

THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

Worries grow over stability of LGBTQ rights

By Sean Schmoyer
News Editor

The LGBTQ community has been fighting for equal rights since the early 1900s through organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union. The path to equal rights has been a back-and-forth fight.

The fight for equal rights for the LGBTQ community continues as concern rises over President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett, who would fill the seat left empty after the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg in September.

The Human Rights Campaign, which is the largest LGBTQ+ civil rights organization in the United States, officially opposed Barrett's appointment.

Alphonso David, president of the Human Rights Campaign, stated in a press release, "While people are suffering across the country, instead of offering aid, Trump and (FILL) McConnell are rushing through a Supreme Court justice - a justice who could deal a fatal blow to people maintaining their basic health care in the middle of a pandemic. The president has dramatically altered the judiciary to try to dismantle hard-fought rights and progress secured over decades - LGBTQ rights, voting rights, reproductive rights and more."

The concern for LGBTQ+ rights comes from two major places, Barrett's words and rulings as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals and recent statements from Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr.



At the Hesburgh Lecture in 2016 at Jacksonville University, Barrett commented on the 2015 landmark case, Obergefell v. Hodges, in which a 5-4 decision for Obergefell stated that the Fourteenth Amendment requires both marriage licensing and recognition for same-sex couples.

Barrett said of Obergefell v. Hodges, "(Chief Justice Roberts, in his dissent,) said, those who want same-sex marriage, you have every right to lobby in state legislatures to make that happen, but the dissent's view was that it wasn't for the court to decide ... So I think Obergefell, and what we're talking about for the future of the court, it's really a who decides question."

The concern in these statements is whether Barrett personally agrees with same-sex marriage or not, and that she supports the dissenting opinion back in the 2015 case that it is the state's place to decide whether same-sex marriage should be legal.

This means a rollback of Obergefell v. Hodges could result in states deciding to strip away the right to same-sex marriage.

Shawnessey Koebel, chemistry major and vice president of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance said, "I am very worried because of where many of the people in government stand on LGBTQ+ rights, and how many of them don't believe we actually deserve or

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Winning is in her DNA: Macciocco makes her mark on Wilkes

By Dylan Mehl
Co-Sports Editor

Two seasons ago, Wilkes Athletics decided to bring in a new head coach for women's basketball: Tara Macciocco. This change sparked immediate results, as the team doubled its total wins from four in the previous season to eight.

While Macciocco began her head coaching stint at Wilkes two years ago, this is not her first time being a head coach or being exposed to this level of basketball either.

Macciocco grew up in Dunmore, Pa., right outside of Scranton. Her father was a high school basketball coach for the local school for 35 years and her grandfather was the sports writer for The Scranton Times-Tribune for 30 years.

"I grew up in a basketball family," said Macciocco. "Athletics was always a big part of who we were."

She first learned the game of basketball at the age of four when she would routinely go to her father's basketball practices.

"I remember going up and down the floor, trying to dribble the ball and his players

MACCIOCCO, page 21



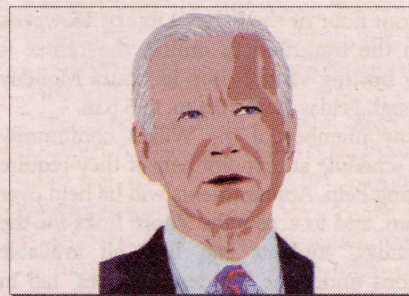
The Beacon/Sara Ross

Wilkes athletes participate in Into the Streets cleanup, page 6



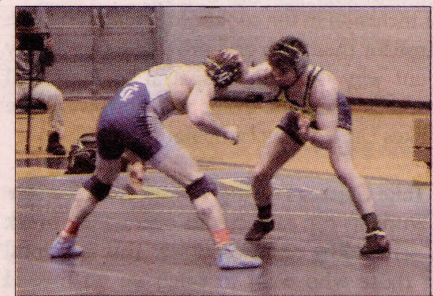
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Learn to relax with Buddhist meditation classes, page 7



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This town (hall) is not big enough for the both of us, page 15



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News

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

Student Government: Oct. 21 weekly meeting notes

By Maddy Kinard
Staff Writer

Student Government held its eighth virtual meeting on Oct. 21, touching on what Student Government is, what they do, as well as bringing a bookstore back to campus.

In honor of having a full board, Student Government started with a brief orientation of everything new members needed to know about the council. This included introducing members of the Executive Board and explaining their positions. It also covered office hours, committee reports and other aspects of being in Student Government that new inductees should be aware of.

Next, three guests, Dean of Student of Affairs Mark Allen, Director of Business Operations Alicia Bond and Assistant Vice President of Operations and Compliance Justin Kraynack, opened up a discussion about

the current plan to bring a bookstore back to campus. Currently, the bookstore is looking to be located in the SUB concourse lounge to the right of Rifkin Cafe. The contract at the current location of Barnes and Noble expires in August 2021.

The new bookstore will be a hybrid model, meaning that students will go to a kiosk and a worker would help order textbooks. They want to keep books out of the store, so that way, they can save as much space as possible for the lounge. Student Government led into a discussion, commenting on the possible disadvantages of not having any books on campus, and the possibility of keeping some hard copies for students who

need them.

After the guests had left, the council voted on how many hours members must complete within 2020. The hours include helping out with events, as well as holding office hours, taking into consideration COVID-19 restrictions and the limited amount of events being held. With the majority of the votes, five hours won.

Classes then broke out into 10-minute sessions to discuss class socials and fundraisers. The seniors, having already hit the mark of socials and fundraisers, did not discuss any new ideas but promoted their stickers, which can be purchased through their Instagram account, @wilkeseniors21.

They are hoping for the chance to be able to do a bar crawl next semester. Juniors are looking toward phone accessories. Sophomores have an online magnet fundraiser that is up and running on their Instagram, @wilkesg23. First-years are looking toward water bottles and a Netflix watch party for a social.

In closing, Commuter Council started its car costume contest on Oct. 26. The Programming Board is offering movie tickets, and for every ticket a student buys, they are entered into a raffle for an iPad. Residence Hall Council will be holding a social media contest running Oct. 26 through Oct. 30, in which anyone who follows them during that time will be entered to win a couple of large prizes. They will also hold a big event unveiling on Nov. 1.



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Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Sara Ross

Taste of Wilkes 2020: Home Edition

The Taste of Wilkes Home Edition is a virtual fundraising event taking place from Nov. 2 to 6. This event allows members of the campus community to submit their favorite recipes to be included in a cookbook. It will come in a physical book and a PDF version. There will be a virtual gift basket auction.

Chefs are also allowed to participate virtually. They can submit their favorite recipe for inclusion in the cookbook, create a unique name for their dish and provide a short story about why the dish is special to them. All proceeds from the event will go toward the Wilkes United Way campaign.

Take Classes During Winter Intersession

Students can earn credits over winter break by scheduling online courses. This is helpful for those who want to catch up on missed classes, get ahead in their studies or lighten their course load for the spring.

They are held in three- to five-week sessions that start on Dec. 7, and tuition is \$530 per credit.

If interested in signing up for an online class, make an appointment with your advisor and visit www.wilkes.edu/winter to view the course schedule. Registration opens at 10 p.m. on Oct. 25.

Writing Center to Host Virtual Consultations

Students who are looking to improve their writing or need assistance with an upcoming paper or essay can seek out guidance from the Writing Center, which is located on the bottom floor of the Farley Library. However, with the transition to online, the center is now hosting virtual drop-in hours Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Any member of the Wilkes community can schedule an appointment if they require writing help. Appointments will be held over Zoom, and to access the Zoom links for the meetings, students can find all available options under the "Student Services" tab in the Wilkes Portal.

Special Veterans Day Video

This year, Wilkes University's Veterans Day ceremony will be pre-recorded, and a special

video will be shared on the Wilkes social media channels on Nov. 11.

The Veterans Council invited all members of the Wilkes community to share photos of veterans they would like to honor so they could be included in the video.

Though the date for photo submissions has passed, join the campus in honoring veterans come Nov. 11.

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

LKS intertwines students and professionals like pasta

By Genny Frederick
News Staff Writer

Wilkes' Alpha Phi Chapter of Lambda Kappa Sigma Pharmacy Fraternity hosted a fun pasta fundraiser to benefit the chapter from Oct. 10 to Oct. 23.

A wide range of pasta noodles was available for purchase, including Republican and Democrat Party inspired pasta, reindeer noodle pasta and even some collegiate pasta noodles.

This pasta fundraiser is not an annual fundraising event for the club but was brought about by this semester's need for COVID-19 precautions.

Hannah Fritz, the chapter's fundraising chair and second-year pharmacy student with a concentration in public health, explained the reasoning for choosing this fundraising.

"The idea came from researching zero contact fundraisers that we thought would be interesting and engage our community," said Fritz. "The fundraising will support LKS as a club. For example, it will help to cover the costs of supplies we use or save up for future conventions. Additionally, LKS supports Project Hope, an organization that provides life-saving supplies, equipment and volunteers to worldwide natural disasters and health crises."

LKS is an international pharmacy fraternity, and according to the fraternity's mission statement, it "provides lifelong opportunities for women in pharmacy through professional excellence and personal growth."

It is the nation's oldest women-centered pharmacy fraternity with 31 active collegiate chapters and 16 active alumni chapters.

Deanna Fox, president of Wilkes' Alpha Phi chapter, described the role of LKS on campus and throughout the nation.

"We are a smaller club on our campus, but we are large nationally and provide many opportunities for involvement within our chapter but also on the national level," said Fox.

At Wilkes, the Alpha Phi chapter assists members in making connections with other students, alumni and pharmacists in the field.

"Lambda Kappa Sigma has provided me with connections to so many Wilkes

University alumni and other practicing pharmacists that I would have never met without this organization," said Morgan Burgess, a P2 pharmacy student. "Because of LKS, I have been able to go to these professionals for guidance and to learn more about the different areas of pharmacy that could be available to me upon graduation."

Laura Kline, a P2 pharmacy student, described what made her join the community.

"I wanted to join an organization in pharmacy school that would help me connect with other students like myself. Lambda Kappa Sigma's dedication to its members and the community drew me in right away. After one conversation with some of the sweetest

people I have ever met, I knew this was an organization that would allow me to grow personally and professionally, even after graduation," said Kline.

Kline continued, "My favorite part of the club is the connections I've made. I never

thought I would meet some of my best friends here, and now, I talk to my big Lexie Panek almost every day."

Fox described why she was motivated to take on a higher role in the club.

"I was motivated to take on the role of the Alpha Phi president because LKS is very special to me, and I wanted to help lead other pharmacy students to see all the opportunities our fraternity has to offer. My experience in LKS has been nothing but amazing. LKS has helped me step out of my comfort zone, allowing me to grow personally and professionally as a student pharmacist," said Fox.

While fundraising has changed a bit this year, the fraternity still has plenty of fun ideas. Soon, the group will be holding a fundraiser with The Dip Lady, located in Dallas, Pa. and with The Bearded Ladies and Co. located in Kingston, Pa., in November.

"We make it a point to support local small businesses when we fundraise to continue to help our community as best we can," Fritz explained.

If interested in LKS activities, check out the @WilkesToday email to support their other events throughout the rest of the semester.



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Graphic by Sara Ross

LGBTQ, from frontcover

need any of them. We are all human, and we all should have the same equal rights, no one deserves less than anyone else. We all have the same rights as each other."

This concern is backed further by Thomas and Alito's statements earlier in October, in which the New York Times and NPR reported that Thomas and Alito both viewed Obergefell v. Hodges as a case that, "will continue to have ruinous consequences for religious liberty."

They also stated that the case has "allowed those with sincerely held religious beliefs concerning marriage will find it increasingly difficult to participate in society."

Obergefell v. Hodges is not the only major Supreme Court ruling to address LGBTQ rights. In 2003, the Supreme Court ruled in a 6-3 decision that a then Texas statute making it a crime for two persons of the same sex to engage in certain intimate sexual conduct violated the Due Process Clause. The case Lawrence v. Texas holds some similarities between Obergefell v. Hodges, as well as a recent case titled Altitude Express v. Zarda.

The similarities between the cases are

some of the justices and their rulings. In Lawrence v. Texas, Thomas and former Justice Antonin Scalia both sided on the dissenting opinion. They would again be on the dissenting opinion in Obergefell v. Hodges, joined by Alito and Justice John Roberts Jr.

On the majority decision side for Lawrence v. Texas, there was Justice Stephen Breyer and Ginsburg. They were joined in Obergefell v. Hodges by Justices Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor.

The newest case, Altitude Express v. Zarda, which was ruled in June in a 6-3 decision, ruled that Title VII prohibits an employer from discriminating against an individual based on sexual orientation.

Justices Alito, Thomas and Brett Kavanaugh gave dissenting opinions while Kagan, Sotomayor, Breyer and Ginsburg again sided in favor of LGBTQ rights. They were joined by Roberts and Justice Neil Gorsuch as well.

The way justices rule may set precedent for how they will in the future.

It is important to acknowledge that a dissenting opinion does mean that those justices stand against LGBTQ rights.

In Altitude Express v. Zarda, Alito and

Thomas' dissenting opinion was critical of the majority for attempting to "pass off its decision as the inevitable product of the textualist school of statutory interpretation," but in their eyes revising Title VII to "better reflect the current values of society."

Kavanaugh gave a separate dissenting opinion, in which he acknowledged the efforts of members of the LGBTQ community.

"Millions of gay and lesbian Americans have worked hard for many decades to achieve equal treatment in fact and law ... They have advanced powerful policy arguments and can take pride in today's result. Under the Constitution's separation of powers, however, I believe that it was Congress's role, not this Court's, to amend Title VII."

Neither dissenting opinion implies the justices believe the LGBTQ community does not deserve equal rights. This has not eased the worry.

If Barrett is appointed, her previous actions and words side with Alito, Thomas and Kavanaugh. Roberts has been on both sides of a major LGBTQ rights ruling.

LGBTQ community members and allies with worries about the recent talk of

Obergefell v. Hodges have reason to worry about Roberts, as he was not a member of the majority in that ruling.

Another unknown is Gorsuch, a justice appointed by Trump. Despite voting with the majority in Altitude Express v. Zarda and writing the majority opinion, he may be a wild card in future decisions.

"I'm not sure what actions should be taken," said Holly Jones, Wilkes' president of GSA. "Whatever measures are taken should be peaceful, such as petitions or socially distanced rallies. These are scary times.

Please remember to reach out to those around you and that the GSA is a safe space for anyone regardless of sexual orientation."

The Supreme Court's position on LGBTQ rights will be tested on Nov. 4 when the court will hear the case Fulton v. the City of Philadelphia, which the ACLU states "could allow private agencies that receive taxpayer-funding to provide government services — such as foster care providers, food banks, homeless shelters and more — to deny services to people who are LGBTQ, Jewish, Muslim or Mormon."

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Graphic by Anna Culver

VP Mike Pence's policies compared to President Trump's

By Genny Frederick
News Staff Writer

Mike Pence is the current vice president and 2020 Republican VP nominee for the election next week.

Since his time as governor of Indiana, he has faced criticism for his policies impacting the LGBTQ+ community. At the time of his inauguration in 2016, these policies were of major concern and a source of criticism.

