



# THE INKWELL QUARTERLY

## An Uplifting Work of Staggering Humanity

by Isaiah McGee

On Thursday, February 25th, on my way to take my midterm in English 234: Survey of British Literature, I observed a somewhat apocryphal sight—a salt and pepper haired man in a black chamois shirt, brown chinos, and what appeared to be a pair of brown, leather Timberland Earthkeeper boots, standing on the greenway talking on a flip-phone. Completely ignorant of his identity and voraciously enveloped in thoughts about my exam, I scoffed at the sight and went on my way.

Notwithstanding, on Thursday, February 25th, author, Dave Eggers visited Wilkes University—to the delight of faculty members, students, and residents of Wilkes-Barre.

After completion of my midterm, I regrouped for about an hour, went to the library and printed excerpts of a couple of short stories, in preparation for the creative writing workshop with Eggers, in Kirby Hall. I arrived a bit early for the workshop and, to my surprise, there was the salt and pepper haired man. He greeted me with a firm handshake. His name? Dave Eggers. His personality was

infectious, and he immediately put the room at ease, cultivating a casual, comfortable atmosphere. Before the workshop began, Eggers worked the room like a politician, greeting everyone present—exchanging sincere niceties along the way. Following a brief introduction, the workshop convened and Eggers opened the floor to students to share their work.

Considering our one-sided interaction earlier, it seemed like fate that Eggers chose me first to share my writing sample. I was amazed at just how engaged Mr. Eggers was and the amount of time he spent listening, and then providing constructive criticism on how to improve my work. Eggers went around the room, spending a generous amount of time with each student doing likewise, and providing encouragement for our future endeavours.

“If you’re not published in a magazine, just make your own. You’ll be amazed at the amount of attention that it gets—it’ll just become a magnet,” said Eggers, when talking to us about potential failure in personal writing endeavours. Eggers went on to elaborate that

this advice led to the founding of McSweeney’s in 1998. McSweeney’s was named the country’s seventh most innovative media company for 2012, “for proving the value of print publishing.”

The workshop concluded with Eggers providing relationship and romantic advice for students (very much needed) and with several students participating in a play written by integrative media student, Sean Connelly. Students and faculty members were invited to attend *Story Continued on page 2*

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## An Uplifting Work of Staggering Humanity

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Eggers' lecture later that evening at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center.

At his guest lecture, the atmosphere was practically identical to that of the writing workshop. Eggers and Dr. Mischelle Anthony sat across from one another and engaged in formal, open communication. Eggers stressed the importance of supporting public school educators and a desire for education reform, eliciting cheers from Wilkes' education majors and student teachers.

Eggers, whose mother was a teacher, found himself drawn to education by his mother, and founded the literacy project 826 Valencia, in San Francisco, in 2002. His work for today's youth seemed to resonate with the crowd, even inspiring children in the audience, who asked Mr. Eggers questions regarding his work and future projects.

The day came full circle

when Eggers began discussing various aspects of his personal life, where he discussed at length his use of, you guessed it, a flip phone. Eggers' flip phone holds fifteen pictures at a time. He does not text. There was something very drawing about Eggers, which is difficult to put into words. He himself is just a common man (albeit an accomplished writer, educator, speaker, and journalist)-- openly admitting that he was not a voracious reader in his formative, adolescent, and teenage years-- something that I think a large portion of individuals can relate with. Eggers' memoir, *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, and novels *What is the What*, and *Zeitun* remind me of a Frank Capra film, as they all serve as a celebration of the common man.

Eggers further displayed his selflessness and humanity by closing his lecture, by having English major, Brianna Schunk sing a

delightful rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow".

Prior to her performance, Schunk also appeared touched by Eggers' humanity. "I just wanted to say thank you to Mr. Eggers and I am just blown away by his genuineness as a person," said Schunk.

Following the conclusion of his lecture, Eggers participated in a lengthy book signing, in which he took time to speak to each attendee. When it came my turn, Eggers and I talked briefly, but his message left in my copy of *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* spoke volumes...

"To: Isaiah. You are essential my friend!"

Mr. Eggers's visit to Wilkes was truly an uplifting work of staggering humanity.

## A Note from The Editor

The *Inkwell Quarterly* would like to extend a special thank you to visit author's J.C. Todd and Dave Eggers for making the beginning of our spring semester something to remember.

Both visits were absolutely amazing and made us as Wilkes students feel validated in not only our education but our personalities, our dreams, and our world views. From Todd signing books despite her reading being canceled to

Eggers taking rough drafts of short stories from several students and providing feedback to many more, these authors made an effort to treat Wilkes' students with not only respect but with the openness and generosity that every artist should feel welcome to.

The artistic community is vast, ever changing, always growing, and never stagnant and, with the help of the Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series stu-

dents at Wilkes are able to experience that first hand.

Thank you, Ms. Todd, Mr. Eggers, Wilkes University's English Department, and the generosity of the Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series, from every one of the staff members at the *Inkwell Quarterly*.

- Mackenzie T. Egan, Editor in Chief.

