

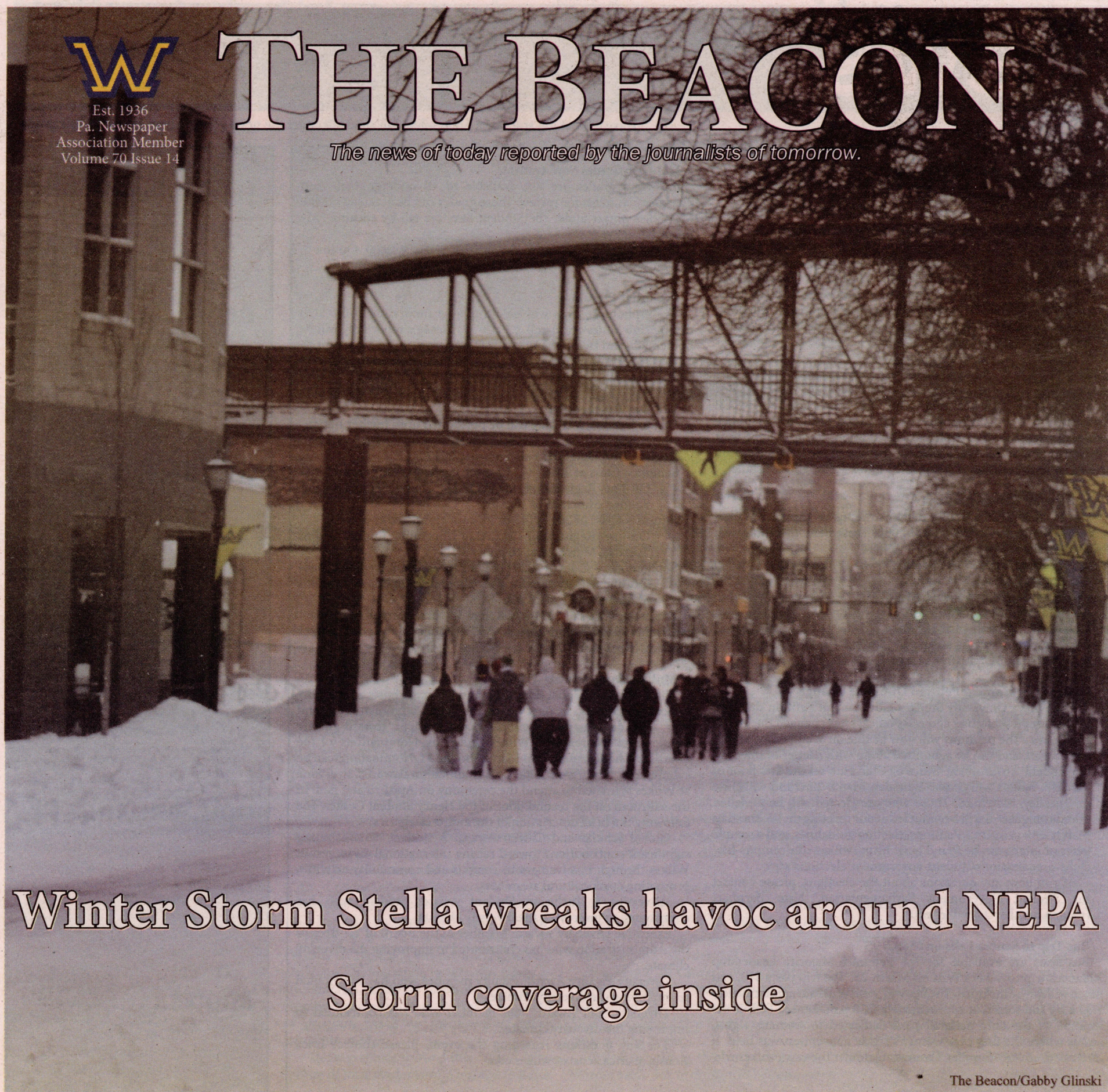
The Beacon - March 21, 2017



Est. 1936
Pa. Newspaper
Association Member
Volume 70 Issue 14

THE BEACON

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.



Winter Storm Stella wreaks havoc around NEPA
Storm coverage inside

The Beacon/Gabby Glinski

News

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

Beacon Briefs

Make Magic at the Cinderella's Closet Runway Show
AmeriCorps VISTA, the Office of Civic Engagement and the Office of Diversity Initiatives invite you to donate and/or model beautiful, gently used prom attire at the Cinderella's Closet runway event on April 7 at 6 p.m. Items needed include dresses, tuxes, suits, pants, ties, and shoes. If interested in being a model or donating clothing, please contact Justin Davis (justin.davis@wilkes.edu) or Erica Acosta (erica.acosta@wilkes.edu).

First Floor SLC Hallway Closed for Construction
Since the end of the day on Friday, March 10, the first floor east hallway of Stark Learning Center has been closed for RACP construction. The hallway will remain closed until further notice when construction is completed. In addition, the first floor west hallway is now wheelchair accessible. For use of the freight elevator, please contact Facilities at 570-408-2349 for access and assistance.

New Portal Demonstrations
The IT Staff will be giving demonstrations of the new Wilkes Portal in the library's Farley Room 002. These demonstrations will be held on the following days:

- Tuesday, March 7 at 11 a.m.
- Tuesday, March 7 at 3 p.m.
- Thursday, March 9 at 11 a.m.
- Thursday, March 9 at 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 14 at 11 a.m.
- Tuesday, March 14 at 3 p.m.
- Thursday, March 16 at 11 a.m.

Student Government Petition Due Date Change
The Wilkes University Student Government petition due date for class representatives and class officers has changed due to the snow days. The petitions will now be due on Wednesday, March 22 at 5 p.m. and can be submitted along with a letter of intent to the Student Government Office or Club Hub on the first floor of the SUB. Ballots will go out Thursday, March 23rd and will close on Tuesday, March 28. Those who are elected will be e-mailed Tuesday night and will be inducted at our meeting on Wednesday, March 29th at 6 p.m.. Petitions, election guidelines, and a sample letter of intent can be found here: <http://wilkes.edu/campus-life/clubs-organizations/student-government/elections.aspx>.
If you have any questions about the elections, please contact the Student Government Parliamentarian, Nate Barnhart (nathan.barnhart1@wilkes.edu).

Bus Trip to Seneca Falls on March 25
Bus seats are available for the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance's trip to Seneca Falls on March 25. The trip costs \$10, and lunch will not be included. The bus will leave Wilkes at approximately 9:30 a.m. and return at approximately 6:30 p.m. Seneca Falls is the location of the only national park dedicated to women's rights, and is where the first ever women's rights convention was held. If interested, contact Jennifer Thomas at jennifer.thomas@wilkes.edu

Mid-term Grades Now Available
mid-term grades are not available to all undergraduate and pharmacy students for review. These grades can be accessed via the MyWilkes portal under the Student Services tab by clicking "My Records."
Please contact the Registrar's Office at 570-408-2000, Option 3, with questions.

Pre-order Pierogis
The sophomore class will hold a pierogi fundraiser in the SUB during club hours on March 21 and 23. Pierogis reportedly will be homemade and fresh. The prices are three pierogis for \$3, six for \$5 or twelve for \$10. Please contact Lexie Panek at alexandra.panek@wilkes.edu with any questions.

VIP Day Rescheduled
Due to weather, VIP Day will be postponed until further notice.

Registration Dates for Fall/Summer 2017
Seniors – Class of 2018 | (73 or more current credits earned)
• On-line Registration for ALL Upcoming Seniors begins Sunday, March 26 at 10 p.m.
Juniors – Class of 2019 | (43 or more current credits earned)
• On-line Registration for ALL Upcoming Juniors begins Tuesday, March 28 at 10 p.m.
Sophomores – Class of 2020 | (13 or more current credits earned)
• On-line Registration for ALL Upcoming Sophomores begins Sunday, April 2 at 10 p.m.
Freshmen–Class of 2021 | (less than 13 current credits earned)
On-line Registration for all 2nd semester Freshmen begins Tuesday, April 4 at 10 p.m.

Multicultural Awards
The Center for Global Education and Diversity hosts a ceremony honoring students, faculty, board members, administration, and staff who demonstrate significant contributions toward raising multicultural awareness at Wilkes University. Nominations for the awards will be accepted from March 1 to the 31. Nominations can be submitted at <http://www.wilkes.edu/multiculturalawards>. Everyone at Wilkes is invited to attend the ceremony on April 25 at 4 p.m. in the ballroom on the second floor of the Henry Student Center. The following is a brief description of the award categories:
Global Scholar and Citizen Award: A student demonstrating significant contributions toward raising international awareness at Wilkes through involvement in campus and community activities promoting cross-cultural awareness.
Diversity & Inclusion Student Award: Student who has contributed to improving the diversity climate.
Executive Diversity Award: Member of the Board of Trustees or the Administration who has contributed to improving the diversity climate.
Diversity Faculty Award: Faculty member who has contributed to improving the diversity climate.
Diversity Staff Award: Staff member who has contributed to improving the diversity climate.
For any questions regarding the event, please contact Erica Acosta at erica.acosta@wilkes.edu.

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Wilkes to halt face-to-face classes on Mesa campus

Administrators explain transition to online-only model, effective in Fall 2017

By Sarah Bedford
Editor in Chief

At the end of the spring semester, Wilkes University will end face-to-face classes at its Mesa, Ariz. campus while offering the same curriculum online. Wilkes joined Mesa in 2012 as part of an effort to increase college opportunities and spur economic growth in the area.

Currently, there are 77 students enrolled at the satellite campus, including 34 undergraduate students taking both face-to-face and online classes. The conversion to a completely online program will impact 30 undergraduate and 10 graduate students. The rest of the students are either already completely enrolled online or will be graduating in May.

Provost Dr. Anne Skleder explained that, "we are not closing" and the change is a response to what the students at the Mesa campus needed.

Over the course of last year, university administration and faculty involved in the Mesa program came to the conclusion that it would better serve the needs of those students to go to an online offering.

The university moved to Arizona as another higher education option for people in that region. With larger universities such as Arizona State and for profits and larger community colleges being the few options for students looking to complete their degrees, Wilkes offered another avenue.

Students at the main campus in Wilkes-Barre also had a chance to study for a semester at the Mesa location. Susan Gerencser, a senior business management major studied in Mesa during the spring 2016 semester and found her experience to be taxing.

"I enjoyed spending time in Arizona. The area was gorgeous, and I had never been to that area of the countryside before. I was grateful to have the chance to go," Gerencser said. "The campus was very nice, if somewhat austere. However, the actual SiMesa program (the exchange of Wilkes students from the main campus going to Arizona to spend a semester at the Mesa campus) was disappointing and massively disorganized."

Gerencser explained that students involved had expectations that were not met and, at times, there weren't activities or assistance offered for those students.

Ian Ralston, a junior mechanical and



Courtesy of Wilkes.edu

The Mesa, Ariz. Wilkes Campus, pictured above, was opened in 2012 in an effort to provide more options to individuals in the area seeking higher education, as well as to stimulate the area's economy.

electrical engineering student who studied at the Mesa campus during the same semester as Gerencser explained that he too had both positive and negative experiences.

"I enjoyed the opportunities around the campus. Not only the cultural and scenic appeals, which were considerable, but also the potential job openings at very large and expanding companies like Boeing and ON Semi. I also enjoyed the people of the area as they were laid back and seemed to be able to just enjoy the moment they were in," Ralston said. "Personally, I am neither here nor there on the campus closing. I am very disappointed that only a very small handful of majors would be able to continue at a location that held so much promise as far as future engineers go."

Skleder explained that student dissatisfaction is understandable, as it is a different environment and experience to the main campus.

"It is not a full campus," Skleder explained. "It's understandable because if you're expecting to go to a campus for a semester... it's a beautiful building but it's not a campus."

