

THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

Administration states closure is a last resort

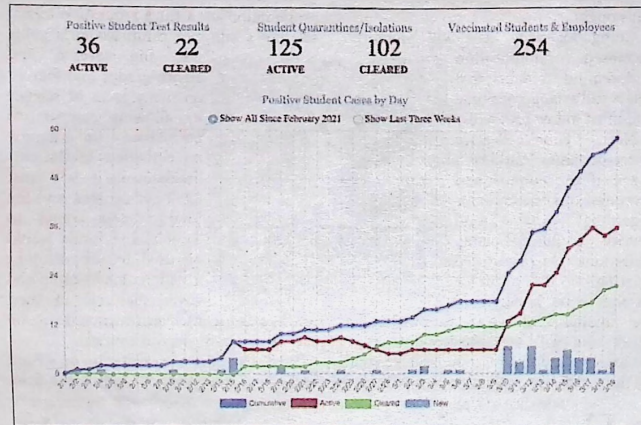
By Sean Schmoyer
Co-News Editor

Since the start of March, the campus has seen a large increase in positive COVID-19 cases. The rise in cases was apparent enough to warrant an address from President Greg Cant in an email on March 15.

"An increase in cases impacts the entire University," said Cant in his email to the campus community. "First and foremost, it risks the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff, and interrupts the learning experience for which you are investing your time and money. It also taxes our quarantine and isolation space, challenges our food services provider and results in a loss of academic, athletic and social opportunities. And make no mistake: attending large, maskless gatherings in the midst of a pandemic is incredibly careless."

In an online exclusive, The Beacon published an update addressing rumors of campus closure, cancellation of athletics and athletes being the main cause of the recent increase in positive cases.

The Beacon reached out to the administration on March 16 and received a statement from Executive Director of Communications Gabrielle D'Amico on behalf of Cant, Athletic Director Addy Malatesta and the COVID-19 Daily Response Team, which consists of Vice President Paul Adams, Interim Provost Terese Wignot, Dean of Student Affairs



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

The graph from the 6 p.m. update for the COVID-19 Dashboard on March 19 shows the increase in positive case counts since the start of the month.

Mark Allen, Assistant Vice President of Operations and Compliance Justin Kraynack, Project Manager Michele Garrison and Associate Dean of Student Affairs Gretchen Yeninas.

To repeat the conclusions from the online exclusive in relation to the rumors, no one group has yet to be identified by administration as the cause of the increase in cases, though

it has been attributed to off-campus, maskless gatherings. Athletics will not be postponed or suspended nor will the campus be closed except in response to additional spikes.

"If we find ourselves in a position where the health needs of the campus exceed the University's capabilities, or if

RISE, page 4

Pharmacy students offer well-being tips to community

By Emily Cherkauskas
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

A viewer of the daily Today at Wilkes emails may occasionally see a link to a survey or website that surrounds health issues or topics. These projects are the result of year-long projects conducted by P1 pharmacy students engaged in their foundations of pharmacy practice courses.

Dr. Kimberly Ference, associate professor of pharmacy and director of pharmacy care labs, is the professor of the two-semester course and watches over the 12 team projects that are conducted every year.

"As student pharmacists, it's important to learn about teamwork early in the curriculum," said Ference. "Pharmacists often work on teams with other healthcare professionals and patients."

According to Ference, there are three phases to the project over the course of the year.

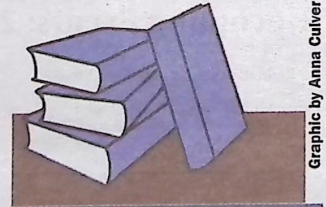
The first phase is a "written research paper on a topic that is in need of a solution." The second phase is the

PHARMACY, page 7



Graphic by Anna Culver

Rise in COVID-19 cases leads to Spring Fling postponement, page 3



Graphic by Anna Culver

Wyoming Free Library holds new virtual Guest Reader Program, page 9



Beacon Archive Graphic

Bre's Beats: The 63rd Grammy Awards Review, page 16



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

MLAX defeats King's in "Battle of the Barre," page 20

News

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

Student Government: March 17 weekly meeting notes

By Maddy Kinard
News Staff Writer

Student Government met for its sixth virtual meeting, in which there were discussions on COVID-19 cases, food services, Women Empowered by Science and Wilkes Adventure Education fund requests and a vote on the Wilkes Golf Club proposal.

To start the meeting, Dean Mark Allen, Dean Gretchen S. Yeninas and Assistant Vice President of Operations and Compliance and member of the Daily Response Team Justin Kraynack led a discussion on the rise of positive COVID-19 cases on campus.

The group assured that the campus is nowhere near the point of closure, and other plans are in place that would happen first before ever considering closing again. For example, administrators may curtail

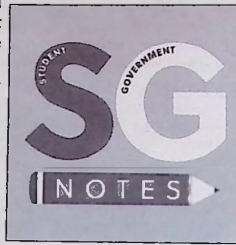
specific activities or stop all activities for a period of time, limit movement on campus or move all classes online but keep resident halls open.

Going forward, they will work on increased communication and remind students that this is still a dangerous time and must follow protocols.

Next, Food Service Director James Watkinson asked if the council had any questions or comments regarding what food services could do better. Questions were raised relating to the accuracy of the menu boards and the possibility of better takeaway boxes. Watkinson will look further into these issues, and he encourages students to come to him directly and promptly with any

issues so that they can be solved as fast and efficiently as possible.

Women Empowered by Science gave a presentation on a fund request. WEBS is offering a summer camp for girls going



into the seventh and eighth grades that focuses on many areas of science by allowing campers to participate in hands-on activities. In the cost breakdown, it will cost \$250 per camper, and the total request comes to \$1,000. The funds would be used to support four girls to come to camp and cover the cost of their

lunches. Student Government will vote on the request at the next meeting.

WAE also gave a presentation on a fund request to host Wilkes University's first-

ever basecamp. This basecamp would train students on wilderness first aid so that they could become trip leaders for WAE. As more students would then be certified, WAE could host more trips and have opportunities for other activities. In total, the fund request comes to \$1,292.50 and will be voted on next week.

Jeff Dargel returned to re-present the proposal for a Wilkes Golf Club. As of now, there are 14 members, which Dargel hopes to increase after the club is recognized by Student Government. With the allotted money, the club plans to use it to make golf more accessible to students and for new member acquisition. A motion was made to recognize their club, and it passed with all in favor.

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Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Sara Ross

Study Abroad Suspended Through Summer 2021

Wilkes University has decided to continue the suspension of study abroad experiences through Summer 2021. This decision ensures the school is taking the best measures to keep students safe, particularly as new COVID-19 strains emerge.

The CDC suggests avoiding travel to and from many locations. More information about fall study abroad experiences will be shared with the campus community in the weeks and months ahead, as more is known about the global health situation and travel restrictions.

PharmD/MBA Dual Degree Program to Hold Info Session

Any pharmacy students interested in the PharmD/MBA dual degree program should join a virtual information session on March 30 at 11 a.m. The PharmD/MBA program helps pharmacy students save both time and money by allowing them to

complete both programs in a total of six years.

To register, reach out to kristin.donati@wilkes.edu or karen.alessi@wilkes.edu to access the Zoom link. During the meeting, pharmacy students will learn about the program, the scheduling, the admissions requirements and when the application process will begin.

Apply Now for the 4+1 Bioengineering Program

Sophomores interested in earning their bachelor's and master's degrees in bioengineering in five years should apply before the end of the semester.

Wilkes University's accelerated 4+1 bioengineering program allows students to earn their master's degree in just one extra year of study. A career in this field can lead to careers in research and development, academia, pharmaceuticals, health care, environmental remediation and genetics.

It also involves working with faculty in the fields of medical device design, imaging systems, bioengineering and metabolic technologies. Lab and classroom

instruction includes training in high-demand cell and molecular techniques, bioinformatics, 3D imaging and design software, instrumentation and other simulation technologies.

Students must enroll before beginning their junior year. Before applying, they should contact the faculty coordinator of their interested track.

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Upcoming Events: 2021 Spring Semester

March	
24 - Martha Posner and Amy Arbus Lecture	6 - Karley Stasko's Create Your Own Macrame Plant Holder Event
30 - Online Buddhist Meditation	6 - Online Buddhist Meditation
31 - Toxic & Unnatural Causes Film	14 - Crisp Camp Film
31 - Submission Deadline to be a Guest Reader at Wyoming Free Library	15 - Class of 2023 Magnet Sale ends
31 - Housing Applications Deadline	19 - American Red Cross Blood Drive
	28 - Wellness Day
April	
1-4 - Holiday Recess	
5 - Classes commence	
2 - Manuscript Submissions deadline	
2 - Pharmacy Clothing Sale ends	
5 - ACCP Prescription Mug Store closes	
May	
10 - Movie Ticket Sales ends	
15-22 - Final exams period	

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Table of Contents

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

Rise in COVID-19 cases lead

By Maddy Kinard
News Staff Writer

Spring Fling has recently been "potentially postponed" by Student Government. A future date has been unable to be set due to the rise in COVID-19 cases on campus.

Student Government, along with campus, was excited for the event, as it was shaping up to be an almost regular pre-COVID-19 event, being that it was able to be held at a venue. However, there is a level of risk that is unavoidable in trying to host an event at this time, no matter the possible benefits that may occur from maintaining "normalcy."

"Events are going to get shuffled off time and time again, and I really honestly can't see the point of a socially-distanced, masked dance when the whole point of a dance is, well, dancing with people and eating food," said Darren Martinez, senior English major. "It's an inherent risk one would have to take, regardless of precautions."

Originally, Spring Fling was going to be held on March 27 with a "Candy Land" theme. The initial plan was to hold the event indoors at Amber Palace. Dinner service was going to be plated, and as Amber Palace was farther off-campus, a bus was going to be provided for transportation. COVID-19 gift bags were to be given out to attendees, full of masks, spray hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes.

To stay within regulations, the event would not have any dancing. Instead, tables would be able to play games with one another as well as group games over the two-hour interval of the event that would not require close contact. Students could then win prizes for each game and accumulate points for the table to win a group prize. Prize options included candy-themed baskets for each game and a larger prize for the top table.

Multiple COVID-19 precautions were in place. Student Government planned to require double masking; only having your mask off to eat; spaced seating with five people per table, sat in a pinwheel fashion to maximize distance; requiring people to test negative within two days of the event; along with plastic silverware and plates.

"Events like Spring Fling are probably a net good for the campus community," said Martinez. "I know a lot of people, both new blood and college veterans, have noted that making friends during the pandemic is hard. It's much easier to simply vibe with your roommates or people you already interact with daily. It ends up being a lot to

ask of a stranger to open the walls of their heart, especially when the physical barrier of a mask hinders the ability to read facial reactions."

Specifically with Spring Fling, as it was to be indoors and serve food and drink that would require participants to be unmasked for some time, Health Services asked Student Government to pause their plans in an abundance of caution.

"As we work through the rise in COVID cases on campus, we will continue to evaluate the health situation and advise of events occurring in April," said Executive Director of Communications & Graduate Marketing Gabrielle M. D'Amico. "If we see improvement on campus and at the local and state level, it seems many events will continue as planned, if not with small, unique changes to help us all remain safe. The warmer spring weather, and ability to relocate some events outdoors, is also likely to help."

Events like these are often what make students on campus feel more at home and comfortable. It is an opportunity for them to engage with the campus community and see friends who they may not be able to see outside of contexts such as these.

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"I think it sucks that there is no Spring Fling this year, but I don't know if I had the intention of going due to a lot of restrictions already," said Liam White, sophomore

accounting major. "I do not think that it is fair to the students who didn't have COVID-19 to postpone Spring Fling for them."

From a first-year perspective, it also serves as some students' opportunity to potentially make more friends and participate in events that they were not able to before college. In postponing Spring Fling, first-year students may struggle to adapt.

"A lot of (first-years) lost out on their prom and other end of the year dances, so in a way, this could make up for it," said Rebekah Livermore, first-year biomedical engineering major. "I was also in the marching band and did sports, so I never went to a dance through our high school, so I feel like this would be a good opportunity for me to finally go to a dance. I feel like if they could wait or make COVID-19 tests mandatory the day of to get in, they could definitely make it work."


Although events may not be able to take place in the way they were originally planned, Student Government believes change and adaptation are necessary for the journey toward a healthy community. Setbacks are inevitable, and they have come a long way since last year when completely virtual events were new. Student Government members have the resources and knowledge to still make an event successful, and its leaders are doing what

they can to make life on campus as normal as possible.

Block Party, planned by Executive Vice President Brooke Mazzotta, was also postponed. There were three different plans for the event. The planning committee wanted to make sure multiple elements would make for a successful and fun day on the Greenway, all while following school regulations to keep campus safe. There was hope for food, games, photo stations, a set theme and more.

Though currently as things are on hold, there is still a possibility to do a virtual event, but plans are constantly changing.

"I am extremely hopeful for the event to happen," said Mazzotta. "This is my last semester here, and it would be amazing to hold one more awesome event for the student body. Fall Event was extremely successful, so it would be great to bring that back in the spring semester with Block Party. The Block Party committee and I worked extremely hard to come up with the plans for this event, and I hope we can share it with the whole campus. The one take-home message I want to say is if we are not able to have it this semester, know that it was for everyone's safety. Our campus community's health is our top priority."

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Graphic by Anna Culver



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meeting notes

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Table of Contents

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

2021 Spring Semester

- 6 - Karley Stasko's Create Your Own Macrame Plant Holder Event
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Wilkes English Department hosts writer Poupeh Missaghi

By Genny Frederick
Asst. News Editor

Dr. Poupeh Missaghi, distinguished writer, translator and educator, visited Wilkes University as the second author in the Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series presented by the Wilkes University English Department.

Missaghi is a visiting assistant professor in the department of writing at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, a faculty mentor at the low residency M.F.A. of the Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland and a writing consultant at Baruch College in the City University of New York.

Missaghi's time at Wilkes was split between three events. First, she read to members of the Wilkes community from her debut novel, "Trans(re)lating House One." In her other events, she worked with students in a postmodernism class, as well as a fiction workshop.

Missaghi read selected portions of her book, detailing the events of a party, brutality toward students, anecdotal pieces of history, the experience of desire and the memory of loss.

At the conclusion of her reading Dr. Michelle Anthony, chair of the English Department, condensed the feelings of the audience, calling the reading "very sobering and powerful."