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Education major Brianna Schunk introduced the time to sit down English students and literary end for students at W

Above we see Brianna Schunk, the Education major who gathered in impact Eggers had that Eggers encountered theater performe



## Some Photos of the Dave Eggers Visit

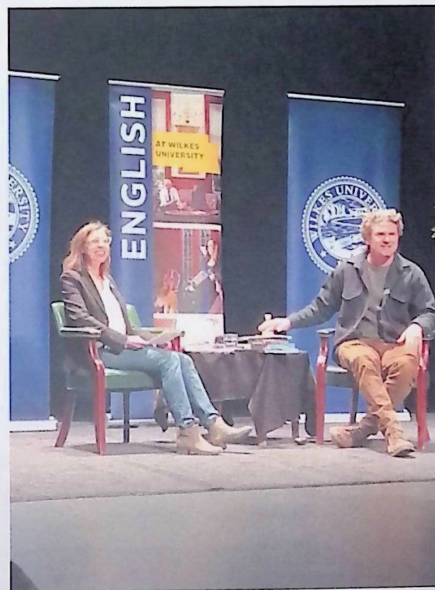


Education majors **Brooke Giarratno** and **Abigail Baur** introduced Eggers, along with English majors **Brianna Schunk** and **Mackenzie Egan** - Eggers took the time to sit down with groups of Education and English students to talk about his various educational and literary endeavors making it a full day of events for students at Wilkes.

Above we see Brooke and Abigail, with **Dr. Gallela** of the Education department, talking to the audience who gathered in the Darte theater to talk about the impact Eggers had on them as future teachers. Below we see Brianna and Mackenzie discussing the ways that Eggers encouraged them as student writers and theater performers.



Dave Eggers worked with English, Theater, and Communications students in a round table workshop on the afternoon of his visit. He listened to short writing pieces, one dramatic reading of a student's independent film script, and a novel pitch and provided feedback. The workshop was one of three big events that Eggers participated in with Wilkes faculty and students during his February visit.



Eggers wrapped up his visit at Wilkes with a discussion about politics, publication, and his tutoring project, 826 Valencia. The conversation covered pirates, Trump rallies, *The Circle*, and a run down of the visit through Egger's eyes. To the left we see Eggers talking with **Dr. Michelle Anthony**, of the English department. The riveting conversation was the perfect end to a filled day



Eggers talking to **Grace Hamill** about his book *The Lifters* at the public book signing after his discussion with **Dr. Anthony** in the Darte.

## The Impact of *The Vagina Monologues*

by Veronica Romanelli

The first time I saw *The Vagina Monologues*, I was 14 years old. As I sat with my siblings and my father at our annual Valentine's Day dinner, my sister Gabriella asked if I wanted to go see a "VDay" show with her. I was very into theater, and I was excited to continue my Valentine's Day celebration by seeing a play. When I got there, however, it was not at all what I was expecting. My sister took me to a room full of people who would not stop talking about vaginas, and I was mortified.

In an opening monologue, a group of women spoke together. In unison, they all declared, "We were worried about vaginas." I was too, and I could not believe I agreed to come to the event. I could feel my face getting red, and I felt like crying. I had never heard anybody speak so openly about vaginas, and I did not know what to do with myself. I awkwardly fidgeted in my seat and prayed for the play to be over already. Then, a woman began reciting a monologue called "My Short Skirt," and that is when I realized the subjects that were being discussed should not be private. They needed to be talked about.

At the young age of 14, I related to the poem more than I cared to admit. The poem discussed why what a woman wears does not define who she is or what she wants. It reminded me of several experiences in my own life and experiences that others had shared with me. While listening to the poem, I first thought about the previous year when I was in seventh grade, and I was sent home from school for my skirt that fell three inches above my knee instead of the acceptable two inches. From that thought came another thought about how my sister, also in seventh grade, was not only sent home but also asked to spin around in front of our male principal so he could see just how inappropriate her outfit was. Objectification of women based on their clothing was something I had seen so many times before, but it was not something that I ever talked about. Now I knew I could talk about it, and even though I was still uncomfortable, I somehow also felt safer and more understood.

This year at the event was my fourth year in attendance, and every year I go, I try to bring another person with me. This time, I brought one of my friends from

high school, and she absolutely loved it. She found herself relating to the poems and said she felt stronger and freer when we left the room. Wilkes University's production of *The Vagina Monologues* is what gave me the confidence to speak about women's issues without feeling awkward. I think it is very important for men, women, girls, and boys to experience this type of conversation. Some monologues in the play are lighthearted and others are serious. The funnier poems are the ones that allowed me to initiate conversations with my friends. I started sharing poems that I heard at the event with them, and they laughed at first, but eventually, they opened up and shared their own experiences.

Vaginas went from being something that I never would have openly talked about to a normal topic of conversation. Now, if I have an experience that I think others can relate to, I share it with them. I am not ashamed, and I am not embarrassed. Each year I have new experiences, and each year, there is a poem somewhere in the play for me to relate to.

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### Say Hello to Our Staff!

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# Junior Spotlights

by Erica Bicchetti

*EB: Writing this issue's Junior Spotlights article holds a special place in my heart. I have met some of my best friends in the English department. For this year's Junior Spotlights, I decided to ask questions that challenged my classmates, yet conducted meaningful answers. I was blown away by their responses. My friends took the time and effort to respond carefully and thoughtfully to each question. I thank them for that. In addition to receiving such incredible answers, I also decided to include myself in this issue's Junior Spotlights. My freshman year of college I can recall receiving an email from a past Inkwell Quarterly member asking me to answer questions for the Freshman Faces article. I remember telling myself over and over to respond to that email, but never actually getting around to it. Sophomore year came around and I ironically became a member of the Inkwell Quarterly. I was assigned to write the Sophomore Spotlights article. Since I was a sophomore at the time, I felt it would be weird to respond to my own questions, so I didn't include myself. Now, it is Junior year, and I am taking on the Junior Spotlights. This time I have decided that I will include myself and answer my own tough questions!*



(photo by Erica Bicchetti)

Erica Bicchetti

**1. Which English class has been your favorite so far?** English 225 Comparative Grammar

**2. Which college professor has influenced you the most?** Dr. Kuhar. He is my English advisor, and he has influenced me to be confident which is something I have always struggled with. Whenever I feel like I can't accomplish something, Dr. Kuhar reminds me that I have the ability to do anything I put my mind to. He pushes me to work hard and supports all of my decisions.

