



THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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

Residential Life hosts an educational sex bingo

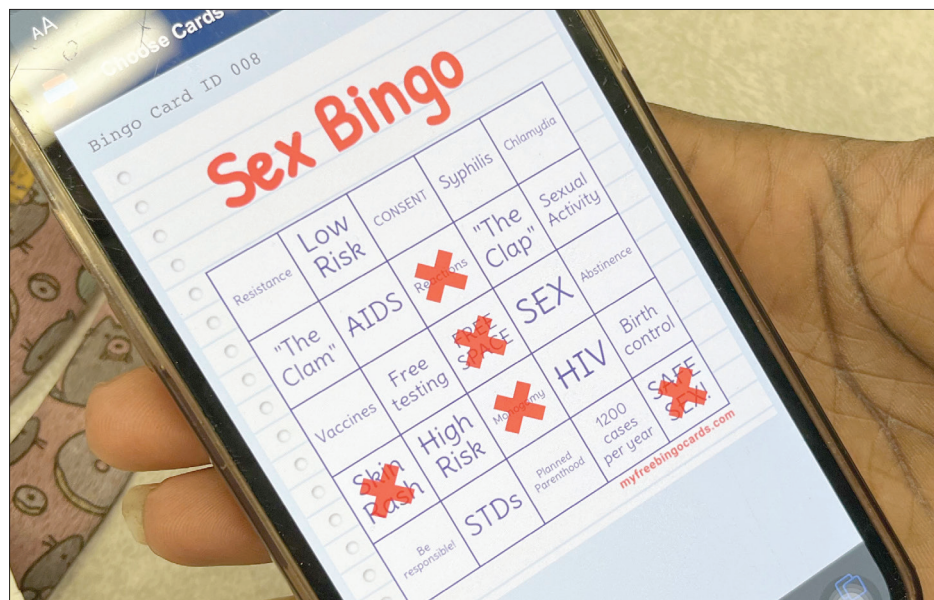
On March 21, Residential Assistance came together to host its first Res Life Sex Bingo. This Bingo consisted of educating the greater campus about sexual education and safety.

The resident assistants taught students about vital safe sex education, consent, protection, health issues and diseases,

reproductive care and safety measures when dating.

There were around 180 students in attendance and five students walked away that night with prizes.

For the full story, see pages 12-13.



The Beacon/Kellie Scott

Participants learned about sex-related issues through the use of Bingo.

Athlete of the Year

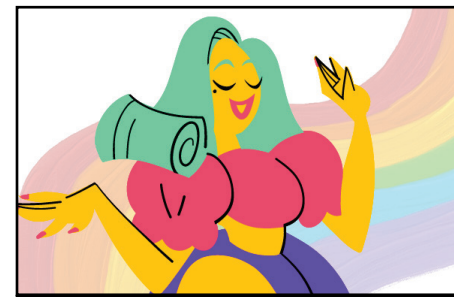
Voting polls will be in the next issue of The Beacon



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News

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

Student Government notes: March 22 weekly meeting

By Kellie Scott
Staff Writer

Student Government held another weekly meeting, consisting of club reports, conversations regarding campus and fund requests.

Capital Projects presented week 1 of 2 fund request for new volleyball nets in the MAC. The current nets in the MAC are old, falling apart and are difficult to use. The nets get used about three times a week by students and clubs. Capital projects is asking for \$2,066.95 to replace the current net for a new one.

Next, SG had two special guests, Dr. David Ward and Vice President Dr. Mark Allen. Both Ward and Allen spoke to SG to hear their thoughts on how they can help change the campus community, as well as ways to bring both the student life and academics together.

Their goal is to improve student success and to make student life better, both academically and socially.

The Kappa Psi fraternity then returned for their week 2 of 2 fund request. They are asking for \$3,061.74 to help fund a trip to attend two different pharmacy conferences. This funding would help pay for tickets and hotel rooms for members. SG allocated the full amount.

Next, the Pre-Pharmacy club presented their week 1 of 2 fund request. The Pre-Pharmacy club is asking for \$2,280.00

to help fund a trip to Philadelphia. During this trip, they would be visiting many different museums where they would be able to see different exhibits such as human development, different diseases and even one looking at skin development. SG will vote on the funds at next

The committee is asking for \$9,900.00 to help cover the cost of buses, food and equipment. The council allocated the full amount.

Finally, week 1 of 2 covered the Block Party fund request. The Block party is another yearly event that SG hosts. This year's theme is carnival and will have many carnival themed T-shirts, food and events. Block Party will also be collaborating with WCLH, the campus radio station. They requested \$9,000 to cover the cost of everything, which will be voted in next week's meeting.

Student Government will meet again on Wednesday, March 29.



week's meeting.

Next for week 2 of 2 was the fund request for the Big Event. The Big event is a campus-wide community service event that happens annually at Wilkes.

Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

Diploma Order Submission Reminder for May 2023 Graduates

If you have not already done so, seniors please submit your Diploma Order and Degree Audit via the electronic form for May 2023 Graduation. Use this link to access the form and more information: <https://www.wilkes.edu/academics/registrar/graduation.aspx>

Seniors are urged to follow all instructions carefully and are reminded to order caps and gowns as well.

Summer 2023 Internship: Register for Credits

Students participating in a Summer 2023 internship need to register manually and fill out the retrieve form. In addition, three documents must be filled out: the Data Form, Academic Project Form, and

Internship Agreement Form.

Contact Anna Bateman at anna.bateman@wilkes.edu with any questions or concerns.

Summer Registration Now Open

Wilkes offers summer classes starting May 22 and continuing through Aug. 18. There are a variety of sessions, including pre-session from May 22 to June 9, full session from May 22 to Aug. 18, first session from June 12 to July 14, nine-week session from June 12 to Aug. 15, and second session from July 17 to Aug 18. Both in-person classes and online options are available. Make an appointment with your advisor to register now.

Multicultural Award Nominations

The Office of Diversity Affairs is

accepting nominations for students, faculty, administration, staff and board members who demonstrate significant contributions toward raising multicultural awareness at Wilkes University.

Nomination form: www.wilkes.edu/about-wilkes/offices-and-administration/student-affairs/diversity-initiatives/multicultural-awards.aspx.

Wilkes University Integration Bee

The Fifth Annual Wilkes University Integration Bee is being held on Saturday April 15, 2023 at 10 a.m. in the Darte Center. It is open to all undergraduate students who know basic antiderivatives and integration techniques covered in calculus class MTH 112 or its equivalent. Register by April 10.

Contact Dr. Sofya Chepushtanova at sofya.chepushtanova@wilkes.edu with any questions.

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Upcoming Events: 2023 Spring Semester

- March**
30 - GSA Trans Day of Visibility Ball
31 - GSA Trans Day of Visibility Flag Raising
- April**
4 - GSA LGBTQ Professional Roundtable
14 - GSA/Games & Media Club Mario Movie Night
26 - GSA Drag Show

Want your event featured in the calendar?
Email: Madelynn.Kinard@wilkes.edu

Honors students take on the challenge of ice skating

Compiled by Morgan Rich
Managing Editor

Editor's note: Morgan Rich and Kellie Scott are Beacon staff members.



Kamea Paresa (left) and Melissa Ooi (right) skate together and pose for a picture on the ice.



Kellie Scott (left) and Kayla Burselson (right) pose for a picture together on the ice.



Dr. Jonathan Kuiken (left) and Emma Broda (right) help Morgan Rich (middle) ice skate for the first time.

Photos by Morgan Rich and courtesy of the Honors Program



Jordan Chepalonis (right), who has ice skated in the past, glides Zoe Morley (left) along the ice to help her feel more comfortable.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Professor Jennifer McLaughlin, Morgan Rich, Sydney Ahrberg and Melissa Ooi take a break from skating to pose for a photo.

Honors program to host first clothing swap April 16

By Maddy Kinard
News Editor

On April 16 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the McHale Athletic Center, the honors program will host a clothing swap where students can purchase donated clothing items. All proceeds from the event will be donated to Candy's Place, a cancer resource center in FortyFort.

Donations are open to all students, staff and faculty and can vary from casual wear, business casual or business professional clothing. Clothes can be taken to Stark Learning Center 262, the honors office on April 4 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.; and April 13 from 2 to 3 p.m. Those that donate will receive a voucher that can be used as cash at the time of the event.

"We just would like the clothing to be pre-washed, undamaged, and non-ripped," said Ada Soriano, director of community service for the honors program student committee. "No shoes, socks, or underwear. Basically we would like everyone to donate clothing that they themselves would buy. I hope that students can relate this experience to a thrift-shopping experience, an activity that has been quite popular in these recent years."

Clothing will also be accepted at the time of the event, but the program requests to have the majority of clothing

donated early to allow for time to sort.

This event is the first of its kind for HPSC and is open to all Wilkes students.

"It's important for the campus community to consider coming to this event and/or contributing because while a blazer that no longer fits one person might be thrown away as it becomes 'useless' to the owner, another person might find that blazer to be the difference between getting an internship or not," said Jen McLaughlin, assistant director of the Honors & Scholars Program. "In a world where we are worried about climate and accountability, we owe it to

one another and future generations to reuse, recycle and rethink possibilities. I hope to see you all there, sharing and exploring the options we will be offering."

