



# THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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

## "Chicago" Joseph Dawson's last production before retirement

By Taylor Dillon  
News Staff Writer

Joseph C. Dawson, associate dean of the College of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and associate professor of theater, will present his final production, "Chicago," this week.

Dawson retires at the end of the academic year.

The musical has music by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb, and book by Ebb and Bob Fosse.

Performances will be held in the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center. at 8 p.m. on April 7, 8 and 9, and at 2 p.m. on April 9 and 10,

According to a press release, in 1920's Chicago, chorus girl Roxie Hart murders a faithless lover and convinces her husband Amos to take the rap, until he finds out he's been duped and turns on Roxie. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie, and another "Merry Murderess" Velma Kelly, vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces in search of the American dream: fame, fortune and acquittal. This sharp-edged satire features a dazzling score that sparked immortal staging by Bob Fosse.

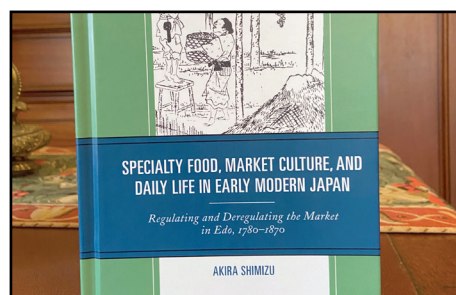
"Matron Mama Morton runs the show



Photo courtesy of Brad Berry

Olivia Schanbacer (left) as Velma Kelly and Olivia Scarborough (right) as Roxie Hart in Dawson's production of "Chicago."

**CHICAGO, page 4**



**Dr. Akira Shimizu publishes book on food scholarship, page 3**



**Liz's Craft Column: Spring crochet lavender pen, page 11**



**Why you need to watch films on the big screen, page 18**



**BB: Kemp's seventh inning strikeout grants first conference win, page 19**



# News

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

## Student Government notes: March 30 weekly meeting

By Zach Paraway  
News Staff Writer

Student Government began in traditional fashion with a call to order and roll being taken. The treasurer's report stated that there is a total of \$33,225 across all SG accounts.

The first order of business was a club report from the Hospitality Leadership Club. It was presented by club president Juana Pimentel.

The second order of business was a trip report from the geoexplorers club. The club had gone on a west coast archaeological trip over spring break. Allie Faunce and Ben Wojciechowski presented.

The third order of business was a club fund request from Lambda Kappa Sigma, the women's pharmacy sorority. This

was week two of two and was presented by its president, Jordan Childress. Childress came in for a request to attend the LKS Convention in Indianapolis from July 13 to 16. The convention provides a chance for the club to be able to network with other chapters. They plan on bringing 13 members. They provided multiple options ranging from \$9,750 to \$16,750. The club fund request was approved for \$4,000.

The fourth order of business was a

fund request for the Big Event, hosted by student government. This was week two of two and was presented by Megan Makovsky, corresponding secretary.

The Big Day is an upcoming event where all of the clubs on campus are invited to volunteer to help clean up and serve different areas around the Wilkes-Barre area. The event

is to take place on April 30. Makovsky requested \$10,500, which was approved.

The fifth order of business was a request

from resident life. They asked student government to help volunteer for the Glow Run event, which took place on April 4.

The sixth and final order of business was week one of two for nominations of the executive board of student government. Those nominated were Danelie Morris and Sarah Erickson for vice president; Nolee Ana Grabowski and Maddy Yeager for recording secretary; Marytere Quintana-Avila for treasurer and AJ Rubino for corresponding secretary.

Makovsky was also recognized as the student body president-elect.



## Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

### Parking Applications Open

Commuter and resident student parking applications have opened for the fall 2022 semester starting April 4 online.

The deadline to complete applications will be 4 p.m. June 30.

For those interested in Ralston, note so in the comments sections.

Any applications submitted later than the deadline will not go under review. Applications will not reopen once closed.

For any questions, call 570-408-7275

### Submit work to Manuscript Society

Manuscript Society is accepting submissions for the 2021-22 edition till 11:59 p.m. on Apr. 17.

Submissions are open for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff and alumni.

The society accepts poetry, essays, short

stories, photography, art and digital art. Short stories have a limit of five pages. The limit is five submissions per person.

To submit original work or ask any questions, email [magazine@wilkes.edu](mailto:magazine@wilkes.edu)

### Buy a Tote Bag

Green Giants tote bags are an affordable, sustainable and durable alternative to plastic and are being sold for \$10 each.

The bags come in two designs: the Wilkes logo and blue butterflies.

Students looking to purchase one should watch out for them in the Student Union Building, the Simms Center, or DM them on Instagram @greengiantstotbags to place an order.

Ninety percent of proceeds go to Little Eric's Foundation, a local organization that funds pediatric cancer research.

### Memorial Concert Honoring Professor Emeritus Steven Thomas

A memorial concert honoring Steven

Thomas, late music professor, will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 1 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

The public is invited to attend and will be required to follow St. Stephen's protocols for masking and social distancing.

If you would like to attend or perform, register through the March 18 Wilkes, Today email.

### Online Buddhist Meditation Returns

Interested in practicing some sitting and walking meditation with others?

The sessions will be offered each Tuesday and run for about 40 minutes. No experience is needed and anyone interested is welcome.

For more information or the link for the virtual sessions, contact Linda Paul, associate professor of philosophy, at [linda.paul@wilkes.edu](mailto:linda.paul@wilkes.edu).

## Table of Contents

News.....2

Life, A&E.....7

Opinion.....14

Sports.....19

## Upcoming Events: 2022 Spring Semester

### April

8 - Spring Fling  
14 - Holiday Recess Begins  
18 - Classes Resume

### May

4 - Classes End  
5 - Final Exams Begin  
12 - Final Exams End

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: [Madelynn.Kinard@wilkes.edu](mailto:Madelynn.Kinard@wilkes.edu)

# Dr. Akira Shimizu publishes book on food scholarship

## *“Specialty Food, Market Culture, and Daily Life in Early Modern Japan”*

**By Maddy Kinard**  
News Editor

On April 1, Dr. Akira Shimizu and colleagues joined to celebrate the publication of his book, “Specialty Food, Market Culture, and Daily Life in Early Modern Japan: Regulating and Deregulating the Market in Edo, 1780-1870.”

To kick off the celebration, Dr. Jonathan Kuiken, associate professor of history, began with a short commemoration of Shimizu’s accomplishments.

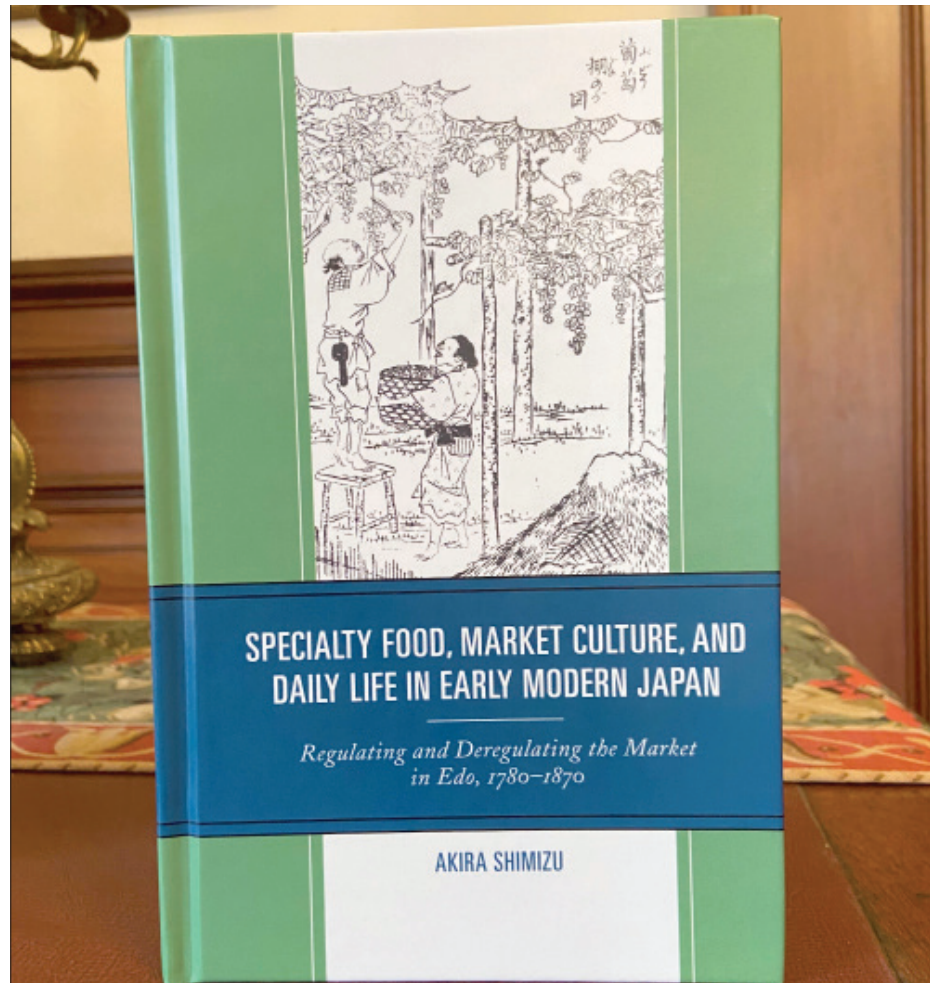
“I actually had the honor of serving on the search committee that hired Akira, and I remember from the very first time that I met him that I knew that his research was going to be something special, that the work he was doing was incredibly interesting,” said Kuiken. “Akira embodies a lot of what we hope for in our faculty here at Wilkes University, which is not just a commitment to teaching and mentorship, but also being a teacher-scholar.”

Shimizu then provided a brief overview of what went into the creation of his book and scholarship, along with future avenues of research he plans to pursue next.

Most important to Shimizu, he was very thankful to everyone in the department for offering him both physical and mental support over the past couple of years. He was also thankful for the financial support that critically aided in his research as he was able to return home and visit archives in Tokyo.

“It’s kind of surreal to think about,” said Shimizu. “And to be honest with you, I haven’t read it.”

A result of his Ph.D. dissertation, Shimizu’s scholarship follows a close study of specialty food in Japanese society. His interest in this topic of food branding began when he was in Memphis, Tenn. working at a Japanese restaurant in the late 1990s. Here, he



was posed with the question: Does one need a Japanese chef to prepare Japanese food?

To that same idea, he further elaborated on a story in which he prepared Chinese food for a close friend of his who was Chinese American. While their family liked the food, they argued that it was not Chinese food because Shimizu was not Chinese.

Before deciding on researching food branding, Shimizu was first interested in the historical anthropology of smell.

He further reflects on the publication of his research as being a sigh of relief. While he is excited, Shimizu feels like he can finally move on to his next projects: a paper on beef and the beginning stages of scholarship on sake.