**3. If you could go back in time, what would you change about your college experience so far?** Just trying to be more outgoing and building more confidence in myself rather than worrying about what others will think of me. Thankfully, I have found amazing friends who have helped me reach this point.

**4. If you could give freshman English majors one piece of advice, what would it be?** Be yourself and work hard to reach your goals because in the end, hard work really does pay off as cliché as it may sound.

**5. Do you feel prepared to take on your future career?** Yes and no. Wilkes has done an amazing job guiding me to my future career as a high school English teacher. However, part of me is nervous about what the future entails, but at the

same time I am also very excited.



(photo by Emily Banks)

Emily Banks

**1. Which English class has been your favorite so far?** English 225 (comparative grammar)

**2. Which college professor has influenced you the most?** Dr. Stanley. His positive vibe and goal oriented persona has been a major influence in my academic career thus far. Dr. Stanley takes an interest and expresses immense support and encouragement toward all of his students. For example, I was considering switching from pre-law to pre-vet and Dr. Stanley showed nothing but support for me, making sure to connect me with the pre-vet advisor and even offering to get me in contact with his veterinarian. He showed the same support when I decided I would not be switching from pre-law to pre-vet. My point being that pre-law and pre-vet are very different fields and Dr. Stanley didn't even question it when I told him I was considering changing over, and even encouraged that I can do both if I decide later on in

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## Vagina Monologues from a Male Perspective

by Darren Martinez

I wouldn't consider the word vagina among my everyday lexicon. It doesn't really roll off the tongue, as it just doesn't sound right. *The Vagina Monologues* addresses this, with the introduction noting that "No matter how many times you say it, it doesn't sound like something you want to say." It's an uncomfortable word, but why? That's what I was asked to consider watching *The Vagina Monologues*. It's a cry for the validity of sexual enjoyment, the validity of being a woman of any race or sexual orientation, the validity of womanhood. And despite the discomfort I felt, which I'd argue is the intent, I believe I'm on my way to understanding what it means to be a woman a little bit better.

In watching these women take the stage, it was probably one of the few times I've been in a majority female-dominated space. At least, all that comes to recent memory. It was almost like a classroom lesson. I had no expertise on the subject, I was instead the quiet receptor for information. Some of the situations described, I've heard of. The themes would be reflected in passing whispers of a conversation

or a viral tweet that would catch my eye, but never did I feel like I had a whole story. While listening to the *Vagina Monologues*, I felt like I did. And it made me understand that these stories are just a handful of tales compared to a sea of experiences. Every woman has a story to tell. We owe it to the women in our lives to listen. Begin listening if you aren't already and keep doing it if you do. There's always room to improve.

What stuck with me most was the simplicity of the child's answers as recounted by the speaker. Responses to questions like "What would your vagina wear?" and "What would your vagina say?" contained an innocence that was not seen elsewhere. It was shocking because many of the experiences of older women seemed burdened with guilt and shame. The shame that men would bring, ranging from romantic partners to simple dates, seemed to bring no end. There was a husband who insisted on his wife shaving her vagina. He insisted it was for better sex. The woman suffered, experiencing intense discomfort, rashes, and red bumps on the exposed skin. For

all her pain, the marriage counselor simply embarrassed her and blamed her for bringing discord to the marriage. The female counselor ordained the woman to allow her husband to shave her. She was cut by her husband as he was lost in the joy of shaving her. And we wonder why shame and guilt are indoctrinated into women. The experience is intimate and exposing, attempting to wipe away the feelings of alienation.

It's systemic, it should make you uncomfortable to think about. It should make you uncomfortable to hear how women have suffered. Trans women, women of color, lesbian women, the list goes on of women that are beaten up, shamed, and made to feel like less. Sometimes, diminishing women is built into the fabric of our lives whether we believe it or not. *The Vagina Monologues* are a celebration of owning oneself as a woman, despite the injustices. There is an eventual light to their stories. I believe I'm better for having experienced the monologues, as any audience member would be.

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### Wilkes University's New and Improved Career Services and Internships Offices

by Rashonda Montgomery

Once upon a time Wilkes University's Career Services and Internships offices were separate. Having this set up started to make less and less sense as things began to get a little chaotic. Oftentimes, people had to go back and forth

from one office to the next for different reasons. Recently, Dr. Leahy decided everything needed to be together. With this idea in mind, the little building located behind the SUB was repurposed for this exact reason. Initially a part of the

Temple Israel, this building is now home to Wilkes University's Career and Internship office.

This area is a lot better because it's very inviting. Students can walk in and hang out a bit. There are multiple things a student

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# Junior Spotlights

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life to return to the pre-vet track.

**3. If you could go back in time, what would you change about your college experience so far?** I would be more talkative and outgoing in hopes that I could meet my friends sooner. Having them by my side since sophomore year has shown me how much I actually missed out on freshman year.

**4. If you could give freshman English majors one piece of advice, what would it be?** Don't procrastinate, read every assigned reading and write something each day. Even a simple journal entry will improve your writing skills.

**5. Do you feel prepared to take on your future career?** YES, Wilkes University English department has done an incredible job at preparing me for my career. Skills such as critical thinking, close reading, creative writing/thinking and public speaking are just a few that have helped prepare me for my future career.