Honors students will also have the

opportunity to help with the event and earn a participation point in the process. More information on ways to help will be released closer to the event.

Graphic by Maddy Kinard



HONORS PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

- 4/4 and 4/13 - Clothing swap drive!
- 4/12 - Pizza Plus, history of ableism
- 4/16 - SIX in Philly (12 tickets)
- 4/17 - Interview workshop
- 4/20 - Pizza Plus, study abroad
- 4/21 to 23 - Rita's fundraiser
- 4/22 - Big Event
- 4/29 - Indraloka
- 5/2 - Movie night
- 5/17 - Honors commencement

MSC to showcase student talent and creativity on April 14

By Maddy Kinard
News Editor

On April 14, the Multicultural Student Coalition will hold its second annual talent show post-shutdown in the ballroom.

The MSC talent show is open to all student performances. Performances will be judged by roughly five unbiased individuals, consisting of different campus faculty and staff.

"The judges will use a rubric to score each performance and the highest scores will be the winners," said Starr Sandt,

MSC secretary and public relations officer. "Each performer will have the opportunity to review the rubric prior to the event in order to be aware of exactly what the judging entails."

The top three performers selected by the judges will win cash prizes.

For those looking to perform in the talent show, students can access the link to the Google Form in MSC's Instagram bio (@wilkes_msc) or scan the QR code on the many posters that are hanging up around campus.

While the talent show was one of the club's annual events, due to COVID-19,

it was halted until last year. Past performances typically included singers, dancers and poetry readings.

This year, members of MSC are hoping to have more student participation and to see a broader range of talent.

"Students should perform in order to show off their talent to their community," said Sandt. "Performing in the show also opens up the opportunity to increase connections with other students, performers and community members that attend the event. Students should attend this event to see all of the wonderful talents that we will be

showcasing and can support their peers here on campus. Students can hear some good entertainment while meeting new people and spending time with their friends."

Erica Acosta, director of diversity initiative, feels similarly, stating that the talent show performances are a form of expression and that it is always beautiful to see students on stage.

More information will be released closer to the event. For any questions or concerns, reach out to Sandt at starr.sandt@wilkes.edu or Acosta at erica.acosta@wilkes.edu.

Exploring a bit of Spain during global coffee hour

By Maddy Kinard
News Editor

On March 22, Global Coffee Hour invited students to “explore Spain” with a presentation on Las Fallas de Valencia by Ian Dewar, senior hospitality leadership major. Dewar spoke about the festival and his childhood in Valencia.

Dewar was born in Valencia, Spain. His father is from Texas and met his mother in Spain. He moved to the Williamsport in Pennsylvania, when he was 12, and has resided in the United States ever since.

Las Fallas de Valencia is a festival that occurs only in the city of Valencia from March 1 until the 19 at 1 a.m.

The festival features large paper mache

sculptures (fallas) which are created by neighborhood artists. On March 15 and 16, the plantá takes place where all fallas are positioned for judging and viewing the following day.

On March 19, all are burned (cremá) at 10 p.m. except for one that is voted to be saved for the following year. During this time attendees throw fireworks to help with the burning. The City Hall fallas is the last to burn which signals the end of the festival.

From the March 17 to 18, “L’Ofrena de flors” occurs where casual fallers walk through the city with fireworks, candy and flowers which are then offered to a large statue of the Virgin Mary.

Dewar also mentioned that this year,

the fallas had political themes, which some did not like. However, for the most part, the fallas are meant to showcase art rather than any specific theme.

The festival features many types of foods (like churros, buñuelos and paella); every community has its own delicacy. Dewar’s hometown specializes in horchata, a very sweet white drink, which is made out of chufa.

Valencian men and women also wear traditional valencian clothing during the event, including ball-like gowns, guayabera shirts and corduroy trousers.

Dewar describes Valencian fireworks as small amounts of TNT, as they are simply meant to blow up, rattle the ground and be loud rather than “pretty” or flashy like

traditional western ideas of fireworks.

“You go there just to hear noises,” said Dewar. “They’re not there just to look; it’s more to hear it and feel it.”

The nearly month-long festival features many separate events or elements that occur during March, one such being la Desperta, or “wake your neighbor”, where young children set off fireworks at 8 a.m. every day for the entirety of the festival.

“It’s the most loved and hated,” said Dewar.

“Las Fallas is one of the things I miss most about Spain,” he continued. “I miss throwing the fireworks and just the chaos of Fallas.”



Senior Ian Dewar made tortilla de patata, a Spanish omelet traditionally made of eggs and potatoes, but can have anything else added to it. It can be served cold or warm.



Dewar explains how Fallas had not occurred for two years during COVID-19, so in 2022, Fallas was held in Sept. for the first time and again in March of 2023.



Photos: The Beacon/Maddy Kinard

Abner Yanguéz (left) and Marielis Pinto (right) make Spanish inspired fans, or “abanico.” They are used throughout Spain and particularly in clubs, Dewar said.



Photo courtesy of Ian Dewar

During Fallas, schools close down to host events. Each grade performs their own dance or song. Dewar (right) can be seen wearing traditional Valencian dress.

Prof. Profile: Dr. Mikayla Lacey, college of arts and science

By Amanda Montgomery
Asst. News Editor

Dr. Mikayla Lacey has joined the College of Arts and Sciences as an assistant professor in the division of behavioral and social sciences.

Lacey earned both a doctor of philosophy in experimental psychology and master of arts in psychology from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Ala. and a bachelor of arts in psychology from Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn.

Lacey grew up in western Mich., but has also lived in Tennessee and Alabama. She recently moved to Wilkes-Barre from Birmingham, Ala. Prior to joining Wilkes, Lacey was an instructor at the University of Alabama.

“I chose Wilkes because it seemed like it would be a good fit for me,” said Lacey. She knew she wanted to be at an institution that primarily focused on teaching, but allowed her to continue her research. She also wanted to be a part of

a learning environment where making connections between different classes was encouraged, and enjoyed the liberal arts environment.

Her favorite thing about her job is hearing students make connections between something from her class and something that they have learned in another class before.

“It’s exciting to me to hear about ways students are integrating concepts across disciplines, or even across different subfields in psychology,” said Lacey.

In five years from now, Lacey hopes to still be teaching at Wilkes, and to have her EEG lab on campus up and running. She also hopes to have more teaching tools in her tool belt and to have established some collaborative relationships with researchers in the area.



Lacey aims for collaboration and open-mindedness.

“Anyone who has seen my whiteboard drawings in class will be surprised to learn that I am a published illustrator,” said Lacey.

She had a picture published in a book of children’s poetry when she was in elementary school. In addition, Lacey has authored various publications and presentations related to social psychology and psychophysiology.

Lacey is proudest about her doctorate as she was a first-generation student. After her first year, she almost dropped out of her undergraduate program, but was able to preserve and find ways to continue in her education.

“Pursuing my degree has brought me many opportunities to grow both as an academic and as a person. It also put me in a position to be able to find a job I love,

being a faculty member here at Wilkes,” said Lacey.

In her spare time, Lacey enjoys knitting. She always has a few knitting projects going on at once, but her favorite items to make are sweaters.

“I learned from my grandmother when I was a kid, and picked it back up in graduate school to help me relax,” said Lacey.

Lacey offers a piece of advice to students, suggesting that they treat their education like a job. She recommends that students block out time during the day to study the material in their classes, regardless if they have a major project or exam coming up. This helps students learn the material better and will help them feel less overwhelmed when the larger assignments and exams come around.

“I also would encourage you to seek out help when you need it. Wilkes has many great resources for students—take advantage of them,” said Lacey.

Photo Courtesy of Dr. Mikayla Lacey

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Life, Arts & Entertainment

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

Brand new exhibition opens at Sordoni Art Gallery

By **Anthony Cazun**
Contributing Writer

Eye-catching landscapes filled to the brim with electric imagery showcasing the most beautiful images nature has to offer and more...This is the experience one can immerse themselves in while visiting the Sordoni Art Gallery's newest exhibition, titled: "John Paul Caponigro: Landscapes Within Landscapes."

The exhibition's artist, John Paul Caponigro, is not only an established and well-respected environmental art photographer, but he has a large presence in the digital media scene as well, giving direct artistic guidance to many of the largest technology companies such as Adobe, Apple and Kodak so that they steer their focus in favor of the individual artist.

"It was perfect timing because there are new developments in his own practice that he was eager to share so we put together something we feel is very special," said Heather Sincavage, director of the Sordoni Art Gallery and associate professor.

The gallery's walls are lined with piece after piece of landscapes from Caponigro's countless travels all around the earth. Caponigro's environmental photography captures the essence of nature, even if it is not all what it seems on the surface.

Using various forms of photo manipulation, Caponigro is able to capture not the exact reality of the earth, but the perception of it. Turning day into a night sky, entangling different sprawling landscapes into each other and shifting the eye's perspective to morph reality into his own is what Caponigro is an expert at achieving in his pieces.

"His dreamlike landscapes forge connections between humanity and the world around us—reflecting on ideas of human tradition, environmentalism, sustainability and reconnecting to the

earth," said Melissa Carestia, assistant director at the Sordoni Art Gallery. "He believes that 'we live within the land and the land lives within us. We are not apart from nature, but a part of nature.'"