However, it was never the intention of Wilkes to replicate the main campus into Arizona. Dr. Marianne Rexer, who serves as the interim executive director of the Mesa campus, explained that Wilkes formulated a program based on the needs of those students in Mesa.

"Demographics showed there was a large group of local students who wanted to finish

their degrees but did not want to go to Arizona State University," Rexer explained. "These students were full-time students who attended day classes. Wilkes didn't plan on being a campus like Wilkes-Barre with sports teams and dorms. Our plan was to have a location for students to complete their degrees and with few gen ed classes offered on site; the students would need to take gen ed classes online."

Rexer added that, "Our first year of recruiting showed a group of students that didn't want to attend school full-time after completing their associate degree. These students wanted to finish their degrees but had family needs that required them to have full-time jobs. Even our inaugural group (fall 2015) of full-time undergrad students began to take full-time jobs to meet their family needs. Interest changed significantly from requesting evening classes to requesting online classes in only the last 18 months."

After assessing the needs of the students enrolled, the switch to online was obvious.

"In making this change, we're responding to a very different student body (than the main campus)," Skleder said.

In a March 10 Citizen's Voice article, the claim was made that the change to an online curriculum would reduce costs. However, Skleder explained that finances were not the determining factor.

"We're not doing this to save money," Skleder said. "We're doing this because we're

responding to student preference...we won't be spending less on instruction." She added that the funds saved will be in terms of moving all recruitment to the main campus and that less of the building in Mesa will be used.

While there will no longer be an exchange program between the two sites, main campus students can still enroll into the online courses which will "enrich" their experience and connect with students all over the country, according to Skleder.

Rexer agreed, saying, "The Mesa students are slightly different from the ones in Wilkes-Barre because their job and life experiences are so different. Both groups can enrich the other's education in an online classes involving discussion boards or group projects, etc."

While the Mesa location will not have face-to-face courses, Rexer will still be on site to assist students which is not typical of online programs. Also, graduation celebrations will still occur for graduating students. All Mesa students are invited to attend commencement at the Wilkes-Barre campus.

According to Skleder, this change "opens up our thinking beyond Mesa to other places in the country we may not have thought of... (this is) evidence of a great deal of commitment by our faculty." She added, "We at the university always have to think about serving students better."

Pharmacy students combat opioid epidemic, offer training

Pharmacy students trained public safety officers to deliver life-saving drug on Feb. 3

By Alyssa Mursch
News Editor

Between 2014 and 2015, Luzerne County had a 500 percent increase in opioid-related deaths, which is a larger increase than any other county in Pennsylvania, according to the 2015 DEA Intelligence Report's Analysis of Drug-Related Overdose Deaths in Pennsylvania.

To combat this epidemic, Wilkes University pharmacy students trained Public Safety officers on Feb. 3 as part of a course project through two training sessions that were about an hour each in length.

"This growing opioid epidemic has caused a great increase in the need for people to be trained in how to recognize and effectively respond to an overdose," said P1 student Jennifer Lee, who was one of the students that partook in the training. Lee worked alongside five other P1 students, Britnee Atherholt, Sarah Ahearn, Austin Paisley, Lauren Albright and Quan Nham. The training included a presentation about opioid use and the use of Naloxone (or Narcan), which is a drug that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose.

The presentation was mainly focused on Pennsylvania, and specifically, Wilkes-Barre. After the presentation, there was a brief video about how to properly administer Naloxone. This was followed by a live training session where the officers were able to get some hands on experience in administering the intranasal spray, Lee explained.

"The opioid/heroin issue is not going away anytime soon. It is possible that anyone can see it. Addiction can afflict anyone regardless of age, race, socioeconomic status, religion or upbringing. Just around our campus there have been reports of locals being found in a state of overdose. We are a community and need to look out for each other," said Dr. Thomas Franko, who led the project. "Naloxone is incredibly easy to use, so everyone should know how to save a life."

Although this is the first year the training has been conducted, Franko hopes to see it done annually from here on out. He has also contacted Misericordia University and King's College to see if they would be interested in participating.

The presentation was part of a project for the Foundations of Pharmacy Practice course, which is co-taught by Dr. Kimberly Ferrence and Dr. Edward Foote.

"This presentation gave the students an opportunity to engage in self-directed learning by researching and preparing for a presentation related to a healthcare topic they were not exposed to in the curriculum," Ferrence said. "Preparing for and executing this training gave them an opportunity to

give back to the Wilkes Community while practicing and utilizing a skill that is very important in their future profession."

Lee agreed, saying, "As pharmacists embrace their expanding role in patient care and education, teaching the proper use of opioids and naloxone is becoming an important public health contribution... as a future pharmacist, this training experience has allowed our group the opportunity to educate ourselves in effective education techniques, which is unique since many pharmacy students do not have such an opportunity... it shows me how much of a difference I can make as a future pharmacist."

Franko initially worked with P3 students to create a new, more intense training than what is currently recommended by the state. Franko then took the training they developed and presented it to the P1 students, who helped further condense it into the "need to know" information for the Public Safety training. The students then practiced presenting to other pharmacy students for about two to three weeks.

Although most well-known for reversing the effects of an opioid overdose, Franko pointed out that Naloxone is not only used for that. He gave the example of a child that gets into his mother's pain killers, a mother that is breastfeeding while on medication and thus it gets into her child's system, or a grandmother that gets confused and takes more medication than she should. According to Franko, "Naloxone is just a precaution." For those that do suffer from addiction, it is only the first step to getting them help.

Franko went on to say that there is a stigma against those that suffer from addiction. People often believe that they don't need or deserve help.

"Society treats people with addiction as less than human and burdens on society. In reality, addiction has relapse rates similar to high blood pressure and diabetes, the issue though is that symptoms are behavioral," Franko said. "If your diabetes relapses your sugar goes up, if addiction relapses you rob a bank."

As health professionals, however, they work with the mindset that no one life is greater than another, and it is part of their job to save every life they can.

"We need to overcome this social taboo in order to get these people the help they deserve," Franko said.

Pennsylvania does require its own free Naloxone online training to be certified to administer Naloxone, Lee explained, and it is recommended that the officers get that certificate to prove their competency. This training can be found at getnaloxonenow.org.

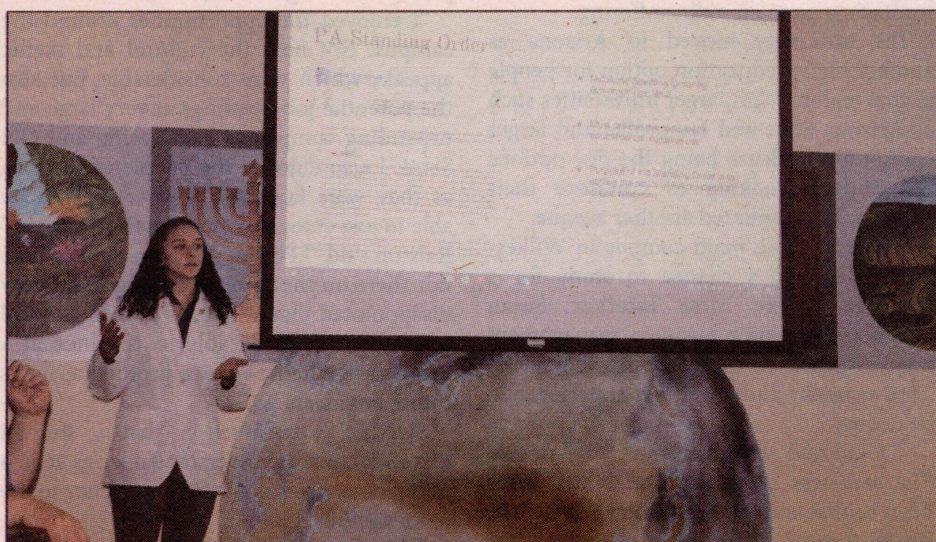
Anyone interested in undergoing this



Courtesy of Dr. Kimberly Ferrence

Pharmacy students who presented naloxone administration training to public safety officers on Feb. 3.

Left to right: Britnee Atherholt, Jennifer Lee, Sarah Ahearn, Austin Paisley, Lauren Albright, Quan Nham.



Courtesy of Dr. Kimberly Ferrence

Britnee Atherholt presents the PA Standing Order regarding administration of Naloxone.

training is encouraged to contact Franko, as Lee said the group is more than willing to offer additional training.

"This training should be done everywhere," Franko said. "There is no part of the country untouched by heroin and the growth in its use."

"Everyone's life is worth saving, so it really is essential that anyone who may encounter

an opioid overdose be able to respond quickly and effectively. Proper training can be the difference between whether or not someone survives an overdose or not."



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“Good Samaritan” Wilkes students offer help to residents

By Toni Pennello
Asst. News Editor

In the aftermath of Stella, four Wilkes students showed what it means to “Be Colonel,” using their snow days as an opportunity to do some good in the community.

On one of their days off, when about 22 inches of the fluffy white stuff were dropped on the city, students Cody Morcom, Dylan Fox, Teddy Marines and Corey Cowitch took to the streets to assist residents who were stuck in the snow.

“In all honesty, we were originally going to meet a friend of ours but as we went to meet him, we ended up stopping five different times to help various people out, including a Wilkes-Barre police officer,” Morcom said.

According to Fox, the group was planning on going sledding.

“...Our friend we were going to go with got tied up with something else. Since we were already driving around on snow day one of three, Teddy decided to keep driving around,” Fox explained. “Once we helped one car, it led to another, and the ball kept rolling. It was really fun and the people we were able to help were really appreciative of our good deeds.”

“By the third person, we changed our motive from meeting our friend to just generally helping those who could not get out of the snow,” Morcom added. “Ted has a beast of a Jeep and it was no problem for us to get through the snow ourselves.”

“I don’t own a tow rope or winch or else we would have tried to pull some people out using the car. Although I think a little manpower usually does the job just as well,” said Jeep-owner Marines.

“We just realized that if we were the ones who got stuck, we would also want people helping us get out of the snow,” Marines said. “One of the guys even offered us money, but of course we didn’t take it, we were out there for the fun.”

“Overall, it was fun doing a little good for people who were very happy to see four boys jump out of a jeep and start pushing their car.”

Fox indicated that the four of them did not intend to receive any publicity for their deeds.

“We were simply doing it for the fun of it and to help others out during the poor road conditions,” Fox said.



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Courtesy of Sean McKeag/The Times Leader

Wilkes Students Cody Morcom, Dylan Fox, Teddy Marines and Corey Cowitch assist a Wilkes-Barre resident whose car is stuck on S. Main St. The group spent their snow day driving around and helping perilled residents after their original plans to go sledding were cancelled.

Conversing with a coordinator: Kristin Osipower

New Interfaith Coordinator discusses goals, projects

By Cabrini Rudnicki
Staff Writer

Wilkes University’s Interfaith Coordinator is one of the newest members on campus. Bright-eyed and optimistic, Kristin Osipower serves as the student body’s resource for faith exploration.

“College allows people to explore new ideas, including religion,” Osipower said. Students interested in learning about different religions and spiritualities can visit Osipower and have an open discussion.

Osipower fosters a no-judgment zone that can be helpful for students looking to explore themselves, she said. Afterward, students can then be linked up to different organizations to further their religious exploration.

“I want to ensure all religious beliefs on campus are represented and treated equal,” Osipower said.

Osipower has degrees in English and European History from Lafayette College. She used to work at the administration office at Wilkes before taking time off for

her pregnancy. She eventually went on to have four children. Before her youngest turned 5, she was a stay-at-home mom. However, during this time, Osipower found joy in volunteering at places such as her children’s school and at church.

“It was like divine intervention,” she said. “I found my calling and what makes me the happiest.”

Osipower came back to work at Wilkes this semester as the new Interfaith Coordinator, which was perfect for her interests, she said.

“The first semester is dedicated to understanding Wilkes culture,” Osipower said. However, she also has big ideas for the future.