“Especially after I came to Wilkes, the most challenging aspect of writing my book was balancing the time between research and writing and teaching,” said Shimizu. “I have had a lot of exciting students and they’re really inspiring but it’s different than sitting down at a desk to write my manuscript.”

Dr. Gina Morrison, associate professor of global cultures, notes that Shimizu has been a wonderful addition to their whole college and division since day one. Dr. Christopher Zarpentine, associate professor of philosophy, agreed, stating it is impressive whenever a colleague is able to write and publish a book.

“Especially at a place like Wilkes, we’re a teaching university and the fact that he has done that and published a book with a reputable press is a big deal,” said Dr. Michelle Anthony, associate professor and chair of English.

Photos: The Beacon/Maddy Kinard

**TOP PHOTO: Dr. Akira Shimizu’s newly published book on food branding and food speciality in Japanese culture. BOTTOM: Shimizu gives a brief overview on the creation of his book and what went into his scholarship along with future plans for research.**



## CHICAGO, from front

at the Cook County Prison and has a way of getting the ladies locked up inside of it whatever they want; but never for free,” senior theatre major Kayleigh Evans. “The song is raunchy, funny and is the perfect way to introduce this character and leave the audience wondering; what could Mama do for them?”

The production of Chicago acts as a capstone for senior theater majors, making it even more bittersweet to close out the year with Dawson, as it is his final production at Wilkes. Dawson has been with the university since 1994, and has directed 50 mainstage shows and working with generations of students.

Senior theatre major Kayla Bevacqua noted that working with Dawson has been a pleasure. Bevacqua continued on to say that he has a creative eye and is a comedic force.

It is clear that Dawson has made the students in the theatre department at

Wilkes feel enthused about working on these productions with him. From all the laughs to all the cries and everything in between, you will never be bored or uninspired working with Dawson.

“Directing depends on good collaboration,” said Dawson. “I’ve had an excellent team in the past and present at Wilkes. I never took them for granted. I will miss working with the students of course but also all the designers, other directors, choreographers, and musical directors. I’ll miss production work with Jon Liebetrau, Lynne Esgro, Teresa Fallon, Tom Rupp, Alex Barnhart, Terry Moore and Ken McGraw.”

If you are interested in an afternoon or evening of magic and thrill, take the time to head over to the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center to get lost in a world of mystery.

Tickets for the performances are \$15 general admission, \$10 for students and senior citizens and free for all Wilkes students and faculty. Parking



Photos courtesy of Brad Berry

**Kayleigh Evans (left) as Matron Mama Morton and Kayla Bevacqua (right) as Mary Sunshine**

is available, including handicapped-accessible options, behind the Henry Student Center.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office at (570) 408-4540.

# Math integration bee back after two-year hiatus

**By Zach Paraway and Ariel Reed**  
News Staff Writer and Managing Editor

The Math Department is hosting the upcoming Integration Bee Event. The event will take place on April 9 at 10 a.m. in the Darte Center. Registration for the event has ended, but spectators are still welcome.

The Integration Bee is an annual contest where students compete by evaluating integrals as fast as possible. This is the fourth time the event is being held, the first since 2019 as it was canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

Dr. Sofya Chepushtanova, an associate professor in the Department of Mathematics, has helped run the event for years. Chepushtanova spoke about how this event is meant to celebrate with the students who enjoy mathematics and have fun.

“Come to the event if you can integrate and want to have fun. If you are not ready to participate, come and support your integration bee friends,” said Chepushtanova.

Participants will need to know integration techniques covered in calculus class: MTH 112 or its equivalents (i.e.

u-substitution, integration by parts, trig substitutions and partial fractions decomposition) in order to compete.

While this event may appear tailored to

is a head-to-head competition made in several rounds.

In each round, there are several pairing events, and the first player who correctly

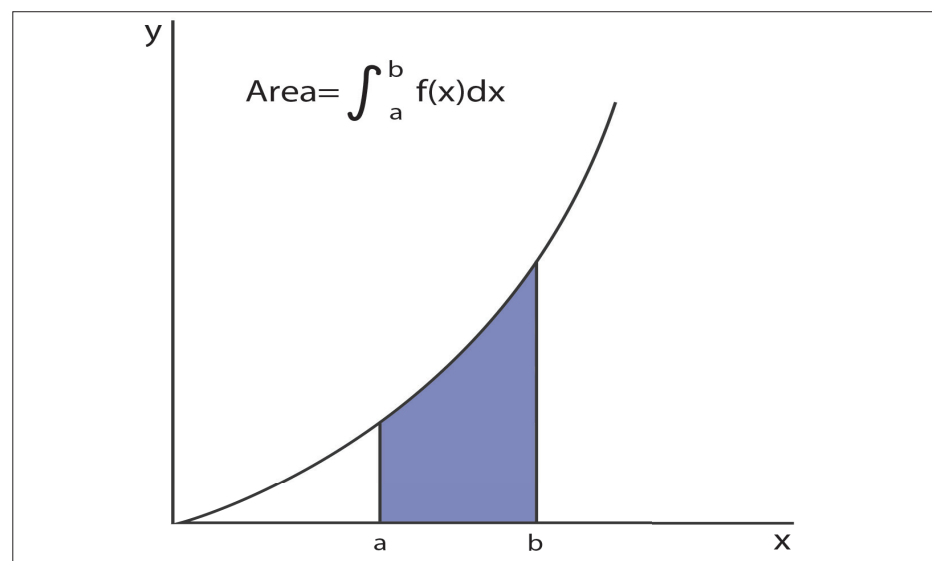
The four successful competitors proceed to the semi-final and then final rounds: the two best out of four competitors meet in the final to win the first and second places, the other two meet in a round to win the third place. The most successful competitor will be named the Grand Integrator.

“Since it is a timed competition, it gets your heart racing as you try to solve the integral before your competitor while the judges watch your every decision,” said 2019 second place integrator Stevie Burton. “Overall, my friend and I were head-to-head in the last couple of rounds as both of us either kept getting stuck or running out of time.”

Due to the event occurring in the middle to end of the academic year, students have to do work outside of their classes to help prepare for the event.

“This was midway through calculus II so I had to work a lot outside of class to actually prepare for the event,” said Burton. “When I got there, I realized how many intelligent and like-minded students there are. It was a lot of fun and I met some new friends.”

There are three prizes for those who compete well in the event. Their amounts value \$150, \$100 and \$50.



Graphic by Zoey Rosensweet

students in a mathematics major, it is open to all undergraduates.

According to the mathematics website, the contest works in two stages. During stage one, the contestants take qualifier tests to be selected for stage two—which

evaluates two out of three integrals in an event wins and proceeds to the next round, paired with another winner. Each round consists of several minutes to give students an adequate amount of time to solve the equations.



# Jason Schneiderman second visiting poet at Wilkes

By Maddy Kinard  
News Editor

As part of the second installment of the Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series in the English Department, poet Jason Schneiderman held three events at Wilkes.

Schneiderman is an associate professor of English at the Borough of Manhattan Community College and also teaches in the MFA program at Warren Wilson College. He is the author of four collections of poetry, two of which, "Hold Me Tight" and "Primary Source," were given out to students through the Dickson fund.

The last of the three events featured an evening reading and book signing in the Kirby Hall salon, which was free and open to all.

At the reading, Schneiderman flowed through a selection of his poetry and at the end of the hour, opened the room for

discussion.

"I really enjoyed your poems; it was fantastic," said Dr. Thomas Hamill, associate professor of English, who started off the Q&A period. "Can you speak a little bit about your formal aesthetic or critical approach to intertextualities, allusions and cultural references? They permeate in your poems so powerfully."

Many of Schneiderman's readings from the night were steeped in references from Joseph Stalin to Frida Kahlo to Liza Minnelli. He explains that he's always lived a life that has slipped between scholarship and poetry, one often bleeding into the other. He also loves history and facts.

"In poetry, you metabolize (scholarship)," said Schneiderman. "You swallow the bishop and then you kind of write a bishop-ish poem."

Of his poems, Schneiderman is currently most proud of Blood Libel,

which he states makes him most nervous to read because of how long it takes. He also finds that usually, his favorite poem is the one that he just "solved".

"Every poem is kind of a riddle you have to solve," said Schneiderman.

Schneiderman also hosted two other events prior to the reading: a poetry workshop open to students, staff and faculty members, which was followed by a dinner and a visit to Eng 298: "Advanced Workshop in Creative Nonfiction."

"Being part of a dinner with some of the English faculty, juniors and seniors, and Dr. Schneiderman was lots of fun," said Emily Stone, English major. "Talking to a published poet was such a fulfilling experience as an English major and I am very grateful to the English Department for the opportunity."

The Spring Writers Series will host one more writer this year: Margaret Atwood on April 26 at 7 p.m. in the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts.



The Beacon/Maddy Kinard  
Jason Schneiderman holding his poetry book "Hold Me Tight"

# 5K fun run/walk on April 9 to support those in Ukraine

By Sydney Umstead  
News Staff Writer

On April 9, Wilkes will hold a 5k to help civilians in Ukraine. All proceeds made from the event will be donated to the AirBnB.org Emergency Shelter Fund.

The AirBnB Emergency Shelter Fund provides refugees shelter during the ongoing war. Civic engagement has also been in contact with two local Ukrainian Catholic Churches that are accepting donations.

"It's a simple way of supporting people from afar with generosity that is desperately needed," said Megan Boone Valkenburg, coordinator of student development.

For this event, Civic Engagement and the Nursing Student Organization collaborated to make things possible. Medical supplies will be collected on the day of the event but donations can also be made prior to April 9, as well as a week after the event.

There are six boxes around campus where students can bring medical

supplies. They are located at the SUB, Breiseth Hall, Cohen Science Center, Stark Learning Center, the nursing lounge and the entrance to the SIMMS Center.

"We are encouraging students, faculty, and staff to join us on April 9 for a 5k fun run/walk around campus as a symbolic message that Wilkes not only stands with our neighbors in the Ukraine, but we will walk beside them as they make their way to safety," said Valkenburg.

The Office of Student Development holds a work study for students in the Nursing Department. They were interested in creating a movement that would benefit students as well as the community as a whole.

Since it is getting warmer they decided on the 5k, to hold an event that would help people and encourage them to contribute in a fun and healthy way.

"Regardless, we wanted to find a way to make a difference together as one," said Jessica Turnitza, preident of the Nursing Student Organization.

Participants are asked to sign up via donation. However, donations can also

still be made on the RunSignUp website. On the website, search "Run for Ukraine Virtual 5k" and click on donate. Supplies can also be donated in-person.

Prizes will be awarded at the event. Some of the awards will be for the team with the highest number

of participants, the individual with the highest time and the individual with the highest money raised.