As governor, Pence signed into law Indiana Senate Bill 101, also known as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). Criticism came from the suspicion that the bill was written in a way that allowed for the discrimination of LGBTQ+ individuals. Pence responded to this accusation in a 2015 op-ed in the Wall Street Journal.

"As governor of Indiana, if I were presented a bill that legalized discrimination against any person or group, I would veto it," Pence said.

During Pence's vice presidency, the ban on transgender military personnel went into effect. On Apr. 4, 2019, the Directive-type Memorandum-19-004 was signed and was recently replaced by the Department of Defense Instruction 1300.28 on Sept. 4.

This instruction prevented the service of anyone with "a history or diagnosis of gender dysphoria, cross-sex hormone therapy or sex reassignment or genital reconstruction."

These conditions stand unless the applicant demonstrates "36 consecutive months of stability in their biological sex," "have not transitioned to their preferred gender and a licensed medical provider has determined that gender transition is not medically necessary to protect the health of the individual" and "is willing and able to adhere to all applicable standards, including the standards associated with the applicant's biological sex."

Pence has been a supporter of President Donald Trump's foreign policies but has also been an independent contributor to foreign policies in the U.S.

The Council on Foreign Relations, a nonprofit think tank analyzing foreign policy issues, noted Pence "has often played an essential role in reassuring U.S. allies that have

been shaken by some of the president's sharp critiques, visiting Asia, Europe and Latin America to buoy relations with important U.S. partners."

In the vice presidential debate on Oct. 7, Pence discussed what had been done in the past four years, noting the movement of the American embassy to Jerusalem, the increase in contributions from NATO and a stronger alliance between the U.S. and Asian Pacific nations.

Pence also had a hand in the foreign policy with Venezuela. He was the one to set up a meeting between Trump and Lilian Tintori, the wife of Venezuelan political prisoner Leopoldo López. This meeting was suspected to re-center U.S. concern for Venezuela, eventually leading to more direct policies to help Venezuela. These foreign policies were celebrated for their concern about human rights.

Chris Smith, a senior political science and history major, discussed the differences between Pence's foreign policy views and

Trump's.

"In foreign policy, Pence and Trump are very different," said Smith. "Pence is in favor of free trade, whereas Trump has publicly been against it. Particularly, he supported NAFTA and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, both of which Trump campaigned against in 2016."

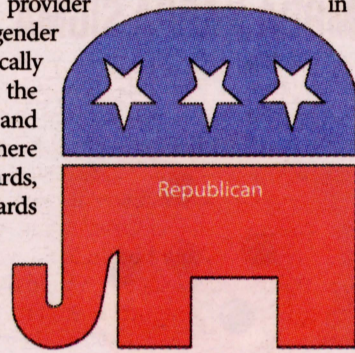
Pence spoke out on the third night of the Republican National Convention in response to the marches over the summer.

"President Trump and I will always support the right of Americans to peaceful protest, but rioting and looting is not peaceful protest. Tearing down statues is not free speech," said Pence.

Many are now calling for the defunding or abolishing of police departments, along with the reallocation of these funds to other social programs to reduce the need for police.

Pence voiced his opposition to this idea at many different events across the country, including a Back the Blue event in Philadelphia.

With Nov. 3 right around the corner, an understanding of each candidate's policies is vital to an educated vote.



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Graphic by Anna Culver

Potential first female VP: A look at Kamala Harris' policies

By Anna Culver
Staff Writer

Joe Biden's choice for vice president, Kamala Harris, is the only black woman in the United States Senate. Representing the Democratic Party from California, she is the daughter of an Indian mother and a Jamaican father and is the former district attorney for San Francisco from 2004 to 2010.

According to the State of California's Department of Justice, Harris is the first woman district attorney in San Francisco's history and the first African American woman and South Asian American woman in California to hold the office.

One of the main criticisms from progressives has been that Harris is a former prosecutor and district attorney. Harris has previously described herself as a "progressive prosecutor" and "top cop" in her roles in California. She has also been criticized for her lack of prosecuting cases involving police killings.

Another criticism of Harris' is the fact that she could be the first-ever vice president who is a woman. Many Republican news sources

have attacked her identity as a black woman or by saying she is too radical. However, many individuals have come out in support of Harris as a good running mate for Biden.

"I strongly agreed with Harris on her gun control policies. She believes in strict gun control and regulations, as well as her beliefs and policies on women's rights," said Hope Williams, president of Wilkes University's College Democrats.

"Both are vital policies. I feel that Biden's pick for the next vice president of the United States was an amazing choice. Harris is the first woman of color to be on a major presidential ticket. She has and will continue to be a role model for young women in this country and worldwide."

Harris promoted most of Biden's approaches to foreign policy during the recent vice-presidential debate. She attacked President Donald Trump's current foreign policy, including his relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Harris said the U.S.

president trusts Putin more than his own FBI director.

She defended the Iran nuclear deal, which her presidential running mate has endorsed as the primary point in his foreign policy. On the other hand, Trump rejected the deal, and Harris believes America is "less safe ... because of Donald Trump's unilateral approach to foreign policy."

Harris expressed that the current trade war Trump has waged against China has only resulted in a "loss of American lives, American jobs and America's standing." She accused the Trump administration of wastefully dropping all coordination efforts with Beijing on monitoring pandemics.

According to a BBC article, Harris is broadly aligned with the rest of her party in supporting law enforcement reforms. Harris has been vocal in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Earlier this summer, after the police killing

of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Harris told The New York Times that "it is status-quo thinking to believe that putting more police on the streets creates more safety. That's wrong. It's just wrong."

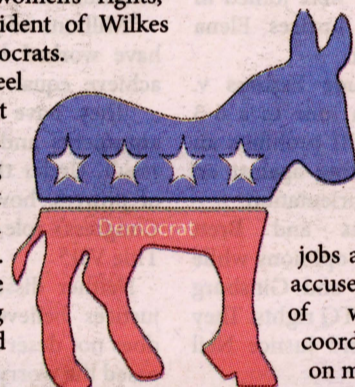
Harris has expressed support for reforming the police system and setting a high standard for racial justice.

Finally, Harris has a long history of supporting pro-LGBTQ+ rights policies. In 2004, Harris established a hate crimes unit specifically to investigate and prosecute anti-LGBTQ+ violence. Harris has organized a conference in California that brought together over 100 officials from across the U.S. to discuss strategies to end the use of the so-called gay and transgender panic defense. California became the first state to ban the practice in law in 2014.

Along with other senators in 2018, Harris introduced a bill to prohibit the practice nationally. Harris has remained a massive supporter of LGBTQ+ rights. She has frequently co-sponsored pro-equality legislation and speaking out against the violence faced by transgender women.



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Graphic by Anna Culver



Alumni help guide students at social sciences career panel

By Sara Ross
Asst. News Editor

On Oct. 19, the Office for Career Development and Internships hosted the social sciences graduate school and career panel via Zoom. It introduced four alumni guests to offer insights on their careers.

Director of Career Services Carol Bosack led the panel discussion.

"Thank you all for your time. I know our students all very much appreciate hearing about your careers and getting guidance and insights to see what they can do with their degrees," said Bosack. "This is a mix of psychology, sociology, criminology, political science and international studies students."

Before starting, Bosack encouraged students to turn on their cameras to make the panel feel more personable, interactive and almost as if they were face-to-face. She then began providing questions for each of the panelists to answer. Her first question asked how each went about applying to graduate school and their experiences once they got there.

First on the panel was Dr. Megan Cannon, a sport-performance psychologist. Currently, Cannon works with teams and athletes at various levels within their careers across the country through her consulting agency based in Allentown, Pa. She has even appeared on ESPN's SportsCenter multiple times.

When applying for graduate school, Cannon compared the application process to

a marathon. She found it helpful to visit career services on Wilkes' campus, as many of those within that department had experiences in the social sciences.

In the field of psychology, students are required to take the Graduate Record Examinations, or GREs, which are tests designed to measure candidates' qualifications in the admissions process for graduate-level psychology degrees.

"Something I found super helpful was taking the subject-specific GREs," revealed Cannon. "This is because no matter what realm you are looking to go into, this provides you with another level of information that prepares you for the exam."

Corey Hauser, a third-year law student at Washington and Lee University School of Law, followed Cannon. A 2018 Wilkes graduate, Hauser went straight through to law school. Today, he is the editor-in-chief of the Washington and Lee Law Review in Lexington, Va.

He touched upon the process of taking the Law School Admission Test, a standardized test meant for prospective law school candidates.

"As for getting in, law school is pretty much your LSAT and your grade point average, said Hauser. "Although, you do want to have really good letters of recommendation and strong personal statements, especially if you are one of those fringe applicants, where you can go either way in whether or not you get accepted."

As law schools strictly look at the raw data,

Hauser discussed that anyone applying should put their best efforts into studying for the LSAT and receiving good scores. He advocated for taking review courses and the LSAT more than once. Law schools have gone toward taking the top scores rather than averages.

Another panel guest was 1998 graduate Dr. Michael Kaschak. A professor of cognitive psychology, Kaschak runs a lab at Florida State University, where his main specialty is in studying psycholinguistics.

Kaschak emphasized the significance of students starting early and exploring the different areas of psychology. There are several disciplines, including cognitive, developmental, clinical, counseling and family studies. According to Kaschak, students should begin looking at the types of graduate schools they would like to apply to during the spring semester of their junior year.

Even more so, he stressed that they should match themselves to specific graduate programs they are interested in. It can help them to be more successful, especially since there are differences between applying to undergraduate and graduate schools.

"Matching is really important because it makes the decisions of whether you get in or not. Regardless of your GRE or GPA, your first step is to get yourself oriented to where you want to go," discussed Kaschak. "With graduate school, you are going to have to specify which research teams you would like to join. The faculty members in charge of those

research teams will then be the ones to decide whether or not you get into the program."


The final panelist was alumna Katharine Marianacci, who currently works in counseling psychology at Lehigh University. She is at their Center for Career and Professional Development as their associate director and engineering career coach. To Lehigh students, Marianacci provides one-on-one job coaching and programming to help them choose a career path when they graduate college.

Marianacci completed her program while having an internship with the Lehigh Career Center Office, which offered her the positions she has today, and she succeeded obtaining a master's degree in counseling.

She explained when it comes to graduate school that students have to weigh what options work well for them.

"I think it is crucial to consider the best model for you. There is no right or wrong way to get your graduate degree. It all depends on what your goals are," said Marianacci. "It's good to self-reflect and consider all the options that are available and talk to other people that can help and guide you."

The panel wrapped up with final questions from students to the panelists. For more information regarding how to prepare for and apply to graduate school, contact Bosack or visit <https://wilkes.edu/ccdi>.

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Joe Biden rallies support close to his hometown in Dallas, Pa.

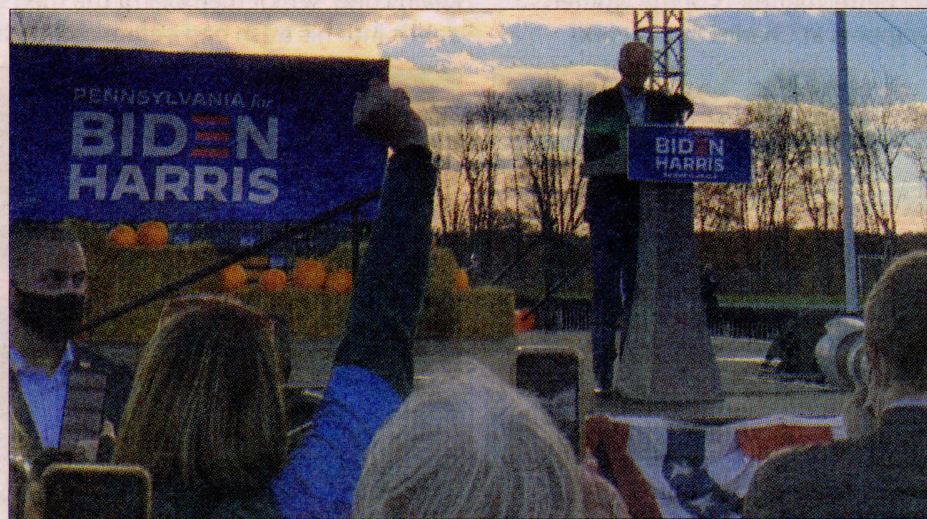
By Liz Cherinka
Staff Writer

Joe Biden made an appearance for a rally in Dallas, Pa. on Saturday. The rally was held in the Dallas High School parking lot with a stage for speakers and all attendees in their vehicles.

"The future of Pennsylvania and the future of the United States of America are on the ballot," said representative Gerald Mullary.

Sen. Bob Casey introduced Jon Bon Jovi, who was a main draw to the event, besides the presidential candidate.

The crowd cheered as Bon Jovi performed a three-song set, including "Livin' on a Prayer." During his performance, he mentioned the importance of voting and the importance of simply wearing a mask. He also performed a song for this event called, "Do As You Can." In this song, he talked about the importance of doing what people can until the pandemic ends, potentially with a vaccine.



The Beacon/Liz Cherinka

Joe Biden made an appearance at the Dallas High School rally on Saturday.

After Bon Jovi, it was time for the main event. Dr. Jill Biden introduced her husband, saying, "Joe has faced unimaginable tragedies, but his purpose has always driven

him forward."

Bill Kane, president of the Crestwood Teacher's Association, formally introduced the presidential candidate. He spoke on the


importance of voting for Biden from the perspective of an educator.

As he detailed his policies and goals for office, Biden engaged the large crowd. He spoke on issues such as healthcare, the economy, racism, poverty, the cost of college, union workers, the COVID-19 pandemic and many other large issues on the ballot this election.

Healthcare, sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic, has been a highly debated issue. Biden said, "Donald Trump thinks healthcare is a privilege. I think it's a right."

Biden also talked about how he grew up in the area of northeastern Pennsylvania, specifically in Scranton. He said he will be the first president in modern history to have not attended an Ivy League school, as he attended the University of Delaware.

"It's about time a state school guy gets to go to the Oval office," said Biden.

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Wilkes athletics participated in the Into the Streets event


By Sara Ross
Asst. News Editor

Wilkes University's Civic Engagement Office hosted Into the Streets on Oct. 24. The day is a volunteering event meant to help Wilkes residents around the community by cleaning up well-known public areas and the outside of homes to prepare for the winter season.

Volunteers worked from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., and they were placed in teams of five students or more. Many of those involved were from a variety of athletic teams, including Wilkes men's ice hockey and men's and women's cross country.

The students were sent to homes throughout the community and given assignments. These included raking leaves, weeding, debris pickup, moving outdoor summer furniture into storage, changing smoke detector batteries and washing or removing screens from low-level windows.

Civic Engagement Coordinator Megan Boone was in charge of the event, along with Makayla Guzzo, the civic engagement's student-lead coordinator, who assisted Boone with the preparations for Into the Streets.

 @wilkesbeacon
Sara.Ross@wilkes.edu



Charles Street Park, located at 26 Irving Place, pictured at the beginning of cleanup.



Sophomore Mia Hensil and junior Sydney Rochette, members of the women's cross country team, picked up plastic and wrappers at Charles Street Park.



Kevin Long, senior member of the men's cross country team, placed leaves and debris into his trash bag before moving along to other areas of the park.