(photo by Amanda Beck)

Amanda Beck

**1. Which English class has been your favorite so far?** So far, I think English 281 with Dr. Anthony has been my favorite because I find the literature from that period to be really interesting. Dr. Anthony included a variety of authors and stories in this course, and we had some fun creative assignments in addition to the traditional written work typical of a college English class. For example, one day we all shared food from our home towns and read poetry that we wrote about that specific food as an activity associated with Joel Barlow's "Hasty-Pudding" poem. It was such a fun activity that I felt helped me gain a deeper understanding of the poem by associating it with my own similar experiences. I also really liked taking this class because Dr. Anthony is always so passionate and excited about everything that you read and do in class, and I feel that her attitude made the class a lot more enjoyable and interesting.

**2. Which college professor has influenced you the most?** Being a junior in college, I have had so many teachers over the years, so it is hard to choose just one that influenced me. If I had to identify one teacher that really made a difference in my life, I would have to go with Mrs. Thomas. The Wilkes Education program taught me that student confidence equals student success, and Mrs. Thomas helped me to understand this firsthand. Ever since I changed my major, she has been so extremely helpful in

her role as my advisor and always goes above and beyond to help me in any way that she can. As my professor, Mrs. Thomas helped me learn to be confident in myself and challenge myself to set higher goals and expectations; I cannot express what a difference that this has made in my school performance and my overall mindset.

**3. If you could go back in time, what would you change about your college experience so far?** As I previously mentioned, when I first came to Wilkes I was not an English major. Like many high school graduates, I really was not sure about what I wanted to do or who I wanted to be yet, and I started college and quickly realized that I was in the wrong field. Luckily, I made the switch before it was too late and have been very happy with my choice so far. Therefore, I would probably just want to have changed my major sooner than I actually did.

**4. If you could give freshman English majors one piece of advice, what would it be?** My advice to freshmen English majors would be to make friends with your classmates. The English department is not that big, so odds are you will be in classes with many of these people for the next few years. I've made some great friends here, and I love knowing that each semester I'll likely see friendly faces in my English classes. It makes class more fun, and helps when you have friends to hold study sessions with.

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## Junior Spotlights

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**5. Do you feel prepared to take on your future career?** I feel not only prepared, but excited to take on my future career. I think that Wilkes has done a really great job of preparing the Teacher Education Program students through hands-on work in field experiences and classes where we learn how to be effective teachers, as well as immerse ourselves in literature and knowledge that we can reflect upon when out in the field.



(photo by Erica Bicchetti)

Brian Vu

**1. Which English class has been your favorite so far?** So far I've really enjoyed being in History of English Language, it's taught me a lot about language and how expressive it can be for cultures.

**2. Which college professor has influenced you the most?** My advisor, Dr. Hamill, has really influenced me to get involved in the English department, I never feel hesitant to come to him with anything I need help with.

**3. If you could go back in time, what would you change about your college experience so far?** I wish I could have been an English major from the start. I was a Mechanical Engineer until the second semester of my sophomore year, so I feel like I missed out on some experiences as an English major. Having classes in

Kirby Hall alone makes me feel like I'm at Hogwarts, lowkey.

**4. If you could give freshman English majors one piece of advice, what would it be?** Get involved in the English department. Join the Inkwell Quarterly and/or attend some of the events. Also, get to know your professors because they're a pretty awesome group of people.

**5. Do you feel prepared to take on your future career?** I am ready as ever to get myself out into the world and start my career. Although I'm not a senior yet, staying focused on my classes and being involved in the English department has definitely prepared me for the future, especially being in *Inkwell Quarterly*. Join IQ!

## Faculty Updates

by Rashonda Montgomery

Dr. Chad Stanley is currently finishing a new show of fifteen paintings for an August 2nd, 2019 First Friday solo show at Bar Pazzo in Scranton. The show is entitled "Shakespeare Goes Commando," and consists of paintings of British World War Two Commando comic book frames, with additional versions substituting the original dialogue with quotes from Shakespeare's military plays (mainly

*Othello*).

Dr. Mischelle Anthony has accomplished four poetry publications. Her poem, "Do As I Say," has been published in *Crosswinds Poetry Magazine*. Two of her poems, "Barn" and "March" are in *Ocean State Review*, and a fourth poem of hers, "Greetings From Oklahoma," is forthcoming in *Cream City Review*.

Dr. Anthony is now on the editorial board of our International English Honor Society Sigma Tau Delta's Eastern Region magazine, *Mind Murals*; and was a submission judge for the Sigma Tau Delta 2019 annual conference

J.C.  
by Bria

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## J.C. Todd

by Brian Vu

In the Sordoni Art Gallery, you can see dark pieces of art by Käthe Kollwitz that represent the Peasant War from Germany. In my ENG298 class, we visited the gallery on a class day to talk with J.C. Todd about visual literacy. She started working on a series of poems in 2016 through her research of Kollwitz in Berlin, where she temporarily lived at Humboldt University. In this class session, we analyzed the darkness of these works by Kollwitz. Each piece had a dark, looming feel to it because each one represented the tragedy from the Peasant War.

The four pieces that caught my eye were *Vault*, *Sharpening the Scythe*, *Raped*, and *Night Vision*. My class talked about the power of revulsion, how it's as strong as an attraction to a piece. These pieces were not colorful or lively. Yet they were still beautiful.

I was drawn to *Raped* because it is a hard subject to dwell upon. There is brutality in the word *raped*, it's wonderful and terrifying. In the pencil drawing,

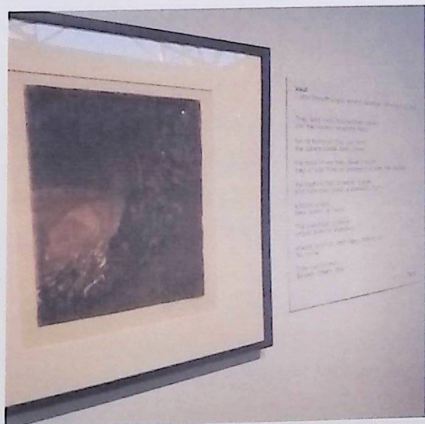
the body of a woman lays in a field of squash, and based on the title of the piece, she probably experienced rape. Around her are withering flowers of innocence that look tainted. This image is extremely powerful, denoting helplessness and pain.