She has plans to have multi-faith services on campus, which will be a time for all different religions to worship, without leaning toward one religion or another. She also intends to have open discussions between faiths, and community service projects that tie into religion.

“I want to show that it’s OK to have

motivation through spiritual beliefs,” she explained.

To aid this, she intends to bring guest speakers on campus to discuss religious topics, share how they got involved and how they were inspired by their own religion.

A recent project that Osipower started is “Colonel’s Closet,” the Wilkes food pantry. Open to both residential and commuter students of all faiths, the Colonel’s Closet seeks to get rid of the under-discussed issue of hunger on campus.

Wilkes University is located in a “food desert,” meaning, there is not a grocery store in walking distance, which makes it difficult to get substantial food. The food pantry is open to any donations of food or drinks that would be easy for a college student to make.

Anyone interested in learning more about different faiths, sharing new ideas or donating to the Colonel Closet can visit Osipower in room 202 on the second floor of the SUB.



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The Beacon Archives / Jesse Chalnack

Pictured above, Osipower at memorial service for Brianna Smarkusky.

Wilkes holds week long event, highlights violence against women

"It's On Us Week" will be held March 27-31 with Keynote Speaker Jackson Katz

By Toni Pennello
Asst. News Editor

In January, Title IX Coordinator Samantha Hart announced to the Beacon that Wilkes received a grant from the Department of Education for the It's On Us Campaign, a program whose goal is to end sexual assault through awareness and activism.

Hart applied for the grant with the intention of organizing a week long event "that will promote healthy relationships; improve prevention, reporting, and response to sexual violence on and around our campus community; create meaningful discussion surrounding sexual violence to encourage reporting from survivors; and demonstrate leadership among our students by empowering their ability to change campus culture and educate local high school students on prevention prior to college," as she indicated on the grant application.

A few months later, the event has been planned and will take place from March 27-31.

The keynote address will be delivered by Jackson Katz. Katz is an educator, author, filmmaker and cultural theorist and is known internationally for his work and activism regarding issues of gender, race and violence.

Katz is also known for his TED talk entitled "Violence against women - It's a Men's Issue," which has been viewed more than three million times and featured on radio and television worldwide.

Katz also co-founded the Mentors in Violence Prevention at Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society, regarded as one of the most widely implemented and influential sexual assault and relationship abuse prevention initiatives in North America, and created the first worldwide gender violence prevention program ever in the Marine Corps.

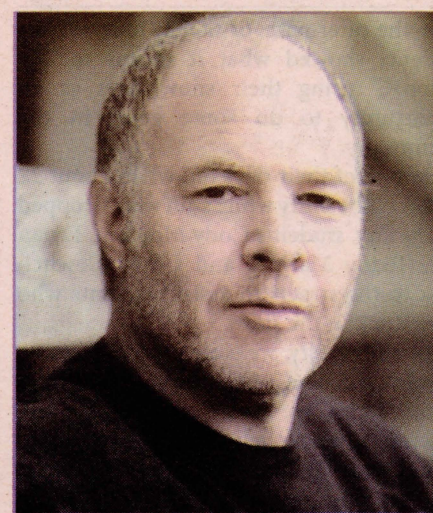
The keynote address will take place on March 27 at 7 p.m. in the Henry Student Center Ballroom. Katz will also conduct a training session and meeting at 9 a.m. in the Henry Student Center Miller Room on March 28. Local high schools will also be invited for bystander intervention training.

"We aren't able to reach our students until orientation... I think the discussions surrounding sexual assault need to start sooner, when students are in high school," Hart told the Beacon in January.

Hart will also administer One Love Escalation training, which is designed to help students safely recognize and address relationship violence that may affect them or their friends, before the abuse escalates.

The One Love Foundation was founded by Sharon Love, whose daughter, Yeardey Love, was murdered by her former boyfriend and fellow University of Virginia Student. The foundation aims to change the social climate that allows abuse to take place, and to arm individuals to be able to intervene when they think dating violence is taking place.

Hart said in January that the grant money would also be used to add to the "Colonels Don't Stand By" video, which highlights bystander intervention training for underclassmen, to now include upperclassmen. It could not be confirmed whether the plan stands.



Courtesy of Wilkes Marketing

Jackson Katz, who will deliver the keynote address, "Men, Women, Sex and Violence" for It's On Us Week.



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It's On Us Week Schedule

Courtesy of Wilkes Marketing

Monday, March 27: Keynote address entitled "Men, Women, Sex and Violence" from Jackson Katz at 7 p.m. in the Henry Student Center Ballroom.

Tuesday, March 28: Training session conducted by Katz at 9 a.m. in the Henry Student Center Miller Room. High school students will also be invited to bystander intervention training.

Wednesday, March 29: One Love Escalation Training conducted by Title IX Coordinator Samantha Hart from 11 a.m. - 1p.m. in the Henry Student Center Ballroom. The training will focus on detecting abusive relationships.

Thursday, March 30: The "It's On Us" and "Colonels Don't Stand By" videos, produced by Wilkes students for bystander intervention training, will play throughout the day. "The Hunting Ground," a documentary about sexual assault on College Campuses, will be shown from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Breiseth 108.

Friday, March 31: Training for staff members involved in campus investigations and hearings related to sexual assault and dating violence. In addition, a 5K Glow Run will be held for suicide awareness. Registration opens at 7 p.m. in the University Center on Main Street.

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have a story or want your event to be featured? Contact the Life, A&E Editor: kimberly.hein@wilkes.edu

Everyday we're shoveling: How to spend a snow day, or four

By Kim Hein

Life, Arts, Entertainment Editor

Snow storms often lead to cancellations of classes, which may cause joy because people can finally take a much needed break. Stella caused the university to close recently for four days in a row. Students were faced with the decision of how to spend all of that free time. Here are five suggestions of how one can spend their next snow day.

1. Get ahead on classwork

Although this might not be someone's first choice, it can not be forgotten. College is often full of students who feel swamped with school work or extracurricular activities. A day off is the perfect opportunity to get ahead and feel good with your work. At least one hour of school work on your snow day may help someone feel a lot less pressure when classes start up again.

2. Spend time with family

If someone is a commuter, they will be able to relate to this one. Being in and out of college classes and meetings all day can be exhausting. One may begin to see their families less and less. A snow day is the perfect time to catch up with different family members. This can include playing games, watching movies, or even just eating meals together.

3. Order a lot of take out

This one depends on the amount of snow that the area receives. Normally, one can call for take out at pizza places, Chinese restaurants, or whatever anyone wants. During Stella, most places were closed. However, if one can call for delivery, stock up and order a lot of food. This is fun in the resident halls because everyone can order different food and create a "smorgasbord" of food to share.



The Beacon/Puvit Patel

Winter Storm Stella left the Wilkes campus looking a bit like a ghost town with a four day snow day streak. Pictured above is the back of the Cohen Science Center, with mounds of snow building.

4. Play in the snow

The obvious thing to do during a snow day is to play in the snow. The campus greenway makes for a great place to have a snowball fight or to play football in the snow. If students want to go sledding with no sled, it's time to be innovative and look around the dorm rooms. The lids of bins can easily be used as a sled and some lids of certain trashcans can be used as a sled as well.

5. Sleep

One last thing that one can do during a snow day is sleep. Use the snow day as a way to catch up on the sleep that one may be missing out on during the semester. This one was saved for last in case none of the other options seemed appealing. Sleep is something that almost everyone gets excited about, so if all else fails, sleep the snow day away.

How'd you spend your snow days? Have other ideas to fight the winter blues? Let us know!

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RECIPE OF THE WEEK: Egg Cup and Bacon Soldiers

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 slices pre-sliced sandwich bread
- 12 rashers streaky bacon
- 50 grams melted butter
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste

Design by Nicole Kutos

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F.
2. Cut the crusts off the bread.
3. Slice the bacon in half lengthways, and wrap a piece around each crust. Place them on a baking tray.
4. Brush cupcake tin with melted butter. Press the bread into the muffin tin, then brush more butter onto the bread.
5. Bake the bacon soldiers for 10 minutes til they are about halfway cooked and starting to render their fat.
6. At the same time, bake bread cups for 10 minutes or until the bread is turning golden brown.
7. Flip the bacon.
8. Season with salt and pepper.
9. Bake the bacon soldiers for another 10-12 minutes until the bacon is crispy.
10. At the same time, bake the eggs for another 10-12 minutes until they are just cooked.
10. Dip and enjoy!



recipe from:
Tasty Food

Do you have a favorite dorm room recipe that's convenient for college students always on the go?

• Submit it to Amanda Bialek, LA&E Assistant Editor

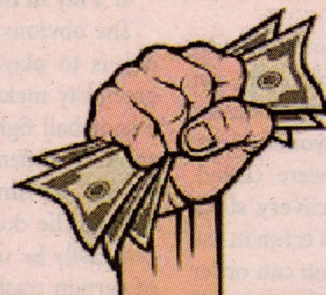
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The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild Game Review

By Zachary Smith
Staff Writer

Editors note: (This game was reviewed using the Nintendo Switch version.)

It needs to be said that I was never really a big Zelda fan. I have tried to be. I have played multiple games in the series, including Ocarina of Time and Twilight Princess, but they never really stuck with me. I've never thought they were bad games by any stretch; I was just never able to get into the game play or plots of them.

Then Breath of the Wild came along...

By now many of you have most likely heard that Breath of the Wild is good. Not just good, but excellent. So I will give out my A+ rating now and get it out of the way so we can look at just why this game is as good as it is.

The first and biggest aspect that needs to be discussed of Breath of the Wild is its world.

It.

Is.

Huge.

Having played many open world games, I can safely say that (with the exception of MMO's) this is the biggest world I have ever had the pleasure of exploring. Not only is this game world big, it's dense. I have gone hours upon hours of exploring this game without touching the main plot.

What makes the exploration so great is the fact that you are given all of the tools you need to do so right at the beginning. In previous Zelda games you had to go to X temple to get Y gadget to open up Z path in order to progress. In Breath of the Wild, after finishing the first area which functions as a sort of tutorial, you can head straight to the final boss if you want to. This game is all about freedom, going and doing what you want to do in the way you want to do it.

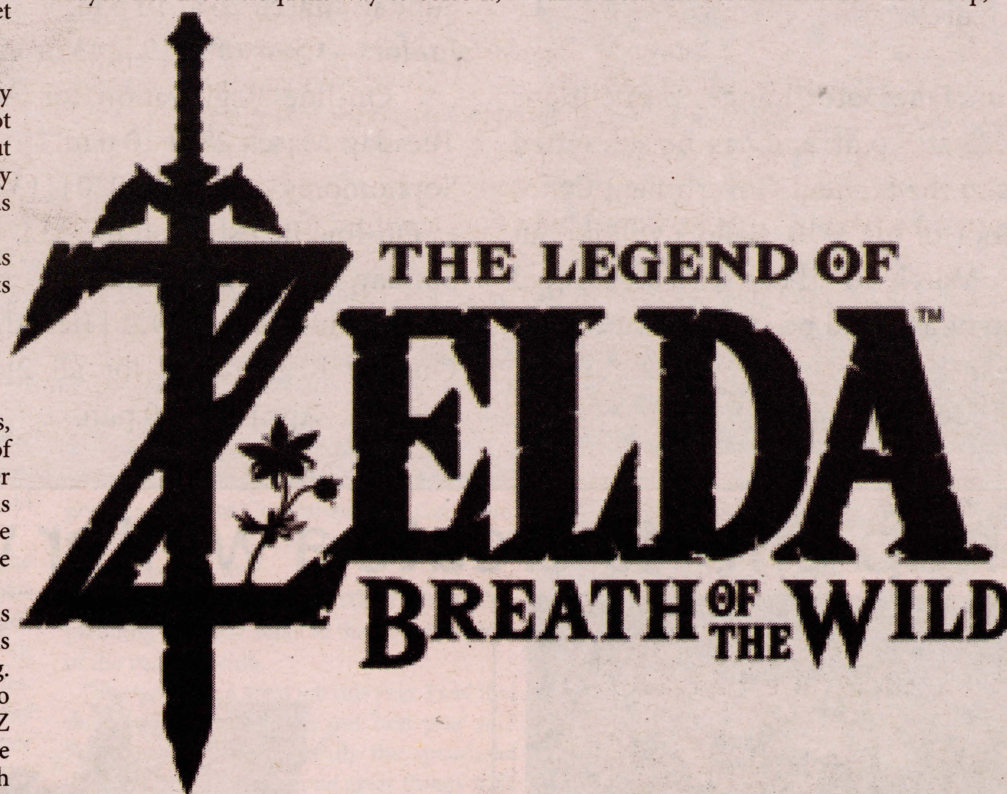
Exploration is the game's greatest strength, and the complete freedom you have to go where you want allows for some incredible moments to unfold organically. In one moment I was sneaking up on a sand walrus to get some meat to cook when I discovered you could actually ride them around the desert I was in, shortly afterwards I was sand surfing around the dunes before suddenly getting chased by a giant sandworm. There was nothing around to tell you that moments like these existed and further serve to make you feel like this is a living breathing world.