The men's ice hockey team participated in the community service event by raking leaves into piles around Public Square in Downtown Wilkes-Barre.



Bottom Two Photos: Courtesy of Scott Mueller
Hockey players Angelo Marquart, Jay Gallagher, Chris Dalfarra, Xavier Abdella, Michael Paterson-Jones, Scott Mueller and Donald Flynn at the end of the event.

Top Three Photos: The Beacon/Sara Ross

Bottom Two Photos: Courtesy of Scott Mueller

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any restaurants that should be reviewed or any artists to be featured? Contact Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor: Maria. DiBuo@wilkes.edu

Learn to relax with Dr. Linda Paul's Buddhist meditation classes

By Liz Cherinka
Staff Writer

Buddhist Meditation is held on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. by Associate Professor Linda Paul, offering students a sense of calm in this different and ever-changing semester. The sessions are open to all Wilkes students and run online for approximately 45 minutes.

Paul has been hosting meditation sessions for 20 years, after taking a four-month-long sabbatical to practice meditation in a Buddhist monastery. She described her time with the zen master as a life changing experience.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Paul's sessions had to transition online.

"I hadn't thought about it (continuing them online) until May," said Paul.

Paul attended a meditation session online herself and was inspired to bring the sessions to Wilkes when she realized it was not all that bad. Although she prefers the in-person sessions, the online ones work for the time being.

"Remarkably, this 2,000-year-old practice adapts quite nicely to remote video sessions during these pandemic times," said Joseph Naldone, a senior instructional designer.

"I was partly curious to see if the experience would change significantly – it didn't," Naldone

explained. "Everything that Dr. Paul brings to regular sessions, she is able to bring to virtual sessions. The support for my commitment to meditating regularly feels like it hasn't changed, which is an ideal result. I'm not surprised, though. I think we are all quite adaptable."

An advantage of the online meditation is that there are minimal disruptions. If a student needs to arrive late or leave early, it will not cause any disruptions for the other participants.

The meditation sessions have multiple purposes that vary for each student. Paul told the story of a young man who attended nearly every session from his first to senior year to help with his anxiety.

Paul explained that the sessions helped this student become less anxious; however, it is a slow change. Further, she explained that the benefits of meditation "come in a gradual way," comparing it to becoming physically fit.

Naldone has been practicing

meditation with Paul for about six years.

"Meditation practice has many benefits. In my experience, it's been a positive way to reflect on my 'internal world,' so to speak," said Naldone. "For a brief time, all I pay attention to is my internal experience. Of course, it's not that simple to pay attention to anything for very long, so we practice."

Other Wilkes students have also started to take advantage of the meditation sessions recently.

"I only started the virtual meditation sessions this week, but I took Dr. Paul's Buddhist thought class a few years ago, which included an activity where we

practiced different types of meditations all day," said pharmacy student Hayley Murray.

"I have meditated on my own prior to Dr. Paul's class and these virtual sessions, so I enjoy it. It is very calming for me, and I find it even more relaxing in a group setting."

Other participants agree that group

meditation can be easier than meditating alone.

"It's a challenge to turn the practice into a habit and keep the habit alive," said Naldone. "Having a group meditation session makes it easier to motivate myself to participate."

Additionally, Paul uses her knowledge of Buddhism to shed some light on the purpose of meditation.

"The basic idea from a Buddhist perspective is that we all suffer more than we need to," said Paul. "Our suffering arises because we don't see things clearly. Meditation helps us see things how they are."

Looking toward the future, Paul would encourage students to attend the sessions.

"I think it is interesting to try out different things," she said.

If any students are interested in Buddhism specifically, Paul teaches PHL 244: Buddhist Thought in the spring semester. Students are welcome to sign up.

If anyone is interested in participating in the Buddhist meditation sessions, email linda.paul@wilkes.edu for the link. This link works every week, so students can participate when they are able.



Elizabeth.Cherinka@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Anna Culver

Club Update: Manuscript Society in Wilkes' English department

By Maria DiBuo
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

NAME OF CLUB: Manuscript Society

EXECUTIVES:

Executive Editor: Sarah Weynand

● *Assistant Editor:* Rashonda Montgomery

Art/Layout/Copy Editor: Haley Katona

Social Media/Photo Editor: Emily Cherkaskas

Assistant: Olivia Lombardi

Editors at Large: Jordyn Williams and Ashley Wallace

Faculty Advisors:

Dr. Chad Stanley and Dr. Mischelle Anthony

MEETINGS: Every other Tuesday (via Zoom) at 11 a.m.

HOW TO JOIN: Email magazine@wilkes.edu or DM on Twitter: @WilkesMag or Instagram: @wilkes_manuscript.

DESCRIPTION: The Manuscript Society is Wilkes' on-campus literature and art magazine, fully run by students. We accept fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, short essays, photography, drawing, painting, digital art and music compositions. Our submissions opened Sept. 13 and run through April 2.

For our Black History Month issue, we will hold submissions open until Feb. 4. If you are interested, please submit your work to our email, magazine@wilkes.edu, with your Wilkes email and specifications for which issue, if not both, you want to be a part of.

Our submissions go through a blind submission process, meaning no one in the room will know it is your work, unless it is accepted and published with your permission. We do not accept anonymous submissions.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Five pages of double-spaced text, five poems, or five images per submitter.
- Include the title of each piece clearly at the top of the page or as the filename.
- Submit files as .doc or .docx format, or .jpeg or .png for images and graphics.
- Do not include your name or any identifying information within the document.



@wilkesbeacon
Maria.DiBuo@wilkes.edu

Do you have any important updates or new information on clubs and co-curriculars in your department that you would like students to know of?

Are you a new club and wanting to reach out to students?

Contact:
Maria.DiBuo@wilkes.edu
Emily.Cherkaskas@wilkes.edu

Apple Mash: Moody foodie's take on a traditional autumn dessert

By Anna Culver
Staff Writer

Think of a giant apple sugar cookie. This recipe is easier than your traditional apple crisp recipe — it is a yummy warm treat paired with a bowl of vanilla ice cream. It is perfect for a cold fall day or just as an excuse to go to an apple orchard.

Supplies needed:

- 8x8 pan
- Bowl
- Cutting board
- Knife
- Spoon or mixer

Ingredients:

- Five apples
- One cup of flour
- One cup of sugar
- One stick of butter

How to:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease the pan with butter.
Peel the apples, and slice them thinly.

Spread the apple slices out in the 8x8 pan.

Melt the butter, and measure out the flour and sugar. Mix together the flour and sugar.

Add in the butter slowly until it becomes a crumble. Set aside the butter that is not mixed in.

Spread out the crumble over the top of the apples.

Take the rest of the butter and pour it over the rest of the crumble.

Bake for about 30 minutes, or until it is golden brown.

Enjoy!

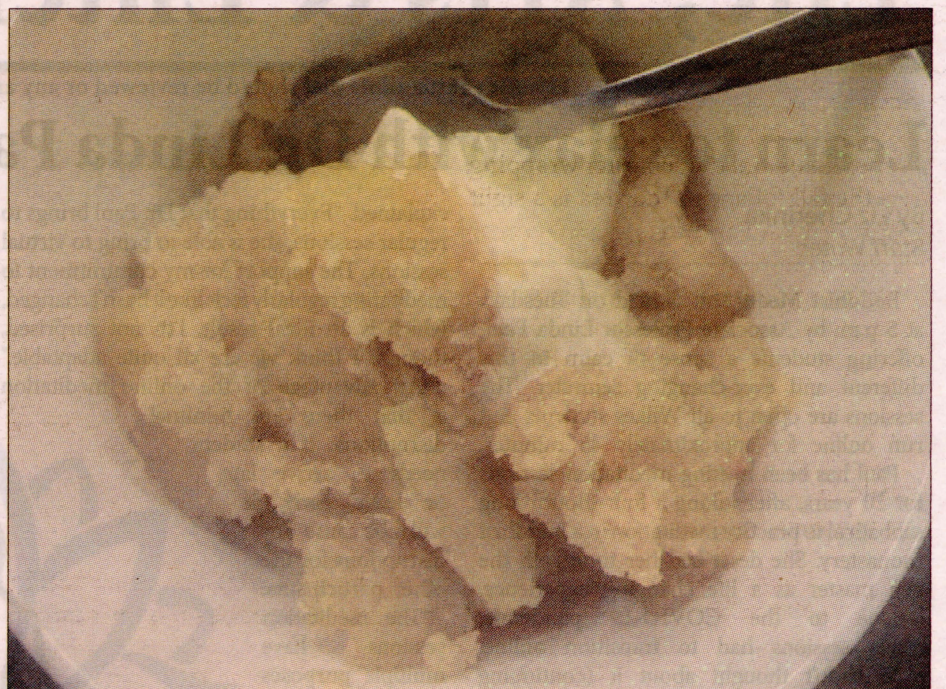
I recommend making a large bowl of ice cream and putting a warm serving of the apple mash on top.

Cost to make: Less than \$10

Food Allergy: Dairy



Anna.Culver@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Anna Culver



The Beacon/Anna Culver

This yummy apple dessert is not only satisfying for a cold autumn day, but it is also easy and affordable to make.





BEACON BUMPS

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff adds a song to their Beacon Bumps playlist. Look below for this week's list of songs.

Kirsten Peters, Editor-in-Chief: [Hard to Stay Mad At](#) - Tim McGraw
Sean Schmoyer, News Editor: [Bloom](#) - Dabin
Sara Ross, Asst. News Editor: [I'll Be](#) - Edwin McCain
Genny Frederick, News Staff Writer: [Witness](#) - Mt. Joy
Maria DiBuo, LA&E Editor: [Excitable Boy](#) - Warren Zevon
Emily Cherkauskas, Asst. LA&E Editor: [rue - girl in red](#)
Breanna Ebisch, Opinion Editor: [Runway Man](#) - Olivia Whillhite
Zarquha Ansari, Asst. Opinion Editor: [Paradise Waiting](#) - Vacationer

Jordan Daniel, Opinion Staff Writer: [Guys](#) - The 1975
Dylan Mehl, Co-Sports Editor: [You're Mines Still](#) - Young Bleu ft. Drake
Ariel Reed, Co-Sports Editor: [I Should Have Kissed You](#) - One Direction
Chris Gowarty, Sports Staff Writer: [Just What I Am](#) - Kid Cudi
Mia Walker, Lead Designer: [Marooned](#) - Pink Floyd
Steffen Horwath, Staff Photographer: [King's Dead](#) - Jay Rock, Kendrick Lamar, Future and James Blake

Enjoying the fall foliage, scenic views of NEPA and beyond

By Maria DiBuo
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

As November nears and begins to prepare us all for the winter months and the uneasy feeling they may add due to finals and the semester wrapping up, the fall foliage in the area is a sight for sore eyes. For locals, the fall season is a favorite.

With mountain ridges lined with reds, oranges and yellows, the true beauty of the NEPA area has been on full display in recent weeks, giving the summer season one last nod before snow begins to fall. Enjoy the views while they last, as in a few weeks, they will be gone until next year.



Photo: The Beacon/Maria DiBuo

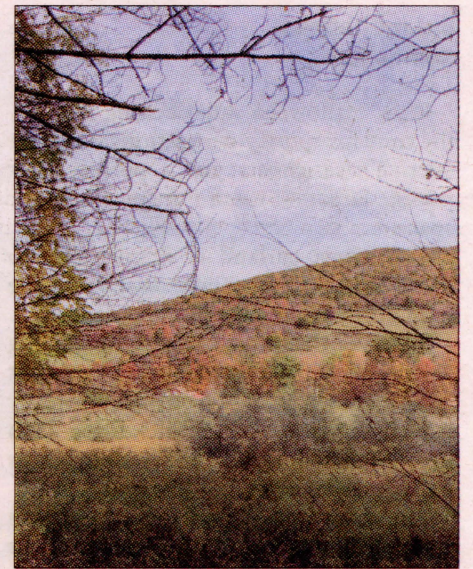


Photo: The Beacon/Maria DiBuo

Pictured are the fall leaves in Forkson, a 45-minute-drive from campus. The mountain ridge shown is the same one that can be seen in the Dallas area.

The reds, oranges and yellows of the leaves are a sight to see during fall.



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Photo: The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Students can take in the fall skyline from University Towers. The multi-colored leaves on the trees complement this beautiful view of Wilkes-Barre.



Photo: The Beacon/Steffen Horwath

Recreational trails in Bear Creek are an excellent place to get outdoors and take advantage of the fall views in the area.



Photo: The Beacon/Emily Cherkaskas

Sunsets in the fall also contribute to the beauty of this season. Shown is a view of the Susquehanna River in the Pittston area, complete with the setting sun.



Photo: The Beacon/Emily Cherkaskas

Even on foggy mornings, the beauty of the fall foliage in the NEPA area is undeniable, covering the horizon in warm autumn tones.

Liz's Craft Column: Halloween-themed ghost garland

By Liz Cherinka
Staff Writer

With Halloween approaching quickly, the time for spooky decorations is almost over. These ghosts are a perfect last-minute DIY that is sure to spice up your space.

This ghost garland is simple, easy to make and looks so cute to coordinate with dorm room or apartment decor.

To make the ghost garland, obtain Big Twist Yarn in natural blend (80 percent acrylic and 20 percent wool), or any fuzzy yarn that twists, a 2 mm thick black foam sheet, fall colored ribbon, table tennis balls, scissors and a hot-glue gun.

The quantity of the yarn depends on the number of colors preferred for the ghosts. Each individual ghost is one color, but every ghost can be a different color from the others. Only one ball is needed for each color.

The color of the yarn can be spooky colors, fall colors, or any color that is preferred or that matches the color scheme of your space. These spooky ghosts are totally unique, so feel free to be as creative or traditional as you would like.

The number and color of the ribbons are also dependent on preference. The example uses a different color for each

different color ghost, but it is truly up to the DIY-er.

All of these materials can be purchased at a craft store, such as Joann Fabrics or Michaels, in addition to Amazon or Walmart for table tennis balls. They are all affordable, costing about \$20 in total.

To start, make the "head" of the ghost. Wrap the first color yarn around a table tennis ball. This step is the hardest and may take a couple tries to get the hang of. Wrap the yarn around mostly vertically, twisting it horizontally or diagonally a few times to hold the yarn in place and to cover the sides. Ultimately, it takes practice and trying not to get discouraged if it does not always work.

Once the whole ball is wrapped, knot the yarn around one of the bottom loops and cut it, leaving some excess just in case it unknots.

Then, cut long pieces of the same color yarn. These will be the "body" of the ghost. Cut the pieces double the length of what the body will be.

Gather all the pieces and slide them through the bottom loop that the knot is around. Be careful during this step, and try to minimize the movement of the bottom loop so the head does not become unwrapped.

Adjust the long pieces to preference and cut any longer ones. They can be

uneven or equal in length, whatever is preferred. Uneven strands were selected for the craft shown, adding a cottage-core feel to the finished product.

Now, grab the ribbon. This will be making a bow tie around the ghost's neck and separating the body from the ghost's head. Determine which side of the ghost's head will be its face. Wrap the ribbon around the middle of the ball and the long pieces, and tie a simple bow. Adjust the bow to be even on both sides, and cut the excess ribbon.

