- 23 - Movie Night
- 25 - Holiday Recess begins
- 26 - Thanksgiving

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Leadership Through Crisis: A military perspective

By Sean Schmoyer
News Editor

On Oct. 7, the Honors Program hosted its second lecture in the “Leadership Through Crisis” series. The zoom call centered around Maj. Gen. Patrick B. Roberson, who is the commander and commandant of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Roberson was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Infantry in 1990 from Minnesota State University at Mankato.

The lecture was open for attendance by all honors students, veterans and members of ROTC. Roberson spoke to those in attendance about leadership in the military during a pandemic, and what it means to be a leader in times of crisis.

The lecture did face technical challenges, as a couple of participants had connection problems with Zoom, causing some of Roberson’s talk to be inaudible. The Honors Department fixed this issue by restarting the Zoom call, which Roberson worked with them to do.

After the restart, the lecture faced no other problems.

Interim Director of the Honors Program Dr. Jonathan Kuiken opened the lecture by introducing Roberson.

“I have a short introduction to give, and I have to say I had to shorten it because Gen. Roberson’s list of accomplishments would probably take up the entire time if I had to read all of them. He has served with distinction in many places around the world, including the Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.”

Roberson’s experience serving across the world allowed him to address questions later from Kuiken about how to lead and work across cultures with diverse groups.

“I think that first of all, we as Americans make the mistake of thinking that all people think like us,” said Roberson. “I think they are like us, but in some significant ways, they are different and they might have different ways of thinking about things and we have to respect that. I think if you are going to meet someone from a different culture, you need to be empathetic enough to try to understand how that person sees the world. You also have to be curious enough about that person to want to learn about them. You have to be big enough in your own mind to realize that people do not always think

about things in the same way we do.”

Roberson also discussed leadership as a military leader and leadership through times of crisis in general.

“I have had a lot of great opportunities in my career to lead different institutions. I have gotten to be deployed in combat and peacetime all over the Middle East and Europe,” said Roberson. “In general, from the time I was a very young man, the army is very big about leading and being a leader. You are always taught to seek and accept responsibility. That puts a different light on you as a leader because you are always thinking about ‘I am in charge, I am responsible, what am I going to do?’

that is kind of a surge, you are having a surge in your leadership ability. It usually requires you to step every part of your game a little bit. It is the same part of your leadership game that you use in a steady-state, whether it is leading by example, being a planner, a visionary, being a guy that communicates all those things would be the same but in a crisis, you have to really step it up.”

He also identified that as a military officer he is always thinking about what he would do during a crisis. Even the youngest officers, he says, have to be ready and practice for a crisis to occur, even if it is unlikely to happen.

crisis management and breakdown how individuals do in those times of crisis. They can see how they do under pressure and identify individuals’ strengths and weaknesses. Roberson recalled a time when he worked with others who had not done practice drills for dealing with hurricanes. He was able to work with that group and see who needed to improve when preparing for a future crisis.

Additionally, Roberson highlighted positioning oneself as a leader and how knowing that your presence carries weight and that by just being somewhere as a leader you can be a sign of relief and strength to those working with and under you.

A final point Roberson made was that, during a crisis, a good leader needs to be transparent and not forget to share information with others. He stated that decisions have to be made quickly and that the only way to do that is through clear transferring of information between all parties.

Lt. Col. Sarah Hedrick of AFROTC Detachment 752 was in attendance and asked Roberson as a leader what books he has been reading.

Roberson ran through his list of books.

“The one that I just read was ‘Thinking in Bets’ by Annie Duke. That was a very good book about decision making. Over the summer, we read ‘Unbroken,’ which is a very good biography. The last part dealt with a man recovering and going through PTSD, and I think that is a very important subject. We are also going through ‘World Order’ by Henry Kissinger.”

Hedrick’s goal with attending the lecture was not just to learn from Roberson but to take that information and apply it to the cadets she oversees.

Hedrick said, “It is always a great privilege to learn about leadership directly from senior military leaders. It helps to refocus our perspectives on how we lead in our own spheres. I particularly benefited from Maj. Gen. Roberson’s encouragement to be self-aware and to understand how our actions, inactions or reactions as leaders can impact the morale and motivation of those we lead. We can agonize over making the right tactical decision in a crisis, but equally important are the intangible ways we influence those around us to succeed.”

“I think that first of all we as Americans make the mistake of thinking that all people think like us ... I think if you are going to meet someone from a different culture, you need to be empathetic enough to try to understand how that person sees the world. You also have to be curious enough about that person to want to learn about them. You have to be big enough in your own mind to realize that people do not always think about things in the same way we do.”

– Maj. Gen. Patrick B. Roberson

It changes your whole perspective on life.”

Roberson identified that when leading in a crisis or in a steady situation, there are aspects that are the same, such as needing character, integrity and virtue. He described what a crisis is and how it changes how one leads.

“When you are in a crisis, you are more focused,” said Roberson. “I think a crisis can be something that happens in a split second that you were not expecting. A crisis could last an hour ... There is an immediate point to that crisis where you have to respond, and then there is a day’s long kind of piece, where you have to lead through whatever happened.

“Those kind of events, I would say

Roberson said, “I am always thinking about what are the contingencies that might happen here. What are the things that I don’t expect to happen but might happen? Then, if I have that knowledge and understand it, I can rehearse that and make sure that I have thought about it and prepared for it. It is the same thing in a sports team. You are always practicing for certain things, like a kick-off. You do not do that very often, but you have to practice. You have to practice fumble recovery. You have to practice things that you do not expect to happen.”

The major general also stated that a good leader never lets a crisis go to waste. He recommended that a leader can practice



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MIXED EMOTIONS, from front

Unlike Troy, Dr. Marie Roke Thomas, associate professor and chair of the Pharmaceutical Sciences department, and her colleagues had to transition pharmacy courses online after the onset of the semester. A few positive COVID-19 cases forced pharmacy professors and students to readjust from their anticipated face-to-face semester to online.

Despite the rapid transition online and the condensed semester, Roke Thomas explained, "I do not believe we have skipped a beat in delivering the entire curriculum regardless of the length of the semester. Students and faculty are working harder to maintain the rigorous schedule. In this rigorous program, students often feel burnout prior to the end of midterms. I believe our students are working really hard to sustain the time commitment needed to complete the semester on time and are making every effort to ensure this is a successful semester."

Although the high quality of students' work, the completion of assignments by their deadlines and the lack of complaints may suggest students are complacent with this semester, the announcement of the plans for Spring 2021 has caused some students to express underlying concerns.

In fact, the lack of a fall recess or the inclusion of assignments on the weekends has students feeling as though they are unable to take a break.

"I feel so overwhelmed with everything," said Kayla Acker-Carter, senior environmental engineering student. "I always have something

constantly due, and I don't have time to just breathe. We have to turn stuff in on time, but professors aren't giving stuff back in the time frame we're held to. I wish professors would give us a little break to get our heads back in the game to finish the semester strong."

Acker-Carter is not alone, as seniors Emily Cholin and Rose Dietrich expressed similar sentiments.

"I feel as though this semester is worse than others," said Cholin, a senior hospitality leadership student. "It's a constant stream of assignments for every class, and it's burning students out much quicker than normal. Homework/quizzes should also not be due during the weekends – students have zero days of the week to relax."

Dietrich, a double major in psychology and neuroscience, is familiar with a heavy course load, yet she is struggling with a lighter semester.

"Despite only taking 12 credits this semester (an upper level biology course, my senior project, a psychology class and choir), compared to my usual 17-18 credits, I feel very overwhelmed," said Dietrich. "I was hoping to feel less frazzled due to less work. Simply put, I don't."

Students Haedyn Hale, communication studies major and sports psychology minor; Savannah House, a nursing student; and Autumn Pedron, a middle level math and science education major emphasized similar concerns: Only learning material for an exam, being focused on hitting due dates and missing out on catching up on work during breaks.

These stressors are not lost on professors,

as they have faced new teaching challenges and succumbed to the non-stop climate of the semester as well.

"I find that it takes me at least twice as much time to prepare content for asynchronous online delivery compared to in-person delivery because I'm recording content and then going back to insert quizzes and video clips to engage students in their learning," said Dr. Judith DeLuca, chair and professor of practice in the Pharmacy Department. "The condensed semester means that we all have to keep a fast pace even on the weekends."

The announcement of the Spring 2021 calendar has prompted discussion and a re-evaluation of this semester's advantages and disadvantages. Dr. Don Mencer, chair of the faculty affairs council, said he was "pleased" with the spring calendar details thus far, explaining that it "makes sense" for members of the campus community to stay on site instead of traveling during what would have been spring break. Dr. Barbara Bracken, mathematics and computer science chair, also agrees and asserts that it could reduce the impact of the flu and COVID-19 on campus.

Although this may be beneficial from a health stand-point, students' well-being can be impacted by the condensed semester. With this semester's challenges in mind, Dr. Kenneth Klemow and Dr. Ruth Hughes offered advice for students.

According to Klemow, "Do your best to remain engaged in all your courses. Contribute to discussions. Complete assignments on time. Study hard for exams. Get tutoring help if necessary. Realize that your professors are by-

and-large working hard to give you an excellent educational experience."

Dr. Ruth Hughes, associate professor of business law and chair of the Finance, Accounting and Management Department, also explained, "I think through all of this, you guys have gone through a very unique experience that will shape you, and personally, I think it has shaped you to be much more attractive in the workplace. Keep track of examples, 'In Dr. Hughes' class, I had to all of the sudden be doing these essay exams online."

However, their advice does not take away from the current emotions of students, as House noted, "The burnout is horrible right now. I feel like we aren't learning."

Dr. Karim Medico Letwinsky's, a chair and associate professor in the Education Department offered a piece of advice.

"I believe now more than ever students need to be mindful of their well-being from a holistic perspective," said Medico Letwinsky. "Stay focused on what really matters and give proper time to only that which will help them continue to achieve their academic goals and also maintain their personal/emotional/physical health. In times of such flux and uncertainty, simple is best."

With additional announcements for Spring 2021 on the horizon, the question remains: What is the best means of conducting the Spring 2021 semester for maximum success for the students, faculty and staff?



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Understanding and overcoming stress with Dr. Schicatanano

By Sara Ross
Asst. News Editor

Stress is a feeling that all college students, including those at Wilkes University, are familiar with. In an Honors Program Zoom lecture, Dr. Edward Schicatanano, head of the neuroscience department, shed light on the subject, which allowed students who attended to reflect on how stress has impacted them this semester.

Schicatanano's presentation, "Understanding and Overcoming Stress," touched upon four components, including what stress is, its causes, how it affects the body and the strategies to overcome stress.

According to Associate Professor and Interim Honors Director Jonathan Kuiken, this topic of discussion could not have been more timely, as this fall has not been a typical semester for Wilkes students.

Whether they are concerned about their latest exam or are having personal challenges, students have had to not only overcome the usual struggles, but they have had to transition to online courses as well. Many have a mix of hybrid classes, meaning that they work online and in-person for a single course, while others

have had to shift to being completely online.

Senior pharmacy student Mia Barbieri, has been managing all of her classes online and has found it difficult to engage with her courses asynchronously.

"Finding time to watch online lectures in between live Zoom classes, club meetings and working is definitely tougher compared to in-person classes. It's also harder to not see fellow classmates and friends as much, which was a great stress reliever for me," said Barbieri.

Rhia Aurand, a junior elementary education and honors student, is taking 18 credits this semester and has to fit in 20 hours of student-teaching observation a week. She is currently taking three classes that are some of the most difficult courses for her major, but they have been put online. Aurand claims that while they still have been hard, they are easier than they would have been face-to-face.

"Some of my professors have accommodated the insane amounts of stress by extending due dates and even removing assignments altogether. However, others have not," claimed Aurand.

For first-year students, in particular, they had to learn their way around the university while simultaneously adjusting to a college

workload. A few have had to overcome obstacles in their personal lives, as well. John Toussaint, a first-year and a secondary education and biology major, reveals that he broke his foot almost a month ago, which has prevented him from playing tennis.

"I am a member of the men's tennis team and breaking my foot means that I am out for eight weeks. This hasn't been easy, as I practiced every day throughout quarantine," discussed Toussaint. "When that was taken away from me, I became stressed because everything I worked for was in vain."

During his lecture, Schicatanano described the negative effects stress can have on the body, as overwhelming amounts can make one more susceptible to not only injury but can weaken one's immune system. People often feel stress in different locations throughout their bodies, as it can range from their head, neck, shoulders and lower back.

"I believe that stress is based on our perceptions. It's a decision we make, and the phrase I tell my students is that 'Stress is in the eye of the beholder,' as it is up to you to determine whether or not an event is stressful," explained Schicatanano.