Questions from listeners delved into the decisions Missaghi made in her reading, her writing and the idea of memory and loss.

RISE, from front

the health situation requires more dramatic action, there are a spectrum of ways through which we can slow the spread," the administration's statement said. "That may include taking a week-long pause in our athletics programs or other co-curriculars. It can also mean a short break in face-to-face classes and activities, asking students to remain in their rooms except for their most essential needs for several days."

With rumors addressed and time needed to see if the number of new positive cases will return to a smaller number, the campus can now redirect its focus to maintaining proper COVID-19 social distancing and other safety practices.

"As a senior student-athlete, I take

One question asked how much of the novel was memory. Missaghi explained that the novel was both a mix of memories and continued narrative.

I did in the city. So they're rooted in reality." Another listener asked about the juxtaposition of scenes of intimacy and scenes of violence that were read in the



Dr. Poupeh Missaghi

Courtesy of News@Wilkes

"I started from memories, but then, at some point, I also gave myself the liberty to just go with the narrative," said Missaghi. "So with a few places, like at this point, I'm not sure where the reality or the memory of the reality stops and where I'm just making things up."

"They say the more you remember something, the less real it is. But all of the chapters, all of the layers or all of the sections started with the memory of something that

reading. Missaghi pointed out a quote in the book to frame her answer.

"There's actually a quote in the book from Bolaño where he says like, 'There is so much life in Mexico City because there is so much death in the city,' said Missaghi. 'So it's like because violence exists, there's also so much life. I think that applies, for example, to Tehran as well, to anywhere, wherever it is like that death, that force of destruction there's also the force for life.'"

responsibility for those who tested positive in the respective sports," said Richard Ermeus, senior marketing major. "As a student leader, it's important that we hold each other accountable, and instead of pointing fingers, we unite and work together to stop the spread."

Assurance testing is used to identify asymptomatic cases of COVID-19, meaning those who do not feel ill, within the campus community as early as possible, hopefully limiting the spread of the virus on campus.

As of March 3, Wilkes student-athletes being tested as part of NCAA protocols are now reflected in the testing numbers visible on the campus COVID-19 Dashboard. This has created a large increase in totals from data collected since the start of the spring semester.

All students as part of the assurance

and athletic testing programs are now being reported.

According to the dashboard, as of March 19, 254 students and employees have been vaccinated. It is important to remember that as the number of vaccinated community members increases, the campus needs to maintain social distancing practices and remain masked.

"We recognize that an increase in those vaccinated and a national decrease in COVID-19 cases may provide a false sense of confidence that you can safely let your guard down," said Dr. Cant in his email to campus.

"We also recognize that the pandemic has interrupted some of the collegiate experiences that make your time here so special. But we implore you to also remember that one evening of poor

Phil Muhlenberg, a senior English major, attended both the reading and the class Missaghi was at and was impressed by the analysis of her work.

"Dr. Missaghi was refreshingly candid in discussing her writing process," said Muhlenberg. "Ironic that the most experimental writer I have seen speak at Wilkes provided the most concise analysis of her text, her motivations and the various readings available in her novel, 'Trans(re)lating House One.' And her upcoming projects translating almost ineffable sound and noise into prose are sure to be fascinating. I left Dr. Missaghi's workshop with a new perspective on active reading and very much look forward to what she does next."

Missaghi is a graduate of the University of Denver from which she has a Ph.D. in English and creative writing. She also has an M.A. in creative writing from Johns Hopkins University. She has fiction, nonfiction and translations published in many journals, and her translation works have been published in Iran. Her most recent translation of the book "I'll Be Strong for You" by Nasim Marashi will be published this spring.

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HPSC wants soda tab donations fo

By Sara Ross
Co-News Editor

The Honors Program Student Committee is hosting its first soda tab collection drive around campus. Throughout the month of March, donations will be made to the Ronald McDonald House located in Scranton.

The Ronald McDonald House is a non-profit with a mission to create, find and support programs that work directly to improve the lives of children struggling with illnesses.

HPSC Fundraising Chair Maddy Yeager came up with the idea to partner with the Ronald McDonald House. Yeager's previous work with the organization encouraged her to bring the idea to Wilkes.

"All clubs on campus have to perform an act of community service each year," said Yeager. "We did this event in the past at my high school with the Hershey branch, and it was a great opportunity."

Yeager suggested that HPSC partner with the Ronald McDonald House in Scranton, as it is more local. By working with the committee's

Community Service Chair, Archi Gandhi, Yeager and Gandhi coordinated the collection.

Gandhi explained that all drive proceeds will go toward supporting the Geisinger Community Medical Center in Scranton. This Ronald McDonald House location provides refuge for families and their children.

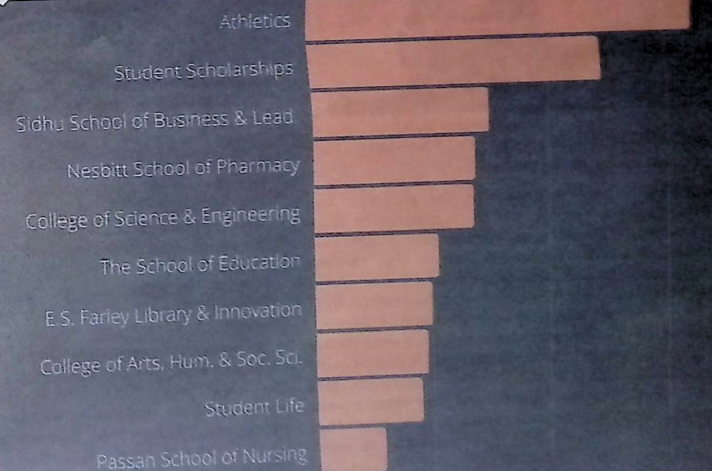
"Essentially, the Ronald McDonald House allows families to live in housing that is near the hospital while their children are receiving treatment. They provide them with their basic needs," said Jen McLaughlin, HPSC's adviser and assistant administrator of the Wilkes Honors Program.

HPSC's Director of Marketing Kaelin Hughes expanded on the Ronald McDonald House's services.

"They pay for almost everything, including food, energy and electricity bills, entertainment and general upkeep," said Hughes. "Their facility even has a playground for the children's siblings, and there are beds for the drive



Wilkes University G



-All data is taken from the Wilkes Giving Day Leaderb

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HPSC's Director of Marketing Kaelin Hughes expanded on the Ronald McDonald House's services.

"They pay for almost everything, including food, energy and electricity bills, entertainment and general upkeep," said Hughes. "Their facility even has a playground for the children's siblings, and there are beds

for the families to sleep."

After the soda tabs are collected, they get recycled at a local recycling center. The center will then give the Ronald McDonald House a check for the tabs to be used as funding for the hospital. This will allow them to continue to support and give their families care.

HPSC President Kait Falco is looking forward to seeing the number of tabs donated.

"We are hoping that since this is our first time doing the soda tab drive that we will see more participation as the years go on and that it will become a known community service event that HPSC does every spring," said Falco.

Last fall, Falco and McLaughlin had another event with the Ronald McDonald House called the Show Your Stripes Ronald McDonald Run, which they would also like to be recurring.

At the beginning of March, the donations for the drive were slow to come in. However,

they have started to pick up. Their most popular location is the bin right outside the POD.

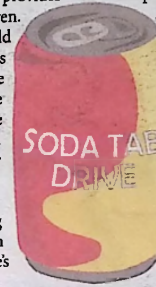
All HPSC members periodically check each of their locations to collect the soda tabs. Gandhi noted that their other drop-off locations include the Henry Student Center, the Towers and Honors Program student lounges, the Honors Office, Waller Hall and select vending machines.

More than anything, HPSC is happy with how their drive has been progressing.

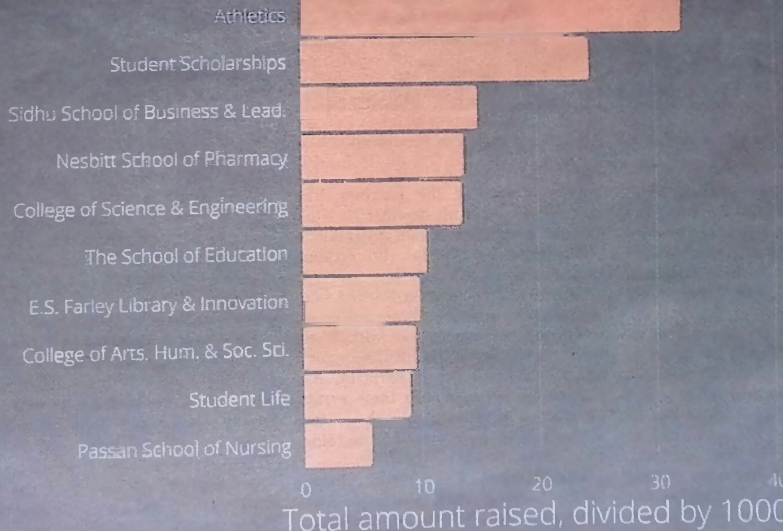
"We hope that students will be able to learn the importance of engaging in volunteer work and realize they are making a difference - no matter how small," said Gandhi. "Simply taking off the tab of your soda is so easy, and it could really make an impact in somebody else's life."

Students with questions about donating can reach out to HPSC via honors@wilkes.edu email or [@wilkeshonors](https://www.instagram.com/wilkeshonors) on Instagram.

Sara.Ross@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Jay'na Johnson



Wilkes University Giving Day 2021



Total amount raised, divided by 1000

-All data is taken from the Wilkes Giving Day Leaderboard

2020 VS. 2021

-In 2020, Wilkes received over 500 donations

-In 2021, Wilkes received over 600 donations

-In 2020, Wilkes raised \$87,391 in donations

-In 2021, Wilkes raised \$143,623 in donations

This is a more than 52% increase in the money raised from last year.

LIPET program earns DeLuca recognition from ACPE

By **Genny Frederick**
Asst. News Editor

Wilkes University's Nesbitt School of Pharmacy was recognized by the American Council of Pharmacy Education for the Longitudinal IPE Program in Teamwork, or LIPET program.

The Nesbitt School of Pharmacy is one of only five schools that was recognized by the APCE in Fall 2020.

The LIPET program is a collaborative effort between the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine and the Wilkes University Passan School of Nursing that has the goal of creating real-life healthcare situations for students.

Dr. Judith DeLuca, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, has been leading the program for multiple years. She described the program as having four goals for students.

The first is the ability to work with members of other professions "to maintain a climate of mutual respect and shared values." The second is the understanding of the roles different health professionals carry in meeting the healthcare needs of patients and the general population.

The third is the communication skills necessary "so that students become active and valued members of the healthcare team." The last goal of the LIPET program is to become better members of a team to "improve the quality of healthcare provided to patients."

Liam Bartko, a pharmacy student in the Class of 2022, discussed his experience in the LIPET program events.

One of the most recent activities he participated in was a simulation, in which students needed to treat a COVID-19 positive patient in an ICU. For this activity, he worked on a team with medical students, as well as other pharmacy students.

"Events like these allow us to recognize that healthcare requires a dynamic team and sometimes requires different points of view to properly treat a patient," Bartko said. "There is only so much that you can learn in a classroom, so events like these really solidify concepts that are taught by our professors and show us how they translate into practice."

Collaboration is key in the LIPET program - between schools and between the students and healthcare professionals.



Courtesy of Judith DeLuca

Dr. Judith DeLuca, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, has led the LIPET program for multiple years.

DeLuca identifies this collaboration as inter-professional education. This type of collaboration allows students to work together with healthcare professionals in different settings, such as hospitals, physician clinics and community pharmacies.

DeLuca explained the importance of working in these settings.

"In these settings, pharmacy students develop their communication and teamwork skills as they work as part of the healthcare team to improve patient care," said DeLuca. "In these contexts, a primary role of the pharmacy student is to improve the safe and effective use of medications and provide patient education and counseling."

While there is a collaborative effort between students and professionals, working with other students is also an

important part of the program. The three programs work together to allow students from each to gain insights into other professions, while also creating professional connections.

Bartko shared what he learned from working with other healthcare students.

"During these events, I can work closely with other future healthcare professionals and offer my expertise in pharmacy," said Bartko. "However, during these events, I am also able to learn from these other students who have strengths in other areas of healthcare."

Mia Barbieri, a pharmacy student in the Class of 2023, also emphasizes inter-professional insights as one of the benefits of the LIPET program.

"These inter-professional events allow students to get real exposure to different healthcare professions to explore ethical

principles, discuss what it's like working on a healthcare team and practice communication and collaboration skills," Barbieri said.

DeLuca has been leading the LIPET program for several years after its initial development by her predecessor Dr. Edward Foote. Bartko noted DeLuca's dedication to the program and to the community.

"She ensures that our events hit all of the outcomes required and also mimic real-life situations," Bartko said.

"She is highly respected both in the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy but also in the community for her work in the pharmacy world. The events always run smoothly because of her, and she always asks for feedback on how the event went. She is able to take out thoughts on the event and implement changes into future events. I could only imagine how difficult it is to plan these kinds of events, and she does it flawlessly."

Even though some things have changed, the stresses and adjustments of the pandemic have not diminished the experience of the LIPET program.

Barbieri noted that although the program moved to an online classroom, students are still awarded the same level of learning that was granted before the pandemic. She also mentioned that these changes may be beneficial in the future.

"As telemedicine has become much more prevalent, these experiences may be able to turn our students into the innovators which shape the future of healthcare," said Barbieri.

The LIPET program is an example to other schools of the successes inter-professional education can bring to students.

Barbieri reflected on the ACPE's comments during the accreditation process.

"It is quite noteworthy that one of the highlights of the ACPE team's visit was their appreciation of the professionalism and poise of the students, as well as the strong relationships held between the students and faculty," said Barbieri.

"The hard work of the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy's faculty and staff has more than paid off, and I have no doubts that the program will continue to remain one of the best in the country."

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Genevieve.Frederick@wilkes.edu

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events, artists

PHARMACY, from front

"creation of a deliverable and execution of the deliverable," such as a survey, website, presentation, letter or others. The third phase consists of a final paper and presentation to the class.

Nicholas Superko, P1 pharmacy student, led his team, Team 2B, in analyzing data behind medication errors in community pharmacies and developed a solution to the problem. After delicate research, Superko and his team were able to successfully find the solution to the issue.

"Our team concluded that the best thing that we could do to lower the risk of medication errors is to educate both patients and pharmacists alike," said Superko. "We determined that a website would be the best way to communicate our 'Tips to Avoid Medication Errors' information and in doing so have encouraged practices to lessen medication errors."