The ghost of course needs a face, so grab the foam sheet. Cut two small ovals out of it, and these will be the eyes. Make them proportional to the size of the head.

Once the two eyes are made, put hot glue onto the back of the foam pieces and glue them onto the head.

Repeat all these steps for each ghost. The number of ghosts is up to preference, but the more there are, the longer the

garland can be.

Make any final adjustments, and the ghosts are done. The last step is to make them into a garland, so it can be strung to show the spirit of the season.

Slide whichever color yarn chosen for the string of the garland through a loop on top of the ghost's head. Be careful again to not unravel the ribbon holding the ghost together. Do this for each ghost until they are all on the string and spaced to one's preference. Cut the garland to the preferred length, and the craft is complete.

Now, you can hang your ghost garland anywhere, including around your dorm or work area, to add some spookiness and fun to your space.



Elizabeth.Cherinka@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Anna Culver



Liz's Craft Rating: Three out of five yarn-balls. While this craft requires a minimal level of skill, acquiring the correct supplies can pose a bit of a challenge.



Photos: The Beacon/Liz Cherinka



1) Wrap the yarn vertically to make the head. After making the ghost's head and body, tie the ribbon around to create a bow tie for your ghost. When selecting ribbon for this craft, one can use the same color for all ghosts or choose to vary between each color.

2) Once the bow tie is added to the ghost, it is time to add eyes. One can be as creative as they would like for this step. For this craft, plain black eyes were selected; however, to put your own spin on the craft, try google eyes!

3) When your ghost garland is finished, it should look something like this. While the Halloween season is almost over, this last-minute craft can add spookiness to any space. The materials used for this craft are Big Twist Yarn in natural blend, or any fuzzy yarn that twists, as well as a 2 mm black foam sheet, fall colored ribbon, table tennis balls, scissors and a hot-glue gun.

Screening of “Knock Down the House” discussed women in politics

By Emily Cherkauskas

Asst. Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Editor's Note: Contains potentially offensive language.

Dr. Andreea Maieran, assistant professor of political science, hosted a screening of the film “Knock Down the House” on Oct. 21. The screening was hosted by Maieran; Megan Boone Valkenburg, civic engagement coordinator; Helen Davis, associate professor of English; and Heather Sincavage, director of the Sordani Art Gallery and assistant professor of integrative media art and design.

The screening was co-sponsored by the Office for Civic Engagement, the Center for Global Education and Diversity and Year of the Vote.

The event was held over the social media app Discord, with a link to the server being sent out to those who registered. Maieran streamed the film from her end for the rest of the server to see, and members were able to chat live to each other while the movie played.

The film, which was directed by Rachel Lears, offered live documentary footage and profiles of four newbie grassroots candidates in the 2018 primary election. The candidates were Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a bartender running for election in New York's fourteenth

congressional district against incumbent Joe Crowley; Paula Jean Swearengin, who lived in the coal-mining region in West Virginia, running against incumbent Democrat Joe Manchin for the Senate; Cori Bush, a registered nurse from St. Louis, Miss., running against incumbent Lacy Clay in Missouri's first congressional district; and Amy Vilela, an executive running against incumbent Steven Horsford in Nevada's fourth congressional district.

Although the four candidates were all running as Democrats, the film, instead of focusing on political alignment, documented the grassroots campaigns of each candidate and women's empowerment. Each of the four candidates ran against a longtime “career politician,” someone who had been in office for many years, who was typically funded by large companies and super PACs — political action committees that are created to raise funding for certain candidates.

Aside from the film featuring the struggles the candidates faced on the campaign trail, each woman also had to deal with their own personal problems that gave them a sense of resilience and strength, from giving up their day jobs to run in their campaigns and facing the threat of angry residents and dangerous companies.

“A young bartender in the Bronx, a coal miner's daughter in West Virginia, a grieving mother in Nevada, and a registered nurse in Missouri build a movement of insurgent candidates to challenge powerful incumbents in Congress. One of their races will become the most shocking political upsets in recent American history.”

— “Knock Down the House”

“We need to have the courage to stand up for the working people and stand up against corporate interests,” said Ocasio-Cortez in the film.

In the end, Ocasio-Cortez was the sole victor in the 2018 primary of the group of four women. She expressed her bittersweet emotions following her election victory. When she visited the U.S. Capitol Building with her partner, just five days after her victory, Ocasio-Cortez spoke of her late father, repeating the words her father once told her.

Ocasio-Cortez, as a young child, and her father visited the Capitol during a trip. Her father pointed to various locations, including the Washington Monument and Reflecting Pool. He told Ocasio-Cortez, “This all belongs to us.”

“The last thing my dad ever told me to do was to make him proud,” Ocasio-Cortez said. “And I finally think I did.”

Later in the night, a discussion was hosted by Maieran. Screening attendees were able to offer their thoughts on the film and compare it to how politics is now today, just two years after the film's documentary release, four years after the 2016 election and just days away from the 2020 election.

Viewers noted how, after the 2016 election, they and many others, seemed to become more involved with politics by becoming more aware of political candidates, following current events and registering to vote.

“I found that the trend has started again since the historic election,” Maieran said. “The 2018 midterms marked the turning point, with an increase of female veterans. At least four were successful.”

For more specific statistics: A total of 163 veterans have won the primary in the House, with 18 more in the Senate, making a total of 181 veterans in Congress. Of the 127 women in Congress, 48 of them were women of color in 2020. According to Davis, the exact numbers were 22 black women, 13 Latina women, eight Asian American/Pacific Islander women, two Native American women, two Middle Eastern/North African women and one

multiracial woman.

Another talking point of the discussion was that various candidates deal with offensive languages and stereotypes, all of which resonated with attendees in the group discussion. The group recalled the moment in the film when Vilela repeated some various insults thrown at her.

“I've been told I am a commie, a socialist piece of sh-t,” Vilela said. “I've been told I look Russian, and that I should go back to my country in Mexico. You know what? Bring it on.”

Other various moments that attendees recalled included examples of when Senator Ted Yoho from Florida directly called Ocasio-Cortez “a f-cking b-tch,” and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi being referred to as a “bitch” or being called “crazy.”

Additionally, the 2020 election saw the resurgence of two of the candidates: Bush, who defeated Clay in 2020; and Swearengin, who is running against Senator Shelley Moore Capito for the 2020 general election.

The screening of “Knock Down the House” was the first of a trio of events scheduled by the three groups.

On Oct. 28 at 7 p.m., a screening of the film “13th” will be hosted by Davis. According to the joint group announcement, the movie is about filmmaker Ava DuVernay documenting her discoveries and exploration of “the history of racial inequality in the United States, focusing on the fact that the nation's prisons are disproportionately filled with African Americans.”

On Nov. 11 at 6 p.m., Dr. Mia Briceño, associate professor in the communication studies department, will host a talkback on the subject of “The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson.”

If anyone is interested in attending the film screenings and discussion panels, they are to register with Megan Boone Valkenburg at megan.booth@wilkes.edu.



Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Zarqua Ansari



Why It Is Important to Vote:

By Zarqua Ansari
Asst. Opinion Editor

When I was 4 years old, I decided I wanted to be president. As a result, I grew up as an opinionated child. I found a great interest in politics. I was even able to recite the presidents' names in order from George Washington to (at the time) George W. Bush.

A mere three years later, when Barack Obama was running for office, someone broke it to me that I could not be president. I had heard this argument before: "You are a girl. Girls can not be leaders." I inhaled a deep breath to hand this child his misogyny back in the form of a well crafted and source-cited argument.

Before I could speak, he told me it was not because I was a girl, but because I was not a natural born citizen of the U.S. Naturally, I did not believe him. I promptly asked my

teacher if this was true, and much to my horrific dismay, it was.

I was devastated. There are few words to describe the mental anguish and agony that went through my mind at the ripe age of seven upon being informed that the one thing I wanted to do was not plausible for me.

I blamed my parents for not moving to the country a mere six months earlier. I shook my inconsolable fists at the Constitution for scribbling in that tiny requirement. I languished at myself for not knowing this fact already. I wanted to be president because I wanted to make positive change in the world.

It was not until years later that I realized the opportunity to make change is still available to me, even if I can never be president. I never lost my interest in politics. It did not matter to me who was running, but rather what they had to offer.

One fifth grade morning, I had the stark realization that my parents could not vote. I pushed for them to become American citizens, and they did in 2011. Their first time voting had me teeming with excitement.

All this goes to say is that I am very passionate about the right to vote. As an American citizen, it is my civic duty to vote. Elections have consequences, whether those are positive or negative depends on whose policies get the votes.

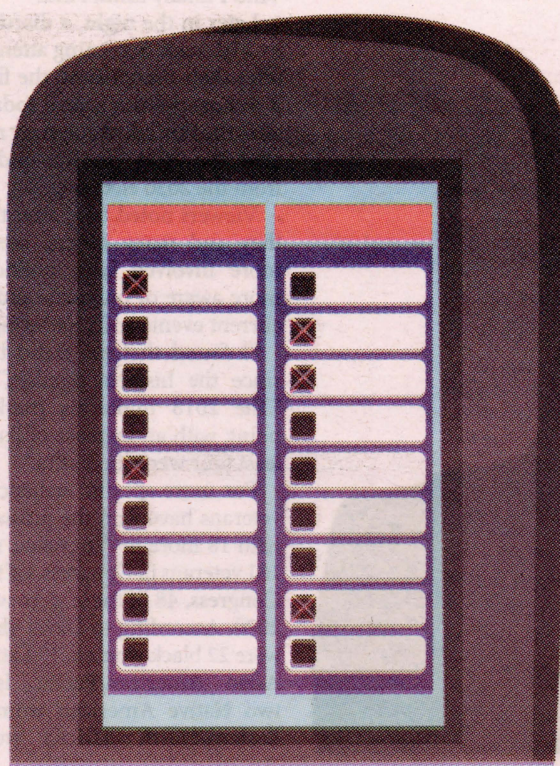
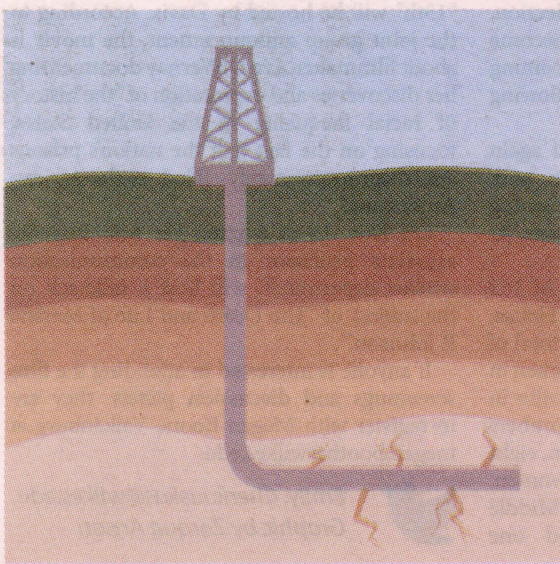
Many people only turn up at the polls during a presidential election. However, healthcare, social security, education, your job, general safety and even the roads you drive on are affected by your vote. In terms of direct effect, local elections for mayor, governor, Senator and congressperson have the largest impact. This means that all elections, not just the presidential ones, are important.

Politics affect you whether or not you want them to. Take, for example, birth control and menstrual products. These are things women need, and yet the government is able to control.

Voting allows you to influence the direction politics take. By voting, you are both informing yourself about current events and issues and opening yourself to more ideas and perspectives. Elections are a time of change, compromise, compassion and learning. To give up on such an opportunity is to stunt your own knowledge.

It was recently brought to my attention that a friend of mine is not going to vote in this election. I jokingly asked if she was registered to vote, fully expecting her to say, 'Yes.' She shocked me by saying that she was not going to vote. This came as a surprise because for people born in 2000, this is the first time they get

↓ 1040



Every Election Matters

to vote in a presidential election. I was ecstatic driving to drop off my ballot, and I am shocked to find so many people are not giving the election a second thought.

Voting now establishes the habit and passion for voting later. My eighth grade civics teacher told us about how she would take her kids to the voting polls every election and let them click on the bubbles, establishing the importance of voting from a young age. As soon as they could vote, they were rushing to the polls to get their votes in.

We have all noticed that the government is controlled by older generations. This is not because there are more older people than younger ones, but rather because more older individuals turn up to vote than younger individuals do.

According to census.gov, "In 2016, this was once again the case, as citizens 65 years and older reported

higher turnout (70.9 percent) than 45- to 64-year-olds (66.6 percent), 30- to 44-year-olds (58.7 percent) and 18- to 29-year-olds (46.1 percent)."

The reality is that us younger generations are not doing our part.

Being a passive member in your own society shows that because your rights are not violated, you chose to make no action to improve the situations of those whose rights are being violated. Take, for example, the Black Lives Matter Movement. The act of silence is violence. Using your voice and power to improve our society is your fundamental right and civic duty.

My friend said that she is not voting because she does not like either of the candidates. Given the tragic formation of the two party system in America, our options to vote are limited. She is aware that voting for a third party candidate

or a write-in is as good as throwing away your vote. For this reason, she has come to the conclusion that she will not vote at all.

I disagree with this sentiment.

Even though neither candidate seems like the right choice, one candidate's values will be closer in value to your own. A line with a slope of point one does not move very fast, but choosing not to move at all will not get you to a greater value.

Not voting is equivalent to giving up your voice. Votes implement a chance for positive change. Other people are voting, and the numbers add up.

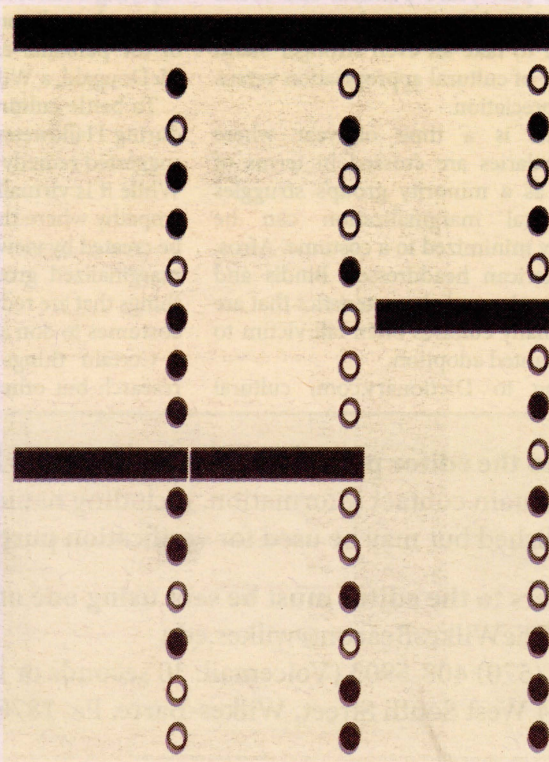
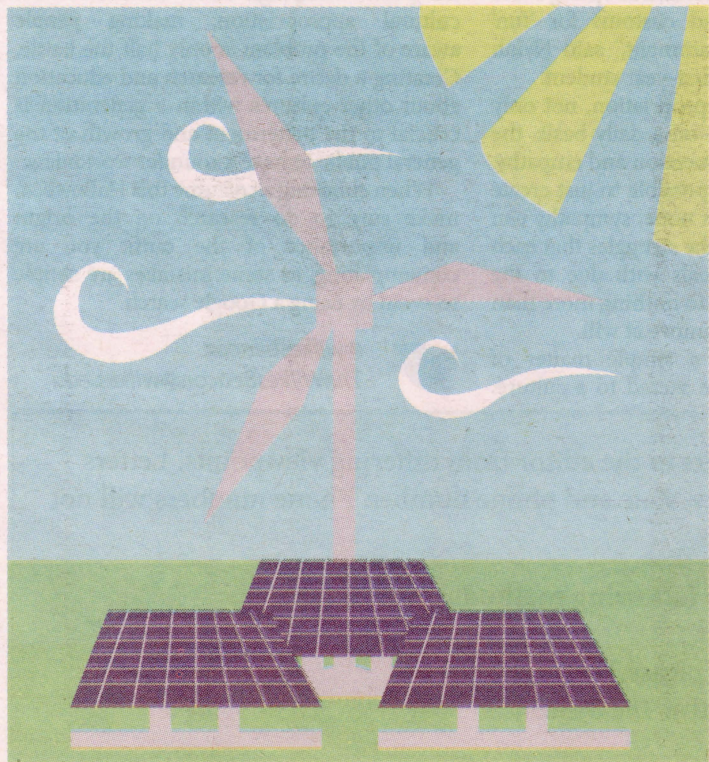
My eleventh grade English teacher told us his wife did not vote in the 2016 election because she was confident in the results going her way. Sure, one vote probably would not have won Hillary Clinton the state, but just how many people thought the same thing and did not


take the time to vote?