Toussaint attended Schicatanano's discussion

and has taken the professor's advice about how stress depends on how you perceive a situation. Recently, he was elected to Student Government as the first-year class president.

Aurand found that Schicatanano's strategies have been resourceful and have assisted her in finding ways to better manage her stress. She plans to get ahead of her schoolwork, spend time with her friends and teammates on the softball team, nourish her body with the right foods and get plenty of sleep.

Schicatanano left students with one final thought on how they should move forward when interpreting a possibly stressful situation.

"It is important to give yourself space between you and your thinking. When your thinking gets out-of-hand, it's easy to associate things with bad meanings, especially when you are stressed" discussed Schicatanano. "Take time to slow down, pause and process your thoughts and emotions. You will find yourself feeling less overwhelmed, and this is a skill that you can carry throughout the rest of your life."



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University mid-semester COVID-19 update

By Genny Frederick
News Staff Writer

As of Oct. 9, Wilkes University has two active cases of COVID-19 and has cleared 34 cases since the beginning of the semester.

Compared to mid-September, when the active case count was 22, the university has lowered its case count considerably, due to the work of the Wilkes University Task Force, recovery teams and the cooperation from the Wilkes community.

“There are so many moving pieces,” said Mark Allen, dean of student affairs and member of the COVID-19 Task Force. “When we first started to experience positive cases, there was a learning curve for us. Now that we have experienced it several times, it’s become a bit more systematic.”

Justin Kraynack, assistant vice president of operations and compliance and member of the Wilkes Daily Response Team, said that when managing new cases, “The health and well-being of the student is first and foremost, and then we start looking at things like contact tracing and what kind of potential for additional exposure is there with that individual.”

At the beginning of the semester, a lack of available testing and the lag time between testing and getting results limited the success of the COVID-19 Task Force.

Kraynack explained changes in testing since the beginning of the semester.

“We were fortunate enough to be able to secure an adequate supply of rapid testing kits so that we are now getting instant feedback or near-instant feedback, and that’s helped us tremendously,” said Kraynack.

These new rapid tests add to the success the university has been experiencing in avoiding new cases. This success comes as a surprise to some students.

Reynaldo Perez, a senior business administration major, said, “The COVID-19 situation has differed a lot from what I expected it to be. I saw that Bloomsburg had a massive spike in cases not too long after reopening, and I was expecting the same to happen at Wilkes.”

For comparison, there have been 360 COVID-19 cases at Bloomsburg University, as opposed to the 36 cases Wilkes has experienced to-date in the semester.

Wilkes’ low number of cases has allowed students to enjoy aspects of campus life they were concerned about missing.

Jessica Zajac, a junior earth and environmental science major, said, “Being a resident on campus, I am grateful students are still allowed on campus and are able to study in common study areas such as the library, the collaboration rooms in Stark Learning Center and the lounges in Cohen Science Center. Personally, it is very hard for me to concentrate in my dorm when I am studying or even in class online, so being able to get out of my dorm and go to those study areas is important to me.”

While students are still enjoying parts of campus life, the shortened semester does come with additional pressure.

“I think it’s good that we are in school now so we can avoid the second wave of the virus, but the semester feels rushed,” said Erin Tollinger, a senior earth and environmental science major. “Since we’re working without fall break or even long weekends, the academics can be overwhelming, especially as we get to the

midterm of the semester and homework, tests and assignments start to pile up.”

The semester’s early end ensures that students stay home during the holidays and do not travel back-and-forth between their homes and campus. The university has also released plans for the spring semester.

“When starting a little bit later in the spring, our hope is that there’s going to be some significant changes that start to allow us, the country and the world to start changing some of those protocols and improve vaccines and different testing,” Kraynack said.


Allen added, “We don’t know what the future holds. We have to be prepared to be agile and patient.”

Both the campus community and the world are looking forward to new treatments and developments, but the tried and true method of wearing a mask and social distancing are what has kept so many students safe this semester.

“I was expecting to see a lot of people not respecting the safety guidelines as far as COVID-19 goes, but I’ve seen nothing but the opposite – everyone takes safety very seriously at Wilkes,” said Perez, who initially doubted the safety on campus.

This commitment to safety has not gone unnoticed by the COVID-19 task force members.

Kraynack said, “We’re so pleased with how things have gone in the fall semester and just so proud of everybody in the community. Everyone has really stepped up and made this all happen.”

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President Trump’s COVID-19 diagnosis

President Donald Trump was released from the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on Oct. 5, after being diagnosed with COVID-19 four days earlier. Since then, he has been recuperating in the White House.

Trump was suspected to be infected with COVID-19 at Amy Coney Barrett’s Supreme Court nomination ceremony held at the White House Rose Garden on Sept. 26.

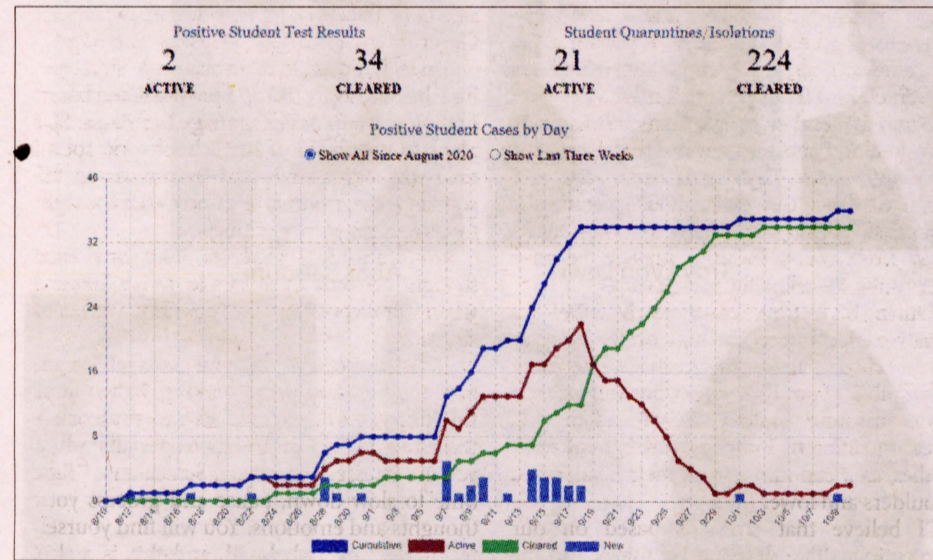
Early on Oct. 2, Trump tweeted that he had tested positive for the coronavirus and was reported to have “mild symptoms” by Mark Meadows, the White House chief of staff.

At 74 years old, Trump is in the high-risk group, as defined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC reports that eight out of 10 deaths as a result of COVID-19 have been adults 65 years old and over.

While at Walter Reed, Trump received treatments of the steroid dexamethasone, remdesivir and REGN-COV2. The World Health Organization guidelines recommend dexamethasone to be administered to COVID-19 patients who are critically ill. Remdesivir and REGN-COV2 result in shortened hospital stays for patients, according to studies done this year.

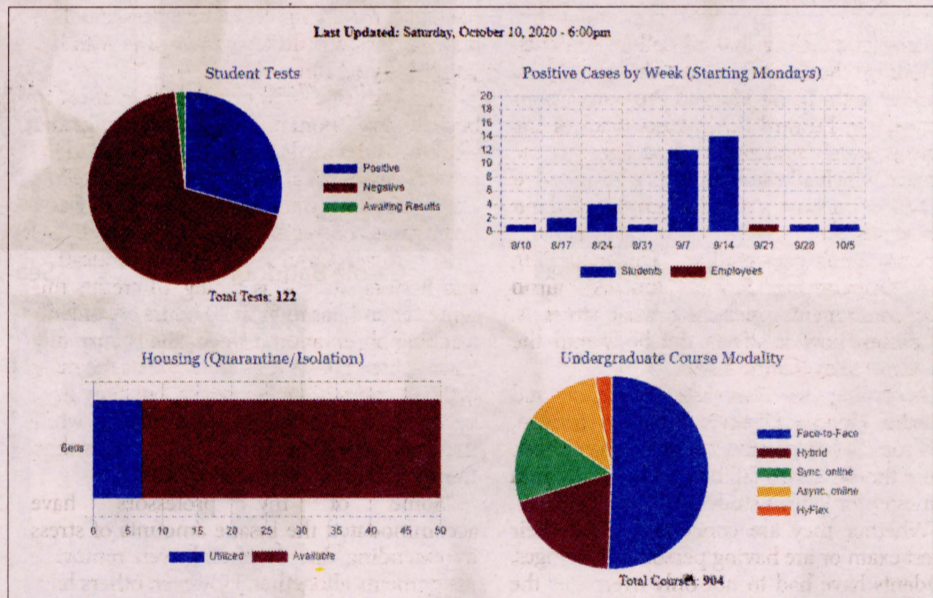
On Oct. 3, Dr. Sean Conley and the doctors at Walter Reed addressed the press about Trump’s condition, explaining that he had been fever free for 24 hours and was making good progress in recovery.

Despite Trump’s high spirits, the Convention on Presidential Debates suggested that the second presidential debate be held over Zoom. No further comments have been made on Trump’s condition.



Graphics from <https://www.wilkes.edu/coviddashboard>

As of Oct. 10, Wilkes has two active cases and 34 cleared cases. Twenty-one students are in active quarantine/isolation. The graph indicates a lack of case spikes in recent weeks, with the last major spike between Sept. 13 and Sept. 18.



As of Oct. 10, there are two students awaiting test results, only one new positive case during the week of Oct. 5, seven of the 50 beds in use for quarantining students and 457 courses still being conducted face-to-face.

Wilkes honors 12 faculty, staff members at TREC Awards

By The Beacon News Staff

Wilkes News announced that the university recognized 12 different faculty and staff members at the 2020 Teacher Recognition and Effectiveness Committee (TREC) Awards Ceremony.

Dr. Jennifer Thomas, associate professor of psychology, received the Carpenter Award for Teaching. The award is considered Wilkes' highest honor for teaching and recognizes an outstanding member of the faculty.

It includes a \$1,000 award and a framed certificate. The awardee is nominated by his or her full-time colleagues and must have been a full-time employee for at least three years.

Thomas was recognized for her classroom instruction, her commitment to ongoing research and mentorship to students through the process by three colleagues in nomination letters.

Ellen Newell, associate professor of psychology and research collaborator, wrote, "Every bit of Dr. Thomas's research program significantly involves undergraduates. Dr. Thomas runs her laboratory much like a graduate lab – students participate in professional, publishable research projects. They do not merely collect data, but rather

they contribute to studies from conception all the way through dissemination of the research in professional contexts."

Thomas is the coordinator for the psychology department and directs the women's and gender studies minor. She also coordinates the women's and gender studies conference in partnership with King's College, which gives students the opportunity to present their capstone projects, which investigate a range of relevant topics.

Dr. Carole Baddour, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, received the Innovative and Non-Traditional Teaching Award.

This award is nominated by students and recognizes a teacher who successfully incorporates innovative or nontraditional strategies into at least one class.

Teaching innovation includes effective small group or collaborative methods; advanced use of technology in the classroom; consistent student-centered, interactive classroom experience; engagement in outside-the-classroom learning experiences that enrich student mastery of concepts and theories; and engaging students in joint faculty-student research projects.

Dr. Sean Kelly, associate professor of English, received the Scholarship Award,

which is awarded to a faculty member who demonstrates commendable success in the area of research and scholarly activity that influences Wilkes University and its students.

Dr. Troy Lynn Lewis, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, received the Outstanding New Faculty Award. The award recognizes one full-time, non-visiting faculty member in his or her second or third year of full-time teaching at Wilkes University who demonstrates excellence in teaching, advising and service. The awardee is nominated by the department chair.

The Alumni Mentoring Award, which is nominated by alumni to recognize a teacher who continues to mentor students post-graduation, was presented to Dr. Abas Sabouni, associate professor of electrical engineering.

Genevieve Singer, a chemistry office assistant, received the Academic Support Award, which is given to a member of the Wilkes University staff who facilitates classroom or experiential initiatives and learning among students.

Dr. Dina Udomsak, a part-time faculty member in First Year Foundations, was awarded the Adjunct Faculty Award. The award goes to an adjunct faculty instructor who demonstrates excellence in teaching

through innovative practices and forming relationships with students.

Dr. Andrew Miller, assistant professor of political science, and Dr. Jeffrey Stratford, associate professor of biology, both received the Interdisciplinary Award.

The award recognizes one cross-disciplinary team of teachers that demonstrates outstanding initiatives in the classroom to further the ideals of interdisciplinary learning.

Miller also received the Outstanding Advisor Award for the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Dr. Linda Gutierrez, assistant professor of biology, received the Outstanding Advisor Award for the College of Science and Engineering. Dr. Steven Kheloussi, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, received the Outstanding Advisor Award for the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy.