Team 2B was not the only team that was able to provide satisfactory results. One such team conducted a survey for those in health professions, which included students in any health-related professional programs.

Team 3A created a survey for the campus community and analyzed student responses about stress, healthy eating and sleeping schedules on a scale system of "not" to "very." They also created a website to offer

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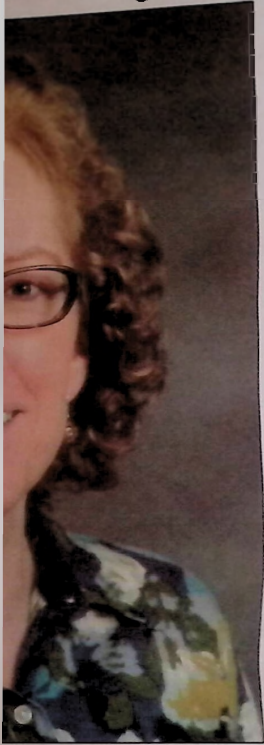
How to Focus on Yourself to Improve Your Wellness

Burnout and stress are increasingly prevalent in students. The impacts of burnout and stress can be minimized by focusing on oneself. Educating college students about wellness will help them to implement strategies to avoid burnout by maintaining a sleep schedule, exercising frequently, eating healthy, planning out your day, and limiting social media use.

Click on the links to learn more about some strategies to decrease and minimize burnout.

"How to Focus on Yourself to Improve Your Wellness" offers advice on tips one can follow to prevent breakdowns from stress and burnout.

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Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events, artists or businesses to be featured? Contact life, arts & entertainment editor: Emily.Cherkaskas@wilkes.edu

PHARMACY, from front

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tips to students to improve their well-being. Team 3B created a website offering advice on how to prevent burnout and stress in college students, as well as how to plan out your day and limit social media use.

According to Ference, other projects this year have included environmental injustice, COVID-19 vaccinations and vaccine hesitancy, the impact of COVID-19 on well-being, human trafficking, the impact of social media use and the importance of sun protection at an early age.

Ference pointed out some examples of where the websites can be utilized, such as a situation where a student who is struggling with well-being is looking for resources or in the case of determining if someone recognizes a victim of human trafficking. If one is interested in checking out the websites, they can find them by searching on Today at Wilkes or contacting Ference.

Over the past few semesters, other projects included offering a survey for a project that was based on the topic of indication-based prescribing, which involves patients and customers to be more aware of what they are being prescribed by offering indications of medication provided to them.

Another survey was created based on the idea surrounding oral contraceptives and their importance to those who take them. Meanwhile, other students were able to train public safety officers on how to administer

the life-saving naloxone, the drug that saves someone from having an opioid overdose.

According to the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy, the two-semester course is to "provide the student with the foundational knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to practice pharmacy in the 21st century."

The foundations of pharmacy practice course allows students to be able to learn various skills, including communication, teamwork, creativity, writing, presenting and many more. Therefore, students can strengthen their attitudes towards their future careers in the medical field.

Dr. Judith DeLuca, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, sees a strong benefit for pharmacy students in learning these skills.

"These are skills that are important in healthcare, and it's important that students have a good understanding of the challenges they will face," said DeLuca.

DeLuca also stresses that foundations of pharmacy practice students are able to learn the importance of communication between others, both verbal and written, permitting them to create clear, concise and cohesive messages for classmates and professors.

"The students learn that teams function best when they include people with different personality types, but that can also lead to some challenges in working together towards a common goal," said DeLuca.

"Students learn how to work through challenges between different members of the team and develop consensus. They learn about the importance of good communication between members of the team in order to achieve a common goal."

Two other important skills that students are able to learn, according to DeLuca, are the technique of both peer and self-evaluation, leading students to become more rigorous and strengthened in researching in the professional field.

"Each year, we are impressed with the students' ability to come up with unique, creative and impactful ways to solve current health-related dilemmas," said Ference.

"They work through the struggles of working on a team, while also dealing with the demands of a rigorous curriculum with a heavy course load. It's difficult to measure the true impact of all of the projects, but our hope is that the projects are a step in the right direction for solving health-related issues."

With intensive research and outreach offered for the community because of the assignments of this course, the P1 pharmacy students are stepping forward positively in their program and eventually toward their future careers in healthcare.

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How to Focus on Yourself to Improve Your Wellness

Burnout and stress are increasingly prevalent in students. The impacts of burnout and stress can be minimized by focusing on oneself. Educating college students about wellness will help them to implement strategies to avoid burnout by maintaining a sleep schedule, exercising frequently, eating healthy, planning out your day, and limiting technology use.

Click on the links to learn more about some strategies to destress and minimize burnout.

Home | Sleep | Exercise | Diet | Stress Management | Study Skills | Mental Health

"How to Focus on Yourself to Improve Your Wellness" offers advice on what tips one can follow to prevent breakdowns from stress and burnout.

Improving College Student Well-Being

Welcome!

This website was curated by Wilkes University Pharmacy students to provide resources and information for college students experiencing decreased well-being due to online learning.

Overview:

The "Resources" tab will provide viewers with links to helpful websites concerning physical activity, healthy eating, and organization habits.

The "Tips" tab provides a summary of the main points of this website, and contact information for Wilkes University's Health and Wellness Services.

"Improving College Student Well-Being" explains how students can maintain their overall well-being in the midst of online learning and virtual classes.

A healthy guilty pleasure: Moody Foodie's crispy falafel recipe

By Anna Culver
Staff Writer

Sometimes you just want to eat fried food, but it may not be all that healthy for you. However, there are ways to make it healthier. Falafel goes great with pitas, chopped tomatoes and a cucumber sauce.

Ingredients

- 1 can (15 oz.) chickpeas, drained
- 1/2 chopped onion
- 2 tbsp. parsley
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 egg
- 2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 tsp. ground coriander
- 1 tsp. salt
- Dash of black pepper
- Pinch of cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 cup dry bread crumbs (Note: I prefer Panko bread crumbs)
- Oil for frying (Note: you can use any oil of your choice)

Mixing ingredients

Mash together the chickpeas until thick and pasty. Chop the onion, parsley and garlic until fine. Stir into mashed chickpeas.


In a small bowl, combine egg, cumin, coriander, salt, pepper, cayenne, lemon juice and baking powder. Stir into the chickpea mixture along with the olive oil.

Slowly add in bread crumbs until the mixture is not sticky but will hold together. Add more bread crumbs as needed. Form balls, and then flatten them into patties.

Cooking

Heat one inch of oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Carefully, place patties in the pan to fry in hot oil until golden brown on both sides.

Allergies: Dairy and wheat

 Anna.Culver@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Anna Culver



The Beacon/Anna Culver

This crispy falafel is a delicious treat that is perfect if someone who is looking to have a healthy snack with loads of flavor and all that fried.



BEACON BUMPS

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff adds a song to their 2020-2021 Beacon Bumps playlist under Chris Gowarty's account on Spotify. Look below for this week's list of songs.

Kirsten Peters, Editor-in-Chief: A Little Good News - Rodney Atkins	Dylan Mehl, Co-Opinion Editor: Fashion - Pop Smoke ft. Polo G
Sean Schmoyer, Co-News Editor: Soft Landing - Saint Raymond	William Billingsley, Asst. Opinion Editor: What's New Scooby Do? - Jonathan Young & Caleb Hyles
Sara Ross, Co-News Editor: Celebrate - Ingrid Michaelson	Ariel Reed, Sports Editor: Take My Hand - Picture This
Genny Frederick, Asst. News Editor: Winnebago Baby - i solomon	Chris Gowarty, Asst. Sports Editor: Leave the Door Open - Anderson .Paak, Bruno Mars, Silk Sonic
Maddy Kinard, News Staff Writer: Nostalgia Cycle - G-Eazy	Baylee Guedes, Sports Staff Writer: Ghost of You - 5SOS
Emily Cherkaskas, LA&E Editor: Cellwaller - Shapeshifter & Styles of Beyond	Mia Walker, Lead Designer: El Farol - Santana
Jordan Daniel, Asst. LA&E Editor: Good Days - SZA	Steffen Horwath, Staff Photographer: Scound and Color - Alabama Shakes
Breanna Ebisch, Co-Opinion Editor: Hold On - Justin Bieber	Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager: 505 - Arctic Monkeys

Biology Club hosts unique

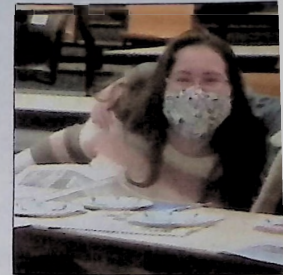
By Jordan Daniel
Asst. Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Biology Club hosted a Paint and Sip event on March 19 in Stark Learning Center 101. This event was free and open to all students, faculty and staff members with a maximum capacity of 25 participants.

"We chose SLC 101 because we knew we would be able to space everyone really far apart so that they can have their mask off to eat while being more than six feet apart," said Kayla Eller, senior biology and environmental science double major and president of Biology Club. "We also chose SLC 101 because it has the giant projector, so anyone sitting anywhere can see and follow along with the video."

Many other clubs have done Paint and Sips before where an artist comes in to instruct people on how to paint a certain work of art. However, the Biology Club board decided to take advantage of the projector in SLC 101 to display a video of a person painting.

"Bio Club has done several Paint and Sips in the past, but this is the first one, to my knowledge, that is open to students not in Bio Club," said Sean McMonagle, senior biology major and vice president of Biology Club. "Because COVID has hurt so many clubs in



Students enjoyed a night of pain

terms of participation, we thought we would extend the Paint and Sip to the student body to encourage more people to come out."

Those who wanted to participate in the event did not need to make a reservation. The space was limited, however, and spots were available on a first-come, first-served basis. People mainly needed to reserve a canvas were informed to do so by contacting Ella Ashley Wallace through email.

Biology Club provided 20 normal size canvases, an assorted amount of small canvases, painting supplies, cups and plates.

Wyoming Free Library holds n

By Judah Nicole Lyles
Staff Writer

The Wyoming Free Library, located in Wyoming, Pa., enables children to meet friends, do homework and use books to open up creative worlds. Children learn basic creative skills without even realizing it — something the library hopes to achieve by offering a Guest Reader Program.

The Wyoming Free Library allows children to express themselves in a manner that is intimate and unique to the way their minds work. Reading is an essential part of the development and strengthening of a child's cognitive capabilities and the development of a stronger sense of self.

In the library, children are able to find a place where they can belong and connect with others outside of a school setting, in which some children may feel isolated and alone. It allows children to make friends and integrate into the community around them on their own terms. This is an essential part of helping children understand that they have control over their social lives and that they are able to delegate time and energy on their own terms.

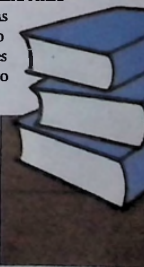
The National Children's Book Literacy Alliance advocates that books are essential

to childhood development: "Books are interactive; they demand that kids think. They expand our universe beyond time and place and inspire our own original thoughts. A book is read by an individual. It has no laugh track or musical score that emotionally primes the reader's reaction. You alone decide what you think about a book and its contents without one leaning over your shoulder telling you how to think."

There is not an aspect of life that the pandemic has not touched, and libraries are not exempt. Due to COVID-19, libraries have had to significantly roll back in-person services, unable to fully be a gathering place for children to learn and relax.

However, as vaccines begin to roll out, libraries have slowly begun to reopen with new COVID-safe policies in the effort of returning some sense of normalcy to their communities.

The Wyoming Free Library



Foodie's crispy falafel recipe



The Beacon/Anna Culver

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- ylee Guedes, Sports Staff Writer: Ghost of You - 5SOS
- Walker, Lead Designer: El Fariol - Santana
- ffen Horwath, Staff Photographer: Sound and Color -
- anna Shakes
- Cherinka, Social Media Manager: 505 - Arctic Monkeys

Biology Club hosts unique Paint and Sip for students, faculty

By Jordan Daniel
Asst. Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor



The Beacon/Jordan Daniel

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Students enjoyed a night of painting and escaped from week day stress.

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Those who wanted to participate in this event did not need to make a reservation. Since space was limited, however, and spots were available on a first-come, first-served basis. People mainly needed to reserve a canvas and were informed to do so by contacting Eller or Ashley Wallace through email.

Biology Club provided 20 normal sized canvases, an assorted amount of smaller canvases, painting supplies, cups and paper

plates. They also provided free food for those to take home after the event. Participants were not allowed to eat during the event in order to follow university guidelines.

If people did not feel like painting but wanted to hang out with friends and take home some free food with them afterward, they were welcome to do so.

"We chose to host this event for the same reason we've done this for the past few semesters - allow students the chance to hang out with friends, relax, enjoy some food and paint together," said McMonagle. "I think

we started doing these in the fall of 2018. We didn't get the idea from anyone, but we thought it would be a good chance for students to unwind and have a nice evening with friends."

The Biology Club had a small turnout of six people participate in their Paint and Sip, but this made the atmosphere even more relaxing. Everyone was enjoying being with their friends, talking and painting whatever their heart desired.

"This is my first time at an event like this," said Kevin O'Donnell, sophomore pharmacy major. "It's nice, and even though I am just starting my painting, I feel like I am going to have a lot of fun with it."

Although the amount of people in attendance was smaller than Biology Club had hoped for, they were still pleased and are hopeful to host another in the future.

"I can hardly blame those who do not want to come and spend time with a crowd in a big room during a global pandemic," said McMonagle. "I also hope that by opening the event to more than just Bio Club, we get a larger amount, which would be nice after the hectic and stressful year we have all had."

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Wyoming Free Library holds new virtual Guest Reader Program

By Judah Nicole Lyles
Staff Writer

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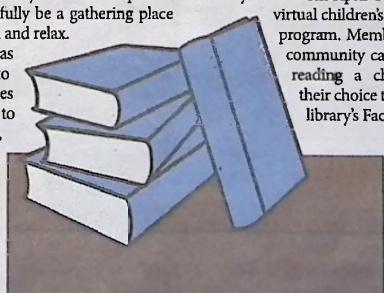
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The Wyoming Free Library

to childhood development, as Executive Director John Roberts shared.

"Due to the pandemic, we reduced operational hours and provided curbside pickup of materials. The library had to cancel all fundraisers and in-person programming. I had to think outside-of-the-box, so I took to social media and uploaded book readings, virtual crafts and fundraisers," said Roberts.