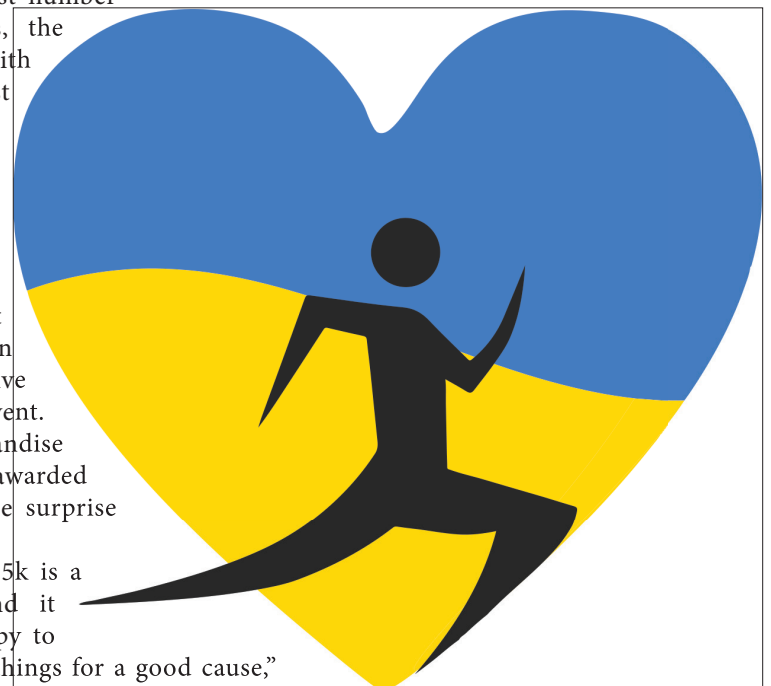
More than \$100 in gift cards has been collected to give out at the event. Wilkes merchandise will also be awarded as well as some surprise gifts.

"I think the 5k is a great idea, and it makes me happy to see people do things for a good cause,"

said Ramya Robinson, digital design and media major.

The event serves to give back to those in need, and that every little bit can help in that cause.

Graphic by Zoey Rosensweet





# Peace Pop-Up in Weckesser to show support for Ukraine

By Maddy Kinard  
News Editor

Starting on March 31, The President's Office invited students to show support for Ukraine through post-it notes.

Found in the lobby of Weckesser Hall, a station is set up where anyone can stop by and write words of support on blue and yellow post-it notes.

As more are filled out, the post-it notes will create the Ukraine flag.

This is one of many events Wilkes has done so far to show continuous support and increase awareness for the war currently ongoing in Ukraine. Some of these events have been information sessions, gathers for peace and more.

Any questions can be directed to Bridget Giunta at [Bridge.giunta@wilkes.edu](mailto:Bridge.giunta@wilkes.edu) or Niamh Harkins at [Niamh.Harkins@wilkes.edu](mailto:Niamh.Harkins@wilkes.edu)



Photo: The Beacon/Emily Cherkauskas

**TOP MIDDLE PHOTO: "Peace Pop-Up" sign located outside of Weckesser signaling students to come inside.**

**RIGHT: The post-it note station set up in the Weckesser lobby for students to write words of support and frame them in the shape of the Ukraine flag.**

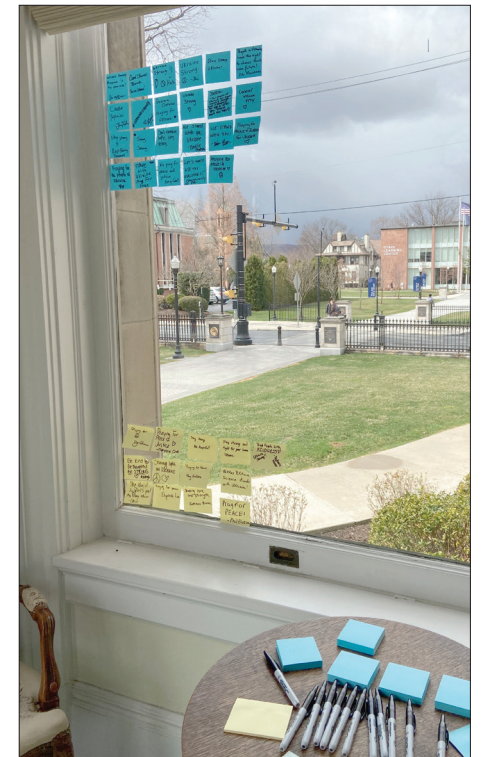


Photo: The Beacon/Maddy Kinard

# Pinwheels for National Child Abuse Prevention Month

By Maddy Kinard  
News Editor

April 2022 is the National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Wilkes University police has shown its support for the Luzerne County Child Advocacy Center through "pinwheels for prevention." These pinwheels can be found in the mulch area of the greenway.

According to the Childhelp organization, 1,840 children died due

to abuse in neglect in 2019. However, they also state that there is a severe undercounting of fatalities in some states by 50 percent or more, meaning that this number could be much higher.

To find out more information or show support through donations, visit [childhelp.org](http://childhelp.org). To report an incidence of child abuse or suspect child neglect, call the Childhelp national child abuse hotline (1-800)-422-4453



Photos: The Beacon/Emily Cherkauskas



**BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO: Pinwheels placed on the greenway showing support for the month of April**

**TOP RIGHT: "Pinwheel for Prevention" sign in front of the pinwheels explaining why they are there**



# Life, Arts & Entertainment

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

## Sordoni Art Gallery opens last exhibition of the semester

**By Kellie Scott**  
Staff Writer

The Sordoni Art Gallery opened its new exhibition by artist Dan R. Talley, "State: Obvious/Not So." This exhibition will be up from April 5 to May 29 and includes a variety of Talley's work.

Talley is a professor from Kutztown University where he taught photography, time-based media and professional practices. His exhibition incorporates works dating from 1973 to the present.

"The exhibition is a retrospective, which means that it is a broad overview of nearly 50 years of work and includes photography, video, sculptural installations of mixed media and drawings," said Heather Sincavage, director of the Sordoni Art Gallery. "Dan is someone who is both conceptual and minimalist. Thematically, I'd say there is not necessarily a thread that binds the works."

In terms of setting up the exhibit, there

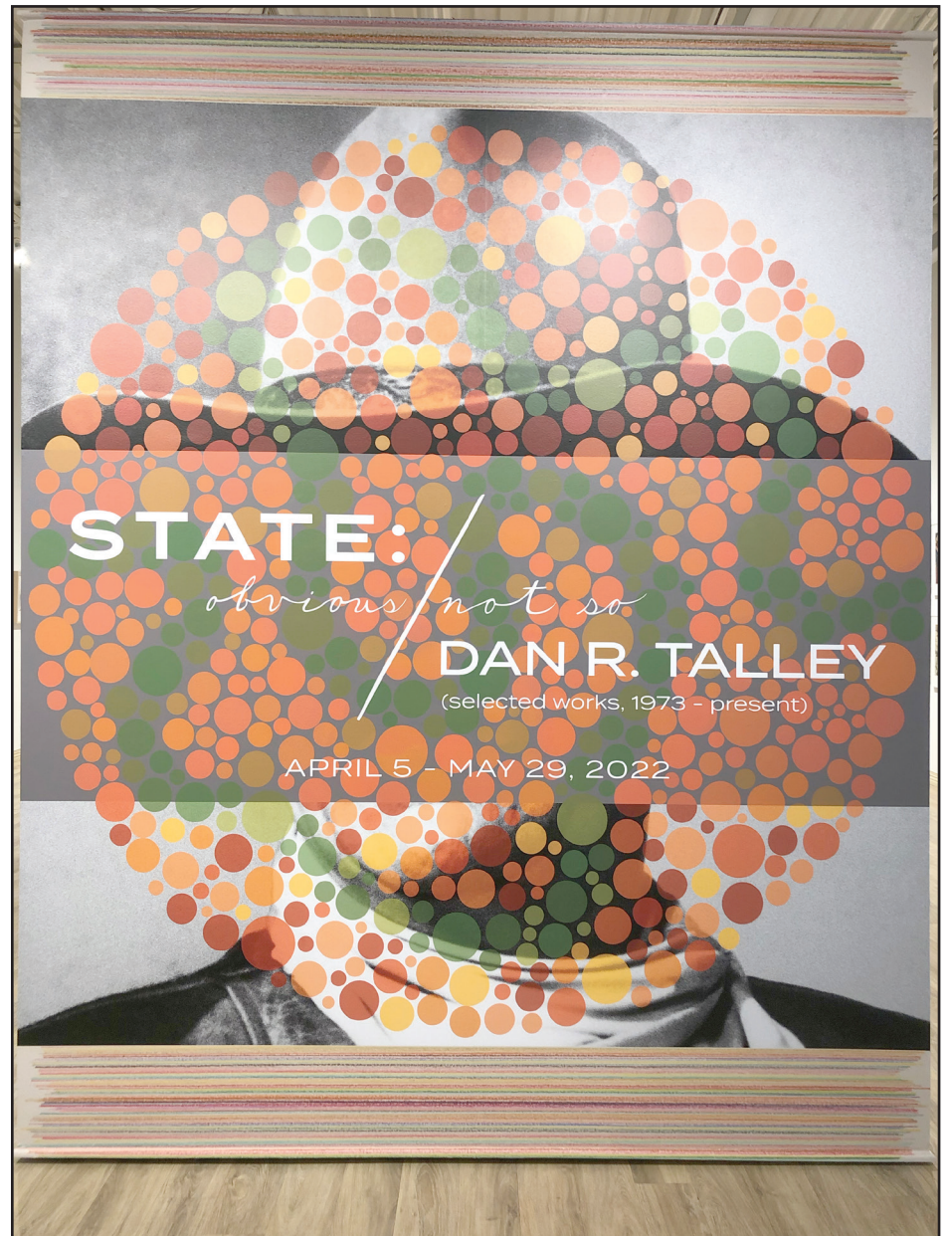
was a lot of work to be done.

"I feel bad overusing this word but it just captures the whole atmosphere: exciting," said Dasha Yakhnis, senior marketing major. "When coming up with arrangements and then with the hanging process proving to be difficult at times, it's so thrilling and fulfilling to see it all come together to create stunning exhibits."

This show is one to stop in and visit as it encapsulates a true art experience and includes a variety of different conceptual meanings.

"I think the same as any exhibition, I would encourage people to come in with an open mind and be ready to observe and ponder," said Alyssa Roberts, senior digital design and media arts. "Talley's work focuses mainly on celebrating objects, places, people, or media that we tend to overlook."

For more information on this exhibition visit the gallery's Instagram account @sordonigallery.



The Beacon/Kellie Scott



Some of Talley's pieces are interactive for guests.

As soon as a guest walks into the gallery, the first thing that grabs their attention is the show's title wall. This exhibition, "State: Obvious/Not So" displays all works from 1973 to the present by artist Dan R. Talley. The artist is a professor at Kutztown University and taught photography, time-based media and professional practices. Also, he worked as a gallery director, arts writer and of course, artist. His pieces in this exhibition include a little bit of photography, videos, drawings, as well as installations that incorporate audio and photographic projections.