Two similar pieces were *Sharpening the Scythe* and *Vault*, although each one had its own story to it. From *Sharpening the Scythe*, the person is using a whetstone to sharpen their scythe. The person has a dark expression, and it is hard to tell what the scythe is for. It can be used as a harvesting tool but it can also be used as a weapon like the grim reaper's scythe. Similarly, in *Vault*, peasants storm into a vault to grab weapons that can also be considered tools. Your weapons are your tools too, they are created with the same techniques. You can imagine the sound of a yelling wave in this image.

The last piece is a hard hitter. It is an image of a figure with a lantern, looking down at the face of a deceased human. This moment of

recognition and grief is a truly dark moment for a person. The figure is hunched over and wearing a cloak. During the war, searching through fields of deceased people and coming upon someone you know is an excruciating emotion. There is fear, resentment, and grief all at once.

Walking around the art gallery and examining all of these pieces by Kollwitz made me think about the darkness in humanity. The poorest people in a country are treated like animals. There is no escaping that kind of reality for a peasant, especially during a war. People today can relate to problems seen in these works by Kollwitz, people who have seen war first hand and survived it, people who have seen the worst of the worst in poverty. But at the same time, people in this world have not experienced life like the ones in Kollwitz's art. Is it for the better or for the worse that they haven't? Through darkness emerges strength and unity, and that is something that can't be taken away from people who've experienced these kinds of hardships.



(photos taken by Brian Vu)



## Prison Books Ban Lifted

by Rashonda Montgomery

In last quarter's issue of the *Inkwell*, I wrote an article titled "The Importance of Physical Books - Even In Prison." The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections announced in September it would put a stop to book donation programs and mail-order books into PA prisons. Most prisons benefit from non-profit organizations that send free books to prisoners to read while they serve their sentence. Sometimes inmates can even request specific books from such organizations. This decision was made in an effort to put an end to smuggling and similar illegal acts. In this article, I explained my outrage with the PA DOC's decision to ban books in prisons and implement ebooks instead. I discussed issues like wealth, that directly correlates to which inmates would have the opportunity to benefit from literature, and rehabilitation, which an access to books can di-

rectly impact.

There is good news to be discussed. Since I published the article, Pennsylvania's Department of Corrections was met with so much backlash from the public that they decided to reverse this ban on books in prisons. The DOC has revised its policy, allowing book orders to resume through a new centralized processing center. Hearing that the ban was lifted, I felt like I could take a deep breath of relief. I was met with a few people who didn't exactly understand the gravity of what I was discussing in my last article and that's okay. The fact that the ban ultimately did get lifted after the public's urging tells me that I am not the only one who cares about the importance of inmates having access to literature.

In light of this book ban situation, we need to keep in mind

that, although this topic calls for a bigger and separate discussion, people do not go to prison to receive punishment. They go there as punishment. Serving an entire sentence with the possibility that you will not have access to enriching texts is a punishment these people do not deserve. With this, it's important that I note that we need to keep this discussion open and we need to keep up the pressure to make sure that the new book policies are implemented in just ways and also that the rest of the excessively harsh mail and visitation policies are taken care of. I think it is extremely important for us to remember that our inmates are humans too. They deserve the right to correct their wrongs. What better way to do that than to learn? And what better way is there to learn than to read?

## Theatre Updates

by Mmachi Dimoriaku

The first show of the Wilkes University Theatre department was the 1998 version of the award winning musical, *Cabaret*, with music by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb, and book by Joe Masteroff, based on John Van Druten's 1951 play *I Am a Camera*, which was adapted from the short novel *Goodbye to Berlin (1939)* by Christopher Isherwood. Set in 1931 Berlin, the show focuses on the nightlife of the Kit Kat Klub, and the lives of

American writer Cliff Bradshaw and English cabaret performer Sally Bowles. When Cliff comes to Berlin to work on his novel, he is met by the colorful. The set, lighting, and costume designs for the show were astounding and the performances by the cast were exceptional. They had spent countless hours working on their accents, dance numbers and much more. The Emcee (Justin Gaskill) was the host of the Kit Kat Klub, and he and the Kit Kat girls

and boys had important roles in portraying the message of the story. Emcee was always around for the entire show, he ran the show! With initiating some transitions and even watching the other cast members, you felt that there was a much bigger role he was playing than just a Klub host. The characters Cliff Bradshaw (Kris Tjornhom) and Sally Bowles (Michaela Catapano) relationship served as the main plot of the show with the characters

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by Emily Ba

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## Theatre Updates

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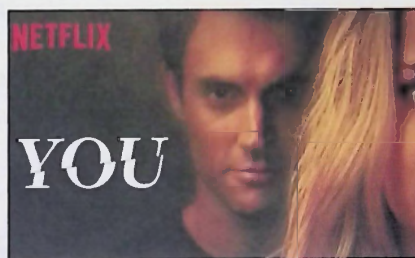
Fräulein Schneider and Herr Schultz relationship serving as the subplot. The Kit Kat girls and boys were always seen in the scenes inside and outside of the Kit Kat Klub, reminding the audience of the undermining themes of bigotry and ignorance, self-involvement and hedonism. In all, the entire show was a complete success. The final WUT show will be A. R. Gurney's *The Dining Room*, running from April 4th-April 7th.