Caponigro's goal is not just to awe the viewer with incredible vistas and imagery but also make one contemplate about nature, one's place in it and how to treat the environment, as well as each other, during a time of both social and environmental turmoil.

"Not only does it encourage a deeper connection with our Earth, it encourages a better understanding of ourselves," said Sincavage. "The better we care for ourselves will create an empathy for others and furthermore the globe. It is important to Caponigro that we understand that we are not separate; we are interdependent and therefore care for one self is care for our collective future."

Pieces, such as "Correspondence Nocturne XII," explore the beauty of the silent void that is the ocean during midnight, while pieces like "Inhalation XXIX" and "Global Warning I" showcase the drab and dreary effect that humans have inflicted upon the environment and how those decisions have led to a gray world soon to be devoid of life if left unchecked.

"I've never seen anything like it," said Devyn Cammarota, senior digital design and media arts major and student design fellow at Sordoni Art Gallery. "The way he can blend two or more landscapes together and his creation process is so unique and different and they really give the show such personality. My favorite piece is 'Alignment XXXVI.' When you walk past the title wall all you see is this giant red piece that just stands out and is beautiful. When I got a first look at the pieces that were going to be in the show I saw that one and immediately knew that one was my favorite."

Journeying to the back of the gallery

welcomes one with a mini exhibition, one titled "Process". This exhibition focuses on Caponigro's creative process, how he perceives the world and how he is able to allow the viewer to see it the way he does.

Despite being a photographer and photo editor, Caponigro is no stranger to drawing, in fact he embraces it. Caponigro uses drawings in order to blueprint and strategize his pieces so the end result is meticulous and precise. If done correctly, a simple tiny drawing of a moon upon a canvas can be the first step of a jaw dropping scenery.

Caponigro is an artist of many talents, incredible forethought and incredible vision. He has given many respectable contributions to the art community at large and will likely continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The John Paul Caponigro: Landscapes Within Landscapes and Process exhibitions will be available to experience at the Sordoni Art Gallery until May 13.

"I really love that John Paul, who is a leader in his field, is so willing to share his creative process and is able to do it so succinctly and logically," said Carestia.



The Beacon/Anthony Cazun

"Landscapes Within Landscapes" offers interactive pieces for gallery goers.

Cocktail of the Week: The unique and pretty aqua velva

By Haley Katona
Contributing Writer

The aqua velva is a classic dive into some of the older cocktails that have lost their popularity over time. Its neon color and refreshingly tart yet sweet flavor combination makes it the drink to try when traditional usuals have lost their spark.

Ingredients:

- 1 ounce any kind of vodka
- 1 ounce any kind of gin
- 3/4 ounce blue curaçao
- 1 ounce simple syrup
- 1 ounce lemon juice (for best result, use a freshly squeezed lemon)
- 2 ounces soda water
- Maraschino cherries or 1/2 a lemon slice as a garnish

Directions:

Pour all of the ingredients into a shaker with ice.

Shake thoroughly with a shaker.

Strain into a chilled glass filled with or without ice, depending on your preference.

Garnish with whichever choice you prefer.

Voila!

The Beacon reminds everyone to drink responsibly... and that the legal drinking age is 21



The Beacon/Haley Katona

Try this recipe the next time you want to shake up your usual choice of drink.

Beacon Bumps

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff picks their favorite song of the week. Check out this week's bumps to the right!

Emily Cherkauskas, Editor-in-Chief:

Cirice - Ghost

Morgan Rich, Managing Editor:

All Of The Girls You Loved Before - Taylor Swift

Maddy Kinard, News Editor:

Happy House - Sioxsie and the Banshees

Amanda Montgomery, News Asst. Editor:

Will you cry? - Gracie Abrams

Jordan Daniel, LA&E Editor:

ALL MINE - Brent Faiyaz

Laury Angeles, LA&E Photographer & Staff Writer:

brutal - Olivia Rodrigo

Sydney Allabaugh, Opinion Asst. Editor:

Billy Knows Jamie - 100 geecs

Zara Lantzman, Opinion Asst. Editor:

All Of The Girls You Loved Before - Taylor Swift

Baylee Guedes, Sports Editor:

Same Old Love - Selena Gomez

David Marks, Designer:

Strange Overtones - David Byrne

Maggie Murphy, Designer:

The Great War - Taylor Swift

Lara Mullen, Designer:

Paper Bag - Fiona Apple

Elizabeth Cherinka, Social Media

Manager/Staff Writer

The Kids Don't Wanna Come Home -

Declan McKenna

The Self-Help Saga



What to do when your career path feels uncertain

By Morgan Rich
Managing Editor

I am sure that you have been there: You take a class and suddenly your entire worldview changes. Suddenly, you find yourself scrolling through job listings and descriptions, unsure if you majored in the right thing.

This is a huge commonality throughout college. After all, a majority of college students do not end up with the same major that they started college out with and the truth of the matter? Nobody should feel bad about changing their mind. Here is what to do when your career path feels entirely uncertain.

Explore opportunities on campus:

I am going to pose the question that everyone wants to ask: Who on earth said it would be a good idea to have a 17-year-old high school student determine what future career path they want for the rest of their life? During my senior year of high school, I was set on becoming a biology major with a concentration in genetics. Now, here I am writing this article as a communication studies major with three different minors.

The truth about college is that it is supposed to expose us to different opportunities we otherwise would never receive out in the world, especially at a liberal arts college. Our education is meant to be well-rounded and immerse us in different cultures, traditions and interests. When you feel defeated and unsure about what your future plans are, the perfect thing to do is explore different opportunities on campus.

Exploring different work-study opportunities on campus is one of the absolute best ways to discover what

interests you and what you like. Currently, I am working in the writing center and the archives, which helped me discover my love for editing and archive work. Plus, you get paid! So even if you end up not liking the work-study, you will have been paid while trying to figure out what is best for you.

The best thing about work studies is that you are able to make your own schedule and choose your own hours. Plus, if you learn that a particular work-study is not your kind of thing, you are not required to continue it for the rest of your college life. You can stop doing it whenever you want to. Work studies provide incredible opportunities and allow you to build up your resume.

Look into studying abroad:

The biggest misconception about studying abroad is the fact that you have to do it for a whole semester to learn something from it. That could not be further from the truth. Wilkes University offers tremendous amounts of study abroad opportunities for both an extended and non-extended amount of time.

I recently went on a study abroad trip to Ireland over spring break with Dr. Jonathan Kuiken and Dr. Benjamin Toll for my HST 398 class. During this class, we learned about the Troubles in Ireland and went on a spring break trip to both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland to physically see what we learned about in class.

Plenty of clubs and programs on campus offer study abroad opportunities for both a full semester and week-long trips over breaks. The honors program, for example, is aiming to have one week-long study abroad trips every summer from now on;

the first one taking place this summer in Scotland and England, which I am helping lead.

Study abroad trips help you learn so much about yourself. For one, they force you to explore a culture that is outside of your own and make you go out of your comfort zone. After all, traveling without family members or close friends can be super scary but you learn so much from it. Some people learn that they can live abroad for one week with only a carry-on while others learn that they can fly overseas alone.

These opportunities force you to grow as an individual and make you look at the world from new perspectives. They do not shield you and provide comfort like a vacation with your family would. Stepping outside of your comfort zone is meant to cause uneasiness but it gives you an entirely new perspective of life and can open your eyes as to what you want.

See what types of internships are out there:

I am sure that you are tired of your emails and professors trying to throw internships at you. However, internships are extremely beneficial when it comes to figuring out where you want your life to go after college.

Last semester, I did an internship with the Walt Disney World Company working merchandise at the Boardwalk Inn and Villas Resort with the Disney College Program. Truthfully? It taught me so much about myself.

It was scary and at first, I was unsure if I made the right decision. After my internship was over after four months, I realized I had learned so much and gained an incredible amount of knowledge and

independence.

As annoying as it may seem to constantly look at internships, they are entirely worth it. Internships allow you to gain experience working with a company while completing school. They are resume builders that, like work studies, can teach you what you may like and do not like. Talk with your professors and see what type of connections they may have regarding internships.

Weekly book and song recommendations:

Whenever I find myself overwhelmed by the idea of what I want my future career to be, I always tend to revert back to reading books that I enjoyed when I was younger. My book recommendation for this week is, "Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" by Rick Riordan.

This book is the first book in the "Percy Jackson" series and is a novel that is based on Greek mythology. "Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" is about a 12-year-old boy named Percy Jackson who, with the help of the daughter of Athena and a satyr, takes a journey across the United States in order to find the thief of one of Zeus' bolts.

My song recommendation for this week is the song, "Treacherous (Taylor's Version)" by Taylor Swift. This song, re-recorded by Taylor Swift, originally came out in 2012 and normally reminds me of simpler times. Instantly, I am transported back to my fourth grade Arizona trip when I consistently listened to this song on a tour bus. I hope that you listen to this song and hopefully feel that same type of childhood nostalgia.

Meet the Majors

This week's major: Environmental Science

Interviews and photos by

Jordan Daniel

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Editor

Every week, The Beacon will offer a chance for majors to be placed in the spotlight. Each student who is chosen will have a few words to express why they chose the major and how they feel it will benefit them in the future.