Finally, Dr. Ken Wang, associate professor of finance, received the Outstanding Advisor Award for the Sidhu School of Business.

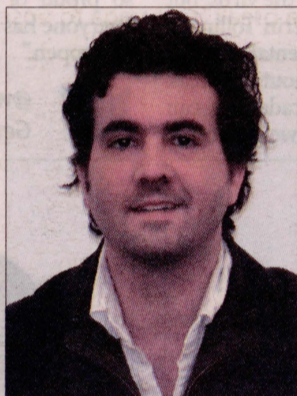
The Outstanding Advisor Award recognizes academic advisors from individual schools and colleges who are nominated by students for demonstrating excellence in academic advising based on load, advising philosophy and testimony by advisees.



Jennifer Thomas



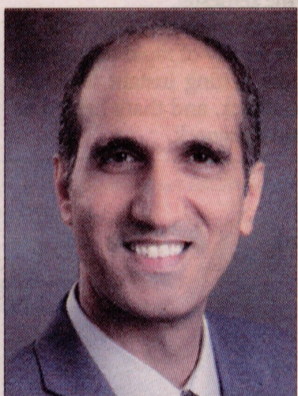
Carole Baddour



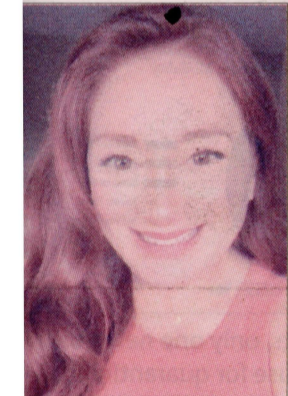
Sean Kelly



Troy Lynn Lewis



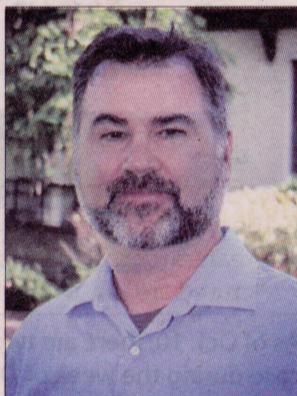
Abas Sabouni



Dina Udomsak



Andrew Miller



Jeffrey Stratford



Linda Gutierrez



Steven Kheloussi



Ken Wang

By Dylan M
Co-Sports E

Eight week and intramu campus with are currently looking to ga semester -- h

"The seme as games go Robinson, H just finished (we delayed participants). if there are, s well, they let and we adjust

"Everyone think everyor for some ty participate in

Thus far, originally offe due to partic esports. Desp has found su been played.

"Participati down compar because there so everything said Robinson participation 18 teams (36 than I expecte



Breeding's co score of the


Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any restaurants that should be reviewed or artists to be featured? Contact life, arts and entertainment editor: Maria.DiBuo@wilkes.edu

Student Development hosts goat yoga for those on campus

By Maria DiBuo
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

A goat yoga event was held on campus Oct. 6. The event was coordinated by Student Development, with the help of with Buttinwood Farms, who supplied the animals. The event had two time slots, so students could participate in the event. Social distancing was maintained, bringing cheer to students during this different fall semester.

 @wilkesbeacon
Maria.DiBuo@wilkes.edu



Photos: The Beacon/Sara Ross

Pictured (from left to right): First-year pharmacy students Maura Oiley, Nikki Polivka, Sara Stone and Lauren Wagner, and Hera Mukhtar, first-year biochemistry major, took a break from yoga to pose with their new furry friends.



Melony Mitchell, a first-year biology student, stayed zen with the help of goats.



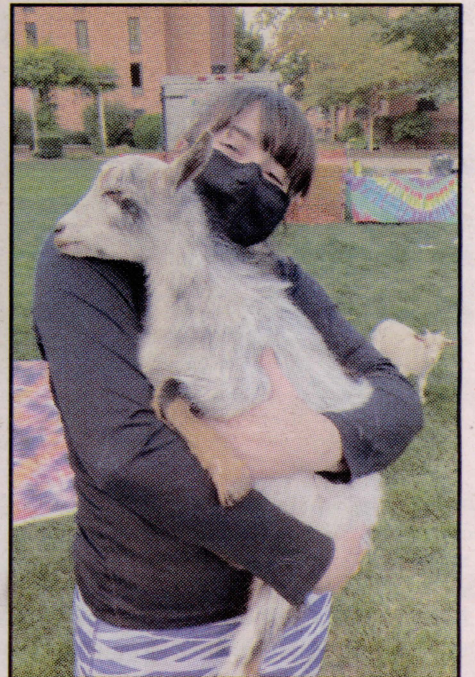
Emilee Barnhardt (front), a junior nursing student and Justin Lenig (behind), a junior electrical engineering major, practiced their poses.



Alanah Guerrero, senior nursing major, held a pose with a goat.



The yoga goats were bundled up in sweaters for the chilly fall weather. Pictured are just two of the many goats that made it to campus on Tuesday.



Logan Biechy, a senior in criminology and psychology, cuddled up with a goat.

Tuna noodle pasta: Moody foodie's take on classic casserole

By Anna Culver
Staff Writer

Think tuna noodle casserole, but without the casserole dish.

This simple and easy dinner is hearty and filling, especially for those cold days. I find it as a perfect comfort food that I can make just enough for myself or for a group of friends or to just have leftovers, if you do not have friends.

Ingredients:

- 1) Choice of Pasta - The Moody Foodie's pick is egg noodles
- 2) Peas
- 3) Tuna
- 4) Mayonnaise

How to make it:

Cook your choice of pasta. I prefer using egg noodles, as they seem to soak up the flavor of the dish.

Start the peas while you are making the pasta. You are probably going to be using frozen peas, which is fine, but if you have access to fresh peas, fry them up with a

little bit of olive oil and garlic to give this dish a little something extra.

Drain off the pasta and peas. Set these aside while you drain off the tuna.

For the amount of tuna, I only use a can when I am just making it for myself and save any leftovers for lunch the day after.

Mix together your tuna with however much mayonnaise you desire to make the tuna.

Then, get a bowl to mix together all three components.

Portion out however much of each you want, as you will more than likely have leftovers of something.

If you want to add some crunch to make it more casserole like, breadcrumbs can be added to this dish to give it a crunchy texture.

Cost to make: Less than \$10

Food Allergy: Tuna, egg



Anna.Culver@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Anna Culver



The Beacon/Anna Culver

This pasta is a simple and tasty way to have a filling and delicious meal on a budget.



BEACON BUMPS

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff adds a song to their Beacon Bumps playlist. Look below for this week's list of songs.

Kirsten Peters, Editor-in-Chief: [Clutch - Col3trane ft. Kiana Ledé](#)

Sean Schmoyer, News Editor: [Broken Arrows - Avicii](#)

Sara Ross, Asst. News Editor: [Best Days - Lissie](#)

Genny Frederick, News Staff Writer: [Heart of Glass - Miley Cyrus](#)

Maria DiBuo, LA&E Editor: [Ask - The Smiths](#)

Emily Cherkaskas, LA&E Staff Writer: [Goodbye To a World - Porter Robinson](#)

Breanna Ebisch, Opinion Editor: [Golden - Harry Styles](#)

Zarquá Ansari, Asst. Opinion Editor: [Shoop - Salt-N-Pepa](#)

Jordan Daniel, Opinion Staff Writer: [911 - Lady Gaga](#)

Dylan Mehl, Co-Sports Editor: [Mr. Right Now - 21 Savage ft. Drake](#)

Ariel Reed, Co-Sports Editor: [Forever - FLETCHER](#)

Chris Gowarty, Sports Staff Writer: [Reminder - The Weeknd](#)

Mia Walker, Lead Designer: [Hit This Hard - Post Malone](#)

Steffen Horwath, Staff Photographer: [Sedona - Houndmouth](#)

Club updates: Student Government and Commuter Council

Compiled by Emily Cherkauskas
Life, Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer

CLUB: Student Government
EXECUTIVES:
Student Body President: Kevin Long
Executive Vice President: Brooke Mazzotta
Corresponding Secretary: Nataliya Scarantino
Recording Secretary: Lauren Harner
Executive Treasurer: Ben Wojciechowski
Parliamentarian: Bobby Wagner
Sergeant at Arms: Nathan Pitcher

MEETINGS:
Every Wednesday at 6 p.m.
Usually in the Miller room, but currently on Zoom.


DESCRIPTION:
Student Government is the pulse of our campus and the top place for all student concerns. We also work to invest in campus and improve campus life as a whole. Under us we have 100+ clubs that we help with funding. Outside of our clubs, we also fund student

conferences and many events across campus. However, our main goal is to hear and act on student concerns and ideas to make our campus as well as an organization. Our motto is: "By the Students, For the Students."

HOW TO JOIN:
Every spring, we hold elections for upperclass students who are seeking a position for the following year. We hold elections early in the fall for first-year students. Additionally, if there are any open spots in the upperclassmen classes, we will hold elections to fill them in the fall as well.

CLUB: Commuter Council
EXECUTIVES:
President: Bree Polascik
Vice President: Danielle Walsh
Treasurer: Nick Alfano
Secretary: Jessica Scherzinger
Public Relations Officer: Emily Turek
Parliamentarian: Brooke Mazzotta
MEETINGS: Due to COVID-19, we are meeting at times that work best for the

executive board members.
DESCRIPTION:
Commuter Council is a great way to meet new people. We discuss topics that include parking for all the students on campus, socials, fundraising events and community service opportunities. Everyone here is a commuter, whether traveling from a nearby off-campus apartment or miles away. This is also a great opportunity to find people who may live fairly close to you, whom you may have not known. As a member of Commuter Council, you have an opportunity to be a leader. Many of our socials and events are headed by committees, which gives everyone a voice in the project. Although Commuter Council is fun, we also help the community, which is a very important part of the Wilkes experience.
HOW TO JOIN: Email the Commuter Council at commuter@wilkes.edu.

 [@wilkesbeacon](https://twitter.com/wilkesbeacon)
Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu

Do you have any important updates or new information on clubs and co-curriculars in your department that you would like students to know of?

Are you a new club and wanting to reach out to students?

Contact:
Maria.DiBuo@wilkes.edu
Ariana.Como@wilkes.edu

Getting your groove back and adapting to mid-semester stress

Lindsey Scorey
Staff Writer

As the university reaches the midterm mark of the semester, students and professors are fighting stress and fatigue during what would have been fall break. This shift in campus culture has required new techniques and ways of handling stress and burnout.

"I feel that having limited social activities has impacted me most since being back on campus," said Nikki Polivka, sophomore pharmacy student. "There is still a lot going on around campus, and I am impressed, but I miss when there were more social contact events."

According to Polivka, socializing with friends and spending time decompressing from schoolwork is how she copes with stress.

Along with the social aspect, certain study areas have been compromised this semester.

"Many of the areas that I would normally go to for studying have been closed off, which has ironically led me to having to study at areas that typically have more students," said Chris Smith, senior history and international relations major.

While many are still enjoying face-to-face instruction and socialization, some students are adjusting to hybrid or online needs. Pharmacy student Nick Superko delved into the effects of the switch to online for P1

students.
"Seeing friends and classmates on a laptop screen is not the same as interacting with them in person, going out for dinner, or having them over for a study session. I am hoping, just as many others, that as the year progresses, we can begin to get back to the way things were," Superko said, in relation to adapting to the new campus culture.

As fall break approaches, the stress surrounding class work and exams has seemed to increase.

"Personally, I think that the new adapted semester raised my stress more than it has ever been before," said Kelly Tyler, junior nursing student, in relation to motivation on a new schedule. "Usually, I am able to take a few days to myself during fall break or Labor Day — it's hard to get (everything) all done while also trying to care for myself. However, I am excited to get out before Thanksgiving and have an extended winter break."

However, this new time frame and style has allowed students to find new ways of coping with stress and taking time for themselves. Stress-relievers can include going for walks, creating artwork, watching your favorite TV show or movie, hanging out with your roommates, meditation, yoga or doing whatever it is that you enjoy.

Dr. Robert Bohlander, professor of psychology, emphasized social connections, offering some opportunities on campus for




The Beacon/Emily Cherkauskas

Bresieth 214, located in the Neurotraining and Research Center, is open to any student wishing to learn about and practice stress reduction.

stress-relief resources.

"For big issues, see campus counseling, who can assist or refer to other resources for help. For smaller issues, talk to friends or trusted faculty or staff. Don't forget the NeuroTraining and Research Center in Breiseth 214. There are resources there to help with stress reduction. Also, Dr. (Linda) Paul's virtual meditation sessions are a great resource for the campus community."