## You Controversy

by Emily Banks

The fairly new Netflix series *You* has sparked quite a bit of controversy the past couple of months. Netflix describes the series with a brief synopsis listed as, "obsessed with an aspiring writer, a charming bookstore manager goes to extreme measures to insert himself into her life" (Netflix). The main character, Joe, is obsessed with Beck, the aspiring writer, and he is willing to do ANYTHING to protect her, even murder those he deems as harmful in Beck's life. This, of course, is problematic. Joe is a complicated character in the sense that we all know what he is doing is crazy and wrong and toxic, but for some reason we are positioned to sympathize with him. In my own experience watching *You*, I found myself constantly sympathizing with Joe and being blinded by the romanticized idea of doing something for love or doing something to protect the one you love and sort of turning a cheek to the horrific acts he commits. To be honest, it is not that I want a man to stalk me and kill anyone that he thinks is bad for me, but the idea being that a man would fight for the woman he loves, is generally appealing. Joe also has

numerous appealing qualities, he is charming, good looking, smart and most importantly, caring. I don't mean caring in the sense that he clearly cares about Beck, a little too much, but that the show incorporates a character named Paco who is Joe's neighbor. Paco is a young kid living in a home with an unstable mother who cannot get out of her abusive relationship. Joe helps Paco find



(Image from: <https://www.flickeringmyth.com/2018/12/tv-review-netflixs-you/>)

an outlet and introduces him to reading books. Joe is always there for Paco and usually after he does something horrible, we then see him go home and take care of Paco, which redeems him in a way.

The controversy arises when numerous viewers take to twitter expressing their love for Joe. For example, one person tweeted at the

actor who plays Joe "@PennBadgley kidnap me pls" (Bourque). Millie Bobby Brown also took to Instagram in defense of Joe, suggesting he did it out of love for Beck. Thus, provoking the general response that society is attracted to toxic relationships. The idea that our society "romanticizes toxic behavior" is what many critics argue when trying to explain viewer's sympathy for Joe (Bourque). I, personally, do not think society is to blame. This complex character is not uncommon and we see this in many TV shows and movies. For example, the movie *A Perfect World* is positioned the same way. The main character, Butch, is a criminal who breaks out of jail, murders someone and kidnaps a child. Butch, however, is very kind to the child, Phillip, and treats him like his own son. Butch is made to be a likeable and sympathetic character. Despite all the bad things he has done, he redeems himself by being kind to Phillip.

Overall, I argue that viewers know and acknowledge that what Joe is doing is toxic and unhealthy and I don't think many people are wishing for a guy to come into their

Story Continued on page 13

# Zac Efron as Ted Bundy

by Erica Bicchetti



(photo from Reddit)

People are furious over the upcoming film release *Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil, and Vile* starring celebrity Zac Efron, who will play the 1970s American serial killer, Ted Bundy. When the trailer for the film released, critics felt the film was being romanticized and wasn't capturing Ted Bundy's true character. People are angry

that someone so handsome and charming could play such an evil character. They are particularly angry because they don't want its audience to fall in love with Zac Efron as Ted Bundy. However, I disagree with these critics. I think they're forgetting who Ted Bundy really was as a person. Many people who knew Ted Bundy said he was an intelligent and charming individual. This is so important because that's exactly how Ted Bundy lured almost all of his victims. He manipulated them into thinking he was charismatic and funny; his looks were just a bonus. If Ted Bundy didn't possess these characteristics, then it would be questionable for an audience to romanticize the Ted Bundy in the film. I also believe Zac Efron fits the role well because he

has a similar physique to Ted Bundy (side by side picture inserted.) So, while I agree that Ted Bundy was an extremely evil person and nothing excuses him for what he did to at least 30 women, it is still crucial that the upcoming movie portrays Ted Bundy truthfully, which involves making him seem like a good person on the outside. I can't speak for the film itself, but I believe its goal isn't to glamorize his character, it's to show how Ted Bundy was believable and able to attract the women.

*Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil, and Vile* does not have a release date yet, but Netflix contains four episodes of *Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes*.

## Wilkes University's New and Improved Career Services and Internships Offices continued from page 6

can benefit from after just one visit at the office. Students can use the computer that's inside to get one-on-one help with creating or revising their resumés and cover letters. They can also walk in for advice and mentoring. It's never too early to start thinking about your career. Students don't even have to worry about formalities, as it's easy to just drop by and pick up multiple cover letter and resume samples right off a shelf displayed not far from the door. Everyone needs a good resumé. The work fields are too competitive to be working with a resume that is "okay" or "good

enough."

Wilkes Career Services held an event one day earlier this semester as kind of a debut. It was a lovely setup, but it was on a day that a snow storm had begun. Given this, not too many students showed. This resource building plans to host many more events once warmer weather is upon us. That's something everyone should look out for. There is a one credit course titled CAR Career 398 students can take here at Wilkes that everyone should look into. It has been described as "career boot camp." It is a shame

that such course is not required of every student (or at least marketed to every student) because there is not a single person who would not benefit from this class as we are all hoping to better our chances at a good career in the future. Wilkes University Career Services can be found on both Facebook and Twitter (@WilkesUCareers) for further information.

## Visual Poetry Project

by Jay Guziewicz

On February 27th, the Manuscript Society along with the Sordoni Art Gallery teamed up to present the Visual Poetry Project. This project brought together spoken word by students as well as short films about poetry.

The three readers from *Manuscript* were the executive editor, Mackenzie Egan, the assistant editor, Jay Guziewicz, and the social media coordinator, Brianna Schunk. Heather Sincavage, the director of the art gallery, also read some poetry.

In between each readings were a few videos, completing the visual poetry aspect of the evening. Each video had a director who filmed the video, and an author who read their work as the narration of the video. While none of the directors or poets were able to be present, their work was appreciated by the viewers there.