Freedom extends to the puzzles in the game as well. While there are ways that the designers had in mind for you to solve puzzles, often you can discover other ways to do so as well that they might not even

have thought of. For instance, in one puzzle, you need to use a giant hammer to hit a ball against a giant button. The way to do this involves a control panel nearby. Failing to see that control panel, I instead used the time stop mechanic on the ball and hit it a bunch of times with explosives to build up its momentum. When I released the time stop, the ball shot out in the direction away from the explosions and hit the button. Maybe not most eloquent way to solve it,

reward Link with a Korok Seed which can be exchanged for greater inventory space for your melee weapons, bows, and shields. There are 900 Koroks total in the world, and can be found in a variety of circumstances from lifting rocks, to shooting targets in the air. Players will have to keep a sharp eye out in order to find them all!

With that all being said, Breath of the Wild is not a perfect game. The game does suffer from the occasional frame rate drop,



but it was solved nonetheless.

There are only four main temples to contend with this time around and without spoiling anything they are a treat. While not as big (internally) as I remember their predecessors to be, they are massive in size and just getting inside them is a puzzle in itself. The bosses in these temples range from easy to quite difficult yet there is no real order in which you are expected to tackle them in.

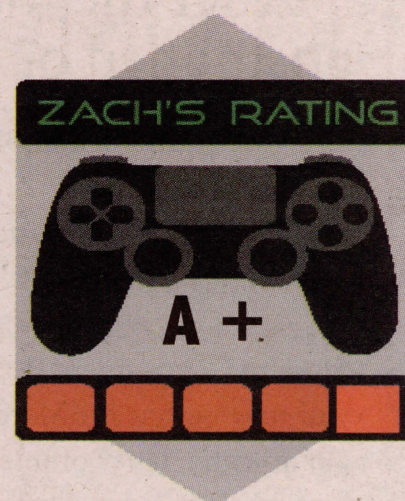
Scattered around the world as well are shrines, functioning as a mini temple of sorts, these often offer smaller puzzles that will often be seen later on in the bigger temples. Completing these shrines gives the players Spirit Orbs which, when you collect four of them, allows you to expand your health or stamina, increasing your ability to explore and survive in the wild.

Along with the shrines and temples that are all over Hyrule, are little creatures called Koroks. Finding these guys will

though they happen rather infrequently. The weapon durability system is also a giant pain as most weapons you find will break after roughly 15-25 strikes with them. To be honest though, these issues are minor blemishes on what is an incredible feat of game design. If you're like me, you will be enjoying the other aspects too much to really notice the occasional hiccup.

At the risk of overhyping the game, which has most likely happened already, I would say that Breath of the Wild has earned a place among what I consider to be some of the best games ever made. If this is the type of quality that we can continue to expect from Nintendo in its future first-party releases for the Nintendo Switch, then their future is bright indeed.

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Pros – Beautiful world that is as fun to explore as it is to look at. Simple yet interesting story. Unprecedented freedom.

Cons – Some technical hiccups. Weapon degradation system can be annoying, Grade – A+

Have a game review you'd like to share?

Send it to us!

kimberly.hein@wilkes.edu

Winter storm Stella causes postponement of events

After the four-day cancellation of classes, many events had to be postponed or canceled. Below are details that our staff could gather.

- **VIP Day**-postponed until further notice
- **WUPB Pizza Wars**- cancelled; hosting Glow Bingo on March 23 with pizza and prizes
- **Student Government Petition Due Date Change**- The petitions will now be due on March 22 at 5 p.m. and can be submitted along with a letter of intent to the Student Government Office or Club Hub on the first floor of the SUB. Ballots will go out March 23 and will close on March 28. Those who are elected will be e-mailed Tuesday night and will be inducted at the SG meeting on March 29 at 6 p.m.
- **Career Fair**- postponed until further notice

Registration Dates for Fall/Summer 2017

Seniors – Class of 2018 | (73 or more current credits earned)

On-line Registration for ALL Upcoming Seniors begins Sunday, March 26 at 10 p.m.

Juniors – Class of 2019 | (43 or more current credits earned)

On-line Registration for ALL Upcoming Juniors begins Tuesday, March 28 at 10 p.m.

Sophomores – Class of 2020 | (13 or more current credits earned)

On-line Registration for ALL Upcoming Sophomores begins Sunday, April 2 at 10 p.m.

Freshmen–Class of 2021 | (less than 13 current credits earned)

On-line Registration for all 2nd semester Freshmen begins Tuesday, April 4 at 10 p.m.

Campus cleanup efforts create a winter wonderland



With winter storm Stella causing mayhem across the northeast, university facilities and maintenance workers work round the clock to get campus in tiptop shape.



Above: Snow plows at the ready.

The Beacon/ Purvit Patel

Wilkes University Running Club holds annual Relay for Heat

By Amanda Bialek
LAE Asst. Editor

As temperatures continue to drop, some members of the Northeastern Pennsylvania community need assistance with their heating bills. To help local families afford the cost of heat, the Wilkes University Running Club will hold its annual 100-mile Relay for Heat on Saturday, March 25.

"Relay for Heat aims to raise money and awareness for local families who cannot afford to heat their homes in the winter," Eileen Friery, pharmacy student said. "Being one of the few fundraisers that raises money for this cause, Relay for Heat provides a much-needed service, especially given that we live in Northeastern Pennsylvania."

This is the 13th year that the running club is hosting Relay for Heat. Students, faculty, staff and alumni, as well as other members of the community, are invited to participate in this family-friendly event.

"People of all ages should participate for many reasons," Friery said. "Heat is something that is used regardless of ages, it is not specific to any one age group. No matter how old you are, this is a problem that could potentially affect you."

Participants will meet at the path on the top of the dikes in Kingston at 6 a.m. on the morning of the relay. There will be a table set up nearby where participants sign in and report back to after running their miles. Every runner runs a four-mile leg of the relay until the 100 miles is covered. Two people usually run at a time although sometimes larger groups run together.

"We do this to raise money to help poor families with their heating bills by getting people to pledge donations per mile or for a person," Dr. William Terzaghi, Running Club adviser said. "All funds that we raise are donated to the Martin Luther King Fuel Fund, which is administered by the Commission for Economic Opportunity."

Individuals can donate to the fund in a few different ways. They can either pledge an amount per mile ran, or a fixed amount. Participants are welcome to donate during the day of the relay. If people wish to donate prior to the event, they can make checks payable to Wilkes University Running Club, write MLK Fuel Fund on the memo line and mail the check to "Relay for Heat" c/o Dr. Terzaghi at Wilkes University, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766.

"I am extremely proud to be a member

of the community here, and this [relay] provides me with a perfect opportunity to give back to a community which has given my university and me so much," Friery said.

Relay for Heat encourages everyone to be active and also helps participants make a positive impact in the community.

"It's really important in the community, especially on days like today, when there is so much snow," Schlottmann said. "There's a lot of people that unfortunately cannot afford heat so they're living in cold houses."

Whether people want to walk or run the relay, every mile counts.

"It's a chance to get out and have some fun and get some exercise while contributing to a worthy cause," Terzaghi said.

In previous years, Eileen Friery was the running club president and was responsible for organizing Relay for Heat.

"It requires a lot of planning, waiting for permissions from the city, encouraging people to get out there and run and so much more," Friery said. "I have always had fun organizing the event, but my favorite part was easily the day of the relay."

Seeing all of my hard work paying off and giving a check to Commission for Economic Opportunity is a very rewarding feeling," according to Friery.

Olivia Schlottmann has taken the lead in planning the 2017 relay as the new president of the running club.

"She has done a great job this year, I feel that this could very easily be our best year yet," Friery said. "Olivia is really the spearhead this year, and she has done great things with this event."


Last year the club raised over \$2,000 through donations around campus and in the community.

"It's been a success over the years. Last year was great because it was the biggest turnout we had," Schlottmann said.

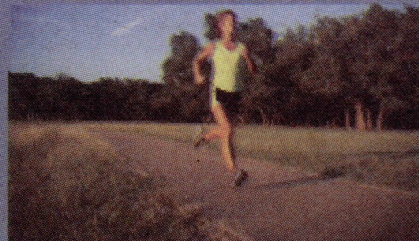
About 40 Wilkes students ran the relay back in 2016. "The biggest change I would like to see is for better participation mid-morning in the 9-12 time slots," Terzaghi said.

Wilkes Running Club hopes to raise more than \$2,500 this year.

For more information about Relay for Heat or joining the Wilkes Running Club, contact William Terzaghi at 570-408-4762 or william.terzaghi@wilkes.edu or Olivia Schlottmann at olivia.schlottmann@wilkes.edu.

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amanda.bialek@wilkes.edu

RELAY FOR HEAT



WHEN: Saturday, March 25th,
Begins at 6am and continues until at least 100 miles are run collectively by all participants

WHERE: Kingston dikes

All Donations will go toward the Martin Luther King Fuel Fund

For more information please contact William Terzaghi at william.terzaghi@wilkes.edu or Olivia Schlottmann at olivia.schlottmann@wilkes.edu.

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SUPER STORM STELLA HITS WILKES-BARRE

Super snow storms of
the 20th and 21st centuries

Sarah Bedford
Editor-In-Chief

People who have lived in the Northeastern part of the U.S. know that snow is just something that comes along with the winter season. Unlike most winters, NEPA got hit last week with the largest amount of snow it has seen in more than 20 years.

Aside from Pennsylvania, other states like New Jersey and New York experienced the blizzard as well but not to the extent that the state of Pennsylvania did.

To put it into perspective, New Jersey experienced the blizzard's wrath for a day, and most schools and jobs were able to open back up the next day. Meanwhile in Pennsylvania, most schools were closed for three days due to the danger the snow presented.

The 2017 blizzard was fairly similar to the great Blizzard of '93.

The only major difference was that the blizzard of '93 claimed many lives while the death tolls 2017 blizzard has not been reported if there even were any. Other than that, they both have had a major impact.

For this year's blizzard depending on what part of the Northeast you reside in, people could have received anywhere from 8 inches to upwards of 40 inches. Whether an area got a small or large amount, the snow interrupted schools and businesses through cancellations.

The roads were extremely poor to drive on, let alone walking on them. The conditions were so bad that on the first day of the blizzard that in the afternoon, the snow was accumulating largely at such a rapid pace that only emergency vehicles were allowed on the roads.

As for Wilkes students, this year's blizzard was like a second spring break because this was the week students came back from break and only had class on Monday.

The Blizzard of '93 went down in history as one of the biggest snowstorms to ever hit the country with the 2017 blizzard joining it.