There is an old fable my mother told me about a king that had an enormous pit dug out in his palace. He asked each of his subjects to pour a glass of milk into the pit by the next morning. Milk was expensive and people thought, "Who is going to notice one glass of water in a pit full of milk?" The next morning, the king found he had a swimming pool because all of the townspeople had thought similarly.

The moral of this story is that your voice matters. No matter how inconsequential you think your vote is, it carries weight. No vote is inconsequential, and no election is too small.

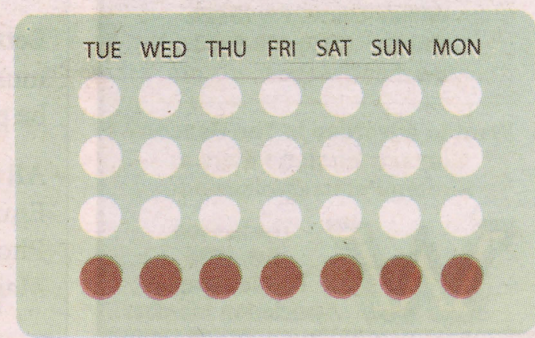
Although it is too late to register to vote in PA for this election, I hope I have inspired you to use your voice in the future. We can only make the world a better place if we put forth the effort.



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 **1040**



Opinion

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

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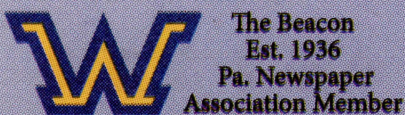
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Halloween's cultural appropriation dilemma

Holidays are an important and welcome refresher, particularly in light of all of the major events that occurred in 2020. For college students, Halloween is generally a time that they can forget about schoolwork for a bit and be someone else, even if only just for a night.

However, in the wake of all the crucial events and changes that took place in 2020, it is now more necessary than ever to be socially aware when choosing a persona for that special day.

Costumes can be fun – bats, witches, vampires and ghosts all contribute to the spooky vibes of the season. Costumes become harmful, however, when they become culturally insensitive and make a mockery of the culture they have been adopted from.

With the past year's political and social climate in mind, many minority groups have begun to take an even stronger stand on the topic of cultural appropriation versus cultural appreciation.

Halloween is a time of year where many boundaries are crossed in terms of this topic, as a minority group's struggles and historical marginalization can be insensitively minimized to a costume. Afros, Native American headdresses, Bindis and other accessories and characteristics that are crucial to many cultures often fall victim to this unwarranted adoption.

According to Dictionary.com, cultural

appropriation is "the adoption or co-opting, usually without acknowledgment, of cultural identity markers associated with or originating in minority communities by people or communities with a relatively privileged status."

Cultural appropriation is especially prominent during Halloween, as the stark difference in privilege between marginalized and non-marginalized groups creates a lack of empathy for the struggles that the marginalized group has been through. The problem with this is that the lives that are already being belittled are being reduced to a costume that one can put on and take off at will.

"The fine line between cultural appropriation and appreciation is celebrating and honoring different cultures' holidays and enjoying a culture's dishes and adopting other cultures' traditions and customs for 'fun' or for personal entertainment," said Nylah McDougald, a Wilkes first-year student.

To battle cultural appropriation, not only during Halloween, but on a daily basis, the suggested remedy is education and empathy. While it is virtually impossible to just create empathy where there is none, sympathy can be created by viewing the struggles that each marginalized group deals with due to the things that are reduced to nothing more than costumes to don and remove at will.

Certain things are a simple matter of research but others are sacred to a culture.


When these things are simply taken with no regard for the culture they came from, the importance of them can be diminished and therefore destroy the culture itself.

There are steps that can be taken on a college campus to reduce cultural appropriation.

Ohio University launched a poster campaign in 2011 called 'We're a Culture, Not a Costume.' Other schools have since opted in, including the University of Colorado Boulder, the University of Oregon and the University of Denver, which expanded the posters into a training program through its housing and residential education department," according to the Washington Post.

These posters are placed throughout the campuses of these schools, and while the poster campaign alone cannot combat cultural appropriation, making people aware of the problem is only half the battle. Creating a desire for research and education about other cultures within a generation is crucial to the betterment and growth of the general public to have a rounder worldview.

When choosing a costume this Halloween, make sure to do research on the origin and importance of the outfit you are contemplating, as some mistakes are simple to avoid by using a Google search.

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This town (hall) is not big enough for the both of us

By Liam Flynn
Staff Writer

Joe Biden, Democratic presidential candidate and former vice president, held a nationally-televised town hall on Oct. 15 following the cancellation of the second presidential debate. Unlike the drive-in format of his last town hall on CNN on Sept. 17, Biden was closer to the crowd of 60 audience members, who were still socially distanced in the outdoor setting.

The format worked in an energized Biden's favor, as he took questions from the selected voters, all of whom wore masks.

Topics included the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy, racial justice and police reform, as was expected. Included was a question about the first presidential debate and whether Biden stooped to the badgering president's level by calling him a "clown." In a post-debate interview, Biden did not back down from his name calling, telling one reporter that he had no regrets "because everything I said was true." But faced by a similar question from one of the "average" Americans gathered at this town hall, Biden said, "I should have said it was a clownish undertaking, rather than calling him a clown."

Additionally, as Biden got in most of his personal and professional talking points, the 77-year-old politician mocked the "tough guy" approach to the coronavirus. It came just hours before President Donald Trump left Walter Reed Military Medical Center, flew to the South Lawn of the White House and then staged a photo op on the balcony, appearing out of breath at one point.

Biden sought to frame voters' choice around a new shorthand: his hometown of Scranton, representing wage-earning, blue-collar Americans and Park Avenue, home of a wealthy few who profit from the work of others.

"I view this campaign as a campaign between Scranton and Park Avenue," Biden said. "All Trump can see from Park Avenue is Wall Street. All he thinks about is the stock market."

It was an attack aimed at Trump's handling of the economy – one area on which polls have shown the president outperforming his overall numbers. Biden characterized Trump's economic record as one that has benefited the wealthy but

ignored the working class.

"In my neighborhood in Scranton, not a lot of people (owned stock). We have to make sure that healthcare workers are paid, and paid a decent wage. At \$15 an hour? It's not enough for a health care worker," Biden said.

Biden fended off more progressive rivals in the Democratic primary, and showed that he is resisting being pressured into embracing some of the Left's priorities that could damage him politically.

He insisted he would not end fracking for natural gas, a major industry in the swing states of Pennsylvania and Ohio. And when a questioner who had voted for Trump in 2016 said Biden had embraced the Green New Deal as part of his climate change platform, the former vice president said she was wrong.

"I've got my own deal," he told CNN moderator Anderson Cooper in response to a question about the Green New Deal, pointing to a climate agenda his campaign negotiated with allies of Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont. The Democratic National Committee later adopted it as its platform.

Biden continued to cast doubt on Trump's claims that a coronavirus vaccine will be ready – or close to it – in time for the Nov. 3 general election. But, he said, he would believe timelines and steps detailed by Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"I don't trust the president on vaccines. I trust Dr. Fauci," Biden said. "If Fauci says a vaccine is safe, I would take the vaccine. We should listen to the scientists, not the president."

His comment comes as Trump's campaign and allies have alleged that, by casting doubt on the president's vaccine claims, Biden is undermining trust in a potential vaccine. Biden, meanwhile, says Trump is trying to claim a panacea is just around the corner, in order to blunt the political fallout of his handling of the virus – enough to win a second term.

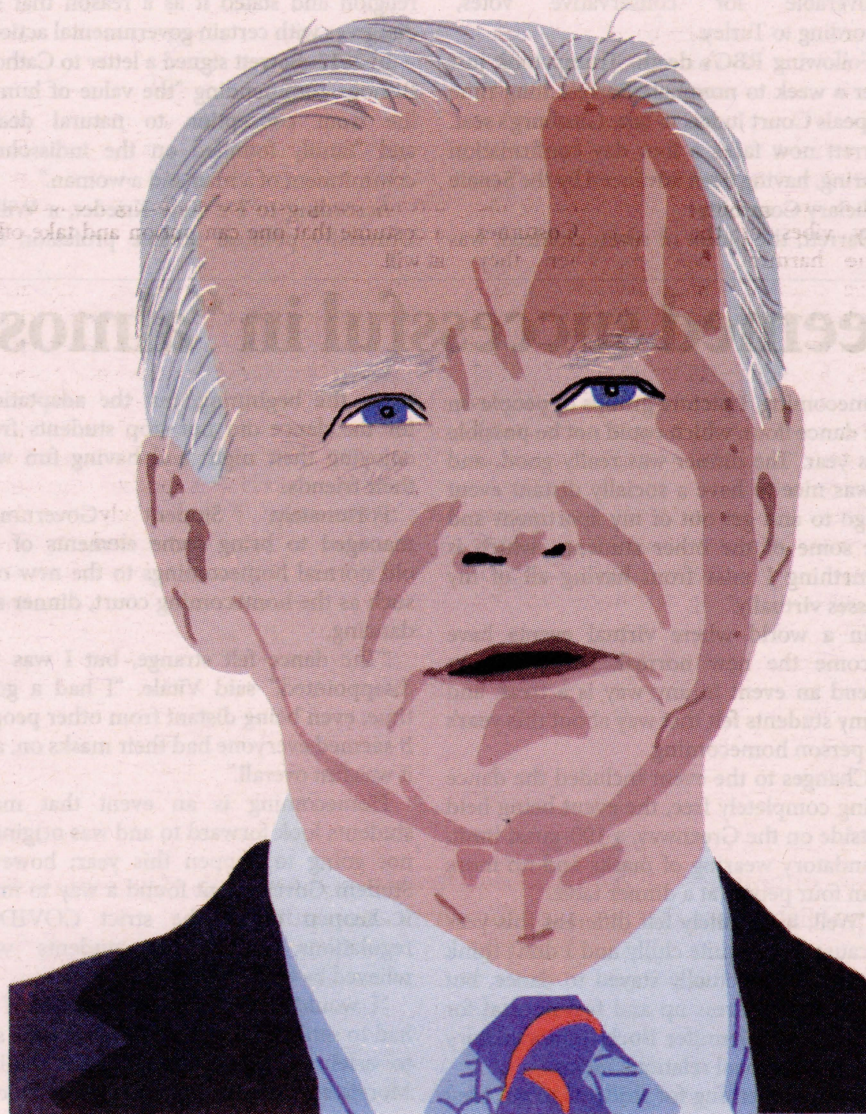
Biden's town hall displayed all the characteristics a president should have: A strong vision for the country's future, an ability to put their own times in the perspective of history, effective communication skills, the courage to make unpopular decisions, crisis management skills, character and integrity.

ABC's 90-minute town hall with Biden drew 14.1 million viewers, while presidential opponent Trump's hour-long town hall on NBC, its sister cable channels MSNBC and CNBC and a digital platform of Spanish-language network Telemundo, averaged 13.5 million viewers.

The decision of NBC News to air a town hall with Trump opposite ABC's with Biden was questioned by media analysts, viewers on social media and even within some parts of the network. The network was criticized for providing Trump airtime after he refused to participate in a debate with Biden that was originally scheduled for Thursday. The Biden event actually stretched for two hours, including post-town hall coverage, while the Trump event was one hour long. ABC said the event was the network's "most-watched primetime telecast" since the Oscars back in February.

The Biden town hall was also scheduled first – on the same day that Trump backed out of a scheduled presidential debate. Trump objected to the "virtual" format that was imposed by the debate commission as a consequence of his coronavirus infection. So Biden's campaign agreed to a town hall in Philadelphia on ABC instead, following in the footsteps of Trump, who was on ABC on Sept. 15. This tactic by Trump aimed to be a power move to boost his campaign numbers, as he has no problem gaining media attention.

Biden beat Trump at what he always brags about having: "The best ratings." This round goes to Biden.



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Graphic by Zarqua Ansari

SCOTUS nomination Barrett solidifies a terrifying future

By Judah Lyles
Staff Writer

The death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a loss felt by the entire country.

Born Joan Ruth Bader and known affectionately as “The Notorious RBG,” Ginsburg worked as a super power and advocate for women’s rights and other progressive movements. She served as a Supreme Court Justice from 1993 until her death in September, vehemently detesting the idea of retiring before an administration that she saw fit moved into office.

Ginsburg came from humble beginnings. She was born into a working class family and was heavily influenced by her mother’s work ethic and insistence upon the importance of independence and a good education, as per Biography.com. She took her mother’s word to heart and excelled in high school, despite her mother’s death the day before her graduation.

Ginsburg went on to graduate at the top of her class from Cornell University and Columbia Law School. She faced gender discrimination throughout her law school experience, which sparked her desire to fight for gender equality.

Serving as the director of the Women’s Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union in the 1970s, Ginsburg argued six major gender equality cases. By winning five out of six cases, Ginsburg made quite the name for herself. She was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals by President Jimmy Carter in 1980, serving there until President Bill Clinton appointed her to the United States Supreme Court in 1993.

According to George Washington University Professor of Law Johnathan Turley, “Ginsburg maintained one of the most consistent liberal voting records in the history of the court.”

Amy Coney Barrett, President Donald Trump’s Supreme Court nominee, is said to have the exact opposite.

Barrett, recently referred to as ACB, has maintained a consistently conservative voting record and is seen as the “ultimate ‘deliverable’ for conservative votes,” according to Turley.

Following RBG’s death, Trump took just over a week to nominate Barrett, long-time Appeals Court Judge, to take Ginsburg’s seat. Barrett now faces a four-day confirmation hearing, having been advanced by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Barrett, the oldest of seven children, was

raised in a devout Catholic household in New Orleans, La. Maintaining leadership positions within the schools she attended throughout her academic career, Barrett graduated top of her class from University of Notre Dame’s Law School.