# Dollar store recipe: Sweet and delicious vanilla cupcakes

These vanilla cupcakes are a sweet and tasty dessert that everyone will surely enjoy. This delicious recipe makes 24 cupcakes and can easily be doubled for two times the enjoyment. These cupcakes can also be stored in the refrigerator for up to one week.

#### Ingredients:

1 box classic yellow cake mix  
1 cup water  
1/2 cup vegetable oil  
3 eggs  
16 ounces buttercream frosting  
24 cupcake liners

#### Directions:

First, preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Place cupcake liners in a 24 cupcake baking pan.

Next, combine the cake mix, water, vegetable oil and eggs into a large bowl. Beat the mixture with a

wooden spoon or an electric mixer for two minutes.

Pour the batter into the cupcake-lined pan. Bake for 16 to 21 minutes or until the batter is completely baked.

Then, let the cupcakes cool completely before putting them on a cooling rack.

Once completed, spread buttercream frosting evenly with a knife over the top of the cupcakes.

Enjoy!

Allergens: Egg products

**By Morgan Rich**

*Life, Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer*

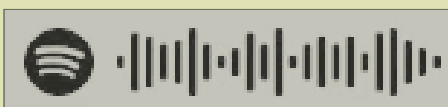


The Beacon/Morgan Rich

**This delectable dessert is the only vanilla cupcake recipe that you need.**

## Beacon Bumps

*Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff adds a song to the Beacon Bumps playlist on Spotify. Check us out under Chris Gowarty's Spotify or check out this week's picks right now!*



#### **Emily Cherkauskas, Editor-in-Chief:**

Memories Lie - Red Vox

#### **Ariel Reed, Managing Editor:**

10 Things I Hate About You - Leah Kate

#### **Liz Cherinka, Social Media Editor:**

10 Steps - Christian Leave

#### **Maddy Kinard, News Editor:**

Eek - Leven Kali

#### **Jordan Daniel, LA&E Editor:**

As It Was - Harry Styles

#### **Bre Ebisch, Opinion Editor:**

Violet - Bad Suns

#### **Lindsey Scorey, Opinion Asst. Editor:**

Lovers + Strangers- Starley

#### **Christopher Gowarty, Sports Editor:**

Moment of Clarity- JAY-Z

#### **Baylee Guedes, Sports Editor:**

Life In The Fast Lane - Eagles

#### **Jason Eberhart, Sports Asst. Editor:**

What Happened To Virgil - Lil Durk, Gunna

#### **Zoey Rosensweet, Lead Layout Designer:**

Reverse Cowgirl - Mickey Darling



# Annual Women's and Gender Studies conference held

*This event was held virtually and in-person*

**By Morgan Rich**

*Life, Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer*

On April 4 and April 5, Wilkes and King's College presented their 11th annual Women's and Gender Studies conference on the second floor of the Henry Student Center. This is the first year that the conference was held in person since 2019.

The conference started on April 4 via zoom with a keynote address given by Ilyse Morgenstein Fuerst, an associate professor of religion and esteemed scholar of religion at the University of Vermont.

The theme of the keynote address was "Not Fit for Polite Company: Religion, Race and Gender" and examined how race and gender shaped religion.

"Dr. Morgenstein Fuerst is an incredible speaker," said Dr. Jennifer Thomas, associate psychology professor and the director of women's and gender studies.

"She has written numerous articles and books about Islam and Muslims, especially in South Asia and that includes thinking about religion, race, language and imperialism."

The conference included about 18 different presentations, as well as readings from the university's Manuscript Society and King's Champion Literary Society. This took place in the ballroom, where 12 different featured readers read poetry and fiction pieces.

One of the presentations, "God Help the Outcasts: Examining the Correlations Between Religious Exposure, Gender Identity and the Queer Experience," was presented by Drew Haritos, a sophomore English and psychology major.

Haritos examined the impact of religious exposure and identity has on how people define and experience gender and what role religion and religious exposure have had in the lives of LGBTQ+

individuals, compared to those who have not.

"I decided to do this topic based on my own personal experiences," said Haritos. "I grew up in a really small, super Christian town and was raised very religious. For the longest time I had a constant battle going on in my mind between my own goals and aspirations, sexual identity and religious values."

At the conference, there were nine different panels that included gender based discrimination in sports and art, the socialization of gender, contemporary issues of women's healthcare: menstrual disorders, breast cancer and nutrition, challenges to gender equality, contemporary issues surrounding gender equality, gender in an ever changing world, international women's issues, women, power and change and poetry and fiction.

This took place from 11 a.m. to 8:30

p.m., with students being able to move through different rooms throughout the day.

Another presentation "Latin American Feminist Movement and its Impact on Awareness of Femicide" was presented by Michelle Bazan and Xhuljeta Gjoca, junior psychology majors.

"As a Latina myself, this is a topic that I am extremely passionate about because I have family members who live this reality day to day," said Bazan. "I am extremely appreciative to have this opportunity because any chance to bring awareness to femicide in Latin America is one step closer to finding a solution."

The conference is always held in the spring semester. Calls for proposals are sent to Today@wilkes at the end of the fall semester, which students can find in their email. Students can also reach out to Dr. Thomas with any questions on how to apply.

## Students react to Harry Styles long-awaited comeback to music

*Styles releases new single "As It Was"*

**By AJ Rubino**

*Life, Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer*

On March 31, English singer-songwriter Harry Styles released a new song off his highly-anticipated album, "Harry's House." His latest single from the album is called "As It Was" and it is already becoming a hit amongst fans.

The singer took a break from creating music in 2019 after his last album, "Fine Line," was released. The break was due to the global pandemic and the rescheduling of his tour.

In that time, he also focused on his own company, "Pleasing," that focuses on nail polish, face serums and merchandise.

As one popular musical artist does, Styles posted to social media on March 23 to announce the new album to be released on May 20.

Although Styles is releasing new music from his third upcoming studio album, he has not mentioned anything about a tour yet. However, many fans are under the impression he will be announcing

one soon after discovering an Instagram account linked to the singer himself.

Styles is rumored to be behind a newly created Instagram profile @youarehome. The account posting images behind a slightly opened tan door allows room for speculation.

"It's been a hot minute since he last released music," said Lily Goense, sophomore English education major. "It is refreshing to see him finally create something a little different."

Junior psychology major, Michelle Bazan, did not expect the new song to sound the way it does. She noted that she was expecting the music to be more rock and roll.

Bazan attended Styles' last show during the leg of his North American "Love On Tour" in Long Island, N.Y. on Nov. 28, 2021. She hopes to see him on tour again.

"The song embodies an ocean; the song starts calm, then starts to become upbeat like ocean waves crashing against each other," said Sean Robinson, first-

year sociology major. "The song is calming yet energetic at the same time."

The single, "As It Was" was different from fans and music listeners' original expectations but they fell in love with it anyway. Robinson really enjoyed the new song and looks forward to the rest of the album when it gets released.

"As It Was" is available on all streaming services. The new album, "Harry's House" can be pre-saved by going to hstyles.lnk.to/AIW.

To access Styles' company "Pleasing" go to www.pleasing.com to see the full merchandise and product lineup.



Graphic by Shawn Stone



# Liz's Craft Column: Beginner spring crochet lavender pen

*An affordable DIY school supply perfect for spring*

**By Liz Cherinka**

*Social Media Manager*

This craft is a beginner crochet lavender pen. This DIY is sure to spice up normal school supplies and is perfect for the spring. A bouquet of these pens is perfect for this time of year, as well as taking notes. This pen craft requires some prior knowledge of crocheting and terminology but it is easy for a beginner. These directions will assume this knowledge but crochet books for beginners are perfect to learn these terms, as well as a quick internet search. This craft is affordable because it does not require many supplies and it is not time consuming.

- Lavender yarn
- Green yarn
- BiC round stic pen
- Hot glue
- Crochet needle for the size of the yarn
- Scissors

1. First, grab the lavender yarn. Chain 36 to begin.



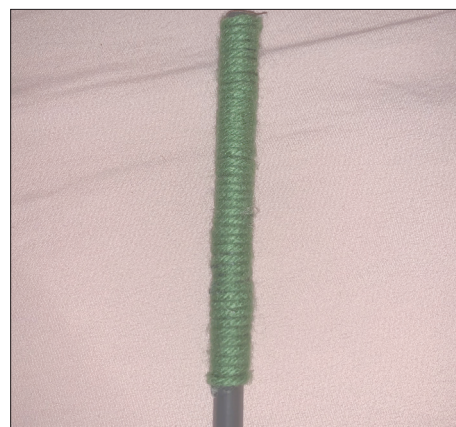
2. Once the chain is finished, slip stitch into the sixth stitch from the hook. Chain six and then slip stitch into the next stitch. It is important that the slip stitch is into every stitch without skipping any. This will leave awkward gaps. Repeat this for the whole chain. Tie off the end, leaving small strings of the yarn at the end. The lavender appearance should be apparent now.



3. Now, grab the green yarn and the pen. The BiC pen has a simple design which makes it easy for this craft but if there is another pen with the same appearance feel free to use that instead.

Remove the cap of the pen. Put a line of hot glue up the pen starting where the cap ends. Wrap the green yarn around the pen using the glue to stick it on. Continue this all the way up the pen. Put a dot of glue on each end to secure the ends of the yarn and trim the ends.

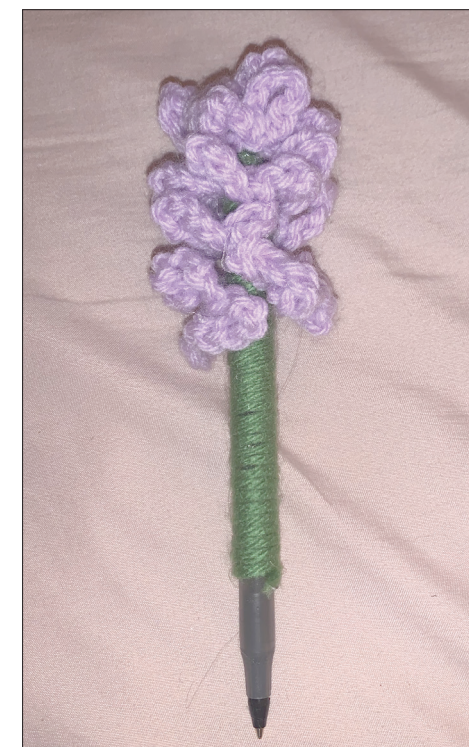
This green pen creates the stem for the lavender as well as the functionality of this craft.



4. Now it is time to attach the crocheted lavender onto the pen. Put a dot of hot glue onto the top of the pen and glue the beginning of the lavender onto it. The beginning is the end without the extra yarn hanging from it. Put a line of hot glue around the pen and glue the lavender to it.