The library is giving members of the Wilkes community an opportunity to aid in this essential developmental process for children. This year, the library is celebrating National Library Week from April 4 through 10 with a virtual children's book guest reader program. Members of the Wilkes community can tape themselves reading a children's book of their choice to be shared on the library's Facebook page.



Roberts was inspired to bring the initiative to the Wyoming Free Library after seeing numerous national reading-themed

events.

"The library recently held a virtual Read Across America event which was very successful," said Roberts. "Wilkes faculty, staff and students helped celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. The event reached over 8,000 people on Facebook. I thought it would be great to host another virtual event and invite the Wilkes community to join in."

Colleen Garrison, a Wilkes University office assistant for the environmental engineering and Earth sciences department, is especially passionate and excited for members of the Wilkes community to be involved.

"I believe it's important for members of the Wilkes community to participate because participation provides support to a local non-profit, the program celebrates the contributions of libraries to the community, it promotes literacy and it encourages time spent in community service," said Garrison.

To participate in the Guest Reader Program, simply record a video and email it to the library through www.wetransfer.com. The deadline is March 31.

Judah.Lyles@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Anna Culver

Liz's Craft Column: Colorful Easter egg holiday wreath

By Liz Cherinka
Social Media Manager

Easter is a Christian holiday that is celebrated to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This holiday has been celebrated for many years and now has many traditions associated with it, including the Easter Bunny.

The Easter Bunny tradition is said to have immigrated to the United States with German settlers in Pennsylvania. The children made nests for the Easter Bunny to lay its eggs in. This spread across the U.S. and had adapted to what we currently know as receiving Easter baskets from the Easter Bunny on Easter morning.

With Easter right around the corner on April 4, this Easter egg wreath is sure to make the Easter Bunny come to anyone's home.

The wreath is easy to make and adds the perfect hint of spring. The only supplies

required are plastic eggs, basket grass, cardboard, ribbon, scissors and hot glue. These supplies can be purchased at any dollar store, making this DIY affordable.

To start, a circle will need to be made out of the cardboard. This can just be taken off a box from any package.

Cut a circle out of the cardboard as large as the preferred size of the wreath. Then, cut another circle out of the center about four inches from the outside.

Next, it is time to start making it into the egg wreath. Grab the plastic eggs, and hot glue them around the outside of the cardboard circle side-to-side by placing a line of hot glue on the back of the eggs and holding them onto the cardboard. Make sure the eggs hang over the edge of the cardboard. This makes the cardboard less visible. Place these eggs around with the smaller end of the egg facing outwards.

Then, repeat those steps for the inside of the circle directly underneath the first

layer of eggs. Glue these eggs on with the smaller end facing inwards also hanging over the edge of the cardboard.

Create a third row of eggs in between the two layers laying on top of them. These eggs do not have to be placed in any kind of uniformity and can be sideways, titled or in any random fashion.

There will still be small gaps between the layers and some cardboard may still be visible. To fill in these spaces, glue the basket grass into them or anywhere else that feels fitting. It adds a little bit of extra Easter flair.

Now, to hang the wreath, grab a piece of any spring-colored or Easter-themed ribbon. Make a loop with it, and hot glue both ends onto the back of the wreath. Be sure to add a lot of glue so it can hold the weight of the wreath.


Another addition that can be added to the wreath is a bow made out of the same ribbon. Grab the ribbon again and begin

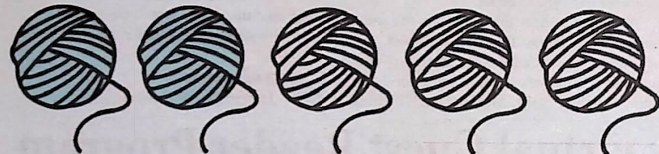
by making an "O" shape, and press it together in the middle to flatten it. Then, continue by wrapping the ribbon around down and behind the exiting loop and up and around the front. This should create two crossed "O" shapes. Cut the end of the ribbon, and hot glue the centers of each loop together.

Put an additional piece of ribbon to wrap around the center, and hot glue the two ends together in the back. Add two more pieces of ribbon onto the back coming down from behind as an extra detail. This can be glued onto any location of the wreath.

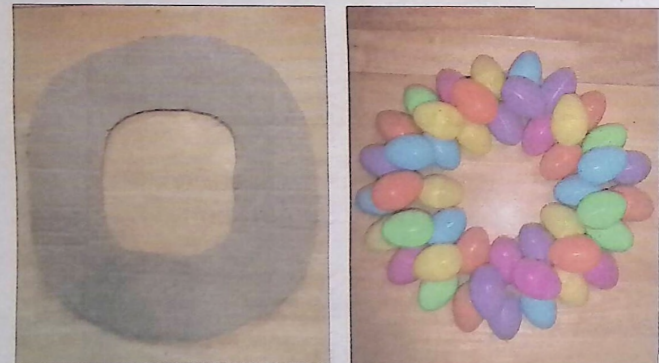
The example also includes an egg with a bunny cut out of foam sheets in the center of the ribbon, which is also optional.

Once all the glue is dried, hang the wreath up and enjoy!

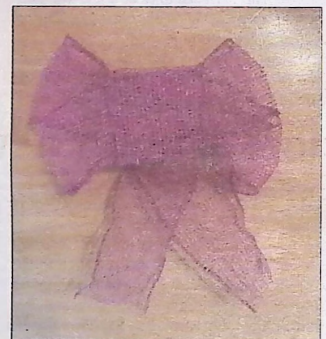
 Elizabeth.Cherinka@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Anna Culver



Liz's Craft Rating: Two out of five yarn-balls. During the Easter season, supplies are affordable and easily available. Customization is also available for this craft, though it may take some time and effort to make it fully



1, top left) Cut a ring out from a piece of cardboard. First, cut a circle shape out. Then, cut another circle out from inside the piece. Make sure it is wide enough to fit the plastic eggs.
2, top right) Start attaching the eggs to the cardboard using hot glue. While going around the ring, glue the eggs so the longer, thinner sides stick outward with the smaller ends in between. Create another ring above the first row. Be sure to cover enough space with the eggs so the cardboard is



Photos: The Beacon/Liz Cherinka



3, upper left) This step is optional, but if you wish to make a bow, take a piece of ribbon that compliments the wreath colors and form it to a bow. Hot glue to the wreath.
4, above) If you would like, a bunny cut-out decoration can be added to the bow. Use foam to cut out the shape.
5, left) You can also attach straw or ribbon to fill up any gaps in between the eggs that might be showing the cardboard. Once completed with your craft, make a loop with the ribbon and hot glue to the top part of the wreath. Hang up anywhere for some adorable and colorful Easter



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COVID-19 Pandemic:

News

When the university hosted a vigil outside of Weckesser Hall, 500,000 lives had been lost in the United States to COVID-19. According to Johns Hopkins University as of March 19, there are over 2.5 million deaths worldwide. With an increase in positive case counts on campus in the past week, now is the time to look at where Wilkes was last year at this time and how campus handled COVID-19 last semester.

In March 2020, Wilkes transitioned to online learning on March 13. As of March 25, students were sent home and permanently online for the remainder of the semester.

In a message to the campus community, then Interim President Paul Adams said, "It has been about 10 days since we transitioned from face-to-face classes to remote learning. During that time, so much has changed in the world around us. Every day, and sometimes every hour, we receive new information about COVID-19."

Every day since then, not just the United States but the rest of the world watched as COVID-19 spread and evolved.

On Oct. 9, The Beacon reported that the total case count on campus during the fall semester had reached 36. At the time, there was a positive attitude toward the university's and students' success at keeping case counts low.

In November, the campus had a spike in cases going from a total case count of 50 to 96 in two weeks. By the end of December, the total case count had broken 100.

The data presented is not meant to scare the members of campus, it is instead included with the purpose of reminding the Wilkes community where we were and what happened last semester. In the span of only two weeks in November cases spiked.

The community cannot get careless now because of an increase in vaccine distribution and a decrease in the total number of new cases in the U.S. since the winter.

In his recent address to the campus community, President Greg Cant shared this stance: "After an uninterrupted, successful fall semester, we are absolutely confident in your ability to make safe decisions. But it requires a commitment from each and every one of us. Hope is on the horizon when it comes to defeating this virus. Please stay the course."

LA&E

One year ago, states had begun shutting down — changing the most basic activities. However, there is still light amidst the chaos.

Over the period of shutdowns, in order to cope and adjust to the new lifestyle, many students began to take up hobbies, some of which have still stuck with them today. These new hobbies and skills include beauty techniques, artistic talents and entrepreneurship endeavors.

"Over quarantine, I've decided to start learning how to mix music and sound on my laptop using GarageBand, and hopefully that can be used further in my career as well," said Katie Ermeus, first-year political science major.

For others, some even started their own side-hustles, being able to create their own services for the community. Courtney Phox, junior entrepreneurship major, began styling her own nails after salons closed, holding onto that skill even now.

"When I was bored during the shutdown, I started to practice on my mom and friends back home. It was something that took my mind off of sitting in the house all day," said Phox.

Mattias Hime, junior business management major, started a brand new business: a clothing brand called SOS clothing, available at stackstarve.com.

"I have always wanted to do this, and since I had the time during the pandemic, I thought that this would be the best time to start. I am still currently running my website, and it is going very well," said Hime.

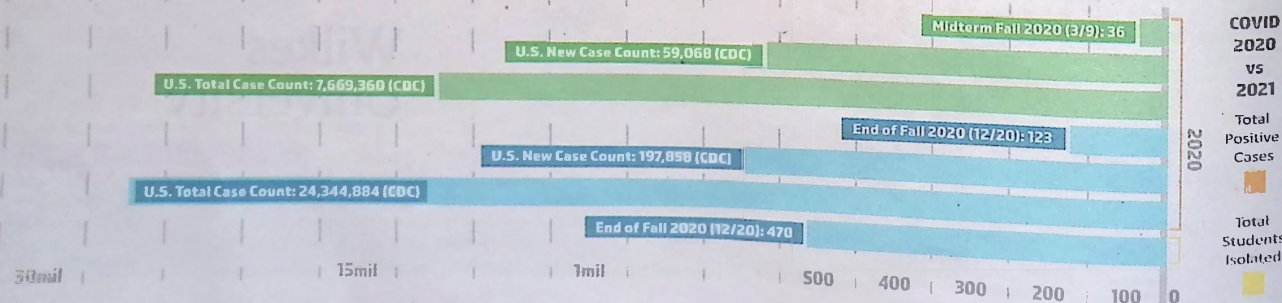
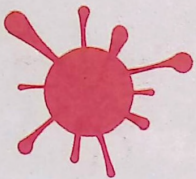
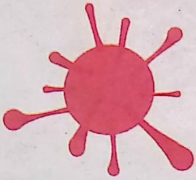
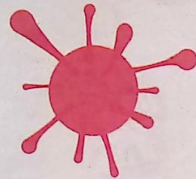
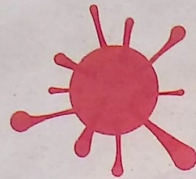
However, some did not adopt any new hobbies. Instead, they focused more time on their own activities, strengthening their already adopted skills.

Carolyn Purdy, first-year psychology major, explained that she was able to give more time with her hobbies, even expanding her skills with the help of her family around her.

"Over quarantine, I started new projects, finished old ones and expanded to different projects I did not have the chance to do before," said Purdy.

Kaelin Hughes, first-year political science and history student, was able to catch up on her own accumulated hobbies, such as playing guitar more and finishing video games.

"I just gave more time to activities than I usually do," Hughes said, explaining that giving more time to her activities allowed her to ease the anxiety she felt from COVID-19 — something that we can all learn and practice.



A Year i

Opinion

More than 365 days have passed since COVID-19 upheaved what was known as normal, everyday life — and millions of people are still struggling with the mental health impacts connected to the pandemic.

College students, in particular, have taken on a large burden of these effects. Although there have been improvements over the last year in terms of returning back to "normalcy," the drastic mental health effects only continue to shift with the tide of the pandemic.

A year ago, when campus was closed and the student population returned home due to the uncertainty of what was happening in our community and across the world, we all had to adapt to the constant changes that were occurring.

The disappointment of leaving campus soon became the disappointment of losing the rest of the spring semester and everything that came with it. Graduation, events, seeing friends and so much more quickly became a thing of the past.

As a result, having to accept the negative parts of what the pandemic was responsible for brought with it a downward spiral of many people's mental health.

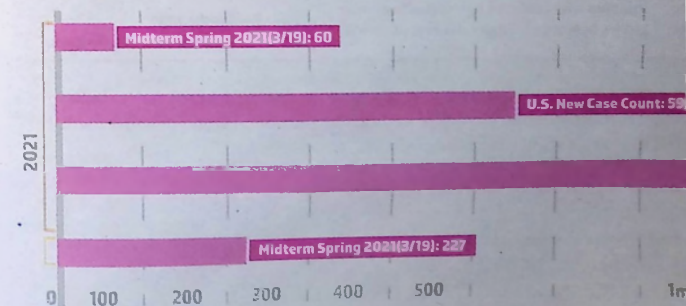
However, now because almost all parts of life remain uncertain or up in the air because of COVID-19, it is hard to remain positive — even a year later.

The false hope of having everything return to normal sooner rather than later is more evident than ever, especially as it seems the end is in sight. But more often than not, the same disappointment from the beginning of the pandemic crashes in and continues to harm our mental health by keeping us on this roller coaster of emotions.

While better days are ahead and we have already made it through the most unexpected and difficult years ever, it is important to remember to be patient with ourselves.

Mental health is, and always has been, just as crucial as physical health. This year has proven that more than ever.

Section columns compiled by: Sean Schmoyer, Breanna Ebisch, Emily Cherkauskas and Ariel Reed
Design/Layout: Mia Walker



Pandemic:

LA&E

One year ago, states had begun shutting down — changing the most basic activities. However, there is still light amidst the chaos.