The event was originally planned to be the week prior, but due to the weather, it was rescheduled. Despite this, the turn out was positive, even though the staff was

hesitant about having people show up at first, especially since the date was changed. In fact, there has already been people in the community expressing a desire for the night to be hosted again.

Overall, the evening was successful and led to a good turnout from students and community members alike. It also served to introduce the Manuscript to those who had not been aware of the society in the past, and served to keep the gallery in the forefront of people's minds.

## You Controversy

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lives and stalk them and kill their friends. The issue is not that our society is craving that kind of toxic relationship. There is no issue with Joe being likeable. Joe is likeable simply because he is made to be relatable. He lives a normal life, despite some of the horrific things he does. He is constantly humanized when we see him with Paco and with Beck, thus making us sympathetic towards him. He is the typical bad guy that everyone is rooting for. Critics are simply overlooking the complexity that the character Joe offers.

## 2018-2019 Manuscript Society Presents...

by Mackenzie Egan

The year 1919 was very important in American history for a number of reasons. It was the year that the 19th Amendment was voted on in Congress, the predecessor year to the 'Roaring Twenties' and began the end of World War I. Huge social changes started to make waves in the year 1919, people found themselves fitting in to the world around them in unique ways, and the way we looked at gender relationships and people

would be changed forever.

In honor of the year 1919, the Wilkes University Manuscript Society are putting together a special issue this year. The 2019 *Manuscript* will be a homage to the print news tradition of the 1919. This newspaper styled literary arts magazine will help Wilkes usher in the 2020's in style and will showcase the best work of students, faculty, and staff.

If you are interested in submitting to the *Manuscript* this year email poetry, art, and prose submissions to [magazine@wilkes.edu](mailto:magazine@wilkes.edu) or contact [mackenzie.egan@wilkes.edu](mailto:mackenzie.egan@wilkes.edu) or [chad.stanley@wilkes.edu](mailto:chad.stanley@wilkes.edu) for more information.

And keep an eye out for posters and other propaganda advertising the journal's drop party - sometime in late April.

# Internships, Education, and Wilkes

by Mackenzie Egan

My time at Wilkes has been separated into various journeys, spread across different jobs and positions, and designated to learning how to be the best writer, best editor, best version of myself possible. Whether it be in the classroom, the DH lab, the Writing Center, or just sitting around campus, I have spent the last four years of my life being dedicated to learning and growing here. As a result of my time at Wilkes I will be graduating in two short months with my career on track and three really amazing internships in my back pocket.

## DiscoverNEPA

In October of last year I started working with the team at DiscoverNEPA.com through the help of Dr. Hamill and a Wilkes grad Jonathan Davies. *DiscoverNEPA* is the region's first quality of life website that covers ten counties, from Pike to Monroe. We work with local businesses to put together articles weekly on what to do in the area, working as an offshoot of Mericle Construction with the sole purpose of showing the best of the best in the region. Our mission is to make the world aware of all of the amazing area that Northeastern Pennsylvania is.

In the five months I have been working with the website I have done some interesting things, gotten some really awesome by-lines, and made relationships that will transcend the length of my internship. Fine tuning my research skills, content writing abilities,

and target audience techniques. We have also gone on adventures, planted trees, played in the snow, explored local restaurants - all for research purposes.

In April I will say goodbye to Mary, Jonathan, Rebecca, and the other interns I have come to work with and I can't help but feel a sense of melancholy. Working with them has been one of the greatest adventures of my life. I have learned so much and have gotten to rediscover our corner of the world - something than I never thought would have been possible.



Balancing my school work and my internships has been difficult but at the end of the day it's well worth it. Plus the minor caffeine addiction isn't lethal...right..?

## Blysee

The nature of my work with *Blysee* is way different than the work I've done for *DiscoverNEPA*. One of the biggest divides between

the two websites is the fact that *Blysee* is an online magazine and *DiscoverNEPA* is a quality of life website.

Okay, so that makes sense - two different audiences, one much more widespread than the other, it would make sense that they would be two totally different experiences. But that's not the only difference, nor is it the biggest one. I've found it challenging to have to switch writing modes depending on which internship I'm working for that day.

In all honesty, it's so different between the two of them that it's almost like I'm not really a writer depending on which mode I'm working through. What I mean by this is that for *DiscoverNEPA* I do a lot more research and write in small bursts; most of the articles I've written for them have been around 500 words and have been very pointed. For *Blysee*, on the other hand, I'm given up to 1,500 words to work with and a lot more freedom. This is mostly due to the wide array of topics we can cover in a week. I've written about relationships, health and wellness, and popular culture. I've slated my opinions on movies, television shows, even the health implications of certain diets and other routines.

The magazine is based out of Denver, Colorado and I do all of my work online. This means that I don't spend as much time face to face, or even in direct correspondence with my editor or the

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## Internships, Education, and Wilkes

continued from page 14

other writers. I write two articles a week and am given a lot of creative license. It's nice to have that kind of freedom but it can sometimes feel stifling. It's not as conducive to the editing process as working with *DiscoverNEPA* has been but it has been amazing for my creative abilities.

While I love writing for both *DiscoverNEPA* and *Blysee*, I have a hard time delineating between them. My tone for one is way different than my tone for the other and it becomes problematic. I am definitely learning a lot about myself as a writer and my voice. I'm also learning valuable lessons about the expansion of the online writing industry and working in real time with editors, other writers, and a design team.

My work with the two of them is not the only really fun thing I've been doing though. I just picked up a third internship with a magazine doing something outside of my normal wheelhouse.