The original crocheted chain provides a flat end for the lavender to be glued onto the pen. Continue gluing this flat end around the pen until the whole lavender is wrapped around. Use the extra ends of the yarn to finish off the end and trim the ends.

Once the lavender is fully wrapped around, the crochet lavender pen is finished. Feel free to use this pen in classes to show off your crochet skills.



**Liz's difficulty rating:**





# CREATIVE COLONEL

## Creative Colonel of the Week: Paxton Postlethwaite

By **Jordan Daniel**

*Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor*

This week's Creative Colonel certainly fits the title. Paxton Postlethwaite, junior digital design and media arts major, not only kills the game when it comes to graphics and photography but also excels in packaging design.

"To sum it all up, I do most things such as logos, brand guides, posters, infographics, packaging, etc," said Postlethwaite. "My main focus that I have been doing nonstop is package design."

Before coming to campus, Postlethwaite had always been into art, especially photography and even wanted to go to college for it. However, she received many discouraging words from her high school teachers about this tentative decision.

Her principal even told her if she went to college for photography, she would end up as a waitress for the rest of her life.

Ultimately she chose Wilkes for criminology.

Unfortunately, Postlethwaite did not see a future in criminology for herself and after meeting with an adviser on campus, Megan Senausky, to receive help setting up her schedule she suggested taking Integrative Media 101. After taking the class, she knew she wanted to pursue a career in this field.

"My favorite thing overall in the DDMA major is the people involved in it; the professors are like my parents away from home and the students are the most incredible, nonjudgement people I have ever met," said Postlethwaite. "As for graphic design, I love the idea of creating art and making people feel something"

As of right now, Postlethwaite's favorite design project she has ever created is her most recent project called Esme, which is a modern, professional but fun take on medical marijuana packaging. This is one of her longest projects to date since it involves multiple parts.

"There is a strong use of deep rich color and gorgeous line art that are different tones and shades of the dark colors," said Devyn Cammarota, junior digital design and media arts major. "It's a very modern brand and compared to other marijuana packaging. This is not like any other marijuana packaging I've ever seen."

Although Postlethwaite is majoring in digital design and media arts, photography is her number one hobby on the side. Her favorite photographs to take on her Nikon D3500 camera are portraits and black and white pictures.

Postlethwaite taught herself how to take photographs by watching YouTube tutorials and would practice by doing photoshoots every weekend. She eventually took classes on photography here.

"I think her photography is very clean and I am really into her black and white aesthetic," said Emily Makaravage, junior digital design and media arts. "I want to see more of her photography in the future."

If interested in seeing Postlethwaite's photography, visit her Instagram account @paxtondigital. She plans to post more of her work there soon.

"As cheesy as it sounds, I like the concept of telling a story with just an image and no words, which everyone can interrupt differently," said Postlethwaite.



**A sample of Postlethwaite's work. This is a gig poster she made this semester in a class called Type 2, which focuses on type and its proper usage in multiple forms of media.**



Courtesy of Paxton Postlethwaite

**Postlethwaite is a talented graphic arts designer and photographer.**

**Want to nominate someone for Creative Colonel?**

Contact LA&E Editor:  
Jordan.Daniel@wilkes.edu



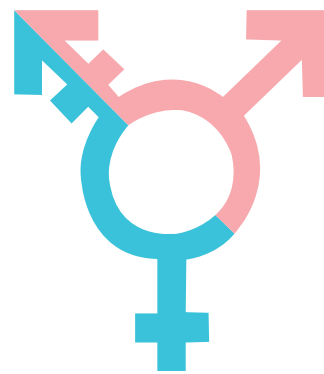
# Wilkes raises flag in ceremony for International Transgender Visibility Day



**LEFT:** The gender and sexuality alliance (GSA) at Wilkes sponsored the flag raising ceremony. From left to right: Dr. Helen Davis, GSA adviser; Morgan Steiner, secretary; Claire Wynne, vice president; Henry Jurgiewicz, treasurer; and Cas Schiller, president.



Wynne donates a progress flag to President Greg Cant. The flag, which serves to represent the LGBTQ+ community with its modern and inclusive colors and homages, will be displayed in the Henry Student Center.



Schiller raises the transgender flag, their fellow officers beside them.

Photos: The Beacon/Emily Cherkauskas



The transgender flag raising ceremony served as a way to educate others about the transgender identity, to make the campus a safer and more open environment for students.





# OPINION: Understanding the importance of International Transgender Visibility Day and the need for more inclusivity on campus

By Breanna Ebisch  
*Opinion Editor*

March 31 is recognized as International Transgender Day of Visibility and now, more than ever before, it's important to understand why the single day is necessary to our calendars. Transgender Day of Visibility is dedicated to celebrating transgender individuals and bringing light to the discrimination that they face on a daily basis.

On campus, the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) raised the transgender flag on the greenway as the way of celebrating the day for the Wilkes community. While this may seem like a small event in comparison to some of the other occurrences on campus, the meaning behind it is incredibly crucial especially in today's world.

According to the Department of Justice, hate crimes against transgender and gender non-conforming individuals have increased by 587 percent between the years of 2013 and 2019. To make matters worse, murders of transgender people are at an all-time high.

Beyond the perpetuated violence that these individuals are constantly victims of, they often face discrimination in a variety of areas in daily life. Whether it be in the workplace, educational settings or simply in everyday situations like being in public, transgender people

are still largely not accepted.

But it's 2022, and times are changing. They must.

Discrimination and violence against transgender people has never been acceptable. Which is why International Transgender Day of Visibility remains important to recognize. Celebrating transgender individuals is something that should always happen, but unfortunately cannot be done without shining a spotlight on the horrible tragedies that this group faces so often.

And while these issues feel like they don't impact the Wilkes community directly, they do. Students may not see the discriminatory actions or realize how necessary it is to show support for the group, but something as simple as raising the transgender flag on the greenway sends a message to everyone that this day is not to be overlooked.

Dr. Helen Davis, associate professor of English, is the adviser of GSA and believes that recognizing International Transgender Day of Visibility at Wilkes is a step in offering further support and appreciation for trans students, staff and faculty.

"It is important to celebrate the contributions and accomplishments

of trans individuals, whose work is often not recognized, and also to raise awareness about discrimination and threats that trans folks continue to face." said Davis. "We also want to send a strong message that trans and nonbinary students, faculty and staff are welcome, accepted and supported on our campus."

This was the first time any event of this kind was held on campus and many individuals in the Wilkes community, including President Dr. Greg Cant, attended despite the rainy and cold weather. It was a feat within itself to see the flag be raised and it's a step forward in order to make our campus more inclusive and welcoming when the rest of the world may still be making that shift as well.

Henry Jurgiewicz, senior psychology and sociology major and treasurer of GSA, spoke at the event and was pleased with the turnout.

"I think the event went well," said Jurgiewicz. "We (the GSA officers) got more media coverage than we were expecting, a higher turnout than expected, and feel like the campus and surrounding communities were more aware of us than before. It was nice to feel like our effort was making an impact, even if it's just a small one. Any impact is good."

Celebrating transgender individuals is a wonderful act and should be done on a daily basis, but more importantly, recognizing the need for change when it comes to violence against these individuals remains connected to International Transgender Day of Visibility. Until the world, our country and our campus is entirely safe for those people, there is plenty of work to be done.

March 31 may be the designated date to put the spotlight on the positive and negatives that the transgender community faces in today's society, but change is needed everyday of the year. Do your own research, be inclusive within your life and start conversations with others about the issues that impact transgender people.

Hatred has no place here and Wilkes University has made that clear with their event on International Transgender Day of Visibility. Let's continue to move forward and make our campus a safe, inclusive place for

Graphics by Jack Malatesta  
Page design by Emily Cherkauskas





# Opinion

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

## Editorial Staff 2021-22

### MANAGERIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief - Emily Cherkauskas  
Managing Editor - Ariel Reed  
Social Media Manager - Liz Cherinka  
Adviser - Dr. Kalen Churcher

### SECTION EDITORS

News - Maddy Kinard  
LA&E - Jordan Daniel  
Opinion - Breanna Ebisch  
Sports - Chris Gowarty  
Baylee Guedes

### Lead Designer

Zoey Rosensweet

### Assistant Editors

Opinion - Lindsey Scorey  
Sports - Jason Eberhart

### Section Staff Writers

News - Sydney Umstead  
News - Zach Paraway  
LA&E - AJ Rubino  
LA&E - Morgan Rich  
Opinion - Zara Lantzman

**Interested in joining The Beacon? To learn more about what you can do, contact:**  
[Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu](mailto:Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu)  
or [Kalen.Churcher@wilkes.edu](mailto:Kalen.Churcher@wilkes.edu)

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

**Want to advertise in *The Beacon*?**  
Contact: Ariel Reed at  
[Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu](mailto:Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu)



The Beacon  
Est. 1936  
Pa. Newspaper  
Association Member

## Our Voice

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

# Smith wins best actor, loses role model status

Award shows prove time and time again how unpredictable live television can be.

Unfortunately, violence was used to make this confirmation during the 94th annual Academy Awards, otherwise popularly known as the Oscars.

At this year's Oscars, Will Smith did not leave the drama behind in his "King Richard" performance. However, he decided to bring the theatrics to a live taping of an award show.

While comedian Chris Rock stood on stage getting ready to present an Oscar for best documentary he made a joke directed at Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith.

Rock joked, "Jada, I love you, 'G.I. Jane,' can't wait to see it."

Pinkett Smith did not take kindly to the joke since she suffers from alopecia, which is an autoimmune disorder that causes hair loss.

For the movie "G.I. Jane," actress Demi Moore shaved her head and Pinkett Smith has a similar hairstyle to the one Moore sported.

In an effort to defend his wife, Smith

stormed on stage and hit Rock in the face. Due to the show being recorded live in its entirety in various countries, everyone was able to see and hear Smith's poor choice of action.

Smith has every right to stick up for his wife but the way in which he went about it in this circumstance was out of line for multiple reasons. One of the main reasons is his public status.

Since Smith is a well-known actor and sometimes stars in films meant for children, he is seen as a role model to them.

Now, these children have the opportunity to watch him hit another man and are susceptible to believe violence is the right way to solve an issue with another person.

Also, Rock is a comedian and jokes come along in Smith's profession so, knowing this, he should have settled his issues with the comedian in a more calm manner.

Hitting Rock sends the wrong message to not only children but those who are huge, die-hard supporters of Smith.

If Smith found the joke to be too

offensive, he should have addressed it at a different time. Even if Smith wanted to address it right then and there, he could have grabbed the microphone and called out Rock's offensive joke instead of hitting Rock in the face to express his feelings.

Although Smith took things too far, the Oscars is at fault too for not doing enough to reprimand his actions.