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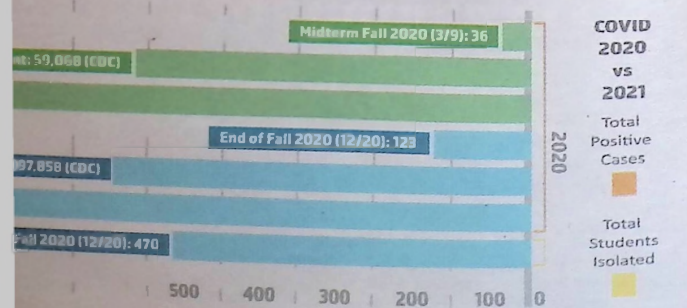
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A Year in Review

Opinion

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Sports

Last year at this time, everything in the sports world was shut down, whether that be at the professional, collegiate, high school or youth level. After a year of no collegiate athletic competitions, Wilkes students, athletes and coaches share a sense of gratitude for being able to compete again, especially amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“The MAC athletic administrators have met every Friday morning for nearly a year, and we will continue to meet through the spring to address COVID-19 related issues and guidelines,” said Wilkes Athletic Director Addy Malatesta. “Our primary focus is to provide a competitive season for the 2021 spring sport student-athletes.”

Not all collegiate athletes were afforded the same opportunity as Wilkes athletes to play, as several schools chose to opt-out of playing this year due to the amount of health concerns and unknowns surrounding the pandemic.

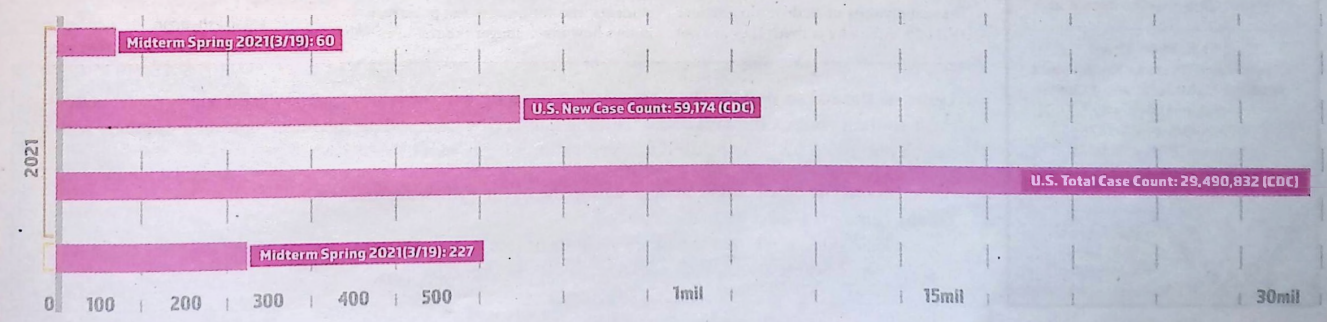
“I think this whole experience has made us appreciate things more and not take things for granted,” said Tara Macciocco, women’s basketball head coach. “It’s taught us to make the most of every opportunity we get on the court, on the field or with your family and friends. This entire thing has made us appreciate things more in life.”

Last season, the men’s lacrosse team was only able to get four games in before receiving the call that their season was cancelled.

“Being able to play lacrosse this season is something that I and my teammates are very grateful for,” said junior goalkeeper Ryan Lasher. “Every game and practice we have had, we are reminded of how lucky we are to be playing lacrosse.”

Beginning competitive play in January 2021 was not an easy task for Wilkes, and it has proved to have its challenges with appropriate health measures, such as quarantining or shutting-down games and practices in the event of a positive test. However, Wilkes coaches and the athletic training staff have consistently reminded student-athletes to “think positive and remain negative” in order to play the sports they love.

“At Wilkes, credit goes to the athletic training staff for their efforts to execute over 500 tests per week,” said Malatesta. “The coaches have done a commendable job and continue to remain steadfast in their commitment to offer a healthy and safe environment for over 550 student-athletes to practice and compete.”



Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact co-opinion editors: Breanna.Ebisch@wilkes.edu and Dylan.Mehl@wilkes.edu

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Our Voice

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

Wilkes student-athletes disappoint us

Recent events have led to over 100 students, specifically student-athletes at Wilkes University, being placed in quarantine. Now let us be real, by "recent events" we all know that means a party.

The numbers as of March 17 sit at 35 positive cases, with 143 students in quarantine. These statistics are ridiculously high for where we should be, especially with all of the university's safety measures.

And what better way to make us all look like utter fools than to have our own sports teams blatantly disregard the same safety precautions that we have been following for a year? What makes it even worse is that during the fall semester, this was all new to everyone. But now? There is simply no excuse.

We have been through an entire semester without a surge like this, and having a blueprint that worked, there was no reason to deviate.

These acts were completely irresponsible, and those student-athletes should be ashamed of themselves. Of course, the temptation is there for everyone after a year of COVID-19 to go out and get back to normal life as vaccinations increase and cases drop.

But guess what?

The vast majority of students do not have COVID-19. And why is that? They are not

recklessly endangering themselves and others by going to parties.

And if we were in Texas or Florida, this would not be an issue. However, in the state of Pennsylvania, there are clear and obvious restrictions that were broken. Not only did these students go against university policy, they also defied our own statewide regulations. The university has even gone out of its way to put measures in place to prevent COVID-19 spreading, with Wilkes badges and weekly assurance testing.

Coming into this semester, it was always going to be a challenge with the pandemic still raging, but holding a super-spreader event like a party was incredibly foolhardy.

The ramifications of these students' decisions go much further than just them attending classes. The potential consequences of contracting COVID-19 and spreading it unknowingly simply affect all Wilkes University students, staff and all of their families.

And with regard to sports, all spring seasons could be in jeopardy. This means student-athletes who were and were notbreaking rules are all at risk of being punished.

The Spring Fling dance has been cancelled. Depending on the number of students who continue to test positive, who knows how much longer the rest of us will

have the luxury of in-person classes? This is where the ignorance of those involved truly comes into play, because it is highly unlikely that they even considered the repercussions of their actions.

Even if one would want to argue that they did know the risk, then that makes this even worse. Because the fact that they were willing to risk so much for one party is stupefying. When it comes to punishing the student-athletes, there is no need to waste one's time thinking of what it might be - because it will likely be nothing but a slap on the wrist.


As we know, athletes are traditionally already held to a different standard from the rest of the student body at all universities.

Sure, you can attempt to argue that the athletes are usually "self-disciplined," but if they truly were, would we even be in this situation?

Of course not.

It is high time that these student-athletes finally follow the same guidelines that the rest of us have been following since the pandemic began.

And until we can say with absolute certainty that this pandemic is behind us, COVID-19 will remain a threat that should be taken seriously.

 @wilkesbeacon
TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu

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

Email: TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu

Phone: (570) 408-2962 (Voicemail: 30 seconds or less, please.)

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

A letter of resignation is necessary

By Liam Flynn
Staff Writer

Governor Andrew Cuomo, the 56th governor of New York, has continuously abused his power and must resign. He has lied to the people of New York and to the lawmakers who depend on his reports to make policy.

When Cuomo is caught, he lies about when, how and why he lied. He and his staff have used state's resources to threaten and retaliate against political enemies, as well as the multiple women who have accused him of sexual harassment.

He is petty, controlling and grandiose. Even worse, he equates bullying with competence.

A governor must have the trust of the lawmakers he works with to run a state efficiently. Cuomo has damaged that trust on multiple occasions.

About 120 New York lawmakers have demanded his resignation, along with most of the state's congressional delegation, including Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand as well as the Head of the House Judiciary Committee, Jerry Nadler.

The Head of the State Finance Committee has said she will not speak to Cuomo or his top aides because they are untrustworthy. At a critical time for the state of New York, he keeps bleeding key public health staffers, who cannot bear his disrespect for science.

Currently, he is trying to use the fact that he is being investigated by several different entities, including the New York state attorney general, the FBI and the Department of Justice, to stall for time. If there were questions of fact that could somehow render Cuomo trustworthy and non-abusive, his argument might make sense.

However, what most people already know is more than enough to remove him from office.

In April 2020, a month after the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, Cuomo issued a health directive requiring nursing homes and homes for people with developmental disabilities to take COVID-19 patients. This ended up being a death sentence for many people.

At the same time, he pushed an industry-sponsored bill through the legislature, shielding nursing home CEOs, many of whom were donors to his campaign, from

legal liability for dangerous decisions.

In June, the State Health Department reported 9,250 nursing home deaths to the governor's office. Cuomo's staff panicked, not because so many people were dying, but because the total was the highest in the country and would make him look bad. This was just as Cuomo was riding high in the polls and on the verge of closing a major book deal touting his success in handling COVID-19.

Instead of releasing the Health Department numbers, his office instead rewrote the report to announce that only 6,200 nursing home patients had died. Lawmakers who needed that data to make policy questioned the figures, but the governor insisted on their accuracy.

Only five months later, after New York Attorney General Letitia James released a report showing deaths had been undercounted by as much as 50 percent, did Cuomo correct the numbers.

His first policy choice was disastrous, but it was the cover-up. Half a year of continuously lying to the public requires his resignation.

Cuomo's office initially claimed he was hiding the figures out of fear that the White House would weaponize the numbers against him. Reporting from The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal revealed that this was a lie, too. Meanwhile, over 15,000 New Yorkers in nursing homes have died of COVID-19.

Cuomo has a long history of bullying and terrorizing people. Now, he also faces several credible allegations of sexual assault and harassment of employees.

Many of the interactions are undisputed and backed up by independent reporting. For instance, he was reported to have asked a 25-year-old entry-level employee if she was open to sex with older men. That constitutes sexual harassment under New York state law.

Reports that Cuomo's office leaked personnel files about another accuser, Lindsey Boylan, have not been disputed by the governor; nor have they reported that Cuomo's staff, paid by New York taxpayers, made unsolicited calls to former and current state employees and encouraged them to discredit Boylan.

This kind of vicious retaliation is part of a pattern. When Cuomo told Assemblyman Ron Kim that he would destroy him for talking to the press about the nursing home

cover-up, that was

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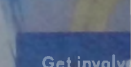
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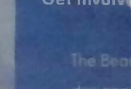
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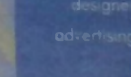


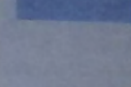


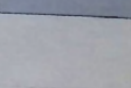


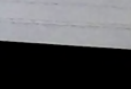














umn? Contact co-opinion editors: Breanna.Ebisch@wilkes.edu and Dylan.Mehl@wilkes.edu

Our Voice

's editorial board will take a stance on a current issue.

ent-athletes disappoint us

recklessly endangering themselves and others by going to parties.

And if we were in Texas or Florida, this would not be an issue. However, in the state of Pennsylvania, there are clear and obvious restrictions that were broken. Not only did these students go against university policy, they also defied our own statewide regulations. The university has even gone out of its way to put measures in place to prevent COVID-19 spreading, with Wilkes badges and weekly assurance testing.

Coming into this semester, it was always going to be a challenge with the pandemic still raging, but holding a super-spreader event like a party was incredibly foolhardy.

The ramifications of these students' decisions go much further than just them attending classes. The potential consequences of contracting COVID-19 and spreading it unknowingly simply affect all Wilkes University students, staff and all of their families.

And with regard to sports, all spring seasons could be in jeopardy. This means student-athletes who were and were notbreaking rules are all at risk of being punished.

The Spring Fling dance has been cancelled. Depending on the number of students who continue to test positive, who knows how much longer the rest of us will

have the luxury of in-person classes? This is where the ignorance of those involved truly comes into play, because it is highly unlikely that they even considered the repercussions of their actions.

Even if one would want to argue that they did know the risk, then that makes this even worse. Because the fact that they were willing to risk so much for one party is stupefying. When it comes to punishing the student-athletes, there is no need to waste one's time thinking of what it might be - because it will likely be nothing but a slap on the wrist.

As we know, athletes are traditionally already held to a different standard from the rest of the student body at all universities.

Sure, you can attempt to argue that the athletes are usually "self-disciplined," but if they truly were, would we even be in this situation?

Of course not.

It is high time that these student-athletes finally follow the same guidelines that the rest of us have been following since the pandemic began.

And until we can say with absolute certainty that this pandemic is behind us, COVID-19 will remain a threat that should be taken seriously.

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30 seconds or less, please.)
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A letter of resignation is necessary from Gov. Cuomo

By Liam Flynn
Staff Writer

Governor Andrew Cuomo, the 56th governor of New York, has continuously abused his power and must resign. He has lied to the people of New York and to the lawmakers who depend on his reports to make policy.

When Cuomo is caught, he lies about when, how and why he lied. He and his staff have used state's resources to threaten and retaliate against political enemies, as well as the multiple women who have accused him of sexual harassment.

He is petty, controlling and grandiose. Even worse, he equates bullying with competence.

A governor must have the trust of the lawmakers he works with to run a state efficiently. Cuomo has damaged that trust on multiple occasions.

About 120 New York lawmakers have demanded his resignation, along with most of the state's congressional delegation, including Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand as well as the Head of the House Judiciary Committee, Jerry Nadler.

The Head of the State Finance Committee has said she will not speak to Cuomo or his top aides because they are untrustworthy. At a critical time for the state of New York, he keeps bleeding key public health staffers, who cannot bear his disrespect for science.

Currently, he is trying to use the fact that he is being investigated by several different entities, including the New York state attorney general, the FBI and the Department of Justice, to stall for time. If there were questions of fact that could somehow render Cuomo trustworthy and non-abusive, his argument might make sense.

However, what most people already know is more than enough to remove him from office.

In April 2020, a month after the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, Cuomo issued a health directive requiring nursing homes and homes for people with developmental disabilities to take COVID-19 patients. This ended up being a death sentence for many people.

At the same time, he pushed an industry-sponsored bill through the legislature, shielding nursing home CEOs, many of whom were donors to his campaign, from

legal liability for dangerous decisions.

In June, the State Health Department reported 9,250 nursing home deaths to the governor's office. Cuomo's staff panicked, not because so many people were dying, but because the total was the highest in the country and would make him look bad. This was just as Cuomo was riding high in the polls and on the verge of closing a major book deal touting his success in handling COVID-19.

Instead of releasing the Health Department numbers, his office instead rewrote the report to announce that only 6,200 nursing home patients had died. Lawmakers who needed that data to make policy questioned the figures, but the governor insisted on their accuracy.

Only five months later, after New York Attorney General Letitia James released a report showing deaths had been undercounted by as much as 50 percent, did Cuomo correct the numbers.

His first policy choice was disastrous, but it was the cover-up. Half a year of continuously lying to the public requires his resignation.

Cuomo's office initially claimed he was hiding the figures out of fear that the White House would weaponize the numbers against him. Reporting from The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal revealed that this was a lie, too. Meanwhile, over 15,000 New Yorkers in nursing homes have died of COVID-19.