Following her graduation, Barrett clerked for Judge Laurence Silberman and Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia. Barrett then returned to her alma mater as an associate professor in 2002, eventually becoming a full-tenured member of staff.

In 2012, according to BBC, Barrett began to receive national attention for her openly staunch and firm Catholic beliefs when she signed off on a critical statement against then-president Barack Obama’s Affordable Care Act’s requirement that contraceptives be covered under health insurance plans for being a “grave violation of religious freedom.” Historically, Barrett has openly professed her religion and stated it as a reason that she disagrees with certain governmental actions.

In 2015, Barrett signed a letter to Catholic Bishops commending “the value of human life from conception to natural death” and “family founded on the indissoluble commitment of a man and a woman.”

According to Dr. Kyle Krieder, a Wilkes University political science professor, this

endorsement can prove to be problematic in terms of the separation of church and state.

“This is one area of Constitutional law that I thought Justice Ginsburg got right and didn’t get enough credit for,” said Krieder. “While the framers had differing opinions on this, I think most framers believed that there should be a high and impregnable wall between church and state. Once the state starts to get involved in endorsing religion over non-religion, problems begin.”

The loss of Ginsburg alone is going to shift the political climate within the United States – potentially, for a whole generation, especially when comparing Ginsburg’s historically liberal policies to Barrett’s conservative.

“The law will definitely change,” said Krieder. “People cite abortion and gay marriage as two possible changes, but there are many areas of the law. Presidential power, Congress’s power to pass legislation under the Commerce Clause, voting rights, etc. will all be affected.”

There are many changes coming within the next month, and Barrett’s confirmation is one that may determine the future of this generation.

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Homecoming deemed successful in “almost normal” event

By Jordan Daniel
Opinion Staff Writer

This year, campus has felt strange and different due to the odd circumstances imposed by COVID-19, but thankfully there have been opportunities for students to feel a sense of normalcy.

After countless events and activities that are usually held on campus being canceled or postponed, students had the opportunity to attend homecoming, a tradition that was originally not going to happen this year but prevailed through the work of Student Government.

Although homecomings of the past were times spent eating, dancing and being close with friends and significant others, Student Government was able to salvage those familiar memories by hosting an “almost normal” homecoming, allowing students to create those life-long memories.

“I was worried about it not being as much fun as it was other years,” said Hannah Vitale, junior pharmacy major. “When I think of

homecoming, I picture groups of people on the dance floor, which could not be possible this year. The dinner was really good, and it was nice to have a socially distant event to go to and get out of my apartment and see some of the other students, which is something I miss from having all of my classes virtually.”

In a world where virtual events have become the new normal, being able to attend an event in any way is a treat, and many students felt that way about this year’s in-person homecoming.

Changes to the event included the dance being completely free, the event being held outside on the Greenway, a 100-guest limit, mandatory wearing of masks and no more than four people at a dinner table.

“Well, it definitely felt different this year because it was quite chilly and I don’t think many people actually stayed to dance, but it was fun to dress up and feel normal for a night,” said Jennifer Boch, junior history and international relations major.

It was something for students to get used

to in the beginning, but the adaptations for the dance did not stop students from enjoying their night and having fun with their friends.

Fortunately, Student Government managed to bring some elements of the old normal homecomings to the new one, such as the homecoming court, dinner and dancing.

“The dance felt strange, but I was not disappointed,” said Vitale. “I had a good time, even being distant from other people. It seemed everyone had their masks on, and it was fun overall.”

Homecoming is an event that many students look forward to and was originally not going to happen this year; however, Student Government found a way to make it happen under the strict COVID-19 regulations, and many students were relieved by this.

“I would have been disappointed if we had to settle for a virtual event of some sort to celebrate homecoming,” said Danielle Morris, sophomore digital design and media

art major and class representative. “Even though those are fun, it was refreshing to have a reason to get dressed up and socialize in a safe manner.”

For some, this is the first time they would have been attending a Wilkes homecoming dance, and what a dance they will remember.

This event allowed students to take a break from the stress of their lives and reconnect with their friends, all while staying socially distant and safe.

“I have actually not been to a Wilkes homecoming yet because I transferred to Wilkes this past spring,” said Morris. “However, I am familiar with how they functioned, and I knew it would not be exactly the same.”

Even under the event’s extreme circumstances, homecoming was a success once again this year, and many students are now looking forward to Spring Fling next semester.

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Bre's Beats: The best and spookiest Halloween songs

By Breanna Ebisch
Opinion Editor

The Halloween season is officially upon us, and this time of year brings the excitement of trick-or-treating, carving pumpkins, picking out the perfect costume and decorating in extravagant ways.

Yet, one of the most important and fun aspects of the spooky holiday is the iconic music. Many tend to overlook the amazing tunes that are dedicated specifically for Halloween, which is why this week in Bre's Beats, we are breaking down the best songs for the holiday.

"Thriller" – Michael Jackson

Arguably the most historic and iconic song in terms of Halloween music, "Thriller" not only became an immediate hit, but it remains a favorite for the holiday. Initially released in 1984, the song has withstood the test of time while continuing to be one of the staples in not only the music industry but also in terms of music for Halloween.

Being the seventh top 10 single from the singer's album, everything about this scary yet undeniably catchy tune is perfect for the last day of October.

The Halloween anthem has a lasting impact on pop culture due in part to its stunning and one-of-a-kind music video, but there are many things to love about this almost six-minute song.

The use of an eerie melody mixed with creepy, memorable lyrics that are easy to sing as well as its well-known dance makes this single timeless and easy-to-love for the spooky season.

Throughout Jackson's entire career, he broke many records, and "Thriller" was no exception, as it became one of his most successful singles. It is impossible not to put this song on repeat leading up to and on the holiday to get in the spirit.

"Monster Mash" – Bobby "Boris" Pickett

Halloween is not complete without this classic. "Monster Mash" is another song that remains a holiday favorite, even decades after its initial release in 1962.

Also encapsulating the Halloween feel and using typical pop elements, the song has remained one of the oldest and most popular tunes for celebrating the fall holiday.

Due to its timely release right before Halloween, the song stayed on the Billboard charts for some time and became an annual favorite in no time.

The lyrics focus on a mad scientist who creates a monster that wakes up one night and starts to perform a new dance along with other well-known Halloween monsters, such as Dracula and the Wolfman.

Between the catchy beat and perfectly themed lyrics, it is no surprise that "Monster Mash" has become one of the most easily recognizable Halloween songs.

Similar to many other holiday songs, this single has seen many re-releases and covers by a variety of artists over the years, which allows younger audiences to discover the genius work of the music.

"Ghostbusters" – Ray Parker Jr.

"Who you gonna call?" has become such a popular phrase not just around the time of Halloween but in general pop culture. "Ghostbusters," the theme song from the iconic and well-loved movie, is another remarkable example of music surrounding the spooky holiday.

Released in the same year as Jackson's "Thriller," Ray Parker Jr.'s "Ghostbusters" became one of the most popular songs for Halloween and continues to bring smiles to everyone's faces when the familiar opening notes begin to play.

The song incorporates many Halloween elements while also keeping the usual 80s sound that many loved at the time and still do.

With spooky lyrics about why the Ghostbusters would be called and an undeniably upbeat melody, millions of people are quick to immediately play this tune for the holiday.

Although many artists have done

their own renditions of the classic song, including for the remake of the movie in 2016, the original song continues to be the most popular and loved for any and all Halloween festivities.

"The Time Warp" – "Rocky Horror Picture Show" Cast

"The Rocky Horror Picture Show" is one of the most unique and beloved films that gets rewatched during the Halloween season.

The musical comedy horror film has become known for a wide variety

of aspects, but "The Time

Warp," the exciting

song that is also a

dance routine,

is arguably the

most well-known

song from the

movie.

Even though "Rocky

Horror" was

released in 1975,

"The Time Warp"

has remained a

favorite Halloween

tune to this day.

Stretching over

generations, it is impossible

for anyone to pass up the opportunity to follow the simple dance moves that the lyrics entail while singing along.

While there are no direct Halloween references or elements like the other songs on this list, its appearance in what many consider to be a Halloween film has given "The Time Warp" a place to be enjoyed on the holiday for many years.

No matter one's age, this song will remain a timeless classic for a long time, and the spooky night can't end without one round of this iconic dance.

"Somebody's Watching Me" – Rockwell

This song features some of the creepiest lyrics about something many can relate to – the feeling of someone watching you.

Rockwell's hit "Somebody's Watching Me" was released in 1984 as a lead single of his debut album of the same name, and while the song found massive success, it quickly became associated with Halloween for a good reason.

Throughout the music, a paranoid theme can be felt and is expressed through both the lyrics and melody.

Besides the spooky music, the accompanying music video is another reason the song became a holiday favorite. Directed to unfold similar to a horror movie, the video instantly found popularity, which helped the single find an audience for Halloween.

"Somebody's Watching Me" is a typical pop hit that uses a variety of elements to make it memorable and well liked in terms of music perfect for the celebrations surrounding Halloween.

After finding success upon its release and remaining a staple for October's holiday music, this is a song that needs to be played in order to bring on the spirit.

"This Is Halloween" – Cast of "The Nightmare Before Christmas"

From Tim Burton's well-known Disney film "The Nightmare Before Christmas," "This Is Halloween" is a clear choice out of all the Halloween songs that exist for all festivities.

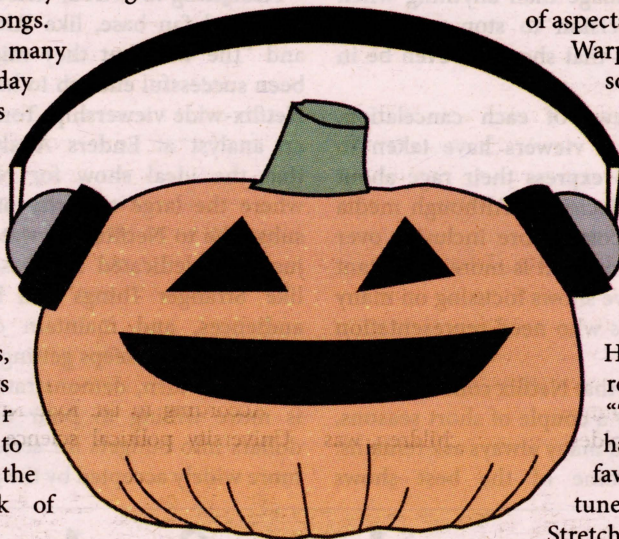
The film was released in 1993, making this song the most recent on our list, and has become a favorite of millions for the holiday.

With the purpose of introducing a fictional Halloween Town, which is the movie's main setting, and showing viewers the Halloween-themed lifestyle, "This Is Halloween" is a chilling and eerie piece of music that truly captures the spirit of the holiday.

The lyrics paint haunting images of horrors that could scare anyone, no matter their age. The melody is crafted just right in order to be as creepy as possible.

There couldn't be a single song more fitting for Halloween. "This Is Halloween" was actually created for the holiday, which means, since it is still played to this day, that the ultimate goal was reached.

This Halloween, no matter the type of celebration, these songs are a must for the holiday playlist. From unforgettable hits to spooky melodies, it would be hard to feel the true energy of Halloween without this amazing music.



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Graphic by Anna Culver

Netflix poorly chooses diversity does not make the cut

By Breanna Ebisch
Opinion Editor

It is no surprise that streaming platforms have become more and more popular due to the ever-changing digital advancements and demand to enjoy forms of entertainment in the comfort of our own homes. And while there are countless options today, Netflix continues to be one of the biggest services available for watching a huge collection of television shows, movies and original content.

Thanks to its consistent canceling of shows that feature large amounts of diversity representation, Netflix has unfortunately earned itself quite a bad reputation.

In total, the streaming service has canceled close to 50 series, most often after just one or two seasons. Starting as early as 2016, Netflix has not had any remorse when it comes to canceling any of its original content, and has done so more in the last two years than ever before. But many have found issues with the decisions when several shows with notable representation from diverse groups, such as LGBTQ+, women, and other minorities, have been put on the chopping block.

Some of the most recent cancellations that have sparked the anger of consumers include the re-imaged version of "One Day At A Time," "G.L.O.W.," "Spinning Out," and "I Am Not Okay With This," according to Insider. Each of these series either had a female lead, LGBTQ+ characters or representation for ethnicity groups that usually don't get screen time, some even having all three.

Even though these are only a few examples of the shows Netflix has canceled in 2020 alone, the streaming service is doing more damage than anything when making the decision to stop producing original content that shouldn't even be in question.

After the news of each cancellation, fans and general viewers have taken to social media to express their rage about the company's decisions. Although media have slowly become more inclusive over the last decade or so, it is more important than ever to have shows focusing on many minority groups who need representation on the screen.

It is no secret that Netflix constantly cuts series after only a couple of short seasons, and the question many always ask remains: Why cancel some of the best shows

available? Instead, the popular streaming service renews shows that do not have diverse casts in any way or makes sequels to poorly done rom-coms, which don't need to happen.

So when the shows that get canceled feature female or LGBTQ+ leads, tell the story of an oppressed group or are important in terms of timely topics, it is only natural that Netflix receives a large amount of backlash.

However, this does not stop the company from continuing the pattern.

According to Wired, "Shows can have a dedicated fan base, like 'Altered Carbon' and 'The OA,' but they might not have been successful enough to have amassed a Netflix-wide viewership. Tom Harrington, an analyst at Enders Analysis, explains that the ideal show for Netflix is one where the large majority of people who subscribe to Netflix will watch it, and not just one dedicated fan base. Something like 'Stranger Things' can bring in new audiences, and maintain current ones, which is why it keeps getting renewed."

This, in turn, demonstrates that Netflix is more willing to pour its millions of dollars into budgets for series that will be more widely accepted by the general public

than to use their platform for diversity representation in television and movies.

The criticism continues to pour in with every poorly made decision about yet another show, but unlike other streaming services, Netflix seemingly does not care. Not only is the choice to cancel such important and necessary shows alarming due to the content they cover, but the streaming service has been putting itself in a bad light as well.

In 2020, the company has blamed many cancellations, including "G.L.O.W.," on COVID-19 and the abrupt inability to continue filming with the restrictions the virus has put in place. Although this could be a valid excuse for pushing the release of a new season, it should not be the reason that entire series are brought to an end.

While the world experiences massive changes in terms of bringing the voices of minority groups to the forefront, Netflix chooses to do the exact opposite.

It is only a matter of time until the unnecessary decisions about cutting shows catch up to the streaming service's business.



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Slight improvements made in final presidential debate

By Jordan Daniel
Opinion Staff Writer

President Donald Trump and former Vice President and Democratic nominee Joe Biden faced off for the final presidential debate of the 2020 presidential campaign at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., on Oct. 22. This time around, mics were muted after the first question was asked by moderator Kristen Welker of NBC News, which kept the debaters more restrained than the first debate, but this does not mean there were no moments of interruptions from both Trump and Biden.

The muted mics were not the only new addition of the final debate between the two candidates. Although some of the topics that were meant to be debated were repeats from the first debate, there were also a couple new topics brought up.

The topics from the first presidential debate consisted of Trump and Biden's

records, the Supreme Court, COVID-19, the economy, race and violence in America and the election. The final debate's topics focused on COVID-19, American families, race in America, climate change, national security and leadership.