After the incident, the Academy still gave Smith an Oscar for best actor for his role in the movie "King Richard" and let him speak for about five minutes during his acceptance speech, which sends the wrong message that those who commit violence still get rewarded.

Even though Smith posted an apology on Instagram to Rock, the Academy, the producers of the show, the attendees and those watching around the world, more needs to be done to show those that this behavior is not right and should not be celebrated.

Therefore, the Oscars should consider not inviting Smith back and show that he will not get away with a slap on the wrist for slapping another man in the face.

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

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

Email: [Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu](mailto:Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu) or [Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu](mailto:Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu)

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

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



# St. Peter's basketball makes history: What's next?

## *First mid-major DI team to make Elite Eight*

**By Hope Williams**  
Staff Writer

No. 15 Seed, St. Peter's, coached by Shaheen Holloway, have made a significant statement in this year's March Madness tournament.

Given less than half of the funding for their basketball program than large Division I schools such as Kentucky, St. Peter's still found a way to make a statement. St. Peter's is the first team No. 15 seed in NCAA history to make it to the Elite Eight.

With arguably the biggest upset of the tournament when St. Peter's beat Kentucky, they didn't stop there.

"I don't [want to] wake up. I want to keep dreaming. It's an unbelievable dream. Let's keep going," said Coach Holloway to ESPN.

And frankly, they did.

Holloway is also now known for

saying, "I've got guys from New Jersey and New York City, You think we're scared of anything?"

And they weren't.

They beat Murray State with a score of 70-60, a 10 point win in the NCAA tournament. That's quite the accomplishment.

After making it to the Sweet 16, they managed to knock off No. 3 seed Purdue with a final score of 67-64. Proceeding to the Elite 8, St. Peter's endured a devastating loss to the University of North Carolina Tarheels with a final score of 69-49.

It is an understatement to say that Coach Shaheeh Holloway gained a lot of attention throughout St. Peter's historic NCAA run.

In fact, Holloway has an interesting story: After visiting with Hall of Fame coach, Mike Krzyzewski, better known as "Coach K," Holloway actually turned

down Duke's offer to play Division I college basketball at the highest level.

You might be asking, how can you turn down Coach K?

Well, Holloway's answer was, "I just couldn't leave my barber in Jersey."

Not only did he turn down the Duke Blue Devils, but he also turned down the Kansas Jayhawks and the Syracuse Orange.

Holloway chose to continue his offer at Seton Hall, what can be considered as one of the underdogs in DI college basketball.

As the starting point guard at Seton Hall in 2000, according to ESPN, Holloway led the Pirates to their first NCAA tournament experience since 1994 where he hit a game-winner against the Oregon Ducks.

After a freak injury ended his college basketball career, he didn't give up. Holloway tried out for the New York

Knicks after partially recovering from his injury. Unfortunately, that did not work out and he played in Europe for five years.

Holloway decided to take his love for the game to the next level. In 2018, Holloway was hired as the Head Coach of The Saint Peter's Peacocks. He wanted to be a part of a program that he could turn around, and from his accomplishments this season, he made history.

According to ESPN, on March 31, Shaheen Holloway was offered the head coaching position at his alma mater, Seton Hall. It has always been a dream of his to coach at a high level and he was finally given the opportunity following his historic NCAA tournament run.

I look forward to seeing the great places Shaheen Holloway will go. Will we see the Seton Hall Pirates in the next NCAA tournament? Stay tuned.

# Shifts to inclusivity in children's books spark controversy

## *At what age do we introduce sensitive identity topics?*

**By Lindsey Scorey**  
Asst. Opinion Editor

In recent years, children's books and media selection have slowly but surely grown to be more inclusive to race, sexuality and other intersectional factors.

My sister began working in a public library a few years ago and noticed the selections of children's readings offered inclusive, informative and entertaining ways of educating children on a plethora of topics.

However, many parents have taken to social media and, of course, the traditional means of telling the workers who put the books out for sale or borrowing just how upsetting this is for them.

Many argue the books are covering topics that children are either too young for or simply should not be made aware of.

To this, I have a couple contentions.

Let's take LGBTQIA+ identities, for example.

To those who protest, I would ask, how did you know you were straight? At what age?

You do not know what your child is thinking or feeling about their bodies, and it is important to normalize these topics at an appropriate age, so children feel comfortable talking about them.

And you absolutely can wait until your children are curious or ask you questions. Parenting looks different for everyone, but you cannot deny your kids critical conversations when

they are ready for them. You should let your kids know you are there to support and uplift them, never to judge or condemn.

As is clear if you simply look around you, everyone is different. We all belong to different identity categories and children are

much more perceptive of that than we may think.

Take for a specific example, "Bad Hair Doesn't Exist" by Sulma Azru-Brown. This children's book exists to let all young girls, but mainly young girls of color, know that their hair is beautiful. Curly or tousled hair needs different care, but that does not make it any less worthy than any other texture of hair.

Think about all the young girls who never heard that message. This book can make a difference in so many lives and even teach parents as much as the kids.

Before you protest our youth learning more about their own identities, consider just how you learned yours. We deserve to openly talk about them. We all deserve solid means of instruction, support and care.

Think about what message you want to send before you speak.



Graphic by Jack Malatesta



# Curry reveals growth on his outstanding new album

By **Sydney Allabaugh**  
Staff Writer

Denzel Curry is a rapper known for his high-energy alternative hip-hop bangers. From his breakout hit “Ultimate” to lead single “PERCS|PERCZ,” Curry commonly screams his lyrics over an aggressive drill beat.

However, on his new fifth studio album “Melt My Eyez, See Your Future,” Curry strays from these expectations and his typical style. This album allows fans to see a different side of Curry as he utilizes elevated and mellow traditional hip-hop beats to tackle vulnerable topics like social issues, mental health and self-discovery.

Although it was not what I was expecting, “Melt My Eyez, See Your Future” may be his best work yet.

“Walkin,” the first track released from the album, perfectly sets the tone and foreshadows the theme of the rest of the album. In this track, with its diverse flows and melodies, Curry illustrates the importance of coping with and healing from injustice and mental health issues



by facing them instead of running away or internalizing them. Instead of letting issues consume him, he learns “[he] just gotta stay focused, [he] just gotta keep walkin.”

Curry takes this philosophy and applies it on “Melt Session #1” and

“Mental,” two tracks that remind me of older styles of hip-hop. On both, he emphasizes that he has the responsibility of processing hardships and taking accountability instead of ignoring them, or “melting [his] eyes.” Curry shares this new perspective he developed after

starting therapy to help his listeners through their own struggles.

Curry tackles topics bigger than himself on “The Last” and “John Wayne,” songs about injustice and police brutality. On “John Wayne,” a song produced by JPEGMafia, Curry criticizes the police by referring to their racial injustices. He references the horrific Breonna Taylor case in the line, “911, emergency will murder me the day I call ‘em” to argue why he distrusts officers. He explores this topic further on “The Last” as he expresses how unsafe he feels in a country riddled with violence.

The combination of important subject matter, inspiring themes, and high-quality production distinguishes this album from others in Curry’s discography. Curry proves himself as an artist by diversifying his work and shedding fear to showcase vulnerability and struggle. Overall, “Melt My Eyez, See Your Future” highlights Curry’s growth not only as an artist, but as a person, too.

Graphic by Jack Malatesta

# The constant loyalty battle between electronic companies

By **Rudy Urenovich**  
Staff Writer

Everyday we make decisions and grow to form preferences that we uphold and defend vehemently. Perhaps the most heated and frequently debated preference is between our electronic devices.

We are college students, cell phones, computers, tablets, smart watches, are basically lifelines; we would not be able to function without them. So it’s no wonder we grow devoted to certain brands. The main debate is Apple versus, well, literally any other brand. Samsung when it comes to phones, and Microsoft when it comes to computers. And any other tech brands.

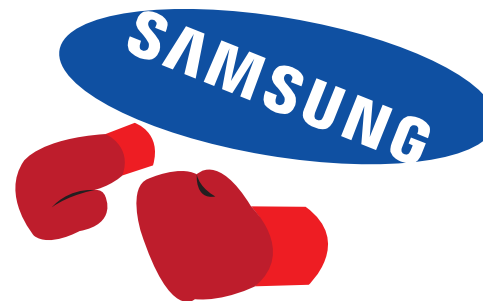
To be honest, people who love Apple products, love Apple products. They will fight to the death defending their excellence and will oftentimes choose death than switch to another brand. Also

Apple lovers, need to have every digital device be Apple. There is some logic to doing this, as all Apple products can be synched together. When users receive a text, their computer, iPad, and iPhone all make that lovely chime.



There was also that running gag that students who use MacBooks pointedly and obviously pull them out and type rather dramatically in class to ensure others know they have an Apple laptop.

They are the same people to judge when they receive a green text message. I actually knew someone quite shallow who listed not having an iPhone as a con towards a potential romantic partner. I know plenty of people who do actually



use Apple devices for their capabilities.

Being in graphic design, I was told an iPad is an invaluable tool, and drawing on it is almost identical to illustrating with a pen and paper, and I have found

this to be true. I had a mentor who had (almost) every iPhone ever made, and is in awe of everything the brand makes.

Those who are not in favor of Apple devices are equally obnoxious as those who adore the brand, with their loudly proclaimed hatred of it. They are proud to not use Apple products and will make this point whenever possible. I can see in some cases Windows, Samsung and Google products may be the better option because I think, and do not quote me, that Apple products are more expensive. Apple products also do not have the benefit of longevity. You’re lucky if you have a phone or laptop that lasts four or five years.

All in all, everyone has their preferences and their opinions, and that’s their prerogative.

Graphic by Jack Malatesta



# Blue Period and the LGBTQIA+ experience in real life

By AJ Rubino

*Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff Writer*

The newly released anime “Blue Period” has caused quite the stir in the anime and manga community with its representation of genderqueer and nonbinary people.

“Blue Period” follows a cisgender male, Yatora Yaguchi, who learns the idea and love for art. He meets Ryuji Ayukawa, a genderqueer individual who uses they/them pronouns. However, this individual goes by Yuka and not the other name.

The representation of genderqueer and LGBTQIA+ in this anime is greatly appreciated, but it comes with a cost for the character.

Yuka’s family, with the exception of their grandmother, disapproves of their lifestyle and their identity, which becomes violent. Representation should not carry the stereotypical sob story in order to feel the confidence and self-respect within one’s self.

Regardless of this situation the Yuka finds themselves in, they still present themselves sternly and open to educating others.

It’s strange that the main character of the show, Yatora and Yuka, end up being close friends, considering the relationship they had at the beginning of the manga.

At the beginning, Yaguchi was very ignorant towards Yuka and the idea of genderqueer and nonbinary. He makes his remarks to Yuka and a slight rivalry starts.

Over the course of their relationship, the two become closer. Yuka opens up to Yaguchi and expresses their feelings towards genderqueer and their identity. This is when Yaguchi starts trying and correcting their mistakes.