Courtney Novak

Senior

"My favorite aspect of the major are the research opportunities provided to students by faculty. It provides a plethora of hands-on experience.

I chose this major because I am passionate about protecting the environment and keeping it clean, healthy and safe for all living things on Earth. Understanding the science and systems of the environment is one of the most efficient ways to go about doing that."



The Beacon/Jordan Daniel



Colleen McDonald

Senior

"My favorite aspect of this major is the interaction between students and faculty. All my environmental science professors have been so helpful and involved in my education throughout my time here and I've also been lucky to get first-hand experience assisting with research at the Wilkes Institute for Environmental Sciences and Sustainability.

This year I am looking forward to graduating and finding a job in my field to apply the concepts I've learned here."

Anneke Bouma

First-Year

"I was originally a biology major but switched because the environment is a very important subject in today's world. Learning about the systems, material and science are important for everyone.

I hope to use this major to get a degree in environmental science. I then plan to use the knowledge that I've gained and work at a national park and protect the land and wildlife it surrounds."



Lucas Scott

Junior

"My favorite class in my major has been geomorphology with Dr Finkenbinder. It's a class that I started this semester and I just enjoy how it explains how our landforms like mountains and rivers form and change.

I chose this major because I wanted to work outside and make a difference in the world.

Upon graduating, I hope to get a job as an environmental consultant somewhere here in Pennsylvania."

Spring Sudoku

Brain breaks to get you through the week

Challenge your brain with some sudoku!

How to play: Fill in the missing words. Each row should have 9 different words, no repeats. Each column should have 9 different words, no repeats. Each 3x3 quadrant should have 9 words, no repeats.

Answer Key:

sunshine	rain	april	bumblebee	ivy	flowers	chicks	dandelion	orchid
chicks	ivy	dandelion	orchid	april	sunshine	rain	bumblebee	flowers
orchid	flowers	bumblebee	rain	chicks	dandelion	sunshine	april	ivy
rain	chicks	ivy	dandelion	flowers	bumblebee	orchid	sunshine	april
flowers	bumblebee	orchid	sunshine	rain	april	ivy	chicks	dandelion
april	dandelion	sunshine	ivy	orchid	chicks	bumblebee	flowers	rain
bumblebee	sunshine	rain	flowers	dandelion	ivy	april	orchid	chicks
ivy	april	flowers	chicks	bumblebee	orchid	dandelion	rain	sunshine
dandelion	orchid	chicks	april	sunshine	rain	flowers	ivy	bumblebee

	ivy	flowers	rain				orchid	
		dandelion	orchid	bumblebee				ivy
chicks		april			flowers		sunshine	
	flowers	bumblebee	chicks			sunshine		
	chicks		april	rain			bumblebee	
april			bumblebee	flowers				rain
				chicks	rain		flowers	orchid
	bumblebee		sunshine	april	orchid			
	dandelion	chicks			bumblebee	april		

Credit for these puzzles goes to:
www.edu-games.org

Compiled by Morgan Rich, Managing Editor

SEX BINGO



The Sex Bingo event was organized by ResLife, and made up of the several residential assistants of the campus dorms.



Prizes also related to the theme of the event. One basket was called the "birds and the bees basket," and included a stuffed goose, and a birds and the bees book.



Other prizes included oil, condoms and gift cards.



There were a total of 180 students in attendance—the largest number of students ever to attend a Res-life event.



Jaci Bickel, first-year political science, and Adam Butterwick, first-year engineering, were two of the many students who stopped by to play some bingo.



Residential assistants made and mocktails for attendants, which included Shirley temples, piña coladas and mimosas.



Photos: Kellie Scott

Page Design: Lara Mullen

OPINION: WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO TALK ABOUT SEX.

By Sydney Allabaugh
Asst. Opinion Editor

Leading up to Wilkes ResLife's Sex Bingo, students had various—and sometimes adverse—reactions to the idea. Although talking about sex is something that can be uncomfortable for some, events like these are necessary to work to overcome the issues that come with a lack of open communication and sex education.

A vast majority of students receive sex education before they turn 18, according to the CDC. However, this education is likely to be inadequate in some way. Most are taught about STIs and how to say no to sex, yet a significantly smaller portion of the youth population is taught about methods of birth control.

Instead of teaching about birth control, it is common for schools across the United States to heavily encourage abstinence as a primary—or sometimes the sole—birth control method. There are more states that stress abstinence than states that require educators to teach about birth control, according to Planned Parenthood.

Although it is believed that withholding information about sex or deliberately teaching people not to have sex will lead to less people having sex and experiencing sex-related issues, it has shown not to be the case. Young people aged 15 to 24 still make up half of the 20 million new cases of STIs in the U.S. every year, according to the CDC. Young people will continue to have sex, just in an unsafe manner without birth control due to inadequate education.

Additionally, restricting education and enforcing abstinence further creates a stigma surrounding sex and communication about sex. Framing sex as something that is considered shameful makes many young people feel uncomfortable or unsafe talking about it, which can make them at risk for becoming pregnant, contracting STDS or even becoming victims of sexual assault.

In a Planned Parenthood survey, men and women were persistently confused on what constitutes both consent and sexual assault. Many have not received education on how to ask for consent and what behaviors are considered consent. Others are uncomfortable to even ask for sex or talk about their sexual boundaries. This leads to unintended sexual misconduct that could have been prevented if people were more educated and felt more comfortable talking about what they wanted out of a sexual encounter.

A small number of states require education about birth control and safe sex practices, but an even smaller number of states require discussion of LGBTQ+ identities and relationships to be inclusive and affirming, according to Planned Parenthood. Many queer students across the nation remain disproportionately underinformed. A few states have even prohibited educators from discussing LGBTQ+ topics or require them to frame queerness as a negative thing, according to Planned Parenthood.

When our high schools are censoring LGBTQ issues and sex topics in general, it is more important than ever to create a safe environment in higher education and elsewhere in which young people can comfortably learn and talk about sex. Events like ResLife's sex bingo break the ice and create an opportunity for a healthy discussion and cultural change. Not only is this openness essential for health and safety, but it can also strengthen our sexual relationships and deconstruct harmful sex narratives.

The conversations we do have about sex are generally focused on these health and safety issues, but talking about sex openly and honestly also simply leads to better sex. When many are uncomfortable talking about surface-level sex topics like birth control, most are not taught how to have sex and remain uncomfortable talking about sexual desires, even with a romantic partner.

This is especially true for women. In a study published in the Archives of Sexual Behavior in 2019, 55 percent of women surveyed reported that they chose not to talk about sex with their intimate partner, despite wanting to. When asked why, they commonly cite that they did not feel comfortable going into details and did not know how to ask for what they wanted sexually.

According to the NIH, more than 90 percent of men usually experience orgasms in their intercourse, but this proportion is only around 50 percent among women. This pleasure gap illustrates how harmful stigmas and closedness about sex can lead to poorer sexual experiences.

When women feel as though they cannot talk about sex, it further enforces the narrative that sex is an act performed on women, rather than something that women can actively enjoy and participate in. Further, women voicing their sexual needs and boundaries can assist in deconstructing some harmful societal problems like the idea that women are sexual objects and the tendency for women to be disproportionately sexually assaulted.

Our adverse attitudes towards sexual discussion can further enforce and contribute to the current harmful ideas about sexuality in the U.S. When we are more open about these issues, it opens the door for solutions and change. Although communication cannot solve everything, it can certainly lead to a better future.

DID YOU KNOW...



Young people aged 15-24 make up half of the **20 million** new cases of STIs in the U.S. every year (CDC)

Only **18 states** require educators to also share information about **birth control** (Planned Parenthood)



Only **ten states** require discussion of **LGBTQ+ identities and relationships** to be **inclusive and affirming** (Planned Parenthood)



Six southern states either **prohibit** sex educators from discussing LGBTQ+ identities and relationships, or actually **require** sex educators to frame LGBTQ+ identities and relationships **negatively** (Planned Parenthood)

Less than a third of people were taught anything at all related to **consent, sexual assault, or healthy relationships** in middle or high school (Planned Parenthood)



Women ages 18-24 who are **college students** are **3 times more likely** than women in general to **experience sexual violence**. (RAINN)

Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact the assistant opinion editors: Sydney.Allabaugh@wilkes.edu or Zara.Lantzman@wilkes.edu

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The scariest part about college? Group projects

Upon the start of a new semester, all college students are excited to explore new classes and find new friends—then, there it is. The dreaded familiar phrase on the syllabus: group project.

Suddenly, there is the urge to click the “drop class” button and wallow in self-pity. The truth of the matter is that a majority of students loathe group work.

Yadu Baznath, an associate professor at Chapman Learning Commons, performed a study and asked university students their opinions on group work. After reviewing their opinions, he concluded that there were certain reasons university students disliked group work: group members do not contribute equally or do not take the time to show up to meetings, everyone has different schedules, and working in a group exacerbates confusion.

Working in groups more often than not is way harder than working individually. Even though professors preach that working in groups increases social skills, makes students venture outside of their comfort zones and helps them learn from their peers, it normally has the complete opposite effect.