According to AccuWeather, the Blizzard of '93 killed more than 300 people and dumped

more than 20 inches of snow across a wide corridor of the Appalachians and Northeast. Some of the highest snowfall amounts include 42.9 inches in Syracuse, N.Y., 30.9 inches in Beckley, W.Va., and 25.3 inches in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Personally, I was not alive for the historic blizzard but my sister's second birthday party never happened because of the blizzard. Twenty-four years later, it is safe to say she has gotten over it.

The Blizzard of '93 was regarded as the storm of the century and with such copious similarities, the Blizzard of 2017 will go down in the history books possibly under the same category. It will also be remembered for the sheer impact it created, especially its impact on the Wilkes community.

If this year's blizzard taught us anything it is to always have your shovels and salt ready. Can you never know when another storm of the century will strike again.



An estimated 22 inches of snow fell on the Wilkes campus March 13 through March 15, causing campus to close for four days and a travel ban to be launched on Tuesday.



Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact the opinion editors: mark.makowski1@wilkes.edu or andre.spruell@wilkes.edu

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Our Voice

CIA's spying abilities becoming too powerful



By Danny VanBrunt
Sports Editor

WikiLeaks, on March 7, unveiled a massive leak of documents called "Vault 7," and it is the largest ever publication of confidential documents from the CIA.

The first part is called "Year Zero." It is almost nine-thousand pages long and WikiLeaks Editor Julian Assange noted that this first leak was only one-percent of the confidential data that he hopes to release.

I cannot agree with Assange's publication of hacked material, but I firmly believe that the CIA is abusing its power after the release of these documents.

These documents have revealed that the CIA has initiated a covert, global hacking fleet separate from the NSA. They use technology to hack into various household items and change them into covert microphones like Apple iPhones, Google's Android, Microsoft's Windows and Samsung TVs.

The CIA's hacking division allowed them to not disclose the information to the NSA, and they did not want to disclose it to the NSA because the CIA's hacking powers are often controversial.

The source of the leaked documents to WikiLeaks said that he or she "has policy questions that they say urgently need to be debated in public, including whether

the CIA's hacking capabilities exceed its mandated powers and the problem of public oversight of the agency."

The source wishes to initiate a public debate about the security, creation, use, proliferation and democratic control of cyberweapons," (WikiLeaks).

I agree with this assessment of the issue.

As stated earlier, I agree with Assange because the CIA could be abusing its power by hacking on civilians. In the past year, Assange has released so many documents that are all true, yet his work can still get people into trouble.

Edward Snowden is a whistleblower who is not allowed in the U.S. anymore for leaking less information than "Year Zero" about the NSA's spying capabilities in over three years.

Assange also claims that he retracts all personal information from his publications; however, there are potentially many different ways that these leaks could hurt individuals or invade their privacy. WikiLeaks now promises that their material will not put anyone's life in danger, but his work has before.

Back in 2013, Reuters published an article called "NSA staff used spy tools on spouses, exlovers: watchdog," and this article stated that at least a dozen U.S. National Security Agency employees had been caught using tools to spy on the current or former spouses in the past decade.

The article ends by saying that the employees in several instances either resigned, retired, were demoted, given extra days of duty, had their pay cut or had their access to data revoked.

Our spying abilities are becoming too powerful. Too much power is given to the CIA and the NSA without oversight, and that can be disastrous.

Our enemies, and even loved ones, can obtain these abilities and use them against us.



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Each week a Beacon editor
will take a stance on a
current topic.

Note: The views expressed
are those of the writer.

The more common, yet still difficult idea of interracial dating

By Andre Spruell
Opinion Co-Editor

Throughout world history, there have been many instances where nations try to conquer others and force them to follow their particular way of life. Nowadays, it is becoming more popular for people to date outside of their culture.

Being a product of interracial parents, I know all the difficulties they went through in the 90s and, even today, what I personally have to endure.

Even though it has become more common for people to date outside of their culture and race, there are still many difficulties present.

Although the idea of dating someone outside of your race or culture is great because it creates diversity, there are people who are not as comfortable with it.

There are many factors as to why someone may not be comfortable with it. Two common factors are racism and the fact that it is a new idea.

Racism is one of the first rationales that comes to mind for the simple fact that if someone has a race or ethnicity that stirs them the wrong way, that person would not be comfortable with someone they care about dating someone else from that certain hated race.

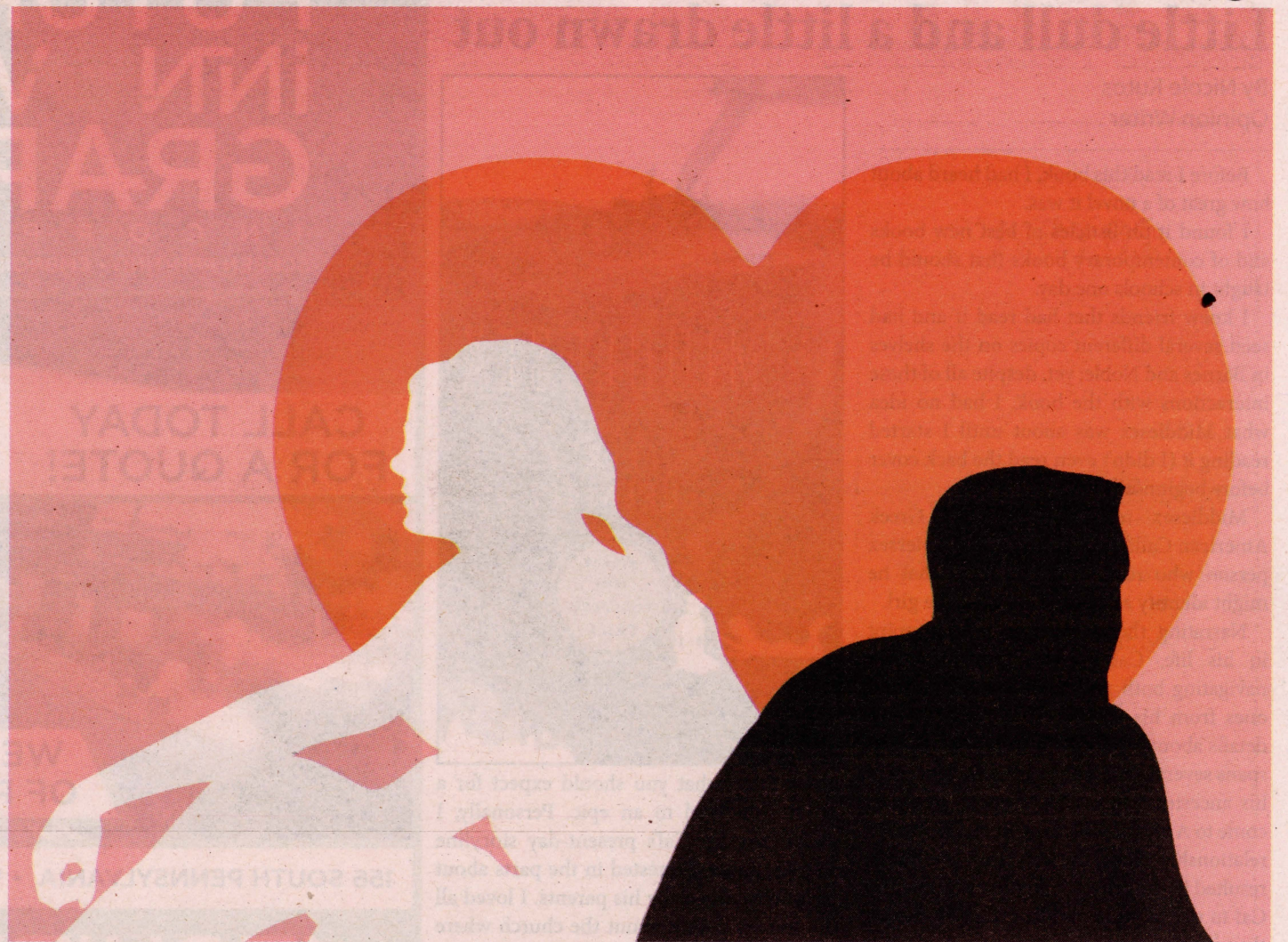
It seems that the ones that have the biggest problem with interracial dating are people from previous generations, which are parents and grandparents. This makes sense because the idea of dating someone outside of their culture was not as common in their generations.

The fact that this is new also bothers many people from these generations because when change comes about, people either adapt to the change or try to resist it. For the most part, the older generation tends to resist it unless they have dated outside of their culture themselves.

When it comes to interracial dating, the previous generations having an issue with it is what makes it the most difficult.

I think this aspect makes it the most difficult because the older generation consists of parents and grandparents, who are people that have a special place in our hearts because they raised us, and we care unconditionally for them.

As a result, having someone that you care



about tremendously not liking the person you are dating because of their culture or race is discouraging.

Even though I am black and Hispanic, I have dated girls who are white. Even though both sides of my family tease me about it, they have never made me feel some type of way about it.

On the other hand, when I have met a girl's family, there have been instances where everything is good, but there have been other times where I felt like I was being judged simply on physical appearance.

Interracial dating is something that should be embraced because the U.S. is a country that embraces the idea of a "melting pot."

Multiple cultures making up this country is what has been emphasized for years, yet having a love interest with someone else from a different culture can create a problem within some families.

Out of all the races and cultures out there, the type of interracial couple that faces the biggest challenges are a black and white couple, especially a black male with a white female.


I think these two races have the most difficult time based on the historical fact that millions of Africans were enslaved in the United States for many years before finally being free after the Civil War. Also because of the race riots and Jim Crow laws that occurred in southern states during the 1950s-1960s, which was only 50 to 60 years ago.

The idea of a black man going out with a white girl has also hit the big screen.

Get Out is a movie that came out this year which depicts the story of a black man dating a white woman but the family of the woman is not fond of her black boyfriend. The film delves into the difficulties of dating outside of your race and culture and has gained many high reviews for doing so.

The older generations must adapt to these new ideas because in today's world, there are so many changes coming about fairly quickly, whether it be socially or technologically.

In order for this generation to make advances and do things like date someone outside of their culture or race, the older generation must let go of their old ideals and let this generation create the change.

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Middlesex book review: Little dull and a little drawn out

By Nicole Kutos
Opinion Writer

Before I read this book, I had heard about how great of a novel it was.

I found it on listicles of best new books and of contemporary books that should be taught in schools one day.

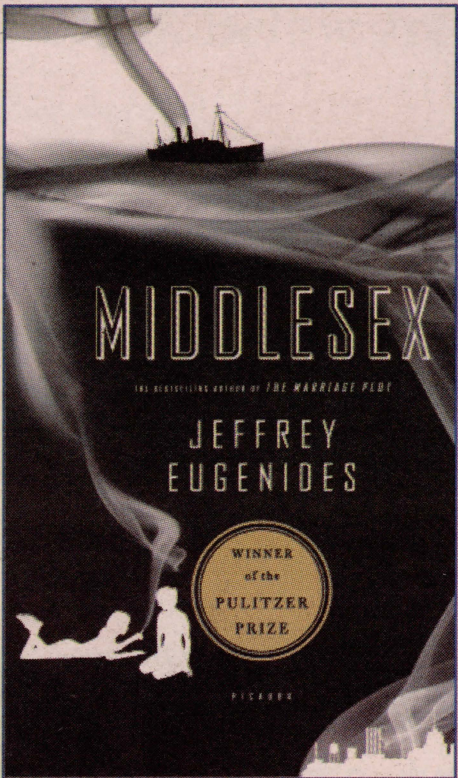
I knew friends that had read it and had seen several different copies on the shelves in Barnes and Noble; yet, despite all of these interactions with the book, I had no idea what Middlesex was about until I started reading it (I didn't even read the back cover before beginning).

Middlesex tells the story of Greek American Calliope Stephanides, an intersex person who realizes in his teens that he might identify as a boy more than the girl.