Senior elementary and childhood education major Alexandra Rivera also offered a simple – but important – reminder. "My best advice would be to not lose sight of the end-game," said Rivera. "Stay focused, push through it and it will be done before we know it. You can do it."

 [@wilkesbeacon](https://twitter.com/wilkesbeacon)
Lindsey.Scorey@wilkes.edu

Liz's Craft Column: Spookify your mini pumpkins

By Liz Cherinka
Staff Writer

Almost everyone knows how to carve, or has carved, a pumpkin before — it is a spooky season classic. Sometimes it can be disgusting with all the slime, and it can get boring if one has no knife skills.

These mini decorated pumpkins are a fun craft for the spooky season. Halloween is just around the corner, so it is good to be prepared.

For the decorated pumpkins, the materials are mini pumpkins, Halloween-themed ribbon, small fake flowers in fall colors, like oranges and reds, a hot glue gun, scissors and a knife. The pumpkins can be purchased at places with a produce section, such as Target or any grocery store, as well as from local vendors selling goodies for the fall season. The rest of the materials can be purchased at any craft store, such as Joann Fabrics or Michaels. This craft is affordable, costing about

\$15 to \$20.

The first step is making the bows for the top of the pumpkin. This can be done simply by cutting a piece of ribbon and tying it like shoelaces, or bunny ear style. That is the easiest way to make them, but there is a nicer and prettier way to do it.

The fancier, more crafty way, to make the bow would be to cut a piece of ribbon, make the bunny ears as if tying a shoelace and cross the two ends of the loops over one another to make an "X" in the center. This should resemble a ribbon with a circle on top and two long pieces.

Now, hot glue the back of the X to the inside middle of the circle that is now made. You may also have to hot glue the top layer of the X on, but sometimes the hot glue sticks to both layers. The ribbon should now resemble a bow.

To cover the hot glue spot in the middle, take a smaller piece of ribbon and wrap it around, hot gluing both ends of the small piece in the back and cutting

off the excess so that it forms a loop around the middle.

Repeat these steps until about one to two bows are made per pumpkin. The number of bows added are up to preference of how much is wanted on top. Be creative with what ribbon is used or the sizes of the bows. As a hint: The spookier, the better.

Now it is time to decorate the pumpkins. First, cut off the stem, being careful to not cut into the pumpkin, or it will rot very quickly. If the stem is short enough, it is not necessary to cut it off because it can be easily covered with decorations.

Then, remove the small fake flowers from their stem. The convenient thing

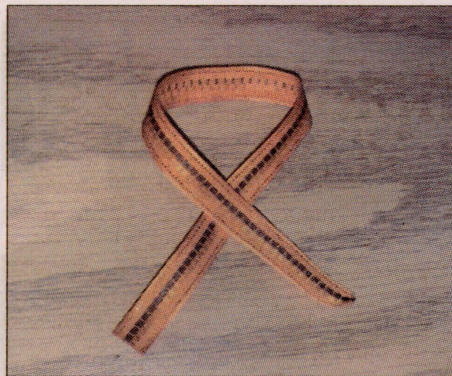
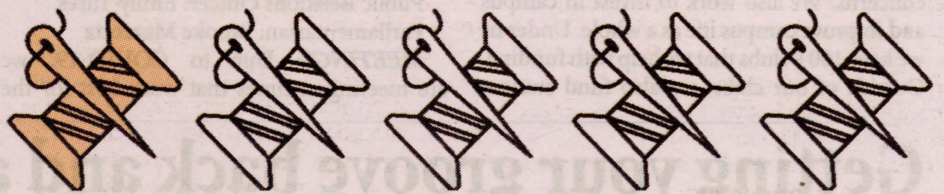
about fake flowers is that they are easily removed right off of the plastic stem and are able to be put on.

Arrange the flowers and bows on top of each pumpkin. Feel free to put as many or as little flowers or bows on the pumpkin. Then, hot glue each individual element as desired.

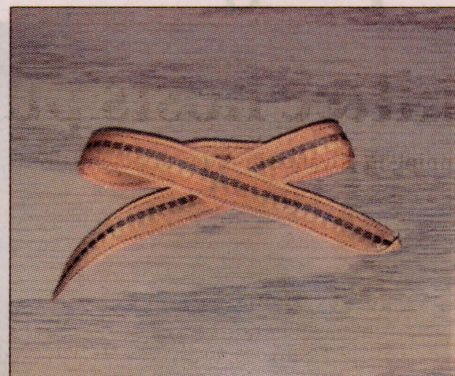
After that, the mini decorated pumpkins are finished. These add a fun, cute and spooky element to a desk or dresser and bring the spirit of the holiday alive.



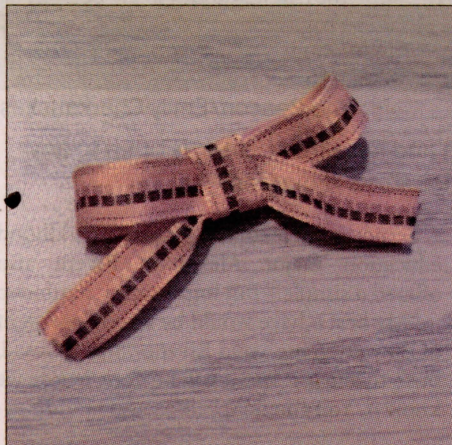
Elizabeth.Cherinka@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Anna Culver



1) The first step to this craft is cutting and tying the holiday-themed ribbon.



2) Now it is time to glue! Turn the bow over and apply to the back.



3) Whatever method one chooses, the bow should look something like this.



4) Once making bows is completed, you are ready to decorate.



Photos: The Beacon/Liz Cherinka

5) Once one has decorated to their liking, the spooky mini pumpkins are ready to be displayed, whether on a desk or dresser. These pumpkins are also great festive gifts for loved ones. To give an idea of what the finished pumpkins could look like, here are a few examples. Happy fall!

FAMILY, from front

Student Development tried to make the experience relative to the same that students and families would expect to engage with in-person.

“We have so much opportunity to host activities virtually, so we chose to schedule some events that we would normally host in-person,” said Howells. “Yoga, educational sessions, family escape rooms, a photo challenge and of course, bingo.”

The day started with a virtual yoga class at 10 a.m., which lasted for one hour. “Mellow Flow Yoga” was hosted by the staff of Balance Yoga and Wellness, who taught attendees asana, which is the physical practice of holding various yoga poses.

Techniques were beginner-friendly and non-strenuous in order to accommodate anyone who was new to yoga. The session provided a relaxing way to start the day, helping students and family members wake up and stretch their bodies.

Dr. Georgia Costalas, executive director of the Center for Global Education and Diversity, hosted the “Love Languages” session, held at 11 a.m.

Costalas presented a lecture that focused on the importance of bonding and appreciating others through the various ways

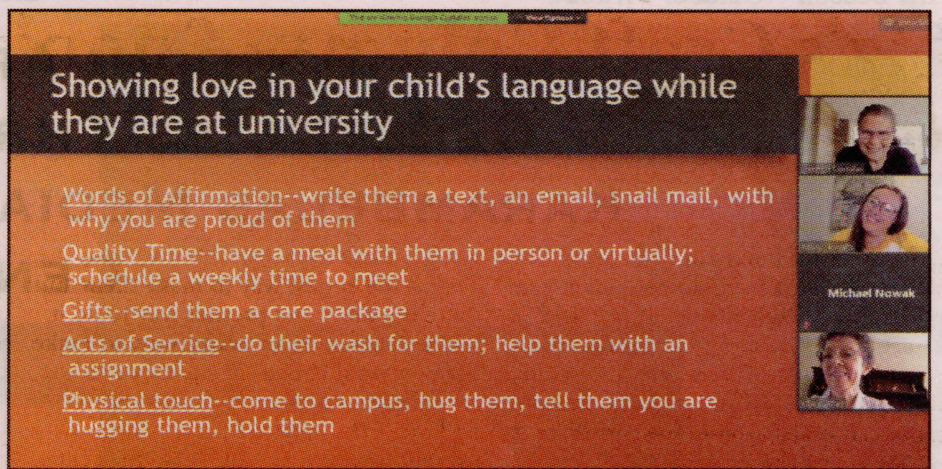
in which we express affection. She covered the five different types of love languages: Words of affirmation, spending quality time with others, offering and receiving gifts, acts of service and physical touch and affection.

“I mentioned that I have seen an interest in the topic of the love languages among our student workers and in the media, so I thought it might be a good topic for the parents,” said Costalas, when she explained her reasoning behind holding the lecture. “I have previously given workshops on the ‘Languages of Appreciation for the Workplace’ and the love languages, so I volunteered.”

Costalas reiterated the importance of how people express themselves in their relationships, the types of which can range from familial, parental, coworker, friend and many others, that can range from the different developmental ages, from child, adolescent to adult.

Students and families worked together to “escape” a digital escape room, which lasted from 1 to 4 p.m.

According to Student Development, participants had to get back to present-day in the Totally Tubular 80s party-themed escape room. Attendees worked with each other to piece together hints and puzzles in order to solve and escape the room, the theme of which was set in 1988.



The Beacon/Emily Cherkauskas

Dr. Georgia Costalas presented the five different love languages to families via Zoom.

The final session, which occurred later in the day's events at 7 p.m., featured a game of bingo. Students and families were able to join in on Zoom and had a digital bingo card, where the hosts would pick and call numbers over the conference call. Bingo winners received their own Wilkes-branded merchandise and swag from the Wilkes University Official Bookstore at Barnes and Noble.

Now that virtual family day has concluded,

Student Development is broadening its events for students and adapting as necessary to the current status of the pandemic.

“Should this virtual format be needed again, we will expand offerings and communicate more broadly with families,” said Howells.



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Honors Program Student Committee hosts pumpkin contest

By Liz Cherinka
Staff Writer

The Honors Program Student Committee is hosting a pumpkin carving and decorating contest until the end of October. Pictures of decorated pumpkins can be sent to @wilkeshonors on Instagram for a chance to win a prize.

The HPSC will vote, and the top three pumpkins will receive a prize. All submissions must be in by Oct. 31, and all Wilkes students are welcome and encouraged to participate.

The pumpkins can be carved, painted, decorated or designed in any way.

“The HPSC wanted to have a fun contest open to everyone to embody the spirit of the holiday,” said Jen McLaughlin, honors program office assistant when speaking of the program's inspiration for the pumpkin contest.

The committee worked hard to plan an event that was fun for students and also fit the holiday and fall season, as chillier weather approaches.

“We were trying to find a fall-inspired activity that brings out students' creativity in the spirit of the holidays while also keeping everyone safe, which is why everyone has the opportunity to decorate pumpkins at home but are able to send in pictures on

social media,” said Oliva Raymond, HPSC president.

The HPSC has high hopes for this event and wants it to be fun for all Wilkes students.

“We hope we get a lot of entries, and we want to have a lot of pumpkins to choose from,” said McLaughlin.

Raymond believes in the spirit of the holiday, even during the pandemic, as she hopes that students can get into the Halloween spirit, even though it is not celebrated traditionally.

Honors students are already planning their pumpkin designs and getting excited for the contest.

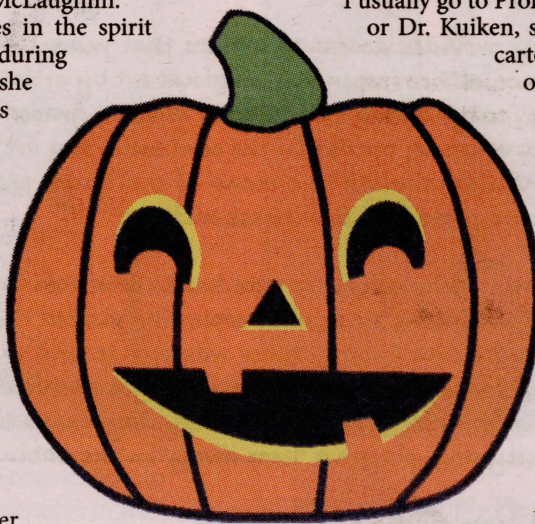
First-year honors program member Kaelin Hughes said she is excited for the contest and to see the winning submissions.

A lot of thought goes into planning a pumpkin design, and it is good to start

planning in advance in order to potentially win a prize.

Hughes plans on decorating a Wilkes-themed pumpkin for the contest.

“Since I am a freshman and new to everything, every time I have a question I usually go to Professor McLaughlin or Dr. Kuiken, so I'd like to paint



cartoon-like versions of them,” said Hughes. “They technically are the faces of the Honors Program.”

All Honors Program events have had to be moved online due to COVID-19 guidelines, so the Honors Program has been planning many events that require no

contact with others.

McLaughlin shared that planning events during the pandemic has been hard.