For one, Yaguchi stops using Yuka’s deadname.

I was personally shocked when I watched this anime. LGBTQIA+ representation in anime is common when it falls under the romance genre, but for a seinen manga that is aimed at young adult males I was surprised to see genderqueer representation.

Sure, the way the main character went about it was not to my liking, but then again, when I told a student in my department my pronouns, he stared at me, laughed and said, “I do not play the pronoun game.”

I did not know pronouns were a game. They/them pronouns kicking the winning



Graphic by Jack Malatesta

goal to the cisgender male who blocked it with his sheer ignorance. Score.

I felt comfortable with Yuka’s character as I proceeded to watch the show. I thought long about it, and why it meant a lot. Then, I realized, I saw myself in them.

Thankfully,

I changed majors when I decided to stop going by my legal name, so it’s almost shocking when people know it.

However, nothing is more disrespectful than when someone asks what my deadname was. It is a name I do not go by anymore, so why should you need to ask for this information if you are not going to use it and just make me uncomfortable in the process?

Personally, educating others can have positive effects, but it gets tiring after a while.

A queer person should not have to educate others to avoid the constant

disrespect from others.

Last semester, I was constantly being put down by my own identity in my department. I had days where I avoided people and buildings because of the toll of having to feel like I was fighting for my life, when I should not have to.

I go by they/them pronouns and I have been using those pronouns for almost three years. It’s frustrating when a professor asks for my pronouns, I give them the pronouns and then they do not use them. Same thing happens with my friends, and it is constantly tiring to have correct people.

Sure, people make mistakes, but these mistakes can be corrected as easily as the mistake was made. People who make a big deal out of misgendering me cause more of an issue than they mean to. Just because I do not conform to the gender binary does not mean you need to treat me as if I am fragile.

I do appreciate educating others to make me feel better but I should not have to receive disrespect in the process to gain respect.

Today, it is less of an issue, but upon reflection it should not have happened.

Just because I am not the average cisgender heterosexual female does not make me a fragile breakable person.

I do look up to Yuka a lot, and I see myself in them. Sometimes calling people out can help get the point across but sometimes educating yourself to prepare for situations like this is highly advised.

## The NFL 2022 off-season trade: Craziest one yet, and here’s why

By Zara Lantzman

*Opinion Staff Writer*

The National Football League offseason kicked off on Feb. 22, while free agency started on March 14.

To put it simply, no offseason in NFL history has even been as unpredictable and crazy as this year’s.

To start it off, Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers signed a massive contract extension on March 8.

As grand as this was, I am not a fan of the contract that Rodgers was given. Rodgers’ contract guarantees him over \$150 million over the next three years. Who is to say Rodgers will not just play one year, take the

guaranteed money and then retire?

If that will be the case, then the Packers will be left with over \$70 million in dead cap. Rodgers can legitimately screw over the Packers organization with this contract. Now, the power is, sadly, in his hands.

One hour later, nine-time Pro Bowl quarterback Russell Wilson sent shockwaves throughout the league when he got traded to the Denver Broncos for five picks, tight end Noah Fant, quarterback Drew Lock and defensive end Shelby Harris. The Seahawks also sent back a fourth-round pick.

On March 10, the Chicago Bears traded former defensive player of the year edge rusher Khalil Mack to the Los Angeles

Chargers for a second-round pick and a 2023 sixth-round pick. As a Packers fan, I was beaming with joy to see the Bears get worse.

March 17 was a tough day to be a Packers fan. Pro Bowl wide receiver Allen Robinson signed with the Super Bowl Champion Los Angeles Rams. The worst news was yet to come as star Packers two-time all-pro wide receiver Davante Adams was traded to the Las Vegas Raiders for the 22nd overall pick and the Raiders’ second-round pick. The Packers should have received more. Adams’ value is worth so much more.

March 22 was another sad day for Packers fans as former Packers Pro Bowl edge rusher Za’Darius Smith signed with

the rival Minnesota Vikings.

The NFL world was sent into orbit on March 23. Star wide receiver Tyreek Hill was traded to the Miami Dolphins for five picks. Hill wanted to be the highest paid wide receiver. To see an electrifying wide receiver get traded out of nowhere shocked everyone.

On March 31, former Seahawks six-time all-pro linebacker Bobby Wagner joined the rival Rams. Where are the Rams finding the money for all these moves? The Rams want to be back-to-back Super Bowl Champions and it shows.

It has only been three weeks since moves started happening and it is already the craziest offseason of all time.



# If you're not seeing films in theater, you're doing it wrong

## *Are you just watching films, or are you experiencing them?*

**By Hannah Simerson**  
Staff Writer

Take a minute and think about the last time you sat in a movie theater watching the newest hit film.

Were you on the edge of your seat sharing screams with the person to your left during a horror film?

Did you hear a joke from another member of the audience during a comedy film that made the entire theater erupt into laughter?

Did you enter the theater to watch the newest superhero movie and found yourself face-to-face with 60 people dressed in Spider-Man costumes?

Seeing a film in the movie theater is more than just an excuse to eat buttered popcorn and slushies (although this is certainly reason enough).

When you share an hour and a half emotional thrill ride with a room full of random strangers, you sign yourself up for an experience you simply cannot replicate at home.

For starters, the movie theater forces you to pay attention to the action unfolding in front of you.

By placing you in a dark room with little to nothing to let your eyes wander to than

the ginormous screen, movie theaters give you no choice but to become immersed and invested into the action.

When you watch films at home, the distractions are endless and could easily distract even the most concentrated from paying proper attention to the film.

Perhaps the most unspoken but beloved aspect of watching a film at the movie theater is the sense of community that surrounds the theater.

More often than not, strangers quickly turn into friends by the end of the film. Odds are, everyone in the theater is a fan of the same thing, so seeing the film in public offers an opportunity to connect with those with similar interests.

Let's be real for a second here: We don't talk enough about how vulnerable it is to watch a film with someone, especially if that film is something you hold dear to you.

You're crying, you're laughing, you're screaming, you're frustrated—together. The theater is collectively experiencing emotions together. Do not underestimate the power in that.

There is nothing quite like the atmosphere of a movie theater. Whether anticipation is dripping from the walls on opening night or calmness surrounds

the theater during a matinee show, there is simply no place that can create the same vibes as a movie theater.

Completely peaceful yet exciting at the same time, the movie theater is truly an escape from the world beyond the screen.

If none of this is convincing you to go see the new film you've been waiting for in theaters instead of on HBOMax, you should be aware that films are not created to be viewed on such small screens.

Films are shot and edited with the big screen in mind. Take the newest "Dune," for example. "Dune" was made for the movie theater screen; from its landscape shots to its crisp audio, the film demands to be seen in its best display.

You may forget the plot of the film you saw in the movie theater, but you won't forget what happened in your theater during that film.

This is because going to the movie theater is more than just a film watching experience.



It is the unspoken, often unseen, elements of the movie theater experience that make it so unique and worthy of your time (and, frankly, your finances—support local movie theaters before we lose them).

Plus, there's buttered popcorn and slushies. What's there not to enjoy about that?

Graphic by Jack Malatesta

# We want to hear your voice!

*Join the Opinion section!*

*Let your thoughts be known within the community.*

Politics, culture, social issues

Reviewing art, literature, movies, music

Columns, petitions, letters to the editor



# Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact the Sports Editors: [Christopher.Gowarty@wilkes.edu](mailto:Christopher.Gowarty@wilkes.edu) or [Baylee.Guedes@wilkes.edu](mailto:Baylee.Guedes@wilkes.edu)

## BB: Kemp's seventh inning strikeout grants Wilkes first conference wins

By Baylee Guedes

Co-Sports Editor

A doubleheader on Saturday afternoon led to 4-3 and 7-6 wins for Wilkes as they hosted FDU-Florham after a 6-5 loss on Friday.

In the first game, both sides of the field remained scoreless until the fourth inning. FDU got the bats going in the top of the frame, scoring three runs off of six hits.

Wilkes answered in the bottom of the fourth with RBIs from junior AJ Brosious, who had a sacrifice fly to center, and senior Michael Patrizio, who had a sacrifice fly to right field.

By the fifth inning, the score remained 3-2 in the Devils' favor as each team played tough.

In the sixth inning, Patrizio got his second RBI of the day by doubling to left-center, bringing in first-year Mike Show to tie the game.

Wilkes held FDU scoreless in the seventh and added another run as first-year Zach Luksic singled to left field, scoring graduate student Brandon Reno the winning run.

"It was thrilling to hit in the winning run," said Luksic. "Reno had a great hit and did his job getting on base in that situation. The same goes for Stone Warmouth, working an at-bat to get the walk to first. So to have those runners in scoring position really helped me with hitting the ball to the outfield to bring them in."

Senior Tony Molitoris pitched six innings only allowing six hits, three runs, four walks and added four strikeouts. Junior Sawyer Kemp closed the game by pitching one inning, not allowing any hits, and adding two strikeouts as well as one walk.

"Winning the first game was definitely important," said Molitoris. "We have been in a slump the last couple of weeks so it was good to get the first one today and be able to have a chance to win the series."

Game two started out hot as FDU got

the bats firing in the top of the first inning, scoring two runs. Wilkes responded with an RBI double from Reno, scoring graduate student Nick Pronti.

The Devils came back in the second inning with a solo home run from fifth-year Matt Nodoro, making the score 3-1 at the top of the second.

No scores in the third and fourth innings for FDU led to a chance for Wilkes to score as junior Peyton Schuck brought in Luksic and Reno on a single to left-center in the bottom of the fourth, tying the score.

First-year Chase Vrabel singled to center, scoring first-year Jimmy Brazofsky to get a 4-3 lead.

The Colonels held FDU scoreless in the fifth inning and added three runs of their own to the board. Junior Max Alessi doubled to left-field, bringing in Reno. Schuck singled up the middle, scoring both Luksic and Alessi.

The score was 7-3 in the Colonels' favor going into the top of the seventh inning.

The Devils tried to make a comeback, scoring three runs on a three-run home run by senior Tommy Moore, but Wilkes got the final out on a strikeout, ending the game and getting their second conference win of the day and season.

Senior Gage Coudriet got the win on the mound as he pitched four innings allowing three runs on five hits with two walks and one strikeout. First-year Todd Kolbicka pitched 2.2 innings in relief with two hits, three runs, two walks, and one strikeout. Finally, Kemp pitched 0.1 innings with a single strikeout to end the game.

"It felt great to get two conference wins today," said Coudriet. "I am proud of everyone on this team and the way we bounced back after the loss on Friday. Time to get back to work this week and build upon the successes we saw in this series."

The Colonels return to the pitch with a trip to DeSales University on Friday at 3:30 p.m.