To start, students in group projects never do work equally. There is always

someone doing more work than the rest of the members in the group. Some students do not even show up on the day of presentations. However, because it's a group project, everyone gets the same grade. In the cases mentioned above, it's as if the students doing the most work are getting punished.

At Murdoch University of Law, a study was conducted where the university assigned a group project to 120 students. At the end of the study, each student was sent a survey to provide feedback on their group mates work ethic and then they were asked whether or not the group work caused them to receive higher grades than an individual project. Around 75 percent of students said they either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Randomized group projects are also a recipe for disaster. When students from different majors are randomized in a group together, this results in people with entirely different skill sets and levels of experience being paired up. If you are working with students who are not humanities majors, good luck trying to communicate with them.

Professors also tend to neglect the fact that introverts and extroverts often do

not work well together in group projects. When placed in a group setting, introverts would rather keep the conversation over text and work on their part of the project themselves. Extroverts, on the other hand, normally prefer collaborating with the entire group in order to finish the project.

For introverts, this can cause large-scale anxiety/panic attacks due to social anxiety; while for extroverts, this can cause frustration. It is normally difficult to find a solution that works for both of these groups of people, which can make tension levels rise within the group. Combined with the fact that extroverts normally have a much easier time presenting in front of peers than introverts, which is unfair.

We do have to address the irony of being a collaborative newspaper ranting about group projects. Group work succeeds for us due to the unity of interests and skills pertaining to writing, editing and designing. Also, because this is our literal job, we get a routine schedule where we can all work and talk together, compared to classes with strict deadlines that don't offer that same opportunity.

Group work causes nothing more than anxiety-filled dread amongst college students every year.

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

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

Email: Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu

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100 Geecs continues to break the mold on the new album

By Sydney Allabaugh

Asst. Opinion Editor

Music duo 100 Geecs recently released their highly anticipated album “10,000 Geecs.” This album follows the duo’s first album “1000 Geecs,” which received widespread attention and praise for its unique and absurd sound.

Some credit 100 Geecs with popularizing hyperpop, an eclectic genre that combines EDM and pop elements. Many artists, including mainstream artists, experimented with this genre over the past few years.

On “10,000 Geecs” Laura Les and Dylan Brady stray from their signature hyperpop sound and embrace a variety of different genres and styles, showing critics that they are more than a fad band, but instead seasoned artists with much to prove.

I was pleasantly surprised to hear a prevalent rock influence in many of the tracks. The album begins with “Dumbest Girl Alive,” a song with roaring guitars and pounding drums combined with electronic sound effects and auto tune, but not pitched vocals. This rock influence can be seen throughout the rest

of the album on tracks like “Hollywood Baby,” a track that embraces the sound of a teenage pop rock anthem, similar to “Teenage Dirtbag” from Wheatus with an electronic twist.

On “Billy Knows Jamie,” 100 Geecs fully commits to a nu metal track with distorted guitars and angry, direct lyrics. The song concludes with their traditional electronic and distorted breakdown of screams, blown-out bass and sound effects. As someone who grew up listening to mostly rock and its subgenres, and now listens to mostly hip hop and EDM, it is interesting and enjoyable to hear 100 Geecs combine these two realms of music in their songs.

Although 100 Geecs is experimenting with new sounds, they maintained their absurdity on “10,000 Geecs.” I am drawn to artists who implement a shock factor through unconventional production methods and wacky, comedic concepts in their music. 100 Geecs is known for this and excels at it.

On “One Million Dollars,” all the vocals are voiced by text-to-speech robots. The phrase “One Million Dollars” is repeated over and over again on a noisy EDM beat with electric guitars. Although

this song is silly and the lyrics do not have much substance, the production is phenomenal, and the use of the text-to-speech vocals makes the song addicting. It is one of my favorites on the album.

“Frog On The Floor,” a track characterized by a cheerful beat, lyrics and repeated frog ribbits, is another rather odd track. It almost sounds cinematic in nature, as it could be a theme song for a cartoon about a frog. It is a cute song with a cute concept.

Although I love the absurdity of these two tracks, “Doritos & Fritos” feels as though it is silly just for the sake of being silly. I love the structure and beat of the song. The eclectic beat during the verses and the pop pre-chorus complement each other in a pleasing way. However, the lyrics are overly stupid to the point it makes the song unlistenable.

Taking creative risks is still always worth it though and is something that could be seen frequently throughout this album. It would have been easy for them to further embrace the genre that led to their fame, but they continued to try unique, experimental concepts and genres.

One track that is particularly

interesting conceptually is “The Most Wanted Person In The United States,” which puts a comedic and ironic twist to being a murderer and criminal. The muted vocals over a beat that features the “Sleng Teng” riddim creates an eerie vibe, but the boing sound effects make the song light and silly.

“IGotMyToothRemoved” immediately follows this track and provides an entirely different vibe. It starts with a slow, emotional sounding sentiment about someone who was mean, then suddenly transforms into the cartoony sounding chorus in which Dylan Brady repeats “I got my tooth removed.” The duo’s use of a silly concept to describe something more serious, like the cessation of a relationship, is cool to hear.

Overall, I think this album proves that Laura Les and Dylan Brady of 100 Geecs do not take themselves too seriously, but their art is still deserving of appreciation. The duo embraces absurdity, while continuing to produce a worthwhile and high-quality product. The elevated and refined yet extravagant nature of “10,000 Geecs” surprised me, and I cannot wait to see what they do next.

Taylor Swift’s “The Eras Tour” overexceeding expectations

By Zara Lantzman

Asst. Opinion Editor

It’s been a long time coming.

Superstar singer Taylor Swift kicked off “The Eras Tour” on March 17 and March 18 in Swift City, AZ with the song “Miss Americana & the Heartbreak Prince.”

This came out of left field as I did not expect this to be the opening song, and I am sure I am in the majority when I say that. I did not even expect “Miss Americana & the Heartbreak Prince” to be on the setlist to begin with.

Swift did something no artist has ever done and performed a total of 44 songs for three hours and 13 minutes, with one of the songs being 10 minutes long. That is unheard of as most artists do half of that. There is also one surprise song that will be different for each show.

Swift had 16 costume changes with

zero breaks in her three-hour show. All costumes were absolutely stunning, and these were not simple costumes that take a second to put on. There were bodysuits, dresses, ball gowns, T-shirts, suits, corsets and a skirt with a top. I do not understand how she changed into half of these costumes at the speed she did. My favorite costume change moment was when Swift dove under the stage like a swimmer and emerged in a new costume playing “Midnight Rain.”

Of the 44 songs on night one, Swift played one song from her self-titled album, “Taylor Swift,” one song from “Speak Now,” three songs from “Fearless (Taylor’s Version),” four songs from “Red (Taylor’s Version),” five songs from “1989,” four songs from “Reputation,” six songs from “Lover,” seven songs from “Folklore,” five songs from “Evermore” and six songs from “Midnights.”

The surprise song on night one was “Mirrorball” from “Folklore,” and the surprise song on night two was “This is Me Trying” from “Folklore” and “State of Grace” from “Red (Taylor’s Version).” The main shock was “State of Grace,” as it replaced the only song from “Taylor Swift” with “Tim McGraw.”

Because I am going to “The Eras Tour” on May 12, at Lincoln Financial Field in Pennsylvania, I had to watch “The Eras Tour” through videos on TikTok and live streams on TikTok. The performance that sent chills down my spine was when Swift performed “Illicit Affairs” from “Folklore.” The vocals from this performance make the insane cost of the concert worth it on their own.

Regardless of what Swift did or played, fans were going to have the time of their lives. Fans showed up hours early to trade friendship bracelets with each other and

wore the craziest costumes. One fan even dressed up as a willow tree because of her song “Willow” on “Evermore.”

There are no bad seats at a Taylor Swift concert and that is known. Whether you have a floor seat, lower bowl, upper bowl, nosebleeds or an obstructed view, it is still an amazing seat.

When fans entered the stadium, they were given a light-up bracelet. During the performances of “Lover” and “You Need To Calm Down,” the bracelets were seen in full effect. When she played “Lover,” the bracelets lit up to form a heart together, which was seen in the upper part of the stands. When she played “You Need To Calm Down,” all of the bracelets formed a rainbow pattern as the song is about the “Don’t Say Gay” bill from Florida.

It’s no wonder more people showed up for Taylor Swift and “The Eras Tour” than the Super Bowl.

Why drag cannot “Sashay Away” from the United States

By **Morgan Steiner**

Contributing Writer

As I close out my second year here at Wilkes, it's hard to imagine our campus without the Welcome Weekend Drag Bingo, which has been a staple for the last few years.

It feels like drag is a part of the larger Wilkes-Barre community. Heat, a local gay bar and nightclub, is splashed across billboards and frequently hosts events and shows, featuring queens we've become familiar with, like Memphis Divine and Estella Sweet.

But college drag shows aren't just a staple here in NEPA. Appalachian State University in North Carolina hosted Jujubee for their Welcome Weekend and West Chester University welcomed Shuga Cain for a Drag Show just last month. In many places across the country, Wilkes events like Programming Board's Rainbow Bingo and the gender and sexuality alliance's Drag Show could be considered illegal.

The first anti-drag bill was passed earlier this month in Tennessee. The bill does not specifically reference “drag,” though it does heavily restrict “adult cabaret performances” in public or other places around children. This legislation expanded the definition of an “adult-oriented performance” to include “male of female impersonators.”