“None of our events are permitted to take place in person,” McLaughlin said. “We have been trying to be creative in planning ideas that don't endanger anybody.”

Raymond agrees, as planning events during COVID-19 has definitely been challenging but has also forced the program to think outside the box.

“Virtual events are great because they keep everyone safe yet engaged in the Wilkes community,” said Raymond.

Although the events cannot be in-person, the Honors Program and HPSC have been able to have more events than usual. This gives honors students the opportunity to earn more participation points per semester and for other Wilkes students to have fun.

“The whole point of the Honors Program is to reach out to everybody on campus,” said McLaughlin.

The Honors Program and HPSC have planned events this semester already, such as the NEDA walk, virtual bingo and a Chipotle fundraiser. Planning many online events for students will continue into next semester. To learn more about future events, check Wilkes Today as well as the Honors Program Instagram.



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SORDONI ART GALLERY CELEBRATES THREE YEARS IN THE KARAMBELAS MEDIA & COMMUNICATION CENTER

When the Karambelas Center opened its doors three years ago, it marked the beginning of a new chapter in the Sordoni Art Gallery legacy. The Sordoni Gallery has been a fixture on the Wilkes University campus since 1973. Its original location was on South River Street on the first floor of the Stark Learning Center. The very first exhibition in the Sordoni Gallery was Wilkes-Barre born George Catlin, who was world renown for his paintings of Native Americans in the Old West.

Over the years, interest in the gallery waxed and waned. In 2015, Dr. Patrick Leahy announced his three-part strategic plan to breathe new life into the campus fixture and thus began reinvigorating interest in the visual arts on our campus. When the gallery opened its doors on Oct. 6, 2017, hundreds of people were in attendance to celebrate. Keeping with tradition, as the new director, I curated an exhibition of another great artist with Pennsylvanian roots in Andy Warhol. To this date, it is the most visited exhibition in the Sordoni Gallery's 47 year history.

In the three seasons since reopening, the Sordoni Gallery has hosted 15 exhibitions, each with our extensive Art in Context lecture series, community installations, such as the tape mural on the SAG facade in 2018, by the Tape Art Crew, hands-on workshops such as glass blowing and bonsai creation and numerous other events including yoga, origami folding and our new Art in Your Hands virtual workshops.

The Sordoni Gallery provides access to artists that many would need to travel to larger cities to experience. Since reopening, original art by artists such as N.C. Wyeth, Robert Rauschenberg, Judy Chicago and Pablo Picasso graced our walls. It also has featured living artists making strides in the contemporary art scene such as Angela Fraleigh and Willie Williams. With this blend of exhibition programming, members of our campus community are able to witness history.

Imagine saying one day that you heard Pete Souza talk about his time photographing President Obama and President Reagan? People who visited the gallery in 2019 can say that! Two Presidents, One Photographer was our second most popular exhibition since we opened the new space. During Pete's visit, we got a behind-the-scenes perspective of what it was like to work in the White House every day, including Pete's iPhone video of Bo, the Obama family dog, playing 'keep away' in the Cabinet Room.

Who will it be next? Keep visiting to find out!

~ Heather Sincavage

- Compiled by Maria DiBuo, Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor



In 2018, the Sordoni Art Gallery presented the “Loud Silence: Expressions of Activism” exhibit.



Pictured is the entire Sordoni Art Gallery staff at the third anniversary celebration for being located at the Karambelas Media & Communication Center.



In 2017, the Sordoni Art Gallery featured the “15 Minutes: From Image to Icon” exhibit by Andy Warhol, which is the most-visited exhibition in the gallery’s 47-year history.



Photos courtesy of Heather Sincavage
In 2019, the “Simply Picasso” exhibit was featured, highlighting the father of modern art. The Sordoni Art Gallery hosted a lecture series for the event.

Opinion

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

Editorial Staff

2020-21

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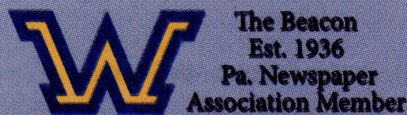
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Our Voice

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

Third party votes are as good as no votes at all

Over the last few months, we've all seen the occasional "Vote JoJo 2020" and other people advocating for third party candidates for the 2020 election.

And at a glance, their reasoning can be rather sound: Both parties are equally terrible and get nothing done, so voting third party would help to upend the system. To this, we at the Beacon would like to issue a mighty laugh of derision.

When was the last time a third party candidate won a presidential election? Unsurprisingly, the answer is never.

Despite this, third parties still hang around on the fringes of every presidential election, amassing insignificant amounts of the vote, from one to three percent.

Even back in 2016, Gary Johnson of the Libertarian Party received an incredible 3.28 percent of the vote, with almost 4.5 million votes, according to the Federal Elections Commission.

Many of their supporters repeated the familiar adage of wanting to break the system by running as a third party.

But time and time again, all these campaigns ultimately do is nothing but hemorrhage votes from the two main parties in an election – and that is the problem.

You see, most of the country exists in a

two-party political system. Was this what the Founders intended?

Of course not, but the time and place for reforming our two-party system is not during an election year, as these third parties would have you believe.

Let's look at the example of Pennsylvania in the 2016 election, a state that President Donald Trump carried by 0.72 percent, or 44,292 votes. In this election, there were 231,066 combined votes for irrelevant third parties, out of a total of 6,165,478 votes, according to the Federal Election Commission.

While these votes would not have neatly fit in with one party or another, the fact remains that third party voters consistently overlook one crucial concept: Who is the lesser of two evils in an election dominated by two candidates?

Many people have valid reasons for disliking Trump or Joe Biden. Both candidates have sexual assault allegations, both have made racist remarks and both have been inconsistent in the comments they have made throughout their public careers.

But deciding to vote third party is, almost exclusively, throwing away one's vote.

For most of our lives, we have

heard about only two parties as they scream at us and at each other through advertisements and news headlines. Once in a while, we hear about the Green Party, the Libertarian Party and even the Rent Is Too Damn High Party.

Maybe the government really isn't doing enough for the environment, but do you think the party that struggles to clear even one million votes is going to ever be as influential as either of the two main parties and their over 60 million votes?

A vote for third party seems to be a great alternative, but here's the deal: It's utterly pointless.

Jo Jorgenson isn't going to make it to the White House, and neither is Howie Hawkins. If you were a diehard supporter for Bernie Sanders and recoil at the thought of a Biden presidency, ask yourself this: Would you rather a Biden presidency or a Trump presidency?

But by voting for a third party, you are forfeiting your vote in determining the outcome. Because let's be realistic here, it's either Biden or Trump – not Jo.



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First presidential debate: Useless insults and absurd debacle

By Liam Flynn
Staff Writer

The first presidential debate was held on Sept. 29 from 9 to 10:30 p.m. EST at the Samson Pavilion of the Health Education Campus, which is shared by Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland. Chris Wallace of Fox News moderated the debate.

The debate was divided into six segments: President Donald Trump's and Joe Biden's records, the Supreme Court, the Coronavirus pandemic, race and violence in cities, election integrity, and the economy.

Each segment was approximately 15 minutes in length. Wallace introduced each topic and gave each candidate two minutes to speak, followed by facilitated discussion between them.

The allotted time was generally not upheld. Trump repeatedly interrupted and criticized Biden during Biden's answers to the initial questions as well as during the facilitated discussions, and he was chastised by Wallace several times for doing so.

On several occasions, Wallace pleaded with Trump to respect the rules and norms of the debate.

At one point, Biden said to Trump, "Will you shut up, man?" During the discussion about healthcare plans, Biden called Trump a "clown."

When Biden and Wallace pressed Trump to condemn white supremacy groups, Trump asked, "Give me a name..." to which Biden responded, "The Proud Boys."

Trump then said, "Proud Boys, stand back and stand by, but I'll tell you what, I'll tell you what, somebody's got to do something about Antifa and the Left because this is not a right-wing problem, this is a left-wing problem."

This remark was interpreted by some members of that far-right group, as well as others, as a call to arms, while some claimed the statement was merely a wrong choice of words by the president.

When asked about his position on police reform, Biden called for an increase in police funding. He explained such funds would be used to hire psychologists or psychiatrists who would accompany police officers during 911 calls in order to defuse situations and reduce the use of force.

Fact checkers challenged many of

Trump's statements. Trump falsely said that he "brought back (college) football." He had commented on his wish for the conferences to play, but took no official action.

Trump also repeated the claim that he "got back" Seattle and Minneapolis from left-wing protesters, and continued to repeat conspiracy theories about voter fraud.

He said, without evidence, that drug prices will fall "80 or 90 percent," and exaggerated that he is making insulin at prices "so cheap, it's like water" when actually insulin prices remain at about \$300 per vial.

the 2009 swine flu pandemic, which had an estimated death toll of about 12,000.

When Biden mentioned that Trump should get "a lot smarter," Trump said, "Don't ever use the word smart with me, don't ever use that word. There's nothing smart about you, Joe."

The president then incorrectly claimed that Biden forgot where he went to college, referring to a video where Biden talks about announcing his first Senate campaign on the campus of Delaware State University.

Trump spent the vast majority of his time on the debate stage Tuesday night interrupting former the vice president

Some of his remarks included: "That was a hot mess, inside a dumpster fire, inside a train wreck," "He was his own tweets come to life" and "We'll talk about who won the debate, who lost the debate ... One thing for sure, the American people lost."

After much of the resistance to take action to prevent the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, ironically, Trump was hospitalized with COVID-19 on Oct. 2, and treated with the unapproved experimental antibody drug regeneron, the antiviral drug remdesivir and the steroid dexamethasone. He was discharged and returned to the white house on Oct. 5.

Trump's campaign manager issued a new statement on Oct. 8 announcing they agree to a suggestion by Biden's campaign to delay the second debate by a week, so it can be held in person.

Trump said that he will not participate in the second presidential debate with Biden after the commission on presidential debates said the event will be held virtually in the wake of the president's positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

"I am not going to do a virtual debate," said Trump on Fox Business. "I am not going to waste my time on a virtual debate."

Trump campaign manager Bill Stepien said they would be willing to push the Oct. 15 debate back a week and then move the third debate to Oct. 29, just days before the November 3 election.

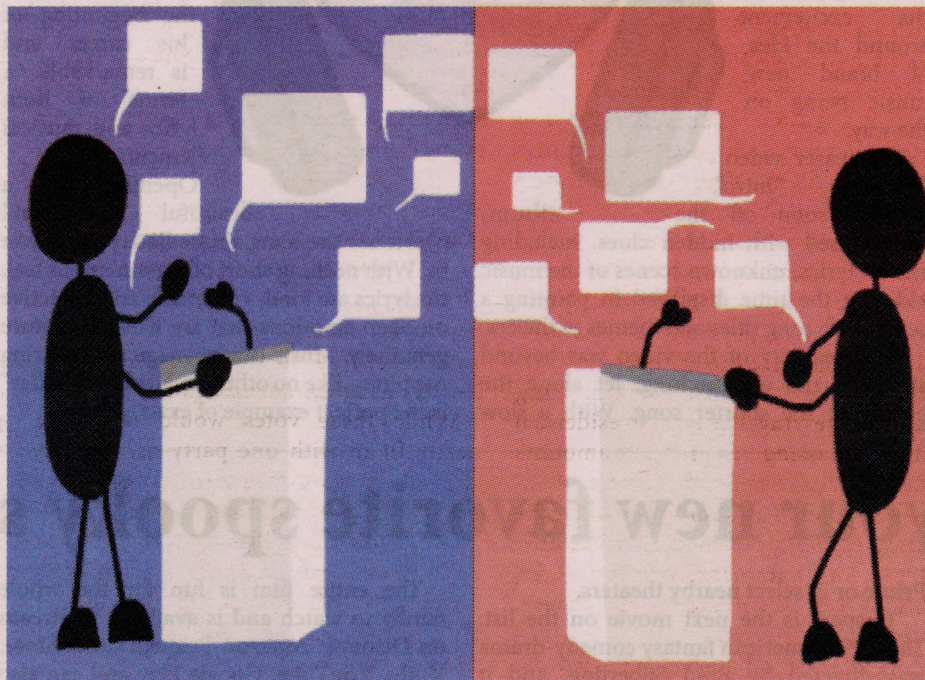
But Biden's campaign rejected their proposal. Trump doesn't make the debate schedule – the debate commission does. Trump's erratic behavior does not allow him to rewrite the calendar, and pick new dates of his choosing.

I personally would not consider the prime time event on Sept. 29 a debate. If I had to pick a winner, I believe Biden would take the victory.

The debate did not go in the favor of our current commander in chief, as many moderates viewed him as a bully as he refrained from answering any questions about future policies and kept attempting to verbally attack the former vice president.

Many voters are turning away from, as Biden said in the debate, "The worst president America has ever had."