Cuomo has a long history of bullying and terrorizing people. Now, he also faces several credible allegations of sexual assault and harassment of employees.

Many of the interactions are undisputed and backed up by independent reporting. For instance, he was reported to have asked a 25-year-old entry-level employee if she was open to sex with older men. That constitutes sexual harassment under New York state law.

Reports that Cuomo's office leaked personnel files about another accuser, Lindsey Boylan, have not been disputed by the governor; nor have they reported that Cuomo's staff, paid by New York taxpayers, made unsolicited calls to former and current state employees and encouraged them to discredit Boylan.

This kind of vicious retaliation is part of a pattern. When Cuomo told Assemblyman Ron Kim that he would destroy him for talking to the press about the nursing home

cover-up, that was not an empty threat.

When the New York State Public Employees Federation endorsed him in 2014, Cuomo retaliated by reclassifying 2,500 employees of that union as management. The message was clear: If you dare question the governor, you will be punished.

In a recent press conference, Cuomo implicitly threatened to leak confidential files from the Joint Commission on Public Ethics, a body that is supposed to provide independent oversight but acts instead as an extension of the governor.

The New York Times reported that Larry Schwartz, the official in charge of New York's COVID-19 vaccine program, has been leaning on Democratic officials to declare their support for the governor, further politicizing the state's response to the pandemic.

Local officials are scared that failing to support Cuomo will impact their access to vaccines, especially since Schwartz, who has no public health background, is a known enforcer for Cuomo, who was involved in shutting down the Moreland Commission

anti-corruption investigation when it got too close to the governor.

Even so, Cuomo's signature upstate jobs plan, Buffalo Billion, ended with his right-hand man in prison for bribery.

With so many Cuomo revelations coming out every day, it can be hard to keep them straight. And one could argue that Cuomo would like it to stay that way, but there is a single, devastating theme throughout all of them: His abuse of the power given to him by the people of the great state of New York.

The investigation by Attorney General James and her two appointed investigators must indeed go forward. The criminal investigations must go forward.

But there is no investigative result that leaves us with Cuomo as a governor who we can trust to not further abuse his power.

For the sake of New York, Andrew Cuomo must immediately resign and let Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul replace him.

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Bre's Beats: COVID-19's got nothing on the Grammys

By Breanna Ebisch
Co-Opinion Editor

Award shows have been hit or miss during the weird and uncertain times that we are still living in thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. From not having a live audience in attendance, having to pre-record performances and trying to create a sense of normalcy for a show that millions enjoy, we have seen our fair share of good and bad award shows over the past year.

But, the 63rd Annual Grammy Awards were amazing in every sense of the word for several reasons. Hosted by Trevor Noah in Los Angeles, Calif., on March 14, the Grammys looked very different from previous shows, but it wowed the audience nonetheless.

Instead of the usual event that includes thousands of people in attendance at the Staples Center, all of the night's nominees sat at their own individual tables in a large tent set up outside. The award show also featured live performances that did occur in the Los Angeles Convention Center, but each artist utilized a designated section of the stage in the large circular room.

All things considered, despite being postponed from the original February date, the Grammys pulled off an exceptional show that was enjoyed by millions of people.

Following the opening comedic yet well-written monologue from the host, first-time nominee Harry Styles kicked-off the show with a stunning performance of his hit, "Watermelon Sugar," which was immediately followed by Billie Eilish and HAIM.

Right from the start, the audience knew they were in for a night full of entertainment and unforgettable moments. The Grammys are well known for being the biggest night in music, and although the show is usually grand and unforgettable in a "normal" year, that meaning was transformed into something that viewers really loved. By opening the night with three major performances, the excitement and anticipation was present from the get-go.

From there, the performances only got better and better. Some of the most well-known names in music, including Taylor Swift, who brought the dreamy vibes from her "Folklore" album to the show with a medley of three songs. Dua Lipa's

eye-catching performance became a fan favorite, not only for the visually appealing aspects, but also for the upbeat singles included. Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak performed for the first time as the newly formed band Silk Sonic, channeling the iconic 70s style for their song, "Leave The Door Open."

Megan Thee Stallion's incredible time on stage before being joined by Cardi B for the popular hit "WAP" became one of the biggest talking points of the night.

Several country stars, such as Miranda Lambert and Maren Morris, also got their air time and further contributed to the overall greatness of the award show.

There truly was not a lackluster or disappointing performance this year, which is typically expected. But from beginning to end, every artist who graced the stage brought energy and talent.

In terms of the big winners from the award show, there were several who won their first-ever Grammy, while others added to their extensive collections.

Beyonce led the night with the most nominations, with a total of nine, and made history after winning her 28th Grammy. This feat made her the first artist to ever reach such an accomplishment and also the first female artist to do so.

Most of the major categories were stacked with a selection of the best albums and songs that left impacts on the industry in multiple ways. This led to both surprising wins and losses for both viewers and nominated artists alike.

The Album of the Year category included a variety of successful and ground-breaking records that were released within the last year. In what was expected to be a very close decision, Swift took home the award for "Folklore," making it her third AOTY win of her career.

Record of the Year went to Eilish, who swept all her nominated categories, much

like last time. And although her track "Everything I Wanted" was deserving, the award once again went to a white artist over several artists of color who were also nominated and have been historically snubbed for this major award.

Styles claimed one of the most notable and exciting wins of the night for Best Pop Solo Performance. After receiving three nominations for the first time in his solo career, taking home the win in this category not only made it his first Grammy win, but it also propelled his unbelievable talent further into the spotlight.

The Best New Artist nominations showcased many artists who had breakout years like never before, and there was almost no surprise that Megan Thee Stallion took home the award after the success she had this year.

Like usual, only a very small number of the awards were presented during the actual show, with many being announced prior to the television timeslot. And for the amount of time the Grammys had to be broadcasted - almost four hours - it would have been nice to see at least a few more category winners be announced live.

Besides the fantastic performances and big wins, the Grammys put the spotlight on several important issues throughout the show. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, small indie venues have had to close their doors due to the cancellation of live concerts and events.

On national television during one of the biggest award shows of the year, many of these famous venues received attention through short segments. An employee from each venue also was able to present an award virtually or in-person.

Highlighting these venues did not just emphasize how the live music industry is suffering, but it also allowed a large audience to fully understand the impact and was able to help said venues with information provided during their segments.

During the show, a lengthy performance in memoriam for the artists who died

over the past year also took place, which was a nice touch, albeit an expected one. Some of the nominated artists also took the stage along with special guests and the entire display was thought-out. In today's day and age, it is hard for an event not to feature a section specifically for lives that have been lost, either from the pandemic or in general.

Another positive aspect of the Grammys this year, along with following the rest of the safety guidelines, was the prominence of mask wearing throughout the entire ceremony. Many artists matched their masks to their red carpet looks, which transformed an everyday expectation into something a little more interesting, emphasizing how the Grammys had made sure all precautions were followed.

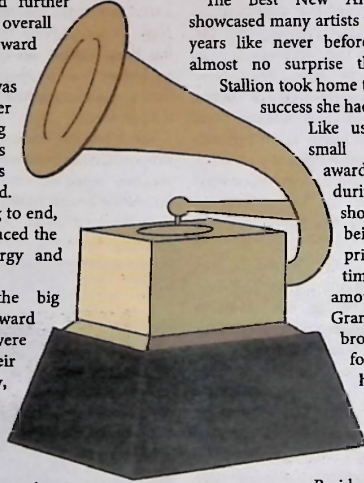
But as always, the Grammys were received with a few negative comments due to some of the well-known controversies surrounding the award show. Despite being successful and entertaining like no other award show has been in a very long time, it is still hard to overlook the not-so-great aspects of the broadcast.

One of the most notable snubs and absences of the night was The Weeknd, who released his album "After Hours" in early 2020. After securing the Super Bowl Halftime Show, it surprised everyone that both the highly successful album and artist did not receive a single nomination.

Beyond that, the award show has been accused of using big name artists for "clout" and views in the past - and this year was no exception. Korean boy band BTS was set to perform as the big finale of the show, which drew a large crowd to tune into the broadcast. However, the band was only nominated once for Pop/Duo Group Performance and lost in their category, which further proved that the Grammys were only looking for a boost in views by including the band in their list of performances.

At the end of the day, the 63rd Annual Grammy Awards brought a lot of joy and excitement to viewers in a time when it is most needed. With an outstanding show from beginning to end, the ceremony will be remembered as great for a number of reasons and will be hard to top in the years to come.

Breanna.Ebisch@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Zoey Rosensweet



"The Map of Tiny Perfect Things"

By Matt Matrisclano
Staff Writer

Every morning, 17-year-old Mark (Kyle Allen) wakes up and lives the same day over again. He gets out of bed, gets called a loser by his sister, does a Marty McFly-style sequence on the way to school, and then hangs out with his friend, Henry (Jermaine Harris). It seems normal, but Mark is not living this way because of quarantine - he is stuck in an infinite time loop. Every night at midnight, time resets and the same day starts over again, but Mark seems to be the only one to realize.

This has been going on for "like a thousand days," as the main character puts it.

Mark somewhat enjoys living his life on replay, though. Every day is a second chance, literally.

The teen usually spends his time "predicting" the future, since he knows what is coming.

He will stop a girl from falling into a pool, give people directions before they ask, and say "bless you" right before somebody sneezes. He is living life as a forever teen, which may sound like a dream come true to some people.

That is, until Mark meets Margaret (Kathryn Newton) and his world turns

upside down. Margaret just so happens to also be stuck in this timeless wasteland, and Mark begins to fall for her.

After each is shocked to learn that they are not the only one in the time-loop, they start to enjoy the same day every day - together. It seems perfect for them, until they start to realize that even though they have each other, they can never make a future, because there isn't one. Now, they must find out if there is a way to start time back up again, and if they are ready for it.

In an ironic case of déjà vu, we have yet another infinite time loop movie. "Palm Springs" has not even been out a year, but here we go again. I will give "The Map of Tiny Perfect Things" credit. The characters are relatable. Because there are so many movies about infinite time loops out there, I am starting to think I am in one myself.

All jokes aside, this movie is not terrible. It is actually pretty good. It has a heartfelt, goofy storyline, reminiscent of an early 2000s teen comedy. The characters are likeable, although the love story is somewhat basic and predictable.

No matter how good the storyline may be, every movie needs a good cast to make it work.

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Something on the Grammys

time. And although her track "I Wanna" was deserving, she again went to a white artist and have been historically for this major award. It was named one of the most notable wins of the night for Best Performance. After receiving the award for the first time in his career, taking home the win in this category only made it his first Grammy also propelled his unbelievable career into the spotlight.

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Breanna.Ebisch@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Zoey Rosensweet

"The Map of Tiny Perfect Things" guides some but not all

By Matt Matrisciano
Staff Writer

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All jokes aside, this movie is not terrible. It is actually pretty good. It has a heartfelt, goofy storyline, reminiscent of an early 2000s teen comedy. The characters are likeable, although the love story is somewhat basic and predictable.

No matter how good the storyline may be, every movie needs a good cast to make it work.

Fortunately, this young group led by Allen and Newton delivers all the laughs you would expect from a time-bending movie, and more. They perfectly portray the ups and downs of growing up as a teenager, even in a world where you cannot grow up at all.

Newton is a rising star, having acted in the hilarious "Blockers" (2018) and more recently, 2020 comedy horror "Freaky". Her too-cool-to-care persona she puts on as Margaret in "The Map of Tiny Perfect Things" makes her character hilariously eccentric. Allen has a bit less experience under his belt, but he still does a fantastic job as one of the film's leading roles.

Although the infinite time-loop idea is arguably overdone, "The Map of Tiny Perfect Things" switches things up by poking fun at itself, frequently referencing "Groundhog Day" (1993) and "Time Bandits" (1981). A healthy amount of self-deprecation never hurt anybody, either.

Other than pointing out its own originality flaws, this film does a good job of keeping the movie moving. There is never a dull moment. No unnecessary scenes and silences, no waiting around; it just keeps it rolling. This is a breath of fresh air in today's world. When it seems like every single new movie is three

hours long, "The Map of Tiny Perfect Things" is short and sweet.

Along with living the same day over again, the characters also cannot seem to escape the romantic comedy clichés. Those classic moments that are supposed to leave you weeping but end up leaving you stone-faced are back for another round. However, there are a few unexpected moments that leave the viewer on the edge of their seat and keep the storyline afloat.

All in all, "The Map of Tiny Perfect Things" was better than expected. It is currently streaming on Amazon Prime, free to watch for subscribers. It has received mixed reviews with a 78 percent from Rotten Tomatoes and a mere 2.5/5 by IndieWire. It is an acquired taste. If you cannot stand romantic comedies, you will not like this movie. If you have had enough of the infinite time-loop genre to the point where you feel like screaming, this one probably is not for you. However, if those are things you enjoy, or at least can bear, "The Map of Tiny Perfect Things" is worth a watch.

My final rating for this time-bending love story is a solid 7 out of 10.



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It sure would be fun to recycle at the YMCA — if they did

By William Billingsley
Asst. Opinion Editor

Recycling. It is a relatively recent phenomenon in society, but one with roots reaching as far back as World War II, where participating in scrap metal recycling and other wartime rationing measures were praised as being virtuous and patriotic.

Today, recycling is a fundamental part of the waste management process, even if our society has its own issues with landfill usage.

And though I say fundamental, it appears that not everyone is quite as on board with recycling as we might otherwise think.

Even Wilkes University's own recycling program has been the target of relentless speculation among the student body over the last couple years.

Are those blue recycling bins really being recycled efficiently after they leave our sight? Just where do those trash bags go?

Or is all this for our own peace of mind, a clever ruse to minimize the costs of recycling?

But I am not writing this to just dredge up recycling rumors at Wilkes. Instead, I would like to talk about our local YMCA's utter disregard for recycling.

For those who are unaware, the university partners with the YMCA to offer students premium apartment-style housing on three different floors of the building itself.

As a resident myself, I can attest to the quality of the accommodation, especially compared to other residence halls that can best be described as relics of their time, in dire need of modern upgrades. A topic for another time, perhaps.

And yet, despite this comparative opulence, I came to learn last semester that the YMCA does not recycle any trash whatsoever.

This struck me as peculiar. After all, it is 2021, who doesn't recycle?

Thus, I first reached out to our resident assistant, who followed-up on my inquiry with a general survey among the students currently living in the space — were they in support of such a recycling program? They were.

Quite overwhelmingly so, actually. But after weeks of silence, it appeared that nothing was forthcoming.

As such, I then reached out to the YMCA more directly to inquire about why there

was such a stark contrast between the rest of the Wilkes campus and the YMCA with regard to recycling. Annoyingly, I had to reach out on three different occasions to someone of importance via email over the course of the fall semester.

And on that third attempt, I finally received a hasty one-liner response from that person's phone, typo included, stating that the YMCA did not have the time or money to pursue recycling.

Curious. Undeterred, I then opted to inquire through the YMCA's own contact form, where concerned individuals like myself can leave feedback about the various nuances of what the YMCA does. But is anything ever that easy?

Instead of a functional system, I was greeted with errors in sending in my feedback on two separate occasions.

"We focus our work in three key areas which are; nurturing the potential of kids, helping people live healthier, and supporting our neighbors because they are the fundamentals to strengthening communities."

– wvymca.org

What does it say about how much an organization values community input when their own system for receiving said input was conveniently broken? Nothing, apparently.

And who knows just how long that community feedback system was broken for?

You might even be wondering if it is still down to this very day. With great reluctance, I was forced to resort to what I dreaded most: the cold email.

Luckily, I received a far timelier response in early January. Unfortunately, the sentiment was the same, and I was told that the YMCA simply "does not have the resources currently" to support any kind of recycling endeavor.

A few weeks later, all 18 laundry machines on residential floors were replaced with new machines, similar to

the ones installed on campus two summers ago.

I did not realize that things were going so well for the YMCA during the pandemic that they could afford such an upgrade for something that appeared to be a non-issue for residents.

Sure, there might have been a problem here and there with a machine or two, but I hardly think that merited a full-blown overhaul. But hey, I do not make the decisions, however unwise they may be.

And while we are on the subject of recycling, I just wanted to also point out what kind of organization our YMCA strives to be. Here are some excerpts from their website's "About Us" page:

"A cause-driven organization that is for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility."

It is interesting that they cite social

responsibility as being so valued. The YMCA does not have any conceivable excuse for being so ridiculously behind the times that they just throw all their trash into a big old dumpster and call it good.

How is actively refusing to participate in the larger community's efforts to go green community-building in any sense of the word?

It is not.

Through the YMCA's abject apathy, it is plainly obvious to see that they do not particularly care about our community's future, since it would apparently cost too much to adopt even the barest of minimums for going green: Recycling. Or maybe they do, and they have an ambitious agenda to reduce the community's reliance on landfills or some other intervention in the waste management process. Somehow, I do not think they do.

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But it is not. We're talking about recycling here. The bar literally cannot get any lower than this, and yet the YMCA still manages to disappoint.

 @wilkesbeacon
William.Billingsley@wilkes.edu

Sports

Want your sport covered? [Deez](#)

Can the Celtics bounce back from 1

By Jason Eberhart
Staff Writer

The Boston Celtics have been constant contenders in the Eastern Conference the past few years, having made the conference finals three of the past four seasons. However, more than halfway through the season and currently sitting at .500, the Celtics are more worried about making the playoffs than they are about making the conference finals, as they are currently the eight-seed.

The East is the most competitive it has been in years. The Brooklyn Nets have potentially the scariest trio of all time, with Kevin Durant, James Harden and Kyrie Irving. The Milwaukee Bucks are led by the two-time defending MVP in Giannis Antetokounmpo.

The main trade chip the Celtics have is their traded player exception. They got this in return for sending forward Gordon Hayward to the Charlotte Hornets. The trade exception is worth \$28.5 million dollars, making it the largest trade exception in league history. This

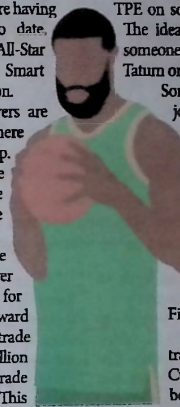
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The legal tampering period opened up on March 15, which means that players and agents can talk to the teams about potentially agreeing to a contract with them. This is only a verbal agreement, so nothing was finalized until free agency opened on March 17.

The Pittsburgh Steelers are looking to maintain some of their weapons in free agency. Offensive tackle Zach Banner re-signed with the team on a two-year, \$9.5 million deal with a \$3.25 million signing bonus.

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who finished Eagles, signed an unknown d

The biggest name in free agency this season was arguably wide receiver Juju Smith-Schuster. Smith-Schuster reportedly had offers from the Kansas City Chiefs for \$11 million, the Baltimore Ravens for \$13 million and the Eagles. Smith-Schuster decided to remain loyal to Pittsburgh and take a pay cut to stay. Smith-Schuster agreed to an \$8 million, one-year deal.

The Philadelphia Eagles are also looking to revamp their team after finishing last in the NFC East. The Eagles and defensive tackle Hassan Ridgeway agreed to terms on a new deal.

Safety Andrew Adams followed in the steps of Ridgeway, as he also agreed to terms on a new deal.

The New York Giants



at the YMCA — if they did

nes installed on campus two summers lid not realize that things were going ell for the YMCA during the pandemic they could afford such an upgrade for eathing that appeared to be a non-issue esidents.

re, there might have been a problem and there with a machine or two, but rdly think that merited a full-blown haul. But hey, I do not make the sions, however unwise they may be. nd while we are on the subject of cling, I just wanted to also point out t kind of organization our YMCA es to be. Here are some excerpts from r website's "About Us" page: cause-driven organization that is for h development, healthy living and al responsibility."

is interesting that they cite social

n three key areas the potential of ve healthier, and ors because they to strengthening

- wvymca.org

onsibility as being so valued. closer read of the rest of their "About page contains similar language, like part: "For 150 years, our YMCA has rained relevant to individuals and munities as they change and evolve ile maintaining our core mission." emained relevant, you say? heir write-up continues, "... our impact elt when an individual makes a healthy ice, when a mentor inspires a child and en a community comes together for the mon good."

learly, the YMCA strongly considers munity-building as one of its damental objectives. absolutely agree. And what better way tngthen and enhance our community n to support it in the long-run by pting green initiatives like recycling? know that Wilkes itself was slow on uptake for embracing recycling, but it

is 2021.

The YMCA does not have any conceivable excuse for being so ridiculously behind the times that they just throw all their trash into a big old dumpster and call it good.

How is actively refusing to participate in the larger community's efforts to go green community-building in any sense of the word?

It is not.

Through the YMCA's abject apathy, it is plainly obvious to see that they do not particularly care about our community's future, since it would apparently cost too much to adopt even the barest of minimums for going green: Recycling. Or maybe they do, and they have an ambitious agenda to reduce the community's reliance on landfills or some other intervention in the waste management process. Somehow, I do not think they do.

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Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact sports editor: Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu

Can the Celtics bounce back from the eight-seed in the East?

By Jason Eberhart
Staff Writer

The Boston Celtics have been constant contenders in the Eastern Conference the past few years, having made the conference finals three of the past four seasons. However, more than halfway through the season and currently sitting at 500, the Celtics are more worried about making the playoffs than they are about making the conference finals, as they are currently the eight-seed.

The East is the most competitive it has been in years. The Brooklyn Nets have potentially the scariest trio of all time, with Kevin Durant, James Harden and Kyrie Irving. The Milwaukee Bucks are led by the two-time defending MVP in Giannis Antetokounmpo. Joel Embiid, who is currently sitting at number one in most MVP rankings, leads a revamped 76ers team. The Miami Heat made the finals less than a year ago, and the Toronto Raptors won the finals two seasons ago.

All of the Celtics' competition has gotten better, while the Celtics have stumbled into the

likes of the New York Knicks and Charlotte Hornets.

The Celtics should be better than they currently are based off of their roster weapons. They have two all stars in Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown, and both of them are having their best statistical seasons to date. Kemba Walker started in the All-Star game last season, and Marcus Smart made first-team defense last season.

Even though those four players are playing to their all-star ability, there are holes in this Celtics lineup. General manager Danny Ainge will look to use a number of trade assets before the upcoming trade deadline on March 25.

The main trade chip the Celtics have is their traded player exception. They got this in return for sending forward Gordon Hayward to the Charlotte Hornets. The trade exception is worth \$28.5 million dollars, making it the largest trade exception in league history. This

means the Celtics can absorb an entire player's contract worth up to the amount, without going over the salary cap.

According to lead NBA Insider Adrian Wojnnowski, the Celtics want to use their TPE on somebody with shooting and size. The ideal player they would look for is someone who can take over the offense for Tatum or Brown.

Some players rumored to potentially join the Celtics are Sacramento Kings forward Harrison Barnes and Detroit Pistons wing Jerami Grant. Barnes was a key part of hitting open threes during the Golden State Warriors' first championship, and Grant was the third option on a Denver Nuggets team that made the Western Conference Finals last year.

Another option to look for at the trade deadline is some bench help. Currently, with no players off the bench averaging more than seven

points per game, according to ESPN stats, it is imperative that the Celtics improve that area of their team before trying to go in on a playoff run.

Some players that could come in and immediately help are Detroit Pistons sharpshooter Wayne Ellington and Chicago Bulls forward Thaddeus Young.

Ainge is not known for making big splashes at the trade deadline, and who knows if he will this year. However, one thing is clear: There is a gap between the Celtics and the top of the Eastern Conference competitors. The Celtics have a lot of assets, and they can be used to improve the team for the second half of the season.

Tatum and Brown have not reached their primes yet, but they need to strike while the iron is hot. Those two have proven they are winners, and with the right help around them, the Celtics could find themselves right back in the Conference Finals.

Jason.Eberhart@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Mia Walker



Free agency: Where does it leave Steelers, Eagles and Giants?

By Zara Lantzman
Staff Writer

The franchise tag period was open from Feb. 23 to March 9. A franchise tag is a one-year contract to retain a current player whose contract is up. If a player is franchise-tagged, they have to sign the tag by July 15.

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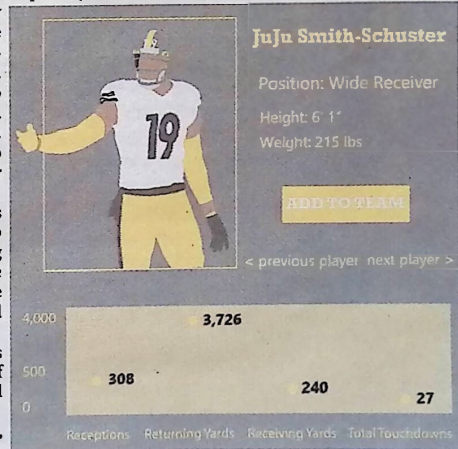
who finished the NFL season right above the Eagles, signed quarterback Mike Glennon to an unknown deal and running back Devontae

Booker to a two-year, \$6 million deal. The Giants also signed wide receiver John Ross to a one-year deal worth \$2.5 million, including \$1 million guaranteed, as well as tight-end Kyle Rudolph to a \$12 million deal with a \$4.5 million signing bonus and a max value of \$14 million.

They also signed defensive end Ifeadi Odenigbo for \$2.5 million for one year and franchise-tagged Leonard Williams. Williams and the team agreed on a three-year deal for \$63 million, including \$45 million guaranteed. Williams will also receive a signing bonus of \$22.5 million and his cap will fall to \$11 million.

Due to COVID-19, the salary cap went down by \$15.7 million. Some notable free agents that have yet to sign are: Kenny Golladay, Jadeveon Clowney, Mitchell Schwartz, Justin Houston, T.Y. Hilton, Carlos Dunlap, Phillip Lindsay, Chris Carson, Melvin Ingram, Richard Sherman and Adoree' Jackson.

Zara.Lantzman@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Mia Walker



MLAX: Hat tricks boost Wilkes over King's in "Battle of the Barre"

By Ariel Reed
Sports Editor

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. -- The Colonels squared off for the first time this year against King's College on March 20, where two Wilkes athletes recorded hat tricks that proved fatal to the Monarchs, resulting in a score of 14-9.

Any series between cross-town rivals brings out an extra level of competition for all players, and this game proved to be no different.

"It's always great to beat your rivals," said junior attacker Ethan Weaver. "We practiced with a different intensity this week to make sure we came out strong today."

For the first five minutes, the Colonels and Monarchs scrapped at each other, forcing ground balls until King's Joe Giannella found the back of the net to take a 1-0 lead.

"Our team was on a mission to pick up ground balls today," said head coach Curtis Jaques. "I was very impressed with the performance from (first-year) Colby Opromolla, who came up with seven ground balls."

Not allowing themselves to stay down for long, Opromolla got Wilkes on the board with a little over six minutes left in the first quarter.

King's started to get hot from the field, hitting two additional goals to put them up by two nearing the end of the first quarter.

Weaver had a different plan for the



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Junior attacker Ethan Weaver, who recorded one of Wilkes' hat tricks against King's, ran back to set up an offense against DeSales University on

Colonels, as he threw in a goal with 34 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Feeding off of Weaver's momentum, Wilkes came out hot in the second quarter, finding the back of the net within the first four minutes of the quarter. Weaver was able to find junior midfielder Kyle Sokol for the early goal to tie the game, 3-3.

Weaver's intensity from practice followed him onto the field, as he scored or assisted on nine of the total 14 points from the Colonels.

"All props to my teammates for getting themselves open," said Weaver. "I just trusted them to make the catch and finish when I was throwing them the ball. I think we were finally trusting each other this game, and it showed on the scoreboard."

The first half was all about Weaver, but the second half was where junior midfielder Luke Palladino came to life.

"Weaver and Palladino had a great day today," said Jaques. "I think our offense did a nice job of trusting themselves and

sticking to a plan that worked. We made some adjustments in practice, and it showed today in the game."

Palladino scored two of his three total goals in the second half. Most of his looks at the net were facilitated by Weaver and his teammates finding him in the open field, which helped him record a hat trick.

"I got to shout-out my teammates for this," said Palladino. "When they draw a slide, it opens up the whole field, and I was able to find spots where I was able to get quality shots off. I couldn't have done it without the play of (Weaver) today. He had his best game of the season and that trickled down to the rest of the offense."

Feeding off of Weaver's offensive efforts, seven Colonels were able to help lift Wilkes over the Monarchs.

"Overall, it was a great team win," said Palladino. "We were able to accomplish some of our team goals and picked up the most ground balls we have this season, which I ultimately think propelled us to the win. Hopefully, we can use this game and keep building on our performance. It's called Wilkes-Barre for a reason."