Narrating the story from a later point in his life, Cal explores his difficulties navigating both new relationships and old ones from his childhood. He also reveals details about his family history; his recount spans several generations as he explains how his ancestors left a war-infested Greece to come to America, engaging in an incestuous relationship along the way that eventually resulted in the genetic mutation that enables Cal to occupy this middle ground between the sexes.

For me, this novel's defining feature isn't about gender ambiguity. Nor is it about incest or war-torn families. This novel is about shifts--shifts in social, political, cultural, spiritual, biological, and environmental patterns. While Cal is the protagonist and the novel's title most certainly hints at his transition, every member of the Stephanides family engages in some sort of major change throughout the novel. For instance, Lefty and Desmonda move in with their child's family, while later Milton loses his small restaurant but creates his Hercules Hot Dog chain. The amount of detail in each part of the storyline helps these shifts take form as Eugenides constructs a contemporary epic; the author definitely conducted a lot of research to supplement each period of his novel.

Overall, I didn't mind this book from Eugenides; however, I did feel like it was a little dull and drawn-out at times, but I



guess that's what you should expect for a novel compared to an epic. Personally, I didn't care for Cal's present-day storyline as I was more interested in the parts about his family, especially his parents. I loved all the minute details about the church where Desmonda worked and about the family's cars; for me, those pieces really put in perspective the different time periods and the changes between generations of the family.

Nicole's Rating



3/5 Stars

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Colonels Talk Back

Winter Wonderland

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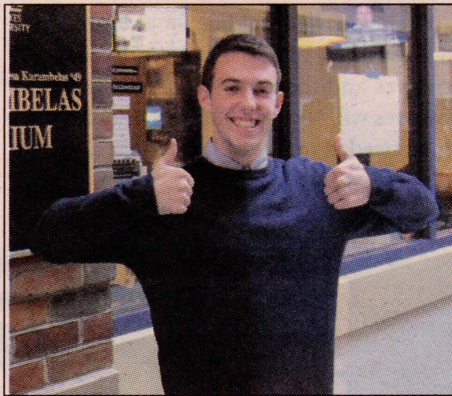
Photos by
Jesse Chalnack
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The Beacon asked Wilkes University Students on how they spend their snow days during Blizzard Stella. The students were also asked about their favorite snow day activity.

Want to be in the next Colonels Talk Back? Email peyton.neishman@wilkes.edu

Kyle Joyce
Sophomore
Accounting

"During the Blizzard, Stella, I literally laid on my couch and slept the whole time. I didn't even watch Netflix or anything like that. I don't have a favorite winter activity. I pretty much stayed inside the past few days."



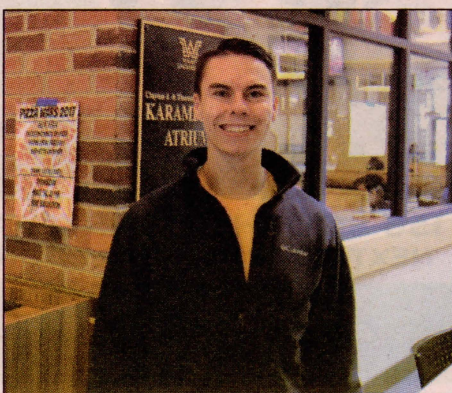
Shawn Miller
Senior
Engineering

"During these past few snow days, I went out with my friends and played in the snow. We had a few snowball fights which is one of my favorite activities in the snow. I watched some television and caught up on my Netflix shows."



Cody Morcom
Junior
Pharmacy

"During the past few snow days, I have been going around with some friends and helping push cars out of the snow. I've also studied and relaxed a lot. My favorite snow day activity is skiing."



Athena Wynn
Sophomore
Nursing

"During the past few snow days, I really caught up on my homework and finished all my nursing papers. I also spent time with my friends and watched movies. My favorite snow day activity is bundling up and playing in the snow."



Mary Catherine Treuting
Sophomore
Nursing

"During the past few snow days, I was so sick, I couldn't go out in the snow. I stayed in watching Shameless on Netflix. My favorite snow day activity is building snowmen."



Bryan Bilbao
Senior
Sociology/ Neuroscience

"During the snow storm, I actually jumped out a window in to a huge pile of snow. I love just playing out in the snow with my friends. I also watched Netflix and relaxed."

The importance of an internship

Beneficial, positive real world experience

By Mark Makowski
Opinion Co-Editor

When looking back on your college career or looking forward toward it, you may think what the most important thing of college was, besides the degree of course.

You may look back on a trip you took or a party you went to and enjoyed. I believe the most important thing you can do in college is to obtain an internship. Does it look great on a resume? Yes. But this is some of the most important practice you can have before entering your prospective job field after graduating college.

The great news about an internship is what I mentioned earlier, practice. An internship gives you real world experience - you can always try to simulate this experience but it usually does not equal the same thing. I have had my own internship for two

months now and there are situations that I have never had to face while participating with my extracurricular activities at Wilkes.

With my current internship I realize how much of a high pressure environment the television world can be. However, I was prepared for that kind of atmosphere so it did not phase me. But everyone is different. That's another reason why an internship is so important, you may be studying a certain field and then you have the chance to intern in that field. You may realize that this is a field that you are not interested in or you do not have what is needed to be successful in this field.


I have also learned through my internship how full your plate always is, but you are always able to achieve success if you have the determination needed.

Another great reason to sign up for an internship is the networking opportunities

that can arise. These opportunities to meet people can pay off in the future when you enter the job field or changing careers later down the road.

The opportunity for a job opening can also occur while you are working as an intern. This can give you a step up on the competition that will be applying for the same position because you will know exactly what the company is looking for. They also know who you are and do not have to spend time researching you or studying your resume as they most likely have a copy of it already.

When you are thinking about looking for an internship, take the time to look at the positives and the negatives. Most likely the positives will win and you will be able to get much needed real world experience.

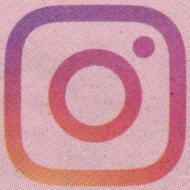
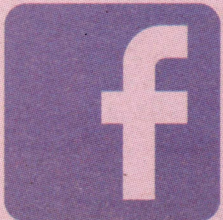
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Three Wilkes Wrestlers named NWCA Division III Scholar All-Americans

By Taylor Ryan
Co-Sports Editor

At Wilkes University, the wrestling team is known for its success on the mat. The team members and program have time and time again displayed their high level of competitiveness, and overall commitment to the sport, while representing Wilkes University.

As the wrestling season has concluded, the team members have gotten some time off to relax. The wrestling team finished with a 20-5 overall record and had many individuals continue on to qualify for the Regional tournament as well as the NCAA Championship, and even on to the National tournament. When looking at their stats, their records and their large amount of wins, it may seem like all of the time, and effort these athletes put in are directly to their sport.

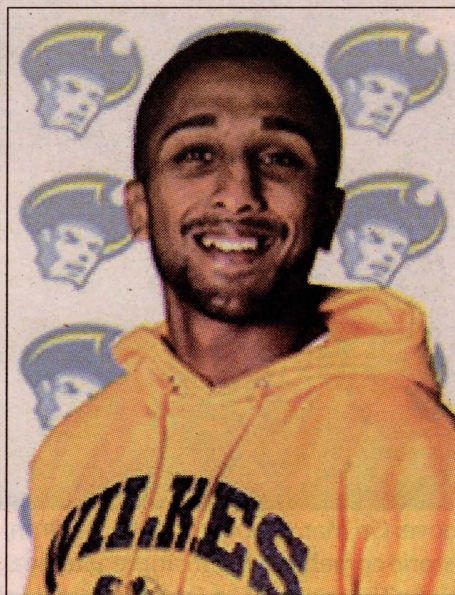
While the team does put such a large amount of time and dedication into their performances on the mat, they are also focused and determined in the classroom.

Recently, three members of the wrestling team were awarded and recognized as NWCA Division III Scholar All-Americans. This award is one of the most prestigious awards a student athlete can receive in their four years.

According to gowilkesu.com, In order to receive this award one must be in at least their second semester at a school, hold a GPA of at least 3.2 and must meet at least one of the following wrestling criteria:

1. NCAA Qualifier with a record above .500
2. Regional top 6 AND greater than .500 record AND competed in 50 percent or greater of a team's schedule
3. Record above 0.670 AND competed in 50 percent or greater of a team's schedule

The three wrestlers recognized were as follows: Pankil Chander, a senior business administration major, who currently holds a GPA of 3.26 has always put academics as a high priority. He also finished his senior season with a 29-9 individual record. Nicholas Raccanelli, a junior biology major,



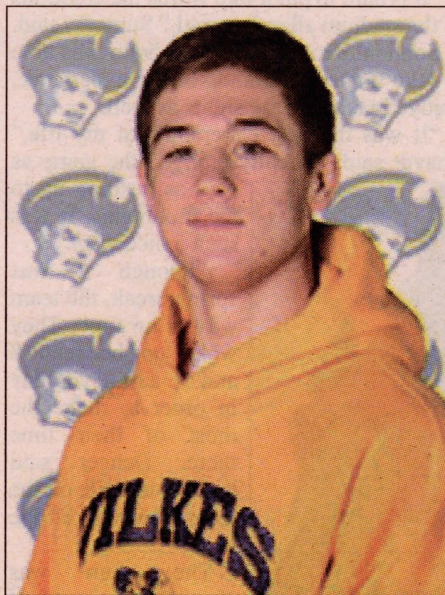
Pankil Chander

currently holding a cumulative 3.24 GPA, Raccanelli also had a spectacular season, finishing in the NCAA tournament and with an overall record of 35-9. Lastly, the youngest of the bunch, Denzel Tovar, has a GPA of 3.5 in the nursing program and concluded his

"We just want well rounded kids. Outside our wrestling walls will display the plaques of these individuals on the way to our locker room. I like to think that represents kids that are the foundation and building blocks of our team. Its our number one goal that everyone graduate."

first season with a 16-4 overall record.

When Chander was asked about his thoughts on receiving this award, alongside two other teammates, he stated, "This recognition is a positive affirmation on how abiding by a certain lifestyle will contribute to growth. This is great for the team overall because you have returners like Nick Raccanelli and Denzel Tovar who are hammers on the mat and work hard to do



Nicholas Raccanelli

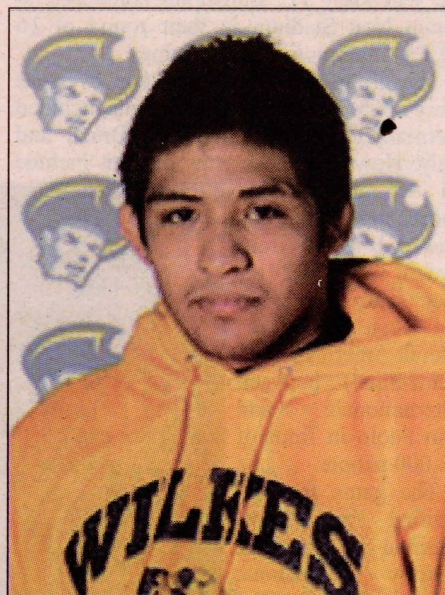
well in school, those two exhibit strong moral characters which will inevitably spread to other guys on the team creating a more well-rounded squad."

The team has always been strictly observed and instructed. It has been instilled in the

-Head Coach Jon Laudenslager

team members that in order to be successful on the map, you must also be successful in all of the other aspects that are included in being a student athlete.

Nicholas Raccanelli discussed the amount of time and effort it takes to accomplish this, saying, "Fridays and Saturdays are not days where I go out but they are now days where I compete. Schoolwork and studying that would normally be saved for the weekend



Courtesy of gowilkesu.com

Denzel Tovar

is now done on my free time I have between classes or on days where I don't have class in the morning. Sleep is key and getting a good night's rest is extremely important not just for the body but for the mind as well."