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Graphic by Zarqua Ansari



Bre's Beats: Mendes brings fans to a world of "Wonder"

By Breanna Ebisch
Opinion Editor

There is no greater surprise than the announcement of new music, and especially during today's climate where COVID-19 has imposed numerous obstacles on the music industry.

This has not stopped monumental releases, such as a heartfelt storytelling album from Taylor Swift to a groundbreaking single from one of the world's biggest bands BTS. Early this month, Canadian singer-songwriter Shawn Mendes joined the ranks by both teasing and releasing the leading single of his highly anticipated album due in December.

After months of speculation and rumors, dedicated fans along with the general public were given a glimpse into Mendes' new era after a few cryptic tweets arrived with an artistically pleasing video doubling as the long awaited announcement.

"Wonder," the title of the singer's upcoming fourth album and latest single, reveals a side of Mendes that has never been seen before. Honest and authentic, the leading single touches on toxic masculinity, being open and vulnerable and addresses the topic of feeling every emotion as it comes.

Following the release of his third No. 1 album "Shawn Mendes" in May of 2018, two spontaneous singles dropping in 2019. Coming off a highly successful world tour that spanned over almost the entirety of last year, the wait for new music from the Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter is over.

His presence on social media has been relatively silent over the last ten months, which has fed into the excitement around the idea of brand new music being on the way.

The teaser video featuring "Intro", another song off the album, was littered with hidden clues, including honest lyrics, unknown scenes of the music video at the time displayed in painting a setlist with song titles and themes of the era.

The creativity of the video was beyond stunning and eye-catching, let alone the beauty of the shorter song. With a slow

build, featuring a repetitive melody of soothing piano notes giving way to the shocking instrumental while showcasing Mendes' unique vocals, "Intro" is only a taste of the incredible musicianship he is widely known for.

"Wonder," the power ballad lead single, was released only two days after the initial announcement.

Overall, the song is a major step away from the sound that Mendes has claimed since the beginning of his career and is remarkable in terms of both lyrics and musical elements.

Opening with a beautiful choral overtone, the song immediately pulls you in. With nothing short of a momentous feel, the lyrics are kind, vulnerable and reflective on deep emotions that are hard to capture genuinely. Music can be magical and bring happiness like no other, and truly, "Wonder" is the perfect example of exactly that.

Between the heartfelt and attention-grabbing instrumental towards the end the subtle crescendos throughout the entirety of the single and recognizable beat paired with the touching lyrics, the record is nothing short of incredible.

The contrast and display of Mendes' vocal ability to belt but also touch on soft notes that capture both the beauty and warmth of the music is a unique feature of the song that stands out on the charts, which are flooded with countless remixes and hip hop artists.

Mendes himself described the song as "reflection, hope, freedom" and revealed that he's never been more proud of a song or album before. Although the singer has always been more soulful than other mainstream Top 40 artists, this new single emphasizes that skill even more.

With fans more excited than ever after the single and its accompanying music video, there is much anticipation and wonder for Mendes' fourth album set to be released on Dec. 4.

If this new taste of music is any indicator what the rest of the record will sound like, then everyone is in for a great tracklist full of stunning songs.



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Say "Boo" to your new favorite spooky season movies

By Jordan Daniel
Opinion Staff Writer

Halloween is just around the corner, and many of us will not be able to participate in the traditional holiday festivities like trick-or-treating or attending a costume party this year due to COVID-19. However, watching these classic Halloween movies can help you still feel excited about the holiday.

The first movie on the must-watch list of classic Halloween films is "Hocus Pocus." This is one of my all time favorites, and it depicts a curious teenage boy who moves with his family to Salem, but he struggles to fit in at his new school. Along the way, he awakens a trio of witches that were executed from the 17th century.

Kenny Ortega is the director of this film, which stars Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker, Kathy Najimy and Omri Katz.

If the history of the Salem witches and magic spells are your thing, then you need to watch this film on Disney+, Amazon

Prime or in select nearby theaters.

"Casper" is the next movie on the list. This 1995 American fantasy comedy-drama was directed by Brad Silberling, and it stars Christina Ricci, Bill Pullman, Cathy Moriarty, Eric Idle and Malachi Pearson.

The movie follows Casper, voiced by Pearson, who is a kind ghost that haunts a mansion in Maine until a specialist arrives with his daughter Kat, who becomes Casper's complicated love interest.

If you have a soft spot for ghosts and romance, you can stream this movie on Freeform, Amazon Prime, iTunes Store, Vudu, YouTube, Google Play and many others.

The third movie to watch during Halloween is Tim Burton's 1993 film "The Nightmare Before Christmas."

This film displays the adventures of the pumpkin king Jack Skellington, who is bored of the routine of scaring people in the "real world" until he discovers Christmastown and he finds a new lease on life.

The entire film is fun for the whole family to watch and is available to stream on Disney+, Amazon Prime, iTunes Store, Vudu, YouTube, Google Play and can also be viewed in select nearby theaters.

If you are feeling adventurous this Halloween season, I recommend a highly rated Korean horror film, "Train to Busan."

Sangho Yeon directed this film, and it has received many awards, such as the Baeksang Arts Award for Best Supporting Actor in Film, Baeksang Arts Award for Best New Film Director, Blue Dragon Film Award Technical Award and Blue Dragon Film Award Audience Choice Award for Most Popular Film.

The movie is about a zombie virus breakout in South Korea, while passengers on a train to Busan struggle to survive against the undead.

If the ever so popular zombie film genre is of interest to you, check out this movie on Amazon Prime, Shudder, Tubi, iTunes Store, Vudu, YouTube and other streaming platforms.

The last movie on my list is, of course, "Halloween." This is an American horror franchise that began in 1978 and consists of 11 films, all of which fall in the must-watch category.

The focus of this movie is on serial killer Michael Myers, who was committed to a sanitarium as a child for the murder of his sister, but 15 years later, he escapes and kills people in the fictional town of Haddonfield, Ill.

These suspenseful films will definitely keep you on the edge of your seat, and you can watch the first "Halloween" on AMC, Shudder, Amazon Prime, Vudu, YouTube, Google Play and others.

Although this Halloween will feel different from past years, you can still make it fun by watching all the movies on this list with your closest friends and family members while you all chow down on your favorite Halloween candy.



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American Sign Language: Not all words need to be spoken

By Zarqua Ansari
Asst. Opinion Editor

Be careful of what you call a disability. For example, if one day you woke up and everyone had super-speed except for you, you would not have a disability. The need for cars would disappear for everyone except for you. However, you could still drive to work as normal, and you would still be a functioning member of society. Sure, it would be inconvenient that you couldn't super speed everywhere, but you still wouldn't have a disability.

However, if one day you started to drive to work and found that the roads were obstructed with construction for people's houses, you wouldn't be able to get to your destination on time. The roads weren't needed by everyone else, but you still needed them. It would be unfair for other people to neglect your needs simply because they were no longer necessary for them.

In this case, you might have a disability, not because there is something inherently wrong with you, but because the system failed to accommodate for your needs. It is not fair that your problems are overlooked by society when solutions to these problems would require very little effort to resolve, i.e. leaving the roads clear for your travel.

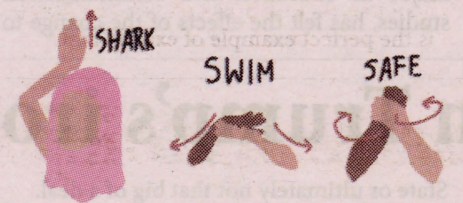
In the same way, deafness is not a disability. Just because someone has a different life experience than you does not mean that you are better off than them. Privilege merely exists as a consequence of failed accommodations for a minority group. For example, white privilege is an advantage that white people have over black people because the system is stacked against black people. On the same token, ableism arises from the inability to accommodate for people with disabilities.

According to Gallaudet Research Institute, American Sign Language is the third most learned language in America, just behind Spanish and French. Approximately 250,000 to 500,000 people use ASL. PubMed reports that fewer than one in 20 people are deaf or hard of hearing, with an estimated 10 million people who are hard of hearing and one million people who are functionally deaf.

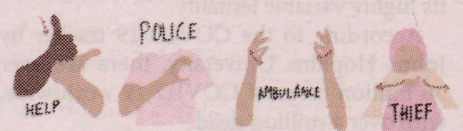
With numbers this high, it is obvious that ASL is a valuable tool. However, the usefulness of ASL doesn't stop there.

According to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, one in three Americans between the ages of 65 and 74 has hearing loss, and nearly half of those over 75 have difficulty hearing. Science has not found a way to prevent people from aging, so the reality is that most of us will end up losing our hearing as we get older. What better way to prepare than to learn ASL now while our working memory is still strong?

ASL has practical uses as well. For example, deep sea divers use hand signals and underwater writing slates to communicate. Knowing ASL would make deep sea diving communication incredibly advanced. Instead of a few designated hand signals, ASL would allow for full conversations underwater. It would be much easier than having to bring a special slate to write underwater, especially in an emergency situation.



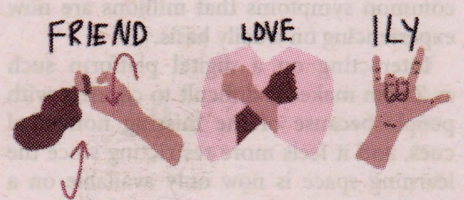
However, most people are not deep sea divers. ASL would come in handy in an emergency situation. In a circumstance where you need to be quiet, such as an intruder in your house, using sign language would allow you to communicate with others without making a sound. The silent communication is much more thorough than some hand motions you hope the other person can understand.



ASL opens an opportunity to communicate with a group of people who have a completely different perspective than you. Deaf people have more spatial awareness than hearing people

because they have to look to be able to communicate.

Some people are mute by choice. Although they might not use their voice to speak, ASL might offer them an alternative for speech. This would help ease the hearts of their loved ones. Selective mutism is often the result of anxiety in social situations. By using sign language, the anxiety of communication is alleviated, allowing for less stressful interactions.



Children can pick up ASL just as quickly as verbal speech. Babies can pick up ASL as early as eight months old. Alongside their first stumbled words, infants can fully communicate using signs. ASL is easy to learn and helps cognitive development earlier on in life.

In fact, according to Education Playcare, research shows that ASL speeds up speech development and reduces stress for infants who have not yet learned to speak. They are able to communicate and this fosters a stronger parent-child bond from an earlier age. Infants with the ability to communicate at a younger age

would enable less fussy children and a lot less tears.

When I went to Knoebels as a kid, there was a deaf man collecting tickets for the Twister roller coaster. He had a sign saying, "I'm deaf, but I can help you." I felt so bad that everyone walked by him without saying thank you simply because he couldn't hear. I made my dad Google how to say thank you in sign language so I could thank the man. The smile that lit up his face was enough to fuel me for years down the line.

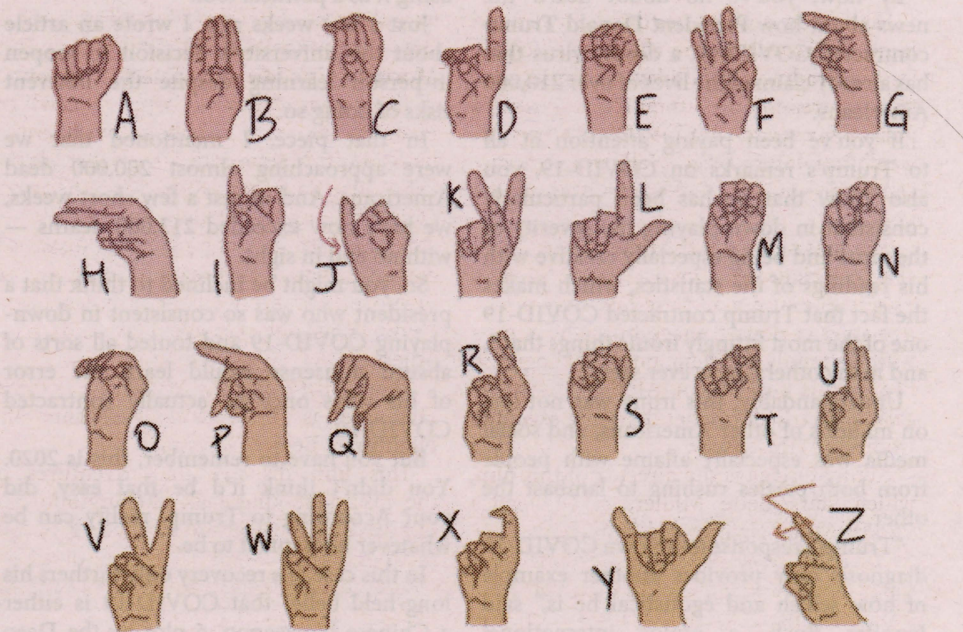
Hearing is a sense most people take for granted. Failing to put closed captions on videos and movies puts a significant portion of people at a loss of enjoyment. Social media like TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram have videos with no options for captions.