Not only does this restrict the performances people all over the country enjoy, but it also introduces an insane level of governmental regulation over our own bodies. How do you classify a male or female impersonator? To what level does it extend? Unclear wording like this stands to potentially threaten transgender individuals.

Under this law, transgender and non-gender conforming individuals may not be able to wear what is most comfortable for them in public spaces. In addition, this bill automatically assumes drag is pornographic in nature. Drag artists don't necessarily have to be sexy: they can be funny, beautiful, fashionable, talented or anything in between.

These laws don't just impact drag artists, but also the theater world. “Drag”

has been used in theater for centuries. In Shakespeare's day, every role was played by a man. Kabuki theater, a traditional Japanese style of performance, is only practiced by men, including the female roles. Under these laws, a Kabuki artist would not be allowed to perform.

These restrictions carry over to Broadway, with shows like *The Lion King*, *Hairspray*, *1776*, *Kinky Boots*, *My Fair Lady*, *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, *South Pacific*, and even more either depicting drag queens, trans individuals, or brief references of “cross-dressing.”

Drag is a quintessential part of LGBTQ+ history and culture. Drag shows were a major part of the Vaudeville style of performance and later, the Harlem Renaissance. At some point in the 20th century, the art form became popular at gay bars and continues to delight audiences.

You may be familiar with Divine, a prolific Drag Queen from the '70s and '80s. Not only did Divine amass countless film credits over her brief career, but she also influenced the character Ursula in *The Little Mermaid*. The two share mannerisms and physical looks.

Lady Bunny, another prolific queen, is the founder of Wigstock, a drag festival that began in 1984. Though this annual event went on a 12-year hiatus, it was revived in 2018 by Lady Bunny and Neil Patrick Harris.

Any discussion about drag would be incomplete without the mention of RuPaul Charles. She is arguably one of the most successful drag queens in history, acting in films, lending her voice to animated projects, recording best-selling albums, and hosting the show that, without a doubt, made drag so accessible to the American public: “RuPaul's Drag Race.”

Of course, it is essential to mention that RuPaul is not without her faults, as she has been known to make transphobic comments and is very much a “gatekeeper” when it comes to the art of drag. Even more drag queens are also transgender women, including Coccinelle, Sylvia Rivera, Marsha P. Johnson, and many of the queens you'll find performing at Heat.

Drag is a form of self-expression. For some, it is freeing to play a sport, write a story, sing a song, or act in a show. That same incredible feeling you get from your passions and hobbies is what Drag Queens get from donning makeup and eight-inch heels and stepping onto the runway.

Pretending to be somebody you're not can be exhilarating. It is a break from the societal pressures and expectations placed upon you. With drag, you can create a character who embodies all the parts of you that you can't show on a daily basis. Any TV show that does a “drag queen” story references these empowering terms.

In 2007, the adult-animated “King of the Hill” aired an episode that dealt with one of the main characters, a suburban housewife, is mistaken to be a drag queen by another drag queen. At first, she is deeply hurt that her close friend is a drag queen and offended that she was mistaken for a man. Towards the end of the episode, a club full of queens explains that the women they choose to represent, either through a fictional character or by imitating an existing artist, are powerful. They want to embody that power and confidence that women like Cher bring to the world.

This sentiment was echoed 11 years later by *The Simpsons*, in an episode where Marge adopts a drag persona to better sell tupperware. The idea is the same: The drag character has all the power, confidence and sexuality that

the individual wishes they could better represent.

Drag doesn't exist to corrupt. It's an art form with roots that go back centuries. It is a form of empowerment. Often, those of us in the LGBTQ+ community are marginalized. Drag is just one way we are able to take back our power in a way that also allows us to express ourselves through song, dance, comedy or art.

Tennessee's bill restricting LGBTQ+ art, culture, and history officially goes into effect on July 1. Other states have passed similar laws and more are still in the works. I recommend writing to your congresspeople, regardless of whether you are a Pennsylvania resident, and tell them you want drag to stay. If you're truly passionate about drag and LGBTQ+ rights, check the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Human Rights Campaign (HRC) for updates and information.

If our elected officials want to politicize drag, then let's show a united front and say: Drag is here to stay.



Graphic by Sydney Allabaugh

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July 17 to Aug. 18



Wilkes University

Roving Reporter: Colonels discuss their favorite music

What is your favorite music genre and which artist?

Compiled by Lauren Gardner - Contributing Writer



Alivia Foster

First-year - Undeclared

Favorite Genre: Country

Favorite Artist: Luke Combs



Courtney Negra

Sophomore - Special Education

Favorite Genre: Country

Favorite Artist: Morgan Wallen



Faith Sekol

First-year - Middle Level Education

Favorite Genre: Pop

Favorite Artist: Morgan Wallen



Jess Kunkle

Sophomore - Psychology and Criminology

Favorite Genre: R&B and Pop

Favorite Artist: Taylor Swift and Kehlani (I can't pick, don't make me!)

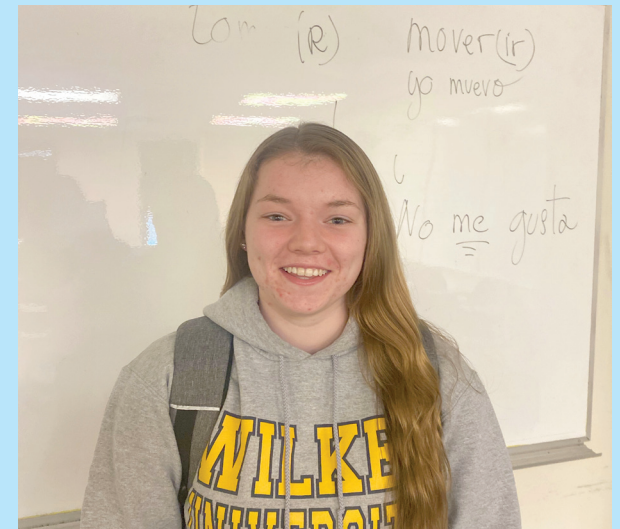


Kim Wheeler

Sophomore - Pharmacy

Favorite Genre: Pop

Favorite Artist: Harry Styles



Rebecca Ax

Sophomore - Nursing

Favorite Genre: Country

Favorite Artist: Garth Brooks

Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact the Sports Editor: Baylee.Guedes@wilkes.edu

FH: Ashley Irwin making strides as new field hockey coach

By Baylee Guedes
Sports Editor

Ashley Irwin is striving toward making a name for not only herself, but also for the roster of the Colonel's field hockey team.

Irwin was hired to turn the field hockey team around after the previous two-season head coach Charlotte MacDonald only brought eight wins to the program.

Growing up as an only child, Irwin was very involved in athletics to occupy her time. She started playing field hockey in eighth grade after her basketball coach pushed her to try out for the sport.

"He (basketball coach) thought I would be good at field hockey, turns out he was a pretty good coach and had an eye for talent," said Irwin. "It turned out to be the sport that would change my life."

She went on to play in high school at Daniel Boone Area and had multiple college opportunities.

Her love for the sport led her to King's College where she played in 67 games, started in 47 games and was a part of the back-to-back Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom championships. She was also on the Monarchs field hockey team during their NCAA Tournament appearances in 2006 and 2007.

Irwin graduated in 2011 with a bachelor's in elementary education and a minor in special education, as it was her dream to teach.

"Once I experienced playing at the college level, that dream quickly changed," said Irwin. "I still wanted to teach, but I wanted to teach the game, be a mentor, and make a change."

Irwin started her coaching career as the assistant coach and head junior varsity coach for Meyers High School field hockey team during the years of 2011-2014. She was also a girl's lacrosse assistant coach for Coughlin High School during 2012-2015.

After coaching for the high schools, Irwin then coached the Keystone College field hockey team from 2014-2022 as well

as coaching the women's lacrosse team from 2016-2020. She went 28-28 overall and earned the Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) Coach of the Year award in 2019 for the lacrosse team. Irwin was also the assistant athletics director, the compliance coordinator and the senior woman administrator.

"The neat thing about college coaching is that we're the last ones with the opportunity of making an influence or change in your life before you hit the real world," said Irwin.

After nine successful seasons as the head coach of the field hockey program at Keystone, going 68-75 overall, making many playoff runs and being named the CSAC Coach of the Year in 2022, Irwin made the change to Be Colonel.

Irwin starts her coaching career at Wilkes with spring season field hockey practices and scrimmages. Her goal is to build a culture for this team and build a sense of direction for the program. She wants to change what field hockey means at Wilkes.

"I want to own our name," said Irwin. "To me, the name Wilkes, has power. We live in NEPA, the hot bed for field hockey. We want to be a name, a program that people will nod their head and respect. I want to be a program, where when you say our name or see us coming up on your schedule, you know that it is going to be a tough game, a game you'll need to do your homework for."

Irwin hopes to be involved, be an asset and be a supporter of all of the teams at Wilkes as being a family is a major part of her coaching philosophy. The team views her leadership style in a positive manner.

"Coach Irwin has done an excellent job so far as she's well respected by our team and displays great leadership," said junior Bridget Rosenfeld. "She has already motivated us to push our team to be better on and off the field. Irwin is going to strengthen our program so much and help create a bright future for our team."