Photos: The Beacon/Ariel Reed

**Senior pitcher Sawyer Kemp yells in excitement as he just pitched a strikeout to secure the win.**



**Graduate student Brandon Reno (left) fist bumps junior Peyton Schuck (right) after scoring.**



# Myer's scoring not enough to lift Wilkes over FDU-Florham

By Jason Eberhart  
Asst. Sports Editor

The men's lacrosse team faced off against FDU-Florham on Saturday afternoon at Schmidt Stadium. The Colonels fell to the visiting Devils 11-9 in a close MAC Freedom contest, the loss bringing Wilkes' record to 0-2 in conference and 4-7 overall.

It was a slow scoring affair for much of the first half. FDU-Florham's defense was sitting in a zone, which stagnated the Wilkes attackers. The Colonels were up 2-1 late in the first quarter before a goal from FDU tied things up.

That goal kickstarted a 5-1 stretch spanning through the first and second quarters for the Devils as they took a 6-3 lead into halftime.

"I thought we played a little slow today on offense," said head coach Curtis Jaques. "I think that some of the looks that we like to generate in the full field usually, we did not cash in on a lot of those looks. We just didn't play as hard as we could in transition."

The Colonels knew that they needed to play with more pace as they tried to climb back into the game. The Wilkes offense did just that as they came alive shortly after halftime. Back-to-back goals from senior midfielder Alex

Myers, the second of which was the 100th point of his career, trimmed the deficit to just one.

"It was a huge accomplishment and I have been working my entire career to get to a hundred points," said Myers. "It is a huge milestone for only playing two-and-a-half years because of COVID-19, so I am really excited and proud of myself."

Wilkes had all of the momentum on their side following the milestone goal. However, the two teams traded a pair of goals before the Devils scored three unanswered to take full control of the game. The Colonel defense had been dominant up until that point in the game, but a few breakdowns led to the FDU run.

"I think on defense we need to improve our communication," said senior goalkeeper Ryan Lasher. "We need to go along together as a team and just trust each other more."

Lasher finished the day with 11 saves and a save percentage of 0.500.

Despite being down, Wilkes fought until the very end. They were able to cut the lead down to two multiple times. However, the clock was not in their favor, and eventually they ran out of time.

"I think our faceoff group did a



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

**Senior midfielder Alex Myers runs to his teammates in celebration after scoring his 100th career point.**

fantastic job today, which is always a huge plus for us," said Jaques. "We had eight assists on nine goals, so our team was sharing the rock. All in all, I think the boys battled today, we just need to see the ball drop in the back of the net a

few more times."

Wilkes will look to earn their first conference win of the year as they travel to take on the Arcadia University Knights tonight at 7 p.m.

## THE BEACON'S *Player of the Game: Alex Myers*

Points

4

Goals

4

Assists

0





# TENNIS: Men and women fall to DI Lafayette College

By **Chris Gowarty**  
Co-Sports Editor

## Men's

Over the past weekend, the men's tennis team lost two matches putting their record at 4-4 on the season. The Colonels lost to Ursinus College 8-1 and to Lafayette College 6-1.

The men's first match of the weekend was against Ursinus on Friday, April 1. Ursinus quickly jumped out to a 3-0 lead after sweeping the doubles portion of the match.

The Bears continued to dominate the match by winning five of six singles to defeat the Colonels by a final score of 8-1.

Sophomore Cole Gibson was the lone winner for Wilkes as the No. 1 Single, defeating Ursinus sophomore Lars Jespersen in three sets by scores of 7-5, 5-7 and 10-5.

First-year No. 6 Nick Putney came close to a victory in his singles match, but fell to Ursinus sophomore Ethan Yu in three sets by scores of 4-6, 6-4 and 8-10.

On Saturday, April 2, the Colonels traveled to Easton, Pa. to face the Division I Lafayette Leopards.

In this matchup, the Colonels lost 6-1 to bring their season record to an even 4-4.

No.1 Single Gibson and first-year No.

4 Single Nathaniel Rathe both lost their matches in two sets by scores of 6-2 and 6-2. Sophomore No. 2 Single John Toussaint lost in two sets 6-0 and 6-1 and first-year No. 3 Single Connor Frey lost his match in two sets 6-4 and 6-0. No. 5 Single Putney lost his match in one set by a score of 8-2.

Lafayette was able to sweep the doubles portion, as Toussaint and sophomore Jacob Bossler lost their match 6-1, Gibson and Rathe lost their match 6-0 and Putney and first-year Rodniel Senson lost their match 6-1.

"I think that we have a resilience that's undeniable, and that shows in our matches day-in and day-out," said Toussaint. "We proved to ourselves that our goals are undoubtedly attainable and well within our reach, we just have to keep putting in the work and playing the sport we love."

The Colonels play their next match against rival King's College on April 5, where they will also play their first match within the MAC Freedom Conference.

## Women's

On April 2, the women's tennis team lost two matches to put their record at 3-4 on the season. The Colonels traveled to Lafayette College where they lost 7-0 and hosted New Paltz College at home where

they lost 8-1.

The Colonels dropped their match against Lafayette, as they were shut down completely in all singles and doubles played leading to the 7-0 loss.

Senior No. 1 Single Dasha Yakhnis and senior No. 3 Single Alexa Cieri both lost their matches in two sets by scores of 6-0 and 6-0. Sophomore No. 2 Single Zoe Klein came close to winning her match after a 6-6 tie in the first set, but eventually lost the second set by a score of 2-0.

The rest of the Colonels singles lost in one set, as first-year No. 4 Tia Amerise fell 8-5, senior No. 5 Abby Bielecki fell 8-0 and sophomore No. 6 Cassidy Greenman fell 8-3.

The Leopards swept the doubles portion, as No. 1 Greenman and Klein fell 6-1, No. 2 Yakhnis and Cieri fell 6-1 and No. 3 Amerise and sophomore Kaitlyn O'Neil fell 6-1.

After their matches against Lafayette, the Colonels traveled back home to face New Paltz College.

In this matchup, Wilkes' tough stretch continued as they lost 8-1 to the Hawks.

The Colonels' only win of the day came from the No. 1 Doubles duo of Klein and Greenman as they won in three sets by a score of 8-4.

The No. 2 Doubles Cieri and Yakhnis

lost by a score of 8-6 and the No. 3 Doubles Amerise and O'Neil fell 8-2. The Hawks swept all singles matches to secure the win against the Colonels. No. 1 Single Yakhnis lost her match in two sets by scores of 6-1 and 6-0.

No. 2 Single Klein started her match off hot, winning the first set 6-4. However, first-year Anna Barteck shut down Klein's momentum and won the next two sets by scores of 6-0 and 10-4. No. 3 Single Cieri, No. 4 Single Amerise and No. 5 Single Greenman all lost their matches in two sets by scores of 6-2 and 6-0, 6-0 and 6-4 and 6-1 and 6-3 respectively.

No. 6 Single O'Neil came close to winning her match, evening up the score by taking the second set 6-3 after losing the first by the same score. O'Neil unfortunately fell to sophomore Loretta Donovan in the third set by a score of 10-5.

"We've all seen how far we've come as individuals," said Klein. "Just showing up to play our games can make all the difference. Not everything will be a win, but the well-fought-for losses spark the greatest fuel for improvement."

As the away team, the Colonels will played their first MAC Freedom match of the season when they faced King's College on April 5.



Photos courtesy of [gowilkesu.com](http://gowilkesu.com)

**Senior Dasha Yankis looks to return the ball.**



**Sophomore Cole Gibson prepares for the service return.**



*This week's chosen athlete of the week did not return messages; therefore; there is no male athlete of the week this edition.*

# Colonels athletics in action throughout the week



Sophomore infielder Sami Hendershott found a way to get to third base despite the obstruction from Penn State Hazelton.



Sophomore catcher Nicole O'Rourke positioned herself to prevent Penn State Hazelton from scoring.



Junior centerfielder Peyton Schuck mentally prepared himself for his next bat. Schuck ended up hitting a double and scored two runners.



Senior utility Michael Patrizio lifted his glove to catch an easy pop-fly off the bat of FDU.



Junior faceoff Bradley Anacreon snatched the ball from the FDU faceoff and proceeded to jumpstart their offense.



Senior goalie Ryan Lasher instructed his teammate on where to go to best stop FDU's attack.

Photos: The Beacon/Ariel Reed



Getting to know...

# Hayden Calaman

## Sophomore Softball Player

### **The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week March 23 to March 30**

**Why Hayden Calaman was selected:** Calaman's efforts were crucial in the team's matchup against Alfred, where she went 0.500 and 0.444 from the plate.

**Name:** Hayden Calaman

**Year:** Sophomore

**Major:** Civil Engineering

**Hometown:** Elizabethtown, Pa.

**High School:** Elizabethtown Area H.S.

**Position:** 3rd Base

### **Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?**

The smaller class sizes and the ability to play softball had the biggest impact on my decision to come to Wilkes.

### **Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?**

I hope to obtain a civil engineering position that is involved with the development of homes and buildings.

### **Favorite Memory as a Colonel?**

Meeting and getting to know all of my teammates and friends the first week of freshman year.

### **Hopes for this season as a Colonel?**

I hope that as a team we have fun and compete to the best of our abilities throughout the entire season.

### **When/Why did you first begin playing?**

I first began playing when I was about nine or ten years old. My dad was most definitely the driving factor with my introduction to the sport because he grew up playing baseball.

### **Favorite thing to do during practice?**

My favorite thing to do at practice is run through defensive situations and work on executing plays.

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

I would like to improve our outfield, so it won't hold water as well when it rains.

### **Other interests or hobbies off of the field?**

Painting, reading, and hanging out with friends.

### **Favorite building on campus?**

SIMMS.

### **Favorite meal to eat on campus?**

Tater tots.

### **Favorite professor?**

My favorite professor is Dr. Carole Baddour, because she is very approachable and does her best to make sure all of her students comprehend and learn the material given in class.

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

Neil Armstrong.

### **Most influential person in your life?**

My sister Haylee.

### **A quote you live your life by?**

"We cannot become what we want by remaining what we are."

### **Anyone to give a shout-out to?**

My roommates Bri, Marissa, and Tinsley.

- Compiled by Ariel Reed, Managing Editor

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

The Beacon/Ariel Reed





**DIVE  
INTO**



*Wherever you are.  
On campus or online.  
\$530 per credit.*

**SUMMER  
CLASSES**

Wilkes University

*Summer*

is a great time to lighten your course load for next year or catch up on missed classes. And with start dates in May, June or July, classes conveniently fit your summer plans.

**THREE-WEEK PRESESSION**

May 23 to June 10

**FULL SESSION**

May 23 to Aug. 19

**FIRST SESSION**

June 13 to July 15

**NINE-WEEK SESSION**

June 13 to Aug. 16

**SECOND SESSION**

July 18 to Aug. 19

*New for 2022:*

**EARN A MINOR IN  
JUST ONE SUMMER!**  
Business Administration  
or Sports Management

Make an appointment with your advisor  
and visit [wilkes.edu/summer](http://wilkes.edu/summer).