The little extra effort it takes to add captions is inconsequential to media giants and displays compassion.

With so many benefits, ASL should be implemented into the American education system and become a household staple for the future.



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Graphics by Zarqua Ansari



“Zoom fatigue” causes dire consequences for students

By Breanna Ebisch
Opinion Editor

Gone are the days of sitting in the classroom for lengthy periods of time, working in groups to complete assignments and seeing colleagues, fellow students and professors in-person everyday.

The normalcy of gaining an education has dramatically changed due to COVID-19, and the adaptation to the new safety precautions that seem to impact every aspect of life continue to alter even the most basic parts of what daily life used to look like.

Now, instead of the typical school day, students nationwide are spending hours in front of their computer screens to sit in on countless Zoom classes and meetings, along with submitting assignments through various online tools.

The adjustments to education in order for students to continue learning without being put at a direct risk of contracting the virus have been substantial, and although the digital classroom has proven to be relatively effective, there are inevitable downfalls.

Losing the aspect of meeting with a class in-person, engaging in educational discussions and having the opportunity to

build relationships with other classmates has taken away the most important aspects of the typical school experience.

After becoming acclimated to the expected days of switching between various subjects for designated amounts of time, the abrupt change to an entirely online school day still remains a challenge, including the unavoidable tiredness of doing everything digitally.

“Zoom fatigue,” as the phenomenon has been coined, includes easily getting distracted, losing focus and becoming restless and exhausted. These are all common symptoms that millions are now experiencing on a daily basis.

Interacting on a digital platform such as Zoom makes it difficult to connect with people because of the missing nonverbal cues, and it feels more restricting since the learning space is now only available on a computer screen.

According to the Harvard Business Review, “On a video call, the only way to show we’re paying attention is to look at the camera. But, in real life, how often do you stand within three feet of a colleague and stare at their face? Probably never. This is because having to engage in a “constant gaze” makes us uncomfortable – and tired.

In person, we are able to use our peripheral vision to glance out the window or look at others in the room. On a video call, because we are all sitting in different homes, if we turn to look out the window, we worry it might seem like we’re not paying attention.”

Before the pandemic, our lives remained in the comfortable normal we had always known. The only form of video calling would be occasional FaceTime calls with friends or family members.

But now, when we rely heavily on the digital platform to learn, complete work and connect with others, making the video call seem more like a chore. Not taking into consideration the variations between real life occurrences and how to act on camera can make long days on Zoom attending class feel tedious and tiring.

On top of the stress and anxiety COVID-19 has already placed on young people, “Zoom fatigue” adds another level of pressure. As if the coursework and overall workload of being a college student wasn’t enough, adding a completely online component means making those tasks even more difficult.


Hannah Simerson, a junior double major in education and communication studies, has felt the effects of the change to

remote learning while taking on the task of continuing to earn her education in a non-traditional setting.

“I just said to my family recently how I feel like I haven’t learned a single thing so far this semester, and it’s a shame because I’m in almost all of my core classes for my major,” Simerson said. “I’m not sure if it’s due to Zoom, but I just can’t seem to retain any information from my class meetings. I thought virtual learning would be best for me, but I feel that I kind of got jipped out of my education this semester.”

Students across the country are feeling similar to Simerson. Many feel as if they aren’t learning as much as they would if they were in the classroom and all the negatives that come with conducting class almost entirely online.

While many may argue that “Zoom fatigue” is not real, and in turn not affecting the millions of people who are staying home from school and work due COVID-19, the effects are hard to overlook. It’s clear the digital transition is more harmful than beneficial in more ways than one, and a change back to normalcy needs to happen soon.

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COVID-19 denial results in Trump’s ironic diagnosis

By William Billingsley
Staff Writer

By now, you’ve no doubt heard the news about how President Donald Trump contracted COVID-19, a deadly virus that has already claimed the lives of over 210,000 Americans.

If you’ve been paying attention at all to Trump’s remarks on COVID-19, you also know that he has been particularly consistent in down-playing the severity of the virus and being especially creative with his readings of the statistics, which makes the fact that Trump contracted COVID-19 one of the most fittingly ironic things that I, and many others, have ever seen.

Understandably, this irony was not lost on millions of other Americans, and social media was especially aflame with people from both parties rushing to lambast the other.

“Trump’s response to his own COVID-19 diagnosis only provides another example of how selfish and egotistical he is,” said Jennifer Boch, a junior international

relations and history double major. “The man has no shame. It is not surprising that he contracted it, and unfortunately, he is using it as a political tool.”

Just a few weeks ago, I wrote an article about the university’s decision to reopen in-person learning despite the inherent risks of doing so.

In that piece, I mentioned that we were approaching almost 200,000 dead Americans. And in just a few short weeks, we have now exceeded 213,000 deaths — with no end in sight.

So, you might be inclined to think that a president who was so consistent in down-playing COVID-19 and touted all sorts of absurd nonsense would learn the error of his ways once he actually contracted COVID-19.

But you have to remember, this is 2020. You didn’t think it’d be that easy, did you? According to Trump, reality can be whatever he wants it to be.

In this case, his recovery only furthers his long-held belief that COVID-19 is either a Chinese bioweapon, a plot by the Deep

State or ultimately not that big of a deal.

Of course, all of these are utterly ridiculous, but because he walked away from COVID-19 more or less unharmed, this only further supports his patently false claims about the virus.

Never mind his obnoxious supporters who were already nigh-impossible to convince on wearing a mask or following other basic safety guidelines. You know, basic human empathy, which leads me to my next point of contention with COVID-19 — the ease of transmission and its highly variable lethality.

According to the COVID-19 tracker by Johns Hopkins University, there are over 36 million cases of COVID-19 worldwide, with over a million dead.

Although the pandemic moniker might carry a certain connotation of this widespread deadly pathogen rivaling the Black Death, the fact is that obviously, it is nowhere as deadly.

For reference, the Black Death was estimated to have killed anywhere from a third to two-thirds the population of


Europe, an estimate that does not account for the scores of others killed in Asia.

But it is precisely because COVID-19 is not as earth-shatteringly deadly as the Black Death or other noted pandemics that we as a country find ourselves in this baffling predicament.

Because apparently COVID-19 is not deadly enough to convince people to follow the simplest of instructions like wear your mask, wash your hands, and stay the hell away from me.”

Now of course, it is obviously a good thing that this pandemic is not as deadly as some of history’s nastier diseases, because obviously many more of us would be dead, and the rest would be unable to pretend the pandemic didn’t exist.

I won’t pretend to know what arbitrary lethality bar a pandemic has to cross before a society begins to take it seriously, but I suppose we’ll find out once people stop dying from it.

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Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact the Sports Editors: Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu or Dylan.Mehl@wilkes.edu

Intramurals aim for participation in cornhole, esports

By Dylan Mehl
Co-Sports Editor

Eight weeks into the Fall 2020 semester, and intramural sports are underway on campus with a twist. While Wilkes Athletics are currently delayed, intramurals are looking to gain participants for the spring semester -- hopefully over winter break.

"The semester has been great as far as games going on smoothly," said Scott Robinson, head of intramurals. "We just finished our second week of games (we delayed the start to try to get more participants). There have been no issues, and if there are, such as somebody not feeling well, they let me know via email right away and we adjust the schedule accordingly."

"Everyone is being very respectful, and I think everyone is enjoying the opportunity for some type of activity that they can participate in."

Thus far, only two of the four sports originally offered as intramurals are running due to participation issues: cornhole and esports. Despite the change, the university has found success in the games that have been played.

"Participation for intramurals has been down compared to past years. Part of that is because there are not really any team sports, so everything is more individual-based," said Robinson. "I am very pleased with the participation in cornhole. We have a total of 18 teams (36 participants), which is more than I expected."

Cornhole takes place on campus every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to roughly 8:30 p.m. in the McHale Athletic Center. The protocol for this is similar to many other on campus activities: requiring a temperature check of students at the door and a green badge on the Wilkes SHIELD app.

It appears Wilkes students have taken to the addition of cornhole to intramural sports and are in favor of its return.

"I think that cornhole definitely got a great reaction," said Michael Gurska, an intramurals intern.

Donovan Breeding, a cornhole participant, added, "Everybody knows it. It's a fun game to play, and hopefully in the future, it is definitely added."

While cornhole has taken off with Wilkes students, the other three sports -- esports, a three-point contest and a decathlon -- did not have the same reception.

Esports is functioning with two competitors. These two individuals are currently acting as the "guinea pigs" in a trial run of the league. The trial run is an attempt to figure out the best way to make the sport bigger on campus.

Both the three-point contest and the decathlon had to be canceled due to the lack of participants.

Esports gaining popularity is a priority for intramural sports, as they are looking to make it a staple of the program.

"I currently have two interns working for me right now, and one of their main objectives is raising interest on the topic



Photos: The Beacon/ Ariel Reed

Donovan Breeding carefully aimed his cornhole bag for the board to secure the win in Wednesday night's contest.

of esports," Robinson said. "The hope is that we can gain enough participation interest that we could potentially hold an esports league over winter break for Wilkes students, so they can stay connected via intramural esports."

Schools across the nation, including some close to Wilkes, have generated interest in esports. Certain schools have generated enough interest in this event that they created an official esports team. These teams take on other schools, the same as any other MAC sports team would.

"Esports could really take off," said Charles Giacometti, an intramurals intern. "There's a lot of schools now, bigger schools than Wilkes, doing esports competitively, so intramurals could be a little jump-start if we see something going."

The two interns, Gurska and Giacometti, have created social media pages for intramural sports, on both Instagram and Twitter: @Wilkes_recSPORT.

"It's really taken off, and we've been able to put stuff up there including a lot of different videos of people playing cornhole to try and integrate some more publicity for

everything," Gurska said.

The future of intramurals, like many other campus activities, is not set in stone. COVID-19 has presented Wilkes and other universities with many challenges when it comes to planning ahead, and intramurals are taking it semester-by-semester.

"I do not know what the plan for next semester will be because I do not know what the exact situation will become," said Robinson. "We are trying to do everything right to get to the end of this semester, and then we will tackle next semester when it comes."

While there is no definitive plan for next semester, intramurals and Robinson are open to taking suggestions from Wilkes students. At the end of the day, intramurals are run for the students. While it may not be what everyone is used to, students can participate and make it the best it can be.

Questions, concerns or ideas can be sent to Robinson at scott.robinson1@wilkes.edu.



Breeding's cornhole partner Laura Booths tossed a bag in attempt to tie the score of the match.



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MLB: A review of what occurred in the Wild Card matchups

By Chris Gowarty
Sports Staff Writer

In the debut of MLB's brand new Wild Card Series, eight of the 16 teams have won their matchups and are moving on to divisional rounds.

Due to the postponement of the 2020 season caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the MLB shortened its usual 162-game season to 60 games. To compensate for the small number of games played across the league, six additional teams were able to qualify for the postseason and have their shot at hoisting the World Series trophy.

A new introductory series came along with the additional six teams playing in the postseason. Instead of the sudden-death Wild Card game, the 2020 MLB playoffs began with the Wild Card Series. The Wild Card Series was a best-of-three series in which the seeding was decided by each team's place in the division and their overall record.

In the American League, the No. 1 seed Tampa Bay Rays faced off against the No. 8 seed Toronto Blue Jays. The young core of the Blue Jays, who were unexpected to earn a spot in the postseason, were swept in two games by the Rays. With strong pitching performances from Blake Snell, Tyler Glasnow and Charlie Morton, Tampa Bay was able to sweep its first playoff series in franchise history.

The No. 4 seed Cleveland Indians faced the No. 5 seed New York Yankees. In game one of the series, Shane Bieber, who earned the AL pitching Triple Crown by leading the league in wins, earned run average and strikeouts, struggled against New York's offense. He gave up seven runs in four and two-thirds innings. Yankees' ace Gerrit Cole shut down the Cleveland opposition throwing seven two-run innings while striking out 13. The Yankees went on to win the second game and knock the Indians out.

The No. 6 seed Houston Astros swept the No. 3 seed Minnesota Twins in two games, extending the Twins' postseason losing streak to 18 straight games. Minnesota's hitters had trouble scoring in the series, as they only scored one run each game. The Astros, who were the only team in the majors to earn a playoff spot with a winning percentage below .500, hope to win their upcoming Division Series to compete in what would be their fourth straight American League Championship Series.