After a week of practices with Irwin, the team is in agreement that she is what Wilkes field hockey needs to succeed.

"I think she is a great fit for the team and the program," said senior Jordan Pugh. "She comes from years of experience and is ready to rebuild our program. She has a strong and confident personality which will help us grow individually and as a

team. The first week back was fun and I am looking forward to the rest of spring season."

The Colonels will practice and scrimmage throughout their short spring season in preparation for next fall. Recruiting and team building will continue over the summer as they anticipate gameplay in the Middle Atlantic Landmark Conference.



**TOP: Irwin cheers on her team, sharing wisdom before starting a drill.
BOTTOM: Irwin leads junior Kellie Scott through a shooting drill at practice.**



Photos: The Beacon/Baylee Guedes

BASE: Wilkes sweeps weekend games with King's College

By **Julia Mazur & Baylee Guedes**
Contributing Writer & Sports Editor

Baseball is in full swing and the Colonels took on rival King's College this past weekend—a matchup that did not disappoint.

Wilkes hosted the Monarchs on Friday, coming out with a 16-15 win in 11 innings. On Sunday, Wilkes went to King's for a doubleheader with a 15-1 win and a 0-0 win.

“King's versus Wilkes has been a historic rivalry in all sports for a long time,” said head coach Kevin Gryboski. “It was a great team win and we showed a lot of heart.”

It was no surprise that the rivalry between the Monarchs and Colonels continued in hard fought games as it has been going on for generations, no matter the sport.

GAME ONE:

The 11 inning win was nothing less than exciting. Wilkes was behind from the start and had to work hard to build momentum. The team was able to tie it up in the eighth inning at 14-14 to force extra innings.

The extra innings were scoreless for both teams until the final inning. The game seemed to be leaning in favor of King's as they scored one run, but Wilkes persisted and changed the momentum in their favor.

The Colonels managed to come through by scoring two runs and ended up winning 16-15.

Mike Show singled to left-center, scoring two for the walk-off win.

“It was a great team win for us,” said Show. “We had to battle all day and it was great to come out on the right side of this one. For the walk-off, I was just trying

to stay in the approach we've all been preaching as a team and just happy to come through for us there.”

Show also recorded the win on the mound for Wilkes as he pitched the last three innings of the game with four strikeouts and only allowing one hit and one run.

Scoring statistics:

Show was 3-5 with three doubles and five runs-batted-in (RBI) and Connor Morgan went 4-7 with three RBI's and three runs (R). Darren Kerdesky (3-7, 1 R), Todd Kolbicka (2-6, 3 R), Zack Luksic (2-5, 2 R, 2 RBI's), AJ Brosious (2-2, 2 R) and Devin Markert (2-4, 1 R, 2 RBI's). Jason Spezzaferra (1-5), Chase Vrabel (0-6, 1 RBI), Jake Cambria (1-1, 1 R), Peyton Shuck (1 R), Max Alessi (1-1, 1 RBI) and Ryan Johnston (1-3).

Pitching statistics:

Tony Molitoris (2.1 innings pitched 'IP', 7 hits 'H', 8 R, 1 strikeout 'SO'), Ryan Sanderson (2.2 IP, 6 H, 2 R, 3 SO, 1 walk 'BB'), Tyler Hoedl (1.0 IP, 1 H, 4 R, 2 SO, 4 BB), Sawyer Kemp (2.0 IP, 1 H, 2 SO, 1 BB) and Show (Win - 3.0 IP, 1 H, 1 R, 4 SO, 1 BB).

GAME TWO:

During the 15-1 win, Aiden Murphy only allowed 4 H, 1 R, 1 BB and recorded 15 SO in 7.0 IP.

Six Colonels recorded two hits each: Kolbicka (2-5, 2 R, 2 RBI's), Connor (2-4, 1 R, 1 RBI's), Show (2-4, 1 R, 3 RBI's), Alessi (2-5, 2 R), Vrabel (2-4, 2 R, 1 RBI's) and Spezzaferra (2-2, 2 R, 4 RBI's). Kerdesky (1-2, 2 R, 2 RBI's), Brosious (1-4, 1 R, 2 RBI's) and Cambria (2 R) also contributed at the plate.

Wilkes scored one run in the first inning,

10 in the second and four in the fourth on 14 hits. King's scored their solo run in the sixth inning.

GAME THREE:

Three innings of scoring led to the 8-5 win for Wilkes. The Colonels rotated five different pitchers to secure the win on the mound. Kemp got the win on the mound with 1.2 IP, 2 SO, allowing 2 H and 1 R. Hoedl recorded the save with 1.0 IP, 1 SO and 1 BB.

Wilkes started the scoring in the game with a run in the third. Kolbicka singled to center field and scored Spezzaferra.

King's answered with two runs but the Colonels came right back in the fourth by scoring five. With bases loaded, Vrabel hit a sacrifice fly, scoring Kerdesky. Cambria then doubled, scoring Brosious and Show. A Kolbicka single brought in Cambria and then Kolbicka scored on a single from Morgan.

The Monarchs scored one run in the

bottom of the fourth and one in the bottom of the fifth, making the score 6-4 Wilkes.

In the top of the sixth, Morgan's sacrifice fly brought in Cambria for another Colonel run. With bases loaded again for Wilkes, Show took a nice walk to first base, scoring Kolbicka.

In the bottom of the sixth, King's hit a solo homerun to make the score 8-5.

A scoreless seventh inning rewarded Wilkes with the win.

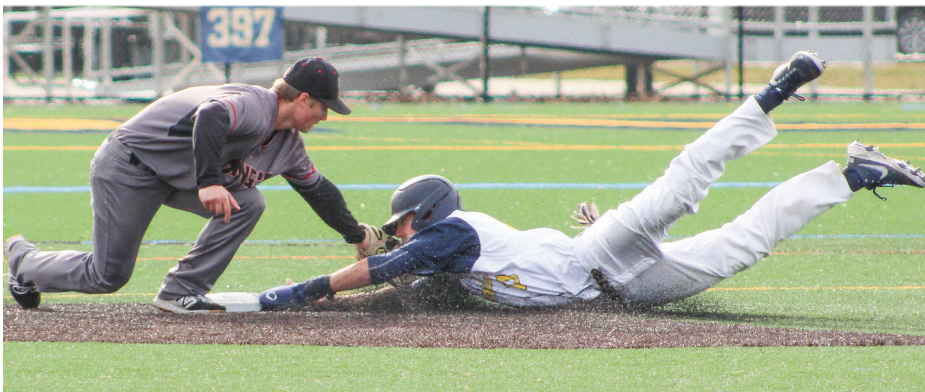
Five Colonels recorded RBI's: Kolbicka (2-4, 2 R, 2 RBI's), Cambria (2-4, 2 R, 2 RBI's), Morgan (1-3, 2 RBI's), Show (0-3, 1 R, 1 RBI) and Vrabel (0-2, 1 RBI). Brosious (2-4, 1 R), Kerdesky (1-3, 1 R) and Spezzaferra (1-3, 1 R) also contributed to scoring. Luksick walked twice.

The Colonels look to turn around their record and make a strong run for the rest of the season. They will host Misericordia University this Friday and then play a doubleheader on Saturday at Misericordia.



The Beacon/Baylee Guedes

J. Spezzaferra (23) getting ready for his at-bat after AJ Brosious (2) scored off of a double by Devin Markert in the third inning.



The Beacon/Amber DeJonge

M.Show diving hard into second-base as his Monarch opponent awaited him.

SOFT: Four up-four down as Colonels win out at home games

By Baylee Guedes
Sports Editor

The Colonels went 4-0 this week, making their overall record 11-4 on the season. Wilkes won out their doubleheader with Keystone College. Against Delaware Valley University, the Colonels dominated in the doubleheader.

"We were extremely proud of how the players handled each inning and really kept fighting," said head coach Jackie Klahold. "It's a great sign of the strength of the team and I know it will continue to grow throughout the season."

GAME ONE:

Wilkes took down the Giants in a close 2-1 win. Sophomore Bella Peters was in the pitching circle for the Colonels, only allowing seven hits, one run (in the second inning) and recording two strikeouts.

Scoring included first-year Hanna Cross, who got on base with a walk, making her way to third on a sacrifice bunt by junior Hannah Boyd. Cross then scored on a sacrifice fly by first-year Olivia Dougher. In the fourth inning, junior Megan Marshall, who came in as a pinch runner for sophomore Allison

Radicchi, made it home on an error off of junior Taylor Douple's at bat.

GAME TWO:

The 7-2 win featured junior Sami Hendershott on the rubber, only allowing five hits, two runs, one walk and striking out four.

Runs included junior Nicole Howell hitting a double that brought in Dougher and junior Haylee Calaman bringing in Howell on an error and advancement in the first inning. Hay Calaman hit a sacrifice fly bringing in Dougher in the third.

Keystone tried to come back in the fifth inning by scoring two runs, but Wilkes came right back in the sixth inning with three more runs. Dougher singled to left-field, advancing Boyd and scoring Cross. Howell tripled to right field, scoring Boyd and Dougher, bringing the score to 6-2. The final run was scored by Howell who was brought in by Hay Calaman who doubled to right-field.