This is clearly an achievement that has not been taken for granted, and has been worked towards by all members of the team.

Chander concluded the interview with, "Coach Laudenslager, he always emphasized the significance of striving for this award - we see the wall of Academic All-Americans every day on our way into the locker room; he says that the guys on that wall are the ones who go on to build respectable lives."

These three wrestlers have set themselves up for endless opportunities in their futures, working hard in the classroom and on the mat has resulted in an achievement that will impact the future of this team and program as a whole.

Check back with the Beacon for more spring sports updates.

Women's fútbol team spends spring break in Spain

By Luke Modrovsky
Sports Asst. Editor

Wilkes women's soccer recently enjoyed a 10-day spring break trip to Spain. The highlight of the trip: witnessing first-hand the legendary FC Barcelona comeback at Camp Nou Stadium in their round of 16 UEFA Champions League game.

The group made its fourth trip overseas since 2005. Recent trip destinations included Germany/Belgium/Netherlands, Brazil and Italy. However, those trips did not include an unforgettable soccer match like this one did, aside from Brazil, when in 2010, then team witnessed the Copa Libertadores (South American Club Semi-Final) between Internazionale and Sao Paulo in front of 98,000 people.

The game featured visiting Paris Saint-Germain against historic Barcelona. Trailing 4-0 after the first leg, or game on Feb. 14, Barcelona had a monumental task at hand. They needed to win the aggregate goal total in order to move onto the quarterfinal round. It would be Sergi Roberts who sent home the game winner in the 90+5 minute of the game.

In the game, Barcelona managed to score six goals, two of them during extra time, and 3 in 8 minutes, in order to advance. Some have labeled this game as the "greatest comeback of all time". Since the UEFA Champions League began in 1955, there has never been such a comeback.

The women's soccer team was among over 96,000 fans in attendance. After the game, the streets turned into one giant party.

Junior Elena Denger said it was one of the best experiences in her life.

"It was an absolute unforgettable experience," said Denger, "After the game, there were random people hugging us because they were so excited."

Head Coach John Sumoski agreed the atmosphere of the stadium was unbelievable.

"It is hard to put it into words the emotions of the stadium after that goal," Sumoski said.

Sophomore Alyssa Shaver, who was able to take numerous photos of the experience, enjoyed taking in the sights as well.

"It was the best experience of my life," Shaver said, "I really enjoyed the game as well as heading up to the mountains. It was such a nice view."

Although it was spring break, the team wasted no time. They woke up between 8 and 9 a.m. everyday in order to make the most of their time there. Denger said they would pile on the team's bus and hit the road.

The team was also able to explore the sights of Spain, such as shopping in downtown Barcelona and visiting Camp Nou Stadium the day after the historic game. They also

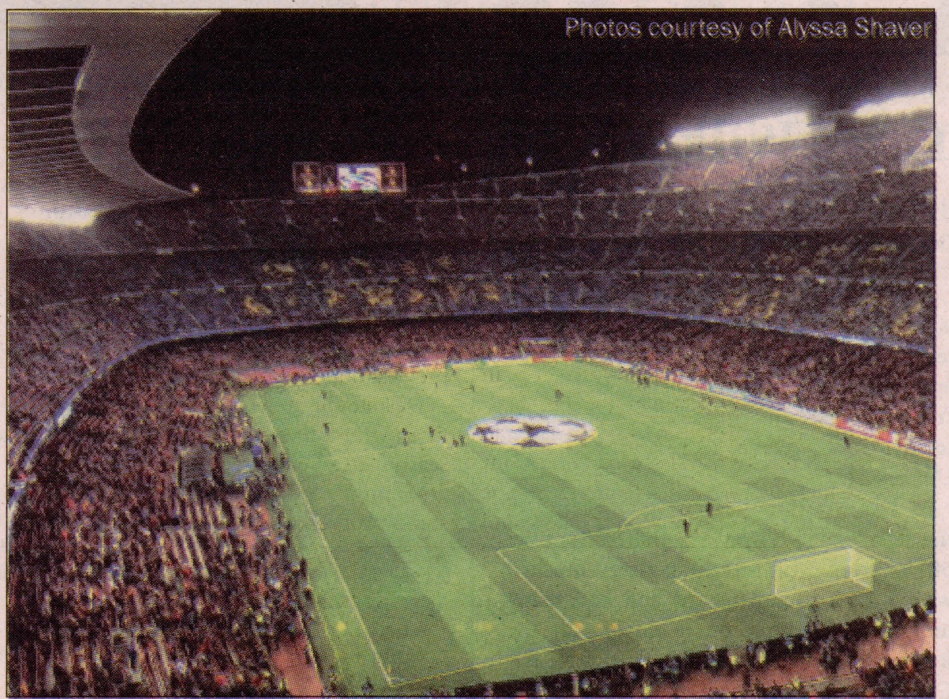
included a trip to the La Sagrada Familia church in Barcelona.

Shaver said the historic architecture of the building was quite interesting. She said she was in awe at some of the designs.

The team also competed in two friendlies against local teams. Although they lost both games, it was all in an effort to get additional time on the field in preparation for the 2017 fall season.

Shaver and Denger both said the trip provided an opportunity to brush up on their Spanish.

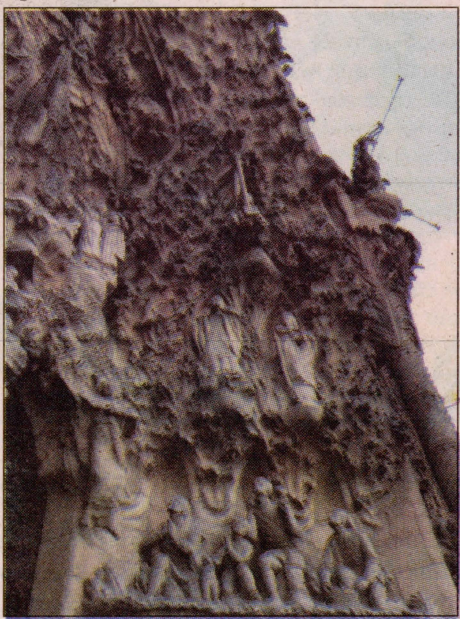
Denger, a student within the pharmacy program, noted the differences between



Above: On Mar. 8, at Camp Nou Stadium, FC Barcelona defeated Paris-SG in a historic comeback, 6-5 in aggregate goals after being down 4-0 after the first leg.

Below: The inside of La Sagrada Familia church is lined with stained glass windows that illuminate the room with bright, carefully orchestrated colors.

Left: Antoni Gaudi used real models and live animals to craft the figures on the building to ensure everything was realistic and accurately depicted.



pharmacies in the United States and Spain. "The dosages between here and there were different," Denger said. "It was interesting to see how they do things differently."

The overseas trek spurred excitement from the players. Denger noted the team's "GroupMe" group conversation was not only used for sharing excitement, but asking last minute packing questions as well.

The trip however, did not come without a hefty price. The team vigorously fundraised in order to not only pay for the trip, but have enough spending money while in Spain as well.

"We did a great deal of fundraising through our 'Futsal Frenzy' tournaments and Campaign Sports," Denger said.

Sumoski said he mentions the fundraising part even before recruits step on campus, noting its importance.

Simply put, without having enough


money, the team would not have the ability to go.

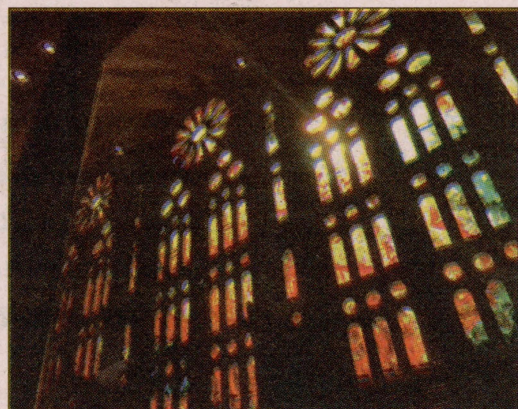
Sumoski sees the overseas trips as another selling point during the recruiting process. He mentions the trip a great deal to spur the interest of prospective students.

His goal is to have an overseas trip every three years so that every player who comes through the program has the chance to go.

The trip serves as a unique way to mix the academics of learning about a different culture along with the athletic portion of getting additional time on the field.

Editor's note: Special thanks to Kathryn Ruszkowski for assisting with photo captions.

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Reader Poll Results:

In the Feb. 28 edition, we asked readers to head to our website, www.thewilkesbeacon.com to participate in a reader poll. The poll asked: "Does Pennsylvania have a law on the books supporting sports officials when it comes to assault?"

The response was: YES - 61%, NO - 39%.

The correct answer is yes. Pennsylvania does have a "Sports Officials Assault" law. An assault of a Pennsylvania sports official is a misdemeanor of the first degree. The Pennsylvania law also includes athletic administrators, such as principals and athletic directors.

Men's lacrosse goes on early win streak after winless season

By Danny Van Brunt
Co-Sports Editor

The men's lacrosse team has exceeded expectations already this season. The team is on a three game win streak and is gaining momentum coming into the season.

Last season, the lacrosse program started again for the first time since the 70s. Back then, the 1975 lacrosse squad captured a Middle Atlantic Conference Championship and was inducted to Wilkes Athletics Hall of Fame in 2007-2008. Coming off a 0-15 rebirth season, the team did not expect to contend for the MAC Title but its performance in their opening games has them hopeful.

"The difference between this season and last is that we have a full season under our belts and know what it is like to compete. The returners from last season are very close and have built team chemistry. The freshman are a great asset to the team as well. They bring a lot to the table and know how to compete. We have a smaller team compared to other rosters, but we are a well-oiled machine and function very well together," said junior Nick Ruggiero.

The recent snow storm that cancelled classes for four days in a row has also

postponed their fifth game of the season. The game against Wells College was supposed to be played at Schmidt Stadium, but the snow and the cold weather has made it hard for the team to play outside in their spring season.

"We're used to the cold weather, but with the snow storms we had to reschedule two games. It's been hard to practice and prepare for games when the school has been closed. We've been finding other ways to stay physically and mentally prepared like practicing indoors, watching game film and working out. It's been tough, but our team is used to dealing with adversity and making the best out of a situation," Ruggiero said.

Despite the snow slowing down the team's momentum, the team is optimistic about the season ahead of them.

"I think the team has definitely made some progress from last season, but there's still room to improve every day. The biggest difference I see from this year as compared to last is our depth. We nearly doubled our bench size and it really shows on the field being able to get fresh legs on the field," said junior Jeremy Kachel.

Wilkes began its three-game win streak after their loss in the opening game against Maywood in Scranton, Pa. Marywood ran

the score up on Wilkes, and Wilkes was unable to comeback from the deficit. Wilkes lost the game, 10-6.

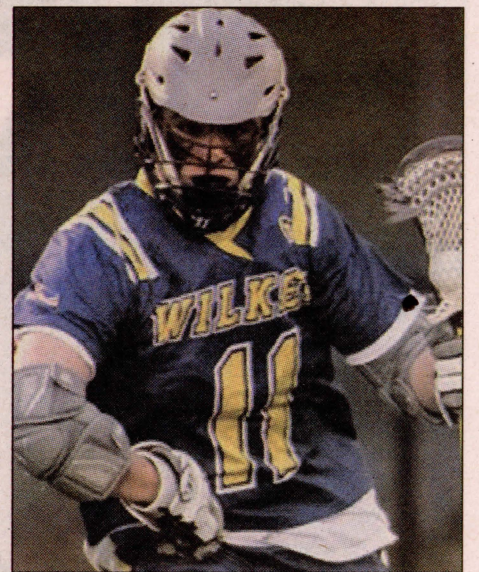
Their strongest win so far was in their second game against Keystone College. Wilkes was firing shots throughout the game and kept the lead. They finished the game at Schmidt Stadium 13-2 with a tough finish.