The only AL Wild Card

Series that did not result in a sweep was when the No. 2 seed Oakland Athletics defeated the No. 7 seed Chicago White Sox. The A's and White Sox's series went three games. White Sox ace Lucas Giolito pitched six innings without allowing a base runner in game one. Although his no-hitter was broken up the following inning, Giolito and the White Sox would go on to win 4-1. The Athletics went on to win game two backed by seven one-run innings by pitcher Chris Bassitt. Game three was won behind Chad Pinder's two-run single in the fifth inning.


In the National League, the No. 1 seed Los Angeles Dodgers advanced to the Division Series after sweeping the No. 8 seed Milwaukee Brewers. In game two, Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw tied his own postseason record with eight innings pitched and set a new personal playoff best with 13 strikeouts.

The No. 5 seed St. Louis Cardinals were defeated by the No. 4 seed San Diego Padres. The Padres won their first postseason series since 1998, with the help of a strong offensive performance from Fernando Tatis Jr., who went 5-for-11 in the series with five runs scored and five runs batted in. In game three of the series, San Diego used nine pitchers, setting the record for most pitchers used in a shutout in major league history.

The No. 6 seed Miami Marlins upset the No. 3 seed Chicago Cubs in a sweep. In their first playoff appearance since 2003, the Marlins shut down the Cubs offense by only allowing one run in the two games played. With their series win against Chicago, Miami remained unbeaten in a postseason series, winning their seventh straight series.

The No. 2 seed Atlanta Braves swept the No. 7 seed Cincinnati Braves. This game set history, as it was the first time that a postseason game went scoreless into the 13th inning. The scoreless tie was finally broken up by a walk-off, one-run single by Braves NL MVP candidate Freddie Freeman. The Braves went on to win the second game, ending their 19-year drought without a postseason series win.



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Graphic by Anna Culver

NFL: The first cases of COVID-19, how they impacted league play

By Dylan Mehl
Co-Sports Editor

For the first time, the NFL had its regular season schedule impacted by positive COVID-19 test results. The Tennessee Titans and Pittsburgh Steelers matchup has been delayed to week seven due to the multitude of positive tests in the Titans' organization.

Tennessee had their first positive results on Sept. 29, with multiple players on the team and staff testing positive the Tuesday after their week two matchup with Minnesota. The Vikings, however, did not have any positive cases.

Pittsburgh and Tennessee were scheduled to have a week three matchup. As more positive cases continued to pop-up for the Titans, the NFL made the decision to delay the game until a later date.

"The decision to postpone the game was made to ensure the health and safety of players, coaches and game day personnel. The Titans' facility will remain closed, and

the team will continue to have no in-person activities until further notice," as per the NFL's official Twitter announcement.

The postponement has caused the Steelers versus Ravens game to be delayed until week eight. This resulted in Pittsburgh and Tennessee having their bye weeks in week four, and Baltimore's being moved to week seven.

The situation in Tennessee may not be getting better anytime soon. Their case numbers are continuing to climb, reaching a total of 19 cases, as per the team report.

According to NFL insider Adam Schefter, the NFL has begun an investigation of the Titans. The rumor is that Titans players held a private practice together while they were supposed to be in quarantine. If this is found to be true, Tennessee risks major repercussions from the league for not following the COVID-19 protocols.

The small outbreak of cases in Tennessee has led to multiple other teams in the league also revealing positive COVID-19 tests. Cam Newton, starting quarterback

for the New England Patriots, was one of several players to test positive this past week.

Heading into week four, Newton had led the Patriots to a 2-1 record and posted four rushing touchdowns for his team. The Patriots, led by Newton, were set to take on the defending Super Bowl champions of the Kansas City Chiefs in week four.

After testing positive, Newton went to Twitter to say, "WEAR YOUR MASK; KEEP YOUR DISTANCE," accompanied by an image of Newton in a mask.

The game between the Patriots and the Chiefs was postponed until Oct. 5 after Newton and backup quarterback for Kansas City Jordan Ta'amu both tested positive. The Chiefs earned a 26-10 victory over New England. The Chiefs moved to a perfect record of 4-0 after this win.

Cornerback A.J. Terrell of the Atlanta Falcons and defensive tackle Maurice Hurst of the Las Vegas Raiders are other players who also tested positive for COVID-19.


The NFL has been standing firm

in enforcing the rules for COVID-19 precautions.

Before the season started, several rules were put in place: the staff on the sidelines having to wear masks, players having to wear masks when going out, and not allowing post-game jersey swaps.

The league is strict with their agenda throughout the season, and several teams, players and coaches have been heavily fined for not following the rules.

Pete Carroll, head coach of the Seattle Seahawks; Kyle Shanahan, head coach of the 49ers; Vic Fangio, head coach of the Denver Broncos; and Jon Gruden, head coach of the Las Vegas Raiders have all already been fined this season for not wearing masks on the sideline. These fines by the NFL have been up to \$100,000 for the coaches and an additional \$250,000 that the organization has to pay.

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Student-athletes in practice-mode despite delayed seasons



Top: Sophomore defender Maura Hensel stops first-year Anmarie Lebron from scoring a goal at their pod practice.
Bottom: First-year Tess Edwards looks for a pass from sophomore Katelyn Kinczel.



Top: Sophomore middle hitter Allie Murie kills the ball during a hitting drill in practice.
Bottom: Sophomore Liam White perfects his butterfly stroke.



Photos: The Beacon/ Ariel Reed



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Getting to know...

Cole Jesmer

Senior Football Player

The Beacon: Male Senior Spotlight

Why Cole Jesmer was selected: Last season, Jesmer tallied 90 sacks, including 48 solo ones. In addition to these efforts, he also scored one touchdown as a lineman. His effort on the field earned him this accolade.

Name: Cole Jesmer
Year: Senior
Major: Criminology
Minor: Sociology
Hometown: Dover, Pa.
High School: Dover Area HS
Position: Linebacker

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

Off the field, I like to engage in other sport activities like basketball.

Favorite building on campus?
 The library.

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

The coaching staff and Wilkes professors truly make it an easy decision to come here with their constant effort and help to make you a better person.

Favorite meal to eat on campus?
 Sushi.

What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?
 White.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

My graduation plans are to get a job in law enforcement. Later on, I want to work my way up to being a homicide or drug detective.

If your life was a movie, who would you want to play you and why?

Jason Momoa because people say we have the same hair.

Favorite memory as a Colonel?
 Winning the Mayor's Cup last year.

Favorite professor?
 Dr. Wilczak.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?
 My hope is to go 1-0 every week and make the NCAA tournament.

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

When/Why did you first begin playing?
 I first began to play football at the age of seven, and I began playing because all my older brothers did.

Most influential person in your life?
 My father.

Favorite thing to do during practice?
 My favorite thing to do during practice is head-to-head against the offense.

A quote you live your life by?
 "If you want to be the best you have to take out the best."

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

I personally believe the program is heading in a great direction under our new coaching staff, and I currently wouldn't change anything.

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?
 "Be Colonel" means to give your best everyday and go through adversity, not around it or to turn away from it.

Anyone to give a shout-out to?
 Shout out to the V PACK.

-Compiled By Ariel Reed, Co Sports Editor

Getting to know...

Ali Dunn

Senior Field Hockey Player

The Beacon: Female Senior Spotlight

Why Ali Dunn was selected: Last season, Dunn shot 79 percent and scored 15 points for her team, ranking her as one of the best scorers on the Colonels' roster. Her ability to create shots and keep Wilkes in contention with their opponents earned her this award.

Name: Ali Dunn
Year: Senior
Major: Marketing
Hometown: Pittston, Pa.
High School: Pittston Area HS
Position: Forward

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

Off the field, I enjoy hanging out with friends, eating and attending The Salt Barre for inferno hot pilates.

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

I was motivated to come to Wilkes because of the welcoming student body and the feeling of being at home on campus.

Favorite building on campus?

The library.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

After graduating, I would like to pursue a career in medical or pharmaceutical sales.

Favorite meal to eat on campus?

Black bean burger from Which Wich.

What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?

Yellow.

Favorite memory as a Colonel?

My favorite memory is scoring an overtime goal with seconds left.

If your life was a movie, who would you want to play you and why?

Cher Horowitz from Clueless. It seems like a dream life.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

Despite not having a traditional season, I am hoping to continue to improve my skills and grow as a team.

Favorite professor?

Dr. Pyke.

When/Why did you first begin playing?

In the fourth grade, my school was offering a field hockey clinic after school, and I fell in love with the sport.

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

Paris Hilton.

Most influential person in your life?

My dad.

Favorite thing to do during practice?

Shooting drills or fun conditioning drills.

A quote you live your life by?

"What is coming, is better than what is gone."

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

I would love to see our program make it to the MAC Championship.

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

To me, "Be Colonel" means to be honest, respectful, and responsible.

Anyone to give a shout-out to?

Maddie Kelley.

-Compiled by Ariel Reed, Co-Sports Editor



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

A lifelong pursuit of field hockey landed Bowie at Wilkes

By Ariel Reed
Co-Sports Editor

Following in her mother's footsteps, Katherine Bowie fell in love with the sport of field hockey from a young age.

Bowie started to play field hockey in second grade and advanced to the Division I level when she attended Siena College in Albany, N.Y. Bowie's mother was also a collegiate field hockey player at a Division I school.

"I've been playing longer than most young women in this country, and just the whole idea around field hockey made me love it," said Bowie. "Even though I did play other sports, the family and camaraderie among young women, especially having it be a female sport in this country, was really important and just kind of drew me in."

"All my favorite coaches, mentors and friends are from hockey when I was in elementary school all the way through college."

Bowie did not originally intend to be a coach. In college, she majored in religious studies and minored in education, Latin and biology. She initially wanted to be a teacher. In her first job, she ended up coaching three sports. From there, she found her true calling: Coaching.

"I really wanted to get into teaching at some point. My first job out of college was teaching at a boarding school and coaching three sports," said Bowie. "That's where I really realized that I wanted to be a college coach because I just couldn't get enough of field hockey and coaching in general."

Similar to the other Wilkes coaches, Bowie is not a local to Wilkes-Barre. Instead, she began her coaching career in Maine.

"I was an assistant field hockey coach for about four years at multiple institutions," Bowie said. "I had been in Maine for the last three years, but I really wanted to get to Pennsylvania, which is kind of this country's field hockey hub, especially in this area. It's very big, so I was really excited about that. And on top of that, we have a very talented group of girls in a super fun conference."

The emphasis on being a student first and then an athlete second appealed to Bowie when deciding to coach at the Division III level.

"I really love Division III, even though I played Division I," said Bowie. "I like



Photos: The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Head coach Katherine Bowie prepared for an evening pod practice.



Bowie showed her athletes what she wanted them to do in a passing drill.

the Division III philosophy – how it really makes well-rounded student-athletes. You can possibly play two sports and get involved in multiple things. I was looking for that."

Wilkes University's location sealed the deal for Bowie, as she loves being outdoors and being in the "hub" for field hockey. She feels that her job is not fully a job since she is allowed to focus on the sport she loves the most.

"I love being outdoors, which is another plus to the area. We're right by the mountains. We are pretty close to a bunch of great hiking trails," Bowie said. "I really love helping young people and mentoring young people. To have a job like this, where you don't need to sit in an office, you get to interact with multiple women and other coaches is super fun and less of a job to me."

This is Bowie's second year at Wilkes.

She joined the Colonels on Feb. 17 and led the team to its most successful season since 2016 in her head coaching debut.

The delayed start to the 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted a lot of what the teams could do; however, Bowie and her team are still making the most out of the extenuating circumstances.

"Although this season might have not been what we all expected, so far everything has been going very well under the circumstances," said sophomore forward Morghan Murphy. "The beginning of this season was rather difficult since a lot of us were not able to connect in person to get to know all the new incoming individuals better, but with the use of zoom calls and a team Snapchat group chat, we slowly were able to make it work."

Field hockey is still in their pod practice phase, but they have been allowed to start doing contact. Masks are still a requirement for practice despite being outdoors.

"The pod practices with masks have been very different, but we are able to overcome these difficulties," said sophomore defender Maura Hensel. "Due to our team's diligent efforts to follow the protocols laid out for us, we have just entered phase two, and hopefully we will all be able to practice together as a team soon."

Despite the adjustments with modified practices, Bowie has begun to equip the players as best as possible for their potential spring season.

"The delay in our season has helped us tune-in more on our basic skills to rebuild a strong foundation," said Murphy. "Coach Bowie, I believe, has incorporated many exercises both on and off the field to really unite our team. Coach Bowie has brought a very positive and enthusiastic attitude to the table, as she supports the team both in the classroom and on the field."

As Hensel mentioned, this team has yet to fully interact with each other due to the restrictions that the school has placed due to COVID-19. However, the field hockey team is beyond ready to take the field and improve upon their impressive performance last season.



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