The topics of COVID-19 and race in America were both repetitive topics from the first debate a few weeks ago. Both debates opened about each candidate's plan to combat COVID-19. Trump stated his incessant guarantee of their being a vaccine ready "in weeks."

Biden counterattacked Trump's statement by telling the audience that he has been continuing to promise the virus will disappear on its own. Biden has been very vocal about everyone wearing face masks or coverings when in public, as he wore his own when walking into both debates. He understands there needs to be more funding for schools and businesses to operate under the extreme pressures

the pandemic has brought to everyone's life and will try to get the money for such institutions.

Race in America was discussed again during the final debate. In the first debate, Trump received a lot of backlash for dancing around the subject on whether or not to condemn white supremacist groups, but he claimed that he has done more for African-Americans than any other president, except Abraham Lincoln.

Also, when Biden began to talk about his plans for reform, Trump questioned why Biden did not do more about the criminal injustice in our nation when he served with former President Barack Obama. However, this did not deter Biden from letting the audience know about his plan to address economic racial disparities by increasing access to capital for minority-owned businesses. Plus, he wants to see changes in policing, including a ban on chokeholds.

A continuous topic that was not on the

agenda for the both debates was Biden's family, especially his son, Hunter. Trump brought him up during the first debate and once again mentioned him in the final debate to show how democratic nominee Biden personally profited from his son's business dealings in Ukraine and China.

After denying this accusation, Biden changed the subject to Trump's taxes and business relationship with China, which forced Trump to explain how he "pre-paid" millions of dollars in taxes. This left many American voters very confused.

The final debate may have moved a little more efficiently in comparison to the first; however, it is hard to say whether the American people received any new information or the answers they wanted to hear from both candidates in order to vote in the upcoming election.



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Sports

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Week six NFL recap examines Eagles, Giants and Steelers

By Ariel Reed
Co Sports Editor

Through week five of the NFL, there had been multiple hiccups causing teams to adapt to the changing circumstances. Week six resumed normalcy and shook up the league with some surprising victories.

In the battle of two AFC North teams, the Pittsburgh Steelers annihilated the Cleveland Browns with a final score of 38-7. This game was anticipated to be competitive, and even preview a potential playoff performance. Instead, the Browns chokir, g in this game was a low point.

"The feeling throughout (our) building after that loss 4-2 has never felt so much like 0-6 before," said Baker Mayfield, starting quarterback for the Browns, per ESPN. "But that's because we have very high expectations for ourselves."

Echoing in the thoughts of Mayfield, Browns wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. elaborated on his frustration, some of which was visible during the game.

"I'm pissed," said Beckham, per ESPN. "And at this point, I don't really care to keep trying to make myself look like a good guy to the world and all that sh--. ... Tired of losing. Tired of losing to good teams."

The Browns have not had a winning record since 2014. Despite the blowout losses to AFC North rivals (Baltimore Ravens and Pittsburgh Steelers), the Browns are still a playoff contender. ESPN's Football Power Index gives this team a 56.6 percent chance to snap the NFL's longest playoff drought of 18 years.

The win over the Browns is huge for the Steelers. This is the second time in franchise history that they have had a 5-0 start. The last time this happened, Pittsburgh went to the Super Bowl.

In the game against the Browns, Devin Bush, a linebacker for Pittsburgh, tore his ACL. The loss of Bush, defensively, will make things tougher, but this is a team capable of winning in a variety of ways.

Heading into week seven, Pittsburgh is starting to get into the tougher part of their schedule, starting this week against the undefeated Tennessee Titans.

This contest may be one of the biggest tests the Steelers have this season to determine whether or not they

the 24-6 lead that the Ravens had early, the Eagles were able to come back and make the contest close.

The Eagles rallied to score three touchdowns in the fourth quarter against the Ravens number one ranked defense,

standing at 1-5 as of week six.

The Giants recorded their first win of the season by barely overpowering the Washington Football Team, 20-19. This improved their record to 1-5.

Similar to the Eagles, the Giants season is off to a rough start. Their star running back Saquon Barkley suffered an ACL tear in week two against the Chicago Bears.

Barkley's injury is a blow for New York, which has turned to a combination of Dion Lewis, Wayne Gallman and Devonta Freeman at running back. The addition of former Falcons running back Freeman has provided a boost to an offense that desperately needs it.

With the loss of Barkley, New York's offense has been struggling to get going against their opponents.

The Giants are young. Daniel Jones is only in his second season. The team has a lot of room for growth, and in five years, they may be a powerhouse team.

On Thursday, the Giants faced the Eagles, where they fell 22-21. In this contest, the Giants were up by 11, but the inexperience of New York was what mostly allowed Philadelphia to grab the win.

Sterling Shepard was the leading receiver for the Giants with six catches for 59 yards. Jones' final stat line was 20-for-30 with 187 yards, two touchdowns and one interception, along with 92 rushing yards. Gallman finished the night with 10 carries for 34 yards with a touchdown, as well as five catches for 20 yards. Blake Martinez had nine total tackles and one pass deflection.

For the Eagles, Carson Wentz finished 25-for-43 for 359 yards with two touchdowns and an interception, while rushing for 14 yards and adding another score on the ground. Boston Scott carried the ball 12 times for 46 yards. Tight end Richard Rodgers had six catches for 85 yards and Travis Fulgham had five catches for 73 yards. Nathan Gerry recorded his first sack on the season and had eight total tackles.

according to The Athletic's Sheil Kapadia's defensive rankings.

According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Eagles are one or two playmakers away from being a team that could shake up the NFL.

In recent drafts, the Eagles could have snagged one of these big playmakers with the early-round draft picks, rather than drafting players like Nelson Agholor, Sidney Jones, Rasul Douglas, JJ Arcega-Whiteside, Marcus Smith and Eric Rowe over the past seven seasons. With better drafting, the Eagles could be a team that is considered more currently competitive in the NFL.

The New York Giants, like the Eagles, are also off to a rough start with their record




will be Super Bowl contenders. All their other remaining opponents have not cracked above the 15th spot in the NFL's power rankings.

Prior to this week, the Steelers had four home games and faced the "easier" part of their schedule. Their opponents have been the New York Giants (1-6), Denver Broncos (2-3), Houston Texans (1-5), Philadelphia Eagles (1-4-1) and Cleveland Browns (4-2).

Switching to the NFC, the Philadelphia Eagles are not off to a good start, as their record is 1-4-1 after barely falling to the Baltimore Ravens 30-28.

Both of these teams needed a win to keep pace with the rest of their division. Despite

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Graphic by Mia Walker

MLB: How teams made it to the World Series, staff predictions

By Chris Gowarty
Sports Staff Writer

With the conclusion of the 2020 Championship Series, the field is set for MLB's 116th World Series.

For the first time in the sport's history, the World Series is being played on neutral ground, meaning that neither team will play games at its usual home stadium.

The best-of-seven series will be played at Globe Life Field, the Texas Rangers' brand new stadium.

In this World Series, the top seed from both the American League and the National League have moved on to the final round of the MLB playoffs.

It is the fourth time since 1995 that the best record from each league will play against one another for the Commissioner's Trophy. As of writing, the World Series is currently tied at one game a piece.

In the American League Championship Series, the Tampa Bay Rays defeated the Houston Astros in seven games to advance to their second World Series in franchise history.

The ALCS started off hot for the Rays, as they jumped out to a quick 3-0 series lead.

In the first inning of the first game of the series, Astros second baseman Jose Altuve jumped on a fastball from Rays ace Blake Snell for a home run to start the scoring.

Rays outfielder Randy Arozarena would later tie the game in the fourth with his own home run, which was followed by an RBI-single from Rays catcher Mike Zunino.

This would be all the offense Tampa Bay would need in that game, as they went on to win, 2-1.

In game two, the Rays jumped out to an early lead with a three-run home run off the bat of outfielder Manuel Margot. They added to their lead with a solo shot from Zunino in the seventh and would go on to win the game 4-2.

In game three, Altuve started the scoring again with another first-inning home run, but his team would yet again fail to score more than two runs.

Tampa Bay had a solid sixth inning, putting up five runs, which would be all they would score in the 5-2 victory.

Despite facing elimination and a 0-3 deficit in the series, Houston won the fourth game, backed by a solid performance from veteran pitcher Zack Greinke.

Greinke shut down the Tampa opposition, throwing six innings, giving up just two runs and striking out seven batters.

Game five saw a dramatic victory, as Astros shortstop Carlos Correa crushed a walk-off home run to win the game 4-3.

In game six, the Astros offense showed no remorse, scoring seven runs in a three-inning span. Despite a two-homer game from Margot, the Rays would lose 7-4.

With Houston's game six victory, they were making a bid to become the second team ever in MLB history to come back from a 3-0 deficit in a seven-game series, the first being the 2004 Boston Red Sox.

Despite the valiant attempt, Houston failed to win the series as they lost game seven.

The Rays took the lead in the first inning from a two-run homer from Arozarena, which was a lead they would not give up.

Arozarena won the ALCS MVP honors, sporting a .321 batting average with four homers in the seven games.

In the National League Championship Series, the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Atlanta Braves to participate in their third World Series in the last four seasons.

In game one of the series, Braves first baseman Freddie Freeman started the

scoring with a solo home run off of Dodgers pitcher Walker Buehler in the first.

In the fifth inning, L.A.'s second baseman Kiké Hernandez would tie the game with his own solo home run, which would be the only runs scored up until the ninth inning.

Atlanta scored four in the top of the final frame, giving the Braves a 5-1 lead that they would not

relinquish.

In game two, the Braves prevailed with the victory, but it did not come easy.

Atlanta had a 7-0 lead going into the bottom of the seventh until L.A. scored three, making it a four-run game.

Braves second baseman Ozzie Albies hit a solo shot to make it 8-3, which proved to be the difference.

The Dodgers

scored four more in the bottom of the ninth, but fell short by one, losing 8-7. In game three, the Dodgers scored eleven runs in the first inning, giving them all the offense they would need, winning the game 15-3.

In game 4, Braves rookie pitcher Bryse

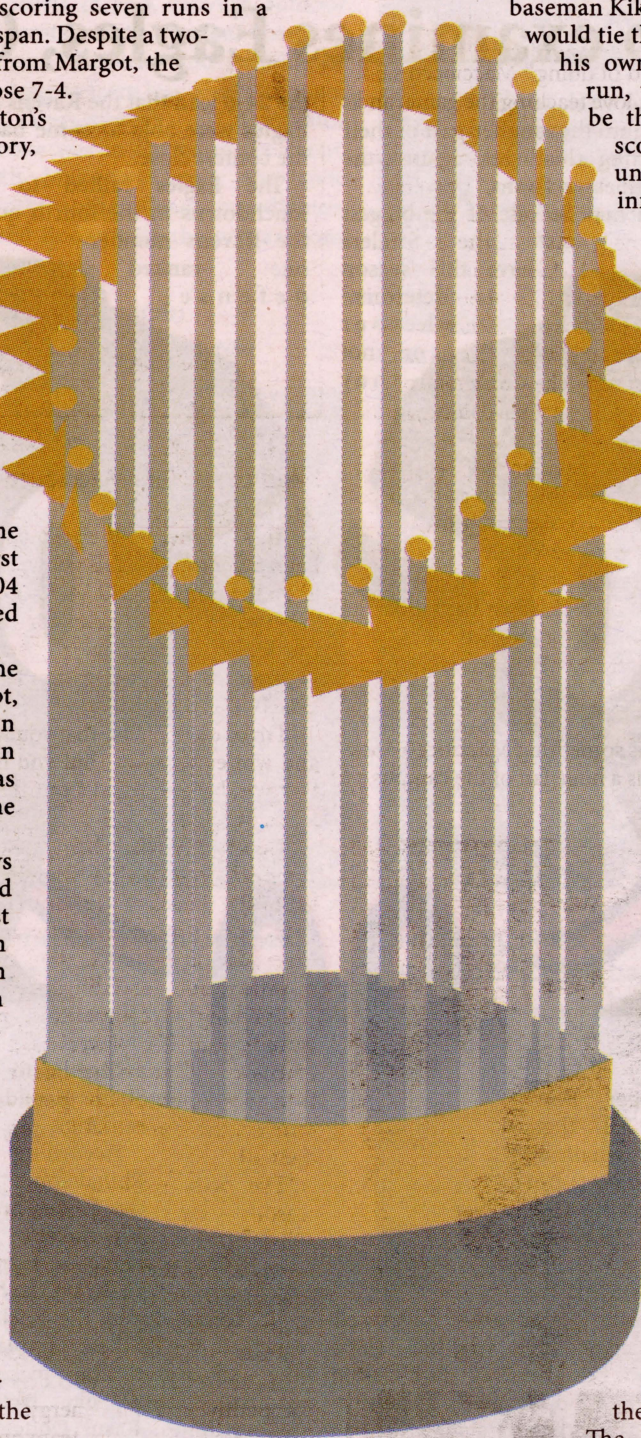
Wilson stepped up to help Atlanta secure a 3-1 series lead, throwing six one-hit innings while striking out five.

In game five, the Dodgers were down 2-1 in the sixth inning and facing twelve more outs until elimination. Catcher Will Smith blasted a three-run homer to give L.A. the lead in that frame, which was followed by three more runs in the following inning. This offensive surge allowed the Dodgers to win 7-3.

Game six was all Los Angeles, as Buehler threw six solid innings and was backed by strong offensive performances from third baseman Justin Turner and shortstop Corey Seager, allowing the Dodgers to force the elusive game seven.

In game seven, the game was tied 3-3 until the seventh inning when Dodgers outfielder Cody Bellinger hit a solo home run, giving L.A. a 4-3 lead.

Pitcher Julio Urias dominated the Braves lineup, retiring all nine batters he faced in the final three innings, giving Los Angeles the NLCS victory. Seager won NLCS MVP honors, batting .310 with five home runs.



Beacon Picks BASEBALL

Who will win the World Series?


Chris Gowarty
Sports Staff Writer
L.A. Dodgers

Ariel Reed
Co-Sports Editor
Tampa Bay Rays

Dylan Mehl
Co-Sports Editor
L.A. Dodgers

Baylee Guedes
Staff Writer
Tampa Bay Rays

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Graphic by Mia Walker

MACCIOCCO, from frontcover

trying to help me,” Macciocco said.

Macciocco’s success on the court started during her playing career in high school and continued at the collegiate level. She played for Dunmore High School, scoring 2,211 points through her high school career. The Dunmore Lady Bucks made it to the 1994 State Class AA title game behind Macciocco.

A Division I scholarship led Macciocco to Penn State University, where she was a part of a Big Ten Championship team and one that made it to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen. During her time at Penn State, Macciocco earned a bachelor’s degree in sport and recreational management.

Macciocco played her final season at Lock Haven, and during the 1998-1999 season, she was named to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference all-conference team. During her short stint there, she broke several of their 3-point shooting records.

In 2004, she was inducted to the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame and was ranked in The Scranton Times-Tribune’s top 100 athletes of the area.

After college, she found herself in a town right outside of Boston, Mass., working for the company Teamworks, where she did corporate team building through ropes courses. However, the cost of living became too high for Macciocco’s liking.