### *Kine Hearts Magazine*

As of this week I will officially start working as the social media and communications intern/coordinator for *Kine Hearts Magazine* based out of Pittsburgh. I will be in a totally different environment, working online mostly, but am looking toward a possible job with them after graduation. The magazine, which explores holistic healthcare treatments, the ability for people to take care of their

minds and bodies, and proceeds from the magazine help patients receive treatment. I'm looking forward to getting to work with this amazing group of people as they work to change healthcare - and as they expand their brand as a minority owned and operated publication.

My job will still involve writing, as I continue to work with the strong women who have founded the magazine, but of a different vein. I will be working as a marketing agent, working with other companies to broaden education and the conversation around holistic health. I will also be working with artists submitting to the magazine and help in coordinating events. As of right now my future with *Kine Hearts* is pretty open - Dominique and Carol have been wonderful to work with so far. If all goes well, by the time graduation rolls around, I will be working full time with the magazine.

My time at Wilkes is coming to a close but I have been able to do amazing things due to my education and the time I've spent here. I've learned how to write, how to be more confident in my voice, and have created a network that has made it possible for me to move forward professionally. My education as an English major has made it possible for me to move forward as a writer and an editor, my work as a History major has improved my research skills ten fold. My time working for the *Inkwell* and *Manu-*

*script* have taught me how to work with others, lead others, and maintain professional relationships. And working in the Writing Center has helped me define myself as a copy editor, an instructor, and someone who can foster creative conversations about almost anything.

Without Wilkes, the doors to these opportunities that I have been given would have been impossible to open.



Here we see the disgruntled college intern rocking her internship swag and about to start her fourth cup of coffee that day - to be fair, NEPA has a lot of great coffee shops and I also had an artivce for *Blysee* due that night.

## Hamill's Hunches, continued from IQ 13.2

by Dr. Thomas A. Hamill

Had I ever been so inclined, prior to that golden soccer afternoon, as to learn how to identify edible mushrooms in the wild, or in historic suburbs like Kingston, PA, or even on my alleged front "lawn," I would have had surprisingly obvious options at my disposal, and the striking banality of the seemingly curious question would have availed itself quite readily in the auto-fill teleologies of Google-search corpora. Motivated, somehow, by the *hunger for more so the smell or eyesore-embarrassment of*, I'd have thumb-thought onto my little screen some scribble of entitled hope—say, "Identity edible mush\_\_\_\_\_,"—and, to my delight and illumination (and also to my dismay), the algorithms would have done the rest for me. But no matter how accurate or artful the guides I might have found (and even had I stumbled upon Peter Jordan's surreal video on the subject, which I recommend on historio-media-aesthetic grounds alone), I could not have been prepared for the elegant simplicity and brazen self-assuredness of Matt and Carol's lessons.

As soon as I realized I would survive, and that these amateur mycologists' paring knives and plastic bags were merely tools, their work's equipment, I started to see them as figures of knowledge, however strange, and not as forces of menace. And I started to listen to their instructions as though I might actually use them one day, even though I knew I never would, and even as I sensed I would only retain dubious and apocryphal fragments—vague and insufficient snippets of (mis)undertanding and impatient "listening" that instructional videos (and instructive mycologists, amateur and professional alike) are designed to prevent: "Sure you can eat them!" "You just have to boil them." "See how I cut the stems? When you cut them, they turn red if poisonous." But before any guilt could set in over how I was about to let the practical applications of these insights go to waste (as I was obviously never going to need to each wild, suburban, or front-lawn mushrooms), Matt and Carol's shift from the consultative style into more of a personal narrative modality shepherded new burdens to this pastoralizing scene. "I've been admiring your mushrooms for a few years now," was the first comment that began to recast my lawn according to the mythos of Matt and Carol's identity. Allegorized, I thought, already as a marker of my truant DIY disposition on the block, the patch of untreated grass in front of our home, which stuck out as such amidst the landscaped lawns around it even before the toadstools sprouted up, was now... a sort of... center, a source.

"These are exquisite!" Carol exclaimed. "We'd normally have to venture deep into the woods for these kinds of mushrooms." Later, Matt: "I think you have the mother load here, Tom." For years, apparently, he'd been watching and waiting. And wishful. "I hope this guy doesn't treat his lawn!" Matt chortled remembering an earlier conversation with himself, and delighting in the knowledge (as it unfolded) that I don't.

And I guess I never will, right? I mean, I'd already granted Matt full access to the harvest—permission he felt he needed to confirm no fewer than three times before finally taking "my" mushrooms for himself. And even if he weren't so reserved about securing permissions for next year's yield, I was more than happy to be thanked in advance as I granted him dominion over future sprouts—and all rights and privileges thereto appertaining—in perpetuity. At least for now.

And, anyway, it's about more than Matt and Carol and my sense of obligation to reciprocate their good faith (initial paranoias notwithstanding). The razor edge dividing the dangers and wonders of mushrooms has long pervaded our stories, from *The Tempest* to *Alice in Wonderland* to *A Series of Unfortunate Events* to *The Smurfs*, to plenty more. And these kinds of stories continue, and they're more real and applicable than I initially realized half-listening to Matt and Carol's directives for differentiating the safe food from the sinister. Mycologists have long suggested that mushroom mycelial networks are essentially a support structure upon which life builds and diversifies, and it also works, stunningly, to filter toxins. Indeed, as Paul Stamets puts it, describing the work of myco-restoration, they "heal environments...because these are truly healing membranes."

So now what? As a start, I guess, I'll not treat my lawn this spring, what with Matt and Carol banking on next fall's cycle of fungal life to renew. And maybe the seeming sin of having the ugliest lawn on my block is really just mycelial forgiveness of my neighbors' manicured "greens." Irony with a wry mushroom smile....