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THE BEACON

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow



A Historic Partnership

Wilkes signs education agreement with Panama - pages 4 & 5

The Beacon/Toni Pennello

Marcela Parades de Vasquez, minister of education of the Republic of Panama, speaks with Wilkes University President Patrick Leahy and community members. Parades de Vasquez visited the campus last week to sign an education agreement with the university.

News

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

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2015-16

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Beacon Briefs

Weight Watchers at Work
The first meeting of the Weight Watchers at Work Program will be held on Feb. 16 at noon in Breiseth 211. It will run every

Tuesday, same time, same place for 10 weeks. Those interested need to bring \$100 to the first meeting, cash or check payable to Weight Watchers. The Human Resources guidelines apply.

SG Notes: Club, guest reports; fund requests

Staff Report
On Wednesday, Wilkes University's Student Government held its weekly meeting.
A representative from the Choral Club gave a club report. Last semester, the group performed at freshman convocation and the 50th anniversary of the Dorothy Dickson Darte. The club hosted a spaghetti dinner, Open Mic Night, and a Christmas themed party as well. The members are collecting orders for their Valentine's Day fund raiser, and are rehearsing for a free concert in April. They will be performing in Baltimore, local high schools, graduation and baccalaureate this semester.
Members of the Video Game Club also gave their club report for the year, celebrating their one year anniversary as a SG recognized organization. Last semester they had a Mortal Combat tournament and raised money and canned foods for a shelter in Kingston. They are hosting an NBA tournament this semester with proceeds will going to cancer research.
Running Club gave its yearly report. The club wants to get a respirometer to see the difference in air held by the lungs throughout the semester. Last semester members also participated in the CEO food drive.
Vagina Monologues came in for week two of two for a fund request. Jennifer Magnotta requested \$1,000 to allow 200 students to come to the performance free of charge. All profits will go to Victim's Resource Center, Domestic Violence Center and Planned Parenthood. The final vote was cast passing at 30-4-2.
Psychology Club also came in for week two of two for its fund request. The group requested funds for registration and transportation totaling \$881.58 for a conference in New York. The vote was cast passing at 34-0-2.
Adventures in Science came in for it second week of fund requests. Adventures in Science will take place on April 29 and is an opportunity for 270 5th grade students to come work on scientific experiments in lab. The group was requesting \$2,800 for lab

supplies, refreshments and drawstring bags. The vote was cast with a final tally of 25-7-4.
Student Athlete Advisory Committee, SAAC, came in for the first week of fund requests. Members were requesting \$560 to cover 200 shirts to be handed out before the women's basketball game against King's on Feb. 20. The SG vote will be cast next week.
Running Club came in for week one of fund requests. The will put on Relay for Heat again this year, which is an event that raises money for the Martin Luther King Fuel fund to help local families. They are requesting \$5 per mile for each student. The vote will be cast next week.
Capital Projects was in week two of two for a fund request. The group was requesting \$5,075 for 20,000 blue Casino Night chips as a way to combat running out of chips during the SG event, Casino Night. The final vote was cast with the motion passing, 29-0-7.
Week one of two began for the Spring Fling Budget. This year's theme is A Whole New World. The event will take place on March 18 from 6 to 11 p.m. at Genetti's Wilkes Barre. There will be three dinner options: chicken, fish, and pasta as well as assorted display tables with desserts. There will be a cash bar for students 21 and older and complimentary soda and water for all guests. Entertainment will include a photo booth with unlimited photos. Shuttles will run to and from SUB all night as well. At present, the event is budgeted for 450 students and 15 chaperones with a total request of \$18,408.58 but this price may go down depending on meals selected. The final vote will be cast next week.
One committee met this week, Academic Planning Committee. The student representative explained that the Dean of the Sidhu School will be transferring to Mesa, so they have appointed an interim dean for the Sidhu School. On Feb.12, the Minister of Education from Panama was on campus.
The Council Reviewed the Treasurers Report. All College: \$47,578.58; General Funds: \$23,722.05; Conference: \$1,795.68; Spirit: \$2,000.00; Student Government Total: \$75,096.31.

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Catholic Church responds; contraceptives, morality discussion, rhythm method

By Toni Pennello
Staff Writer

A new, alarming virus is spreading throughout South America, forcing controversy in the Catholic community. The virus does not seem to be taking many lives, but it is impacting those of the babies of infected mothers, causing debilitating birth defects.

For the Catholic Church, this could mean pressure to make an exception to its strict ban of the use of birth control. However, the church does not seem as though it will waver in its views.

Father James E. McGahagan, Chaplain at Wilkes, reiterated that the church's disapproval for the use of birth control is less a regulation, and more a question of morality, according to Catholicism.

"This is based on our understanding of the whole meaning of sexuality, as both a unitive love expression and a life creating act," McGahagan explained. "You cannot

separate either that unitive love aspect or that life creating aspect... interfering with the potential of creating life is the same moral problem as ignoring the unitive love expressing aspect."

"Sexual intercourse without freedom, love or consent is totally morally wrong," he continued. "One could say the same would be true when it comes to the question of interrupting the creation of life."

McGahagan called the issue a matter of right and wrong, explaining that if it were simply a rule of the church it could be set aside.

He called this question of morality an issue of "natural law", which he explained as a moral code that one should follow whether or not one is governed by religious law; he likened it to the moral question of stealing.

McGahagan also harkened back to

the spread of the AIDS virus, where the same question of the morality of banning contraception was raised.

"We could not say that it was perfectly alright to violate a moral principle, even for a good reason," he said. "You can't do something that is morally wrong for a good reason."

Although contraception is considered immoral under Catholic ethics, McGahagan pointed to an advanced form of the rhythm method to prevent

pregnancy.


"There have been tremendous advances in natural family planning methods that are not like the old rhythm method of years ago, which was trying