After returning home, Macciocco ended up at Arrowhead Lake in the Poconos as the recreation director. She compared her job

to that of Patrick Swayze’s character Johnny Castle in the film “Dirty Dancing.”

While working at Arrowhead, Macciocco started her first coaching job as an assistant coach at Wilkes. Macciocco was the assistant for three years while also working as an admissions counselor. These two jobs were Macciocco’s first glimpse of Wilkes’ culture.

“With basketball being in my blood, I think being a coach was also always there and what I always dreamed of doing,” Macciocco said. “I love the game, love teaching the game, and it was something I always wanted to do.”

However, Macciocco ended up accepting a head coaching job at Marywood University.

“When the job opened at Marywood, (I knew) at that time, I was ready to be a full-time head coach,” said Macciocco.

She found success at Marywood with 10 seasons of 13 or more wins, including eight seasons in that stretch with more than 16 wins. During that time, she won a total of 206 games, with 141 of those wins coming in the MAC Freedom.

Macciocco then decided to return to Wilkes University, but this time as the head coach of the women’s basketball team.

“I was ready for a new challenge. When I stepped on campus for the interview, I knew that this was the place I wanted to be,” said Macciocco. “The support for athletics, the conference, the academics and everything about the university was always close to my heart.”

School spirit is something Macciocco does not lack, as she is a huge fan of the campus.



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Head coach Tara Macciocco is excited to start full team practices.

“This, to me, is like a smaller version of Penn State, and the feel you get on campus is like a Penn State,” said Macciocco.

Winning is a priority for Macciocco, as she looks to bring the women’s basketball program to a winning season for the first time in over 12 seasons.

“I’m so competitive that you want to go out and win every game, but you have to know that you have to learn from the losses,” said Macciocco.

“Coach Mac’s hard working and competitive mentality influences us to be the best versions of ourselves, on and off the court,” said sophomore forward Katie Johns. “Everyday at practice, she stresses focus, communication and diligence.”

Coaching a competitive, hard-working attitude into her players is a big deal for Macciocco. One of her many philosophies is to play a fiercely competitive game every time on the court and for players to give it their all.

“I’ve been working with her for nine seasons – six years at Marywood, and this will be our third at Wilkes,” said Lindsay Howard, assistant women’s basketball coach. “I teach a coaching class and always use her as an example of how a coach sticks to her philosophies. She always holds true to who she is and what kind of coach she is – super competitive and high energy.”

Success for both the team and her players sparks joy in Macciocco. Seeing this success provides motivation for her to do her job to the best of her ability.

“I love the game, and I love teaching the game,” said Macciocco. “Watching the players go out and execute something that

you’ve been working on and teaching them and then seeing them be successful is really rewarding.”

According to junior guard Kendra Smith, “She coaches with so much passion for the game, and seeing the energy and emotion she brings empowers us as players to compete, with that same approach. She empowers each of us as individuals to become the best version of ourselves on and off the court.”

While on-the-court success of her players is great, it is their off-the-court successes that drives Macciocco.

“The best part of it is when you get through those four years and you get to go to graduation and watch those players from the time they were juniors and seniors in high school until they graduate from college, and you see their growth not only as a basketball player but as an individual,” said Macciocco.

Macciocco is looking forward to the upcoming season and is doing all she can to prepare her team, despite the COVID-19 restrictions.

“It’s definitely different. We are fortunate here that we’re given the opportunity to actually do something,” said Macciocco. “I think the players are really embracing that. They’re doing a great job of staying safe and keeping their masks on.”

With the new season scheduled to start in January 2021, Macciocco looks to continue her success as head coach and to continue to improve the Colonels’ success as Wilkes looks to get its first double-digit win season since the 2014-2015 season.



The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Macciocco knelt down to instruct her players from the sidelines in Wilkes’ final contest of the 2019-2020 season on Feb. 22 against FDU-Florham.



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Getting to know...

Colin Ahrensfield

Senior Cross Country Runner



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

The Beacon: Male Senior Spotlight

Why Colin Ahrensfield was selected: Ahrensfield has made his mark, becoming the captain of the men's cross country team. Since his freshman year, Ahrensfield has continually improved with his times.

Name: Colin Ahrensfield
Year: Senior
Major: Geology, Earth/Environmental Science
Hometown: Ashland, Pa.
High School: North Schuylkill HS
Position: Runner

Maybe adding an astronomy class, or something with space.

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?
Snowboarding and looking at rocks.

Favorite building on campus?
Cohen.

Favorite meal to eat on campus?
The buffalo chicken pizza at the SUB.

What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?
Glacier Cherry.

If you could have dinner with a famous person from the past, who would it be?
Alexander Hamilton.

Most influential person in your life?
My parents.

A quote you live your life by?
"To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift." - Steve Prefontaine

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?
To me, "Be Colonel" means going out and doing your absolute best in everything you can.

Anyone to give a shout-out to?
The whole cross-country team. I don't know where I'd be without you guys.

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

The EEES/Geology program. Not only did I feel like it was a great program, but it also allowed me to get both a geology degree and an earth and environmental science degree.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

After graduation, I'd either like to go to graduate school or possibly get into environmental consulting.

Favorite memory as a Colonel?

The first week of freshman year. I liked getting to meet new people and make friends.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

To actually get a season in with track.

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I started running in the summer going into seventh grade. I started because I thought it would be fun to try and eventually run cross country in high school.

Favorite thing to do during practice?

Go out on a run with the team.

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

- Compiled By Ariel Reed, Co-Sports Editor

Getting to know...

Lauren Baldwin

Senior Field Hockey Player

The Beacon: Female Senior Spotlight

Why Lauren Baldwin was selected: Baldwin's presence on the field cannot be disputed, as she started all 19 games last season and led the team with 36 shots on goal.

Name: Lauren Baldwin
Year: Senior
Major: Sports Management
Hometown: Dalton, Pa.
High School: Lackawanna Trail HS
Position: Mid

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

Wilkes was not my first choice, as I committed and played my first collegiate season at Kutztown University. However, I came to find it was not the right fit and was familiar with Wilkes as I am a local. I knew Wilkes was a close-knit community with quality academics that I wanted to be a part of.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

I'd like to be in the marketing department of a professional sports team. Eventually, I hope to manage a major sports team or agency.

Favorite Memory as a Colonel?

My favorite memory as a Colonel is Maddie Kelley's meatball sub.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

Finish strong!

When/Why did you first begin playing?

My mom played field hockey, and she introduced me to the sport in fourth grade.

Favorite thing to do during practice?

Any type of shooting drill.

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

I wish that we had more of a following. I would love for more fans to be at our games and to show that there is support from the Wilkes community.

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

I love being outside and with my dogs. I also really enjoy working out and find that I spend a lot of time at the gym.

Favorite building on campus?

UCOM.

Favorite place to eat on campus?

Grille Works.

What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?

Light Blue.

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

Ronald Reagan.

Most influential person in your life?

My parents. They will always be my best friends and my biggest supporters.

A quote you live your life by?

"If your dreams don't scare you, they are too small."

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

"Be Colonel" means giving your best effort and being the best you can be, no matter the situation.

Anyone to give a shout-out to?

My boyfriend. No matter what, I know he will support me through thick and thin.

-Compiled by Ariel Reed, Co-Sports Editor



The Beacon/Ariel I

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notes

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WREST: Experienced roster utilizes extra preparation time

By Baylee Guedes
Staff Writer

Wrestling practices are underway, as the coaching staff and athletes are hopeful for the a season to begin in the spring semester, in accordance with COVID-19 precautions.

Head coach Jon Laudenslager is confident in the team that he has trained, and he is ready to take on the potential season.

"We have a pretty experienced group coming back," said Laudenslager. "Most weights have a guy that had some varsity time. We have some good returning guys, and then we have some young guys. I just really like this group of twelve guys."

Laudenslager's athletes have been adapting to Wilkes wrestling's tradition of buying into the winning mentality.

"They are very committed, and they have really bought into everything that we are doing and the team's mission," said Laudenslager.

Preparation for the potential season has been underway since Oct. 1.

The returners and the newcomers are preparing now more than ever, as they are able to spend more time together before their season due to it being pushed back by COVID-19 protocols. The team has been focusing on skill work and technique, which will contribute to individual and team success.

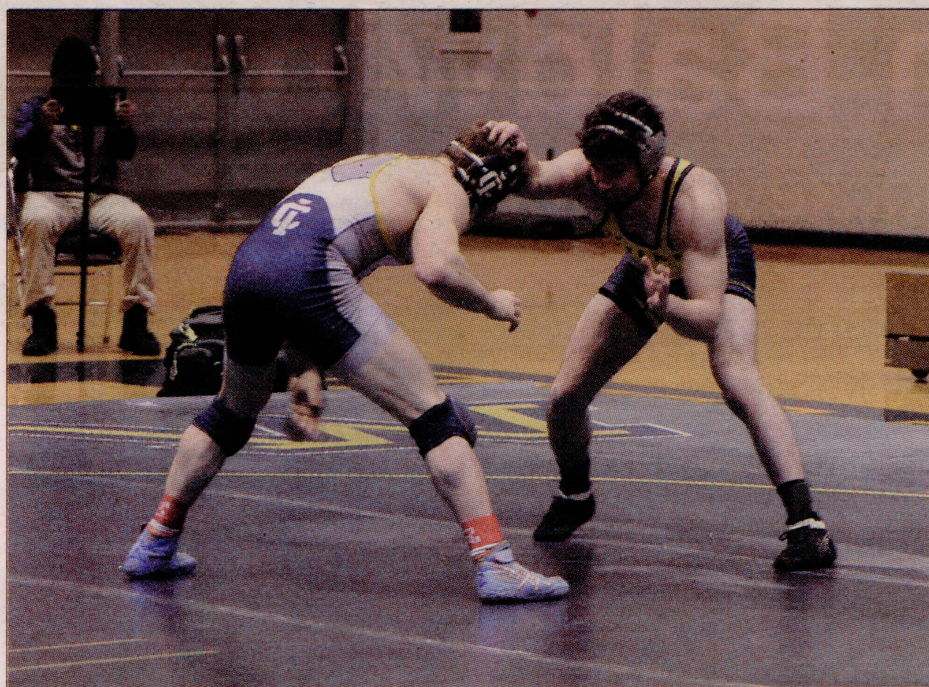
"We're kind of preparing like we normally would," said Laudenslager. "We've got to get in shape, get our weight down, and we're probably spending more time on technique right now because we have an extra month and a half to really get in good shape."

The coaches and athletes want to improve their team, as each individual brings something different to the mat. They want to work as hard as they can individually, so that they can contribute to having a winning season for their seniors.

"Moustafa Almekey (197 lbs.) and Dylan O'Connor (141 lbs.) are two seniors that I think have a good shot of being in the National Tournament," said Laudenslager. "I am excited for them, and I would be very disappointed for them if we didn't have a season."

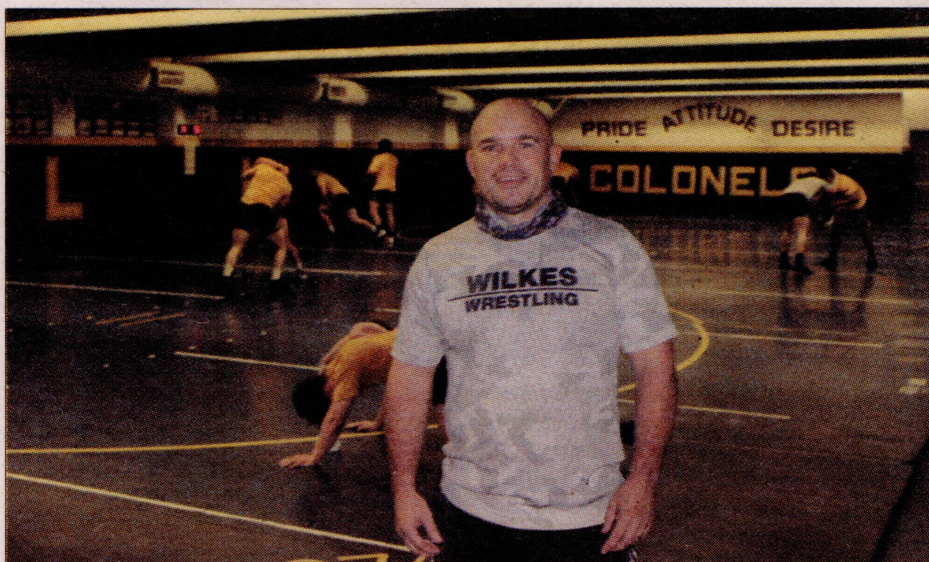
Almekey pushes not only himself, but his teammates, as this is his final year to make a run for the NCAA National Tournament. Qualifying is an individual and overall team goal.

"My goal is to place top eight, achieving an All-American status," said Almekey. "I have come close in the past two years, and I have one more shot. I'm not letting



The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Dylan O'Connor prepared to attack from the stand-up position in his match against a competitor from No. 16 Ithaca College on Feb. 14.



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Head coach Jon Laudenslager posed during an October practice.

anything stand between me and my goal."

While the team is focusing on fundamentals and getting better every day, Almekey is ready to compete with his teammates on the mat.

"As a team, we are lifting, conditioning and now wrestling regularly in order to optimize our strength and hit the ground running right out of the gate," said Almekey. "The team is looking very strong, and everyone's work ethic and drive has been

as high as we could hope for in such unprecedented circumstances."

The team has been focused on improving their techniques, and the results are already beginning to show. Sophomore John Devito is confident that he and his teammates will have a successful year.

"The team is looking great so far," said Devito. "We have a lot of wrestlers that know the standards of our team and what it means to be a wrestler at Wilkes. This helps

set high expectations and helps guide our freshmen."

The addition of new recruits has been successful, according to Almekey, as he can already feel the team meshing together as one.

Practices have been productive in each weight class and each grade level. The entire team has come together as one, pushing each other to be the best they can be.

"This is definitely one of the most motivated groups of freshmen I've seen in my years here," said Almekey. "A lot of young guys last year really had a great year of growth, so I'm excited to see them come back this year and build on what they accomplished last year."

A promising future is showing itself for the wrestling program. The athletes are happy to be on campus and working hard in the weight room and on the mats.

"We're just trying to get better, and we're grateful that we can even be in here right now," said Laudenslager. "You can't see them smiling (because of the masks), but I know they like being in there right now."

Laudenslager is going into his eighteenth season as head coach at Wilkes University. He is a proud alumnus of '99, as he earned four varsity letters and holds many other honors while wrestling at the Division I level.

"I was on Coach John Reese's last team. He was here for 42 years," said Laudenslager. "I didn't really think about coaching until maybe even my senior year. 'Oh, I think I want to coach,' and then I stuck around for my fifth year, took two classes, volunteered, came back the year after that as a grad assistant coach, and now this is 18 years."

Laudenslager has a love for this school and its wrestling program as it is, traditionally, one of the best programs in the country. He is proud to be a Colonel and continues to show his passion through coaching.

"It is good to be at the helm of something like this," said Laudenslager. "This is an established program that has a lot of good things going on for us."

The goal for this program and many others is to push each other to get to the National Tournament, but in Laudenslager's eyes, it is also about collectively getting better.

"Whether with competition or not, we want to get better. We want to get stronger," said Laudenslager. "That's the goal."



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