Leaders at the plate during the doubleheader were Howell who ended the day by going 4-7 with two runs and three runs-batted-in (RBI), Boyd who went 3-6 with one run and Dougher who was 3-6

with three runs and 2 RBI's.

GAME THREE:

Wilkes won 2-1 in this conference matchup with senior Hope Mullins in the circle. She allowed two hits, one run, five walks and struck out four.

Boyd went 1-3 at the plate with one RBI with both runs in the game scored by Cross. The first run was scored in the first inning off of Boyd's double, scoring Cross and the second run was in the third as Cross scored on a throwing error on Boyd's bunt.

Del Val scored in the top of the seventh after a few walks at the plate, but Mullins put that to an end by generating two pop-outs for her defense to catch to end the game.

"Overall it was a close game," said Mullins. "But thanks to my defense we were able to come out on top."

GAME FOUR:

During the final game of the week and fourth conference game of the year, the Colonels run-ruled the Aggies 12-0 in five innings. First-year Lauren DeMarco struck out eight batters and only walked one on the rubber.

Wilkes scored three runs in the first

inning and nine in the third, only allowing the game to go into the fifth inning with an automatic win.

Howell went 2-3 with three runs, Cross went 2-3 with two runs and one RBI and Boyd went 1-2 with two runs and two RBI's.

Hay Calaman and Hayden Calaman went 1-2 with one run and one RBI each. First-year Salma Lampack-Heverly went 0-3 at the plate but scored one of the runs. Seniors AJ Bryfogle and Carly Endres both scored after being walked during their at-bats. Sophomore Kayla Bureson and junior Marissa Pick each went 1-1.

"It felt great to sweep them this year especially after splitting with them last year," said Boyd. "Being able to contribute to the win was awesome."

Leaders at the plate during the two games with Del Val were Boyd who went 2-5 with four RBI's and two runs, Howell who went 2-5 with three runs and Cross who went 2-4 with four runs and one RBI.

"I believe that we don't have one single biggest strength, we have a bunch of strengths that come together as one," said Howell. "We are a true team with so much push, support and leadership."



TOP: Endres (7) making a diving play as Calaman (18) comes to back her up.
BOTTOM: Boyd sliding safely into third base after making it there on a bunt.



Mullins (12) pitches for Wilkes. All pictures are from game one with the Aggies.
Photos: The Beacon/Baylee Guedes

Athlete of the Week

Joseph Marino

Junior Lacrosse Goalie

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week

Marino was chosen as our Athlete of the Week (AOTW) after his performance during the 11-9 win over Manhattanville College. He had 12 saves and only allowed nine goals on 35 shots in the game.

Marino also received the MAC Freedom Defensive Player of the Week for the first time in his career.

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Hometown: Swedesboro, N.J.

High School: Kingsway Regional

What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?

Setting a career high 26 saves against Neumann while holding them to 10 goals.

What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?

Philadelphia Phillies.

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Play video games.

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?

Being able to have a way to get your mind off school and stress, and playing with a great group of guys who like to compete.

What sports movie is your go-to for movie night?

"Remember the Titans" or "Happy Gilmore."

If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?

Baseball as that's the sport that I started out with.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Making 2 hard saves in overtime in high school that lead to us upsetting a team we haven't beat in years.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Chipotle.

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?

I am excited about being selected, it shows my hard work has been paying off.

The Beacon/Baylee Guedes

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

Compiled by Baylee Guedes, Sports Editor

Athlete of the Week

Breanne Fulling

Junior Lacrosse Midfielder

The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week

Fulling was chosen as our Athlete of the Week (AOTW) after her performance during the 13-10 non-conference victory over North Carolina Wesleyan College. Fulling scored a career-high five goals to lead the Colonels to a win.

Fulling also broke the school record for single-game draw controls with 16.

Major: Nursing

Hometown: Binghamton, N.Y.

High School: Chenango Valley

What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?

It would have to be the excitement of my whole team when I scored my first goal freshman year. I was so happy to be a part of this team.

What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?

The women's national soccer team. These women are great examples for young women and athletes everywhere.

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Rewatching Brooklyn 99 or New Girl, or reading a Colleen Hoover book.

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?

It has given me the opportunity to meet my best friends and I am eternally grateful for that.

What sports movie is your go-to for movie night?

"The Blind Side." It's so emotional and inspiring, it gets me every time.

If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?

I would love to play volleyball.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Our first conference game freshman year. We had not won a conference game in a couple years and the feeling of knowing that I was part of the team that changed history and broke our previously unlucky streak was amazing to me.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Broccoli poppers or an Italian sub with no cheese—definitely paired with a Glacier Freeze Gatorade.

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?

I feel so incredibly honored, excited, and grateful. I feel more motivated than ever to keep pushing and working hard for my team and motivate them to keep pushing so they may have the same opportunity.

Compiled by Baylee Guedes, Sports Editor



The Beacon/Baylee Guedes

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SPRING SPORTS UPDATE

By Baylee Guedes

Sports Editor

Spring sports are underway in Colonel nation.

All statistics are as of March 26.

MEN'S GOLF

Wilkes started their season on Sunday with a matchup with Misericordia University. They will play again tomorrow at King's College, Sunday hosting Marywood and Monday hosting King's and the University of Scranton.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Wilkes will start their season on April 2 against King's and Scranton.

MEN'S LACROSSE

The Colonels sit at 2-6 with just half of their season left. They will host Arcadia University tonight at 7 P.M. and then play at Delaware Valley University on Saturday.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

The 3-6 Colonels will play at Arcadia tonight and host Delaware Valley on Saturday as they head into the second half of their season.

MEN'S TENNIS

Wilkes started their season yesterday at Lebanon Valley College. They will travel to Dickinson College on Friday and then host Stevens University on Saturday.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The Colonels began matches Saturday at Pratt Institute with a 7-2 win and then faced Lebanon Valley yesterday. They will travel to Dickinson on Friday and then host Stevens on Saturday.

BASEBALL

An 10-11 record pushes Wilkes to the heavy part of the season. Friday the Colonels will host Misericordia and then have a doubleheader on Saturday at Misericordia.

SOFTBALL

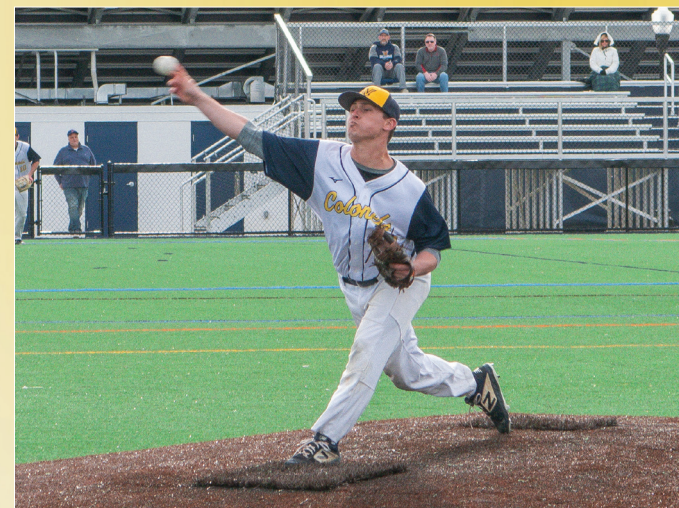
Sitting at 11-4, Wilkes will host Penn State Hazleton for a doubleheader tonight at 4 and 6 P.M. On Saturday, the Colonels will host Albright College for a doubleheader.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

With two games remaining in their regular season, Wilkes is looking to improve their 16-10 record. Tomorrow, the Colonels will travel to Drew University and then wrap up with a senior night celebration hosting Eastern University on April 5.



Blake Billingsley making a strong drive on March 18.



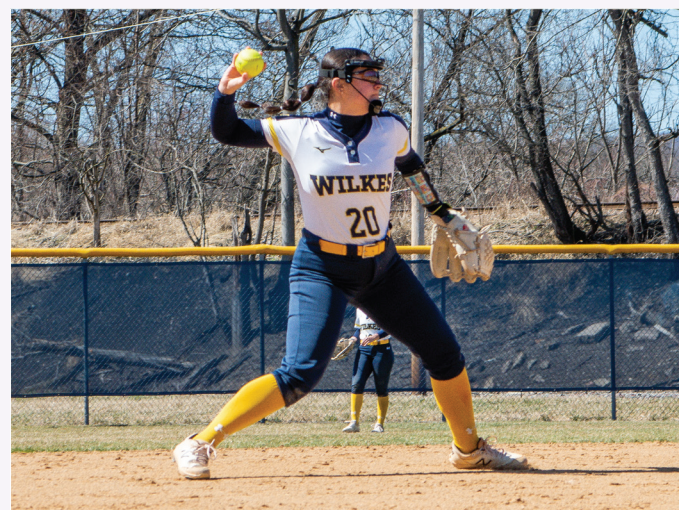
Ryan Sanderson on the mound VS. King's on March 24.



Bridget Rosenfeld in pursuit of her opponent from Neumann University in the women's lacrosse game on March 15.



The Colonels coming together after scoring on March 1.



Olivia Dougher making a play at third on March 26.

Photos: The Beacon/Baylee Guedes