The Colonels would also like to dedicate this win to first-year attacker Bryan Bagley, a teammate who exemplified what it means to be an honorable teammate, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wilkes returns to the field today against Arcadia University at 7 p.m.



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WLAX: King's 14-point second

By Chris Gowarty
Asst. Sports Editor

The women's lacrosse team fell to King's College, 22-7, despite a notable offensive bout in the first half, resulting in Wilkes' second loss of the young 2021 season.

Before the match against Wilkes' cross-town rival even began, the Colonels suffered two injuries, which left them with only one player off the bench.

"We had two ACL injuries right before the game started, so we only had one person on the sideline, which could have proved to be bad," said head coach Sarah Burkarth. "We came out pretty strong. Unfortunately, there was a turn right in the second half. We had a few good looks, a few good goals, people really taking it on their own shoulders to drive the cage and try to make things happen."

The relatively new rotation was easy for the Colonels to shift into due to the cohesiveness of the team.

"We all connect together really well on and off the field," said sophomore midfielder Keara Dugey. "Getting each other fired up and hyped up helps a lot. I was mainly defense, so this is my first year playing all-around. It helps knowing that my teammates are confident in me and hyping me up when I go to shoot."

To open the scoring, junior attacker Camryn Devitt scored a goal off the left side of the cage within the first two minutes of the game.



Sophomore midfielder Keara Dugey Monarch attack and get the ball o

King's quickly jumped to a 2-1 lead, was matched with Devitt's second goal in the contest. Dugey gave the Colonels lead with a goal of her own, which was followed by another goal from Wilkes' junior midfielder Laura Bayzick, making the score 4-2.

King's would go on a streak and score six consecutive goals following Wilkes'

▶▶▶▶▶ SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES ◀◀◀◀◀

Men's Tennis

- 3/20 @ King's, W 8-1
- 3/27 @ Messiah, 1 p.m.
- 4/2 vs. York, 1 p.m.
- 4/10 @ Lycoming, noon
- 4/13 vs. King's, 3 p.m.
- 4/17 vs. Arcadia, 1:45 p.m.
- 4/21 @ DeSales, 3:30 p.m.
- 4/24 vs. Misericordia, 2 p.m.
- 5/1 vs. FDU-Florham, 9 a.m.
- 5/1 vs. Stevens, 1:30 p.m.

Baseball

- 3/13 @ Arcadia, W 12-1
- 3/13 @ Arcadia, L 12-0
- 3/14 vs. Arcadia, L 14-4
- 3/14 vs. Arcadia, L 5-3
- 3/20 vs. Misericordia, L 2-1
- 3/20 vs. Misericordia, W 9-8
- 3/21 @ Misericordia, noon
- 3/21 @ Misericordia, 2:30 p.m.
- 3/27 @ Stevens, noon
- 3/27 @ Stevens, 2:30 p.m.
- 3/28 vs. Stevens, noon
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- 4/2 vs. FDU-Florham, noon
- 4/2 vs. FDU-Florham, 2:30 p.m.

Men's Lacrosse

- 3/6 @ York, L 19-3
- 3/13 vs. Messiah, L 9-4
- 3/17 vs. DeSales, L 12-4
- 3/20 @ King's, W 14-9
- 3/24 vs. Arcadia, 7 p.m.
- 3/26 @ Stevens, 6 p.m.
- 4/7 @ Delaware Valley, 7 p.m.
- 4/10 @ FDU-Florham, 1 p.m.
- 4/14 vs. Lycoming, 7 p.m.
- 4/17 vs. Albright, 11 p.m.
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"Battle of the Barre"

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WILKES

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WLAX: King's 14-point second half stifles Wilkes' efforts to win

By Chris Gowarty
Asst. Sports Editor

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Before the match against Wilkes' cross-town rival even began, the Colonels suffered two injuries, which left them with only one player off the bench.

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The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Sophomore midfielder Keara Dugey slashed King's Cella Medna to slow the Monarch attack and get the ball on March 20.

King's quickly jumped to a 2-1 lead, but was matched with Devitt's second goal of the contest. Dugey gave the Colonels the lead with a goal of her own, which was followed by another goal from Wilkes by junior midfielder Laura Bayzick, making the score 4-2.

King's would go on a streak and score six consecutive goals following Wilkes'

offensive campaign, earning a lead in the first half that they would not relinquish for the rest of the game.

Despite the early adjustments that had to be made due to unforeseen injuries, the Colonels still had a balanced nature and team finesse to them.

"Overall, we played very well as a team," said Devitt. "We saw a lot of connections

at the beginning of the game, and toward the end of the game, we saw that we have to execute more in practice so we'll be ready for the next game."

Burkarth has high praise for the Colonels this season and hopes to see the expectations she has for her team translate onto the field for their next opponent.

The early attack from the Colonels demonstrated that the offensive effort was there in the first half; however, the team needed to shift that momentum from the first half into the second half to get a win.

"Considering what we could've done better today, we're just going to come hard on Monday at practice," said Burkarth. "In all honesty, this is the best program we've had in years, but it's not showing yet. I think a lot of it has to do with the fact that we had a week off due to a COVID outbreak, so today could have been a different outcome had that not happened, but there's a lot of things that are out of our control right now. We'll see what happens next week."

The women's lacrosse team will compete against Arcadia University today at 7 p.m. Wilkes' next home contest is on Saturday at 1 p.m. against Stevens.

A live stream of the game and/or live stats can be found at gowilkesu.com.

[@wilkesbeacon](https://twitter.com/wilkesbeacon)
Christopher.Gowarty@wilkes.edu

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Softball

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- 3/17 vs. FDU-Florham, DH POSTPONED
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- 3/23 vs. Arcadia, 4 p.m.
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The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Getting to know...

Alex Myers

Junior Men's Lacrosse Player

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week from March 10 to 17

Why Alex Myers was selected: Myers had two clutch goals in Wilkes' games against Messiah University and DeSales University. Myers was one of the offensive facilitators, allowing for the team to be able to get open looks at the net throughout the two contests.

Name: Alex Myers
Year: Junior
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Minor: Engineering Management
Hometown: Cortland, N.Y.
High School: Cortland H.S.
Position: Midfielder

to play other sports with my friends and brothers.

Favorite building on campus?
Stark because of the POD.

Favorite meal to eat on campus?
I love the breakfast sandwiches from Grille Works.

What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?
Cool Blue.

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

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Mike Krzyewski.

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I would love to give a shout-out to my teammates, coaches, parents and two brothers.

- Compiled by Ariel Reed, Sports Editor

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

The driving force for me to come to Wilkes is they have a great engineering department and I could also pursue my lacrosse career for four more years.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

My goal is to graduate next year with my degree in mechanical engineering and minor in engineering management and get a job in those fields.

Favorite memory as a Colonel?

My favorite memory is making the first-ever postseason game in our lacrosse program history.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

My hope for this season is to get better every game, go back to the postseason and build for next year when it is my senior year.

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I started to play lacrosse in first grade. I started playing it because my family's friends had older kids that grew up playing it and started to teach me to play the sport.

Favorite thing to do during practice?
10 v. 10 full field scrimmage.

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

I like to go golfing on my free time and

Getting to know...

Brenna Babcock

Sophomore Women's Basketball

The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week from March 10 to 17

Why Brenna Babcock was selected: Babcock led the offensive charge against Misericordia University and FDU-Florham University. Babcock scored 13 and 10 points, respectively. She had an impressive shooting weekend, hitting 55 percent from behind the arc.

Name: Brenna Babcock
Year: Sophomore
Major: Nursing
Hometown: Sweet Valley, Pa.
High School: Northwest Area H.S.
Position: Guard

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?
I love to do anything outdoors or with my friends.

Favorite building on campus?
SUB.

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A quote you live your life by?
"Don't count the days, make the days count."

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I started playing in second grade because my mom has always loved basketball, and she was excited to sign my sister and me up to play. I have been playing ever since.

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I love to do any competitive drills where I can jokingly trash talk my teammates.

- Compiled by Ariel Reed, Sports Editor

Getting to know...

Alex Myers

Senior Men's Lacrosse Player

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week from March 10 to 17

Why Alex Myers was selected: Myers had two clutch goals in Wilkes' games against Messiah University and DeSales University. Myers was one of the offensive facilitators, allowing for the team to be able to get open looks at the net throughout the two contests.

Name: Alex Myers
Year: Junior
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Minor: Engineering Management
Hometown: Cortland, N.Y.
High School: Cortland H.S.
Position: Midfielder

to play other sports with my friends and brothers.

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The Beacon/Ariel Reed

BASE: Bayo, Molitoris standout in contests against Misericordia

By Kirsten Peters
Editor-in-Chief

Following a 1-3 opening weekend against Arcadia, the Colonels finished their second series of the season against local rival Misericordia with another 1-3 outing. After falling 2-1 in the pitcher's dual of game one, Wilkes won game two, 9-8, after a seven-run first inning propelled them to an early lead.

Wilkes dropped the remaining two contests 13-2 and 7-3, respectively.

"Coming up with a clutch two-out hit or hit to break open a game is what we need to get better at," said head coach Kevin Gryboski. "I think as the season goes along that's the stuff that can make or break a good team, ya know, coming up with a key hit in a key situation."

On the weekend, Dominick Bayo led Wilkes, going 4-for-14. In game one, with the Colonels down by one heading into the bottom of the fifth, Bayo opened the inning with a lead-off triple to centerfield. He would score off of Nick Pronti's sacrifice fly to tie the game at one.

The Cougars secured the 2-1 victory in the top of the seventh when Brady Madden had a triple of his own for Misericordia, scoring Dalton Emerich, who got on with a walk.

Earlier in the game, Jonah Harder threw Misericordia's Joe Liscio out at home from right field, allowing Vinny Bobbin to make the tag and keep the contest scoreless heading into the bottom of the third. In game four at Misericordia, Harder recorded another impressive play in the sixth, allowing Brandon Reno to tag Misericordia's Dante Salerno out at third after making the out in right field.

"The three years that I've been with (Harder), he's been one of our top defensive outfielders by far," said Gryboski. "Teams are trying to run on him, but they're going to realize real quick that you can't run on (Harder)."

JT Hibschnman had his second outing on the mound for Wilkes, only allowing one run over six innings on seven hits with three walks and three strikeouts.

In game two, Reno would single to left-center to bring in Michael Patrizio, who opened the contest with a walk. Nick Malatesta would single after Reno to score Bayo, who singled to right field and went 2-for-5.

A two-run single by Matt Reinert would bring in Reno and Malatesta with two outs in the first inning. Bobbin would double to left-field to bring in Stone Wormuth, who singled to left and went 2-for-3. The Colonels then found themselves at the top of the lineup with Patrizio, who reached on an error by the first baseman. Reinert and Bobbin would score to conclude Wilkes' seven-run campaign.

"During the first weekend against Arcadia, I was rather jumpy and eager to swing at any pitch I saw," said Bayo. "I focused in on

the finer details during the following week of practice and tried to center my focus and fix my approach. When it came down to the weekend games against Misericordia, I was prepared and was able to put that work to the test. I had a couple good swings that resulted in positive outcomes, but there is still a lot of work to be done."

Misericordia would score two in the top of the fifth, cutting Wilkes' lead to five in the second game. The Colonels would answer when Harder and Reinert opened the bottom of the inning with back-to-back singles, to center field and down the left side, respectively. Harder would score on Patrizio's sacrifice fly to right field, while Reinert would score when Bayo reached first on an error by Misericordia's third baseman to regain the seven-run lead.

The Cougars would post four runs in the sixth and two runs in the ninth.

On the mound, Tony Molitoris earned the win for Wilkes in the 9-8 contest, allowing six runs over 5.2 innings on six hits with two walks and three strikeouts. Andrew Indzonka earned the save after Gage Coudriet and Jonathan Martens recorded a combined 2.1 innings.

"I think I was just throwing strikes and letting my defense behind me make plays - that's how I've always pitched," said Molitoris. "It feels great to get the win, but there are definitely more things we have to work on as a team ... We gave (Misericordia) too many opportunities throughout the four games this weekend, but I'm definitely ready to play them again if we see them in playoffs."

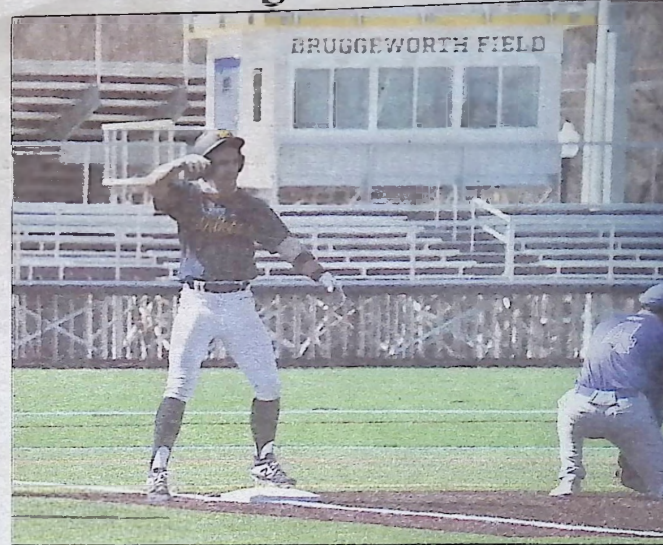
On the road on Sunday, the Cougars accumulated 13 runs over six innings in the third contest. Wilkes put two runs on the board in the top of the seventh. Bryan Nifenecker went 2-for-3 in the contest, with a double in the third inning where he was left on base and an RBI-single in the seventh.

In the fourth game, Wilkes claimed a 2-0 lead in the top of the first when Pronti had a two-run homer to bring in Bayo, who singled to the left side in the first at bat of the game. Harder's sacrifice fly in the fifth inning would bring in Bobbin, who walked, to cap Wilkes' scoring at three runs in the 7-3 loss.

"We have to be better," said Bayo. "We're angry. We know we could put a better product on the field. Misericordia didn't do anything that we couldn't do. We have shown everything we need to do to have a winning baseball team - the key is just stringing it all together."

Wilkes drops to 2-6 on the conference-only season. The Colonels will face Stevens in a four-game series on March 27 and 28.

"We're trying to stay positive ... I don't want guys depressed because it's only two series," said Gryboski. "Arguably, the front end of our schedule is pretty tough, so once we work these kinks out, we're going to be fine."



The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Dominick Bayo, who recorded four hits on the weekend, celebrated his lead-off triple in game one at Bruggeworth Field on March 20 with a windmill arm motion.

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