By far their most exciting win of the season was against Rosemont College. Wilkes mounted an early lead, but Rosemont fought back until the very end. Wilkes scored the final two shots to take back the lead and win the thrilling game, 10-9.

Their fourth game against Neumann University was also a tough game. Neumann came out pretty strong and maintained the lead in the beginning of the game. Wilkes prepared for a battle in the second half and extended their lead to seal the game. The score ended 16-12 at Schmidt Stadium.

The team will face off with numerous other teams before the end of March if the weather cooperates. Once April comes around, Middle Atlantic Conference play will begin. After a few early wins, the team is excited and looking forward to April.

"I expect us to shock teams with some upsets when we play in our conference



Courtesy of Gowilkesu.com

Lacrosse team #11 Nick Ruggiero looks to take a shot.

games and make it to the playoffs. I expect the team to continue to work hard. Coach Jaques emphasizes that beating our personal best after a game is where we'll find success," Ruggiero said.

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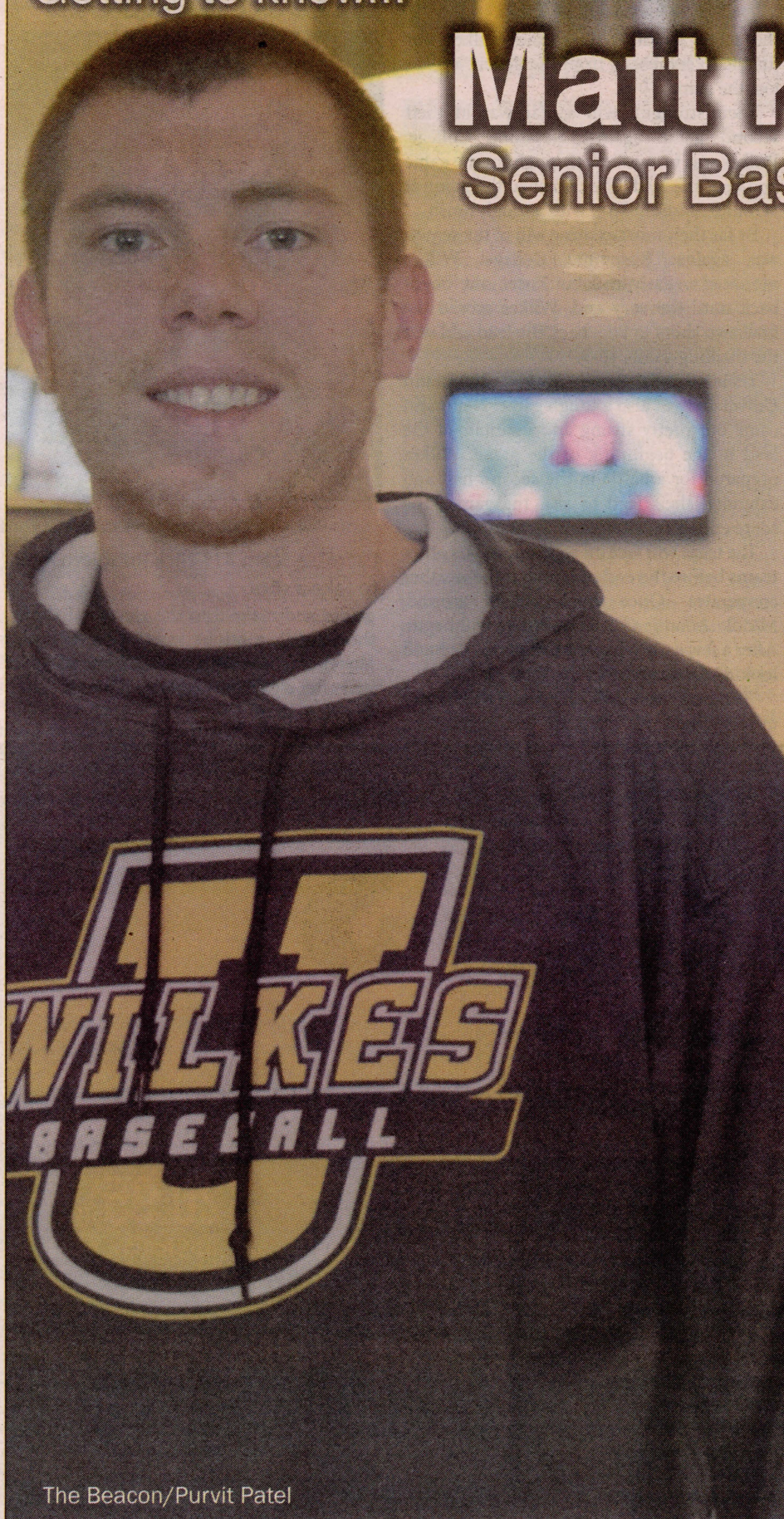
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Getting to know...

Matt Kaster

Senior Baseball Player



By Purvit Patel
Sports Writer

Name: Matt Kaster
Year: Senior
Major(s): Major- Biology
Minor- Chemistry
Hometown/High School: Traben-
Trarbach, Germany/Crestwood
Position: Pitcher

Q: What was the driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

A: I really enjoyed the small class sizes and ability to get to know my professors. The academic curriculum was challenging and I believed Wilkes would help set me up for my future. The opportunity to play baseball and be close to home also were major factors in my decision.

Q: What are your hopes for the upcoming season?

A: I hope to be focused and prepared for each game and lead to a playoff berth. The overall hope is to win a MAC title with my fellow senior class.

Q: When/Why did you first begin playing baseball?

A: I first began playing baseball when I was 6, while I was living in Woodbridge, Va. I started playing because my dad had always loved the game and my sister had started playing softball so I figured I would give baseball a shot.

Q: Do you have other sports/interest/hobbies off of the field?

A: I really enjoy spending time with my friends and family and watching any sporting event. A lot of my time is spent as a member of the Blues hockey team.

Q: Who would you say, is the most influential person in your life? Why?

A: I would say my parents collectively are the most influential people in my life. They are great examples of how I want to live my life and how hard work and determination can get you anywhere that you want. They are humbled individuals who are always helping and giving in any way possible. I cannot thank them enough for all they have done in my life and how they have loved and supported me in everything I do.

Q: What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

A: To me "Be Colonel" means being the best all-around person you can be whether that be in the classroom, on the field or with your peers. It means to put your best effort into everything you do and represent Wilkes with class and dignity.

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

A: I would have dinner with Nolan Ryan, the greatest pitcher of all-time, because of his style and approach to the game. I would love to pick his brain about pitching and learn from the greatest.



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Getting to know...

Keighlyn Oliver

Junior Field Hockey Player

By Purvit Patel
Sports Writer

Name: Keighlyn Oliver
Year: Junior
Major(s): Finance Major
Hometown/High School:
Wilkes-Barre/ Coughlin High School
Position: Forward

Q: What was the driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

A: I came to Wilkes because it gave me an opportunity to continue my athletic career while focusing on my schoolwork.

Q: What are your hopes for the upcoming season?

A: Next season we have a lot of returning players, and a huge potential. The last three years we have made it to the first round of MAC playoffs, so ultimately the goal for next season is to take it a little bit further, and win the conference title.

Q: When/Why did you first begin playing field hockey?

A: I first began playing Field Hockey in junior high school, 8th grade. I originally played because I wanted to stay in shape, but I ended up loving the sport.

Q: Do you have other sports/interest/hobbies off of the field?

A: I played softball and basketball in high school, I like hiking and doing pretty much that is outside!

Q: Who would you say, is the most influential person in your life? Why?

A: My mom is definitely the most influential person in my life. She is my biggest supporter and my backbone.

Q: A quote you live your life by?

A: "She is clothed with strength and dignity and she laughs without fear of the future," Proverbs 31:25. It is a constant reminder to be true, strong, and proud of who I am and live life without fear of anything.

Q: What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

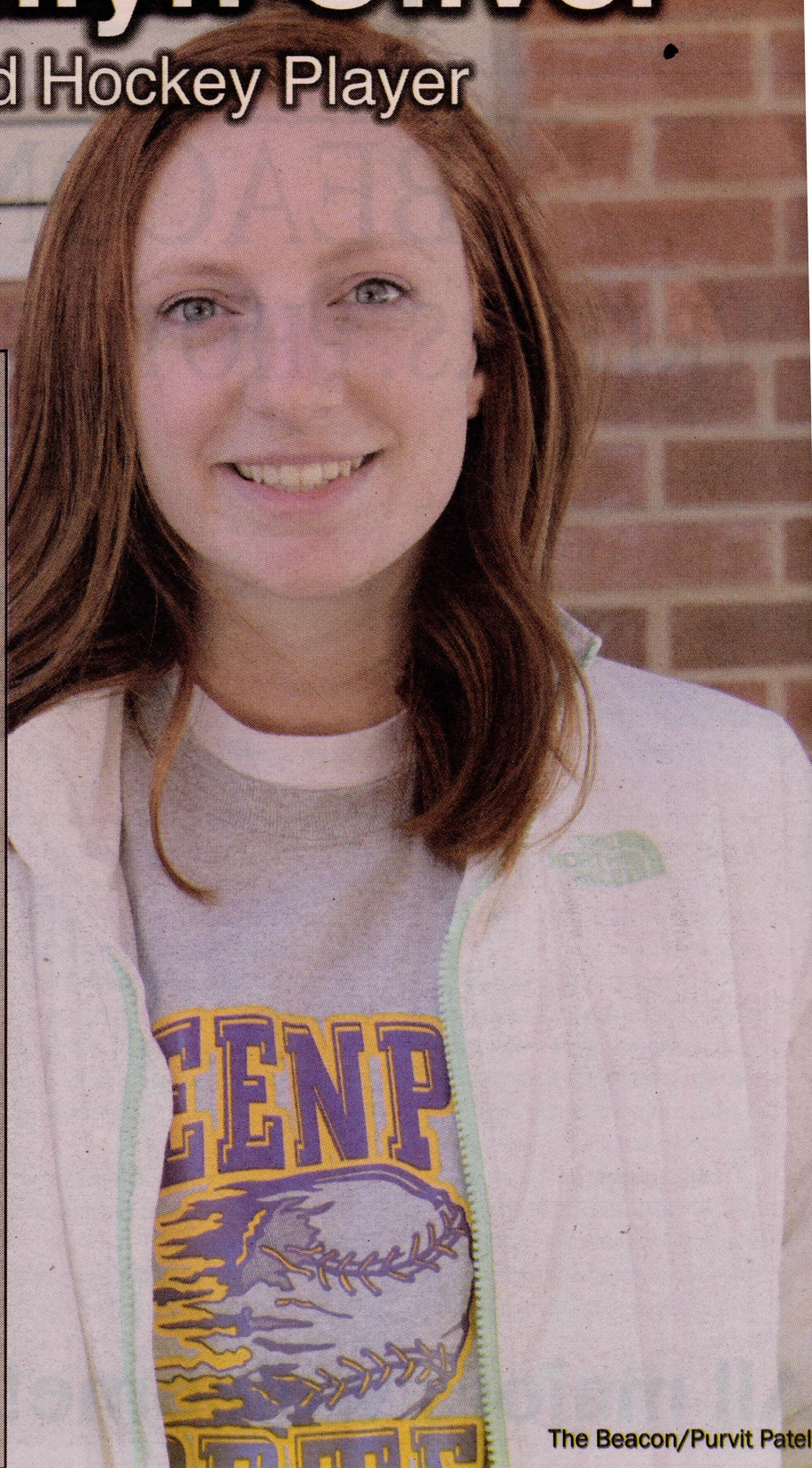
A: I think it represents our community and strength as a whole at Wilkes. We are a very unique dedicated bunch that I am proud to be apart of.

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

A: I would have to have dinner with Robin Williams. He was such a genuine person that loved to make people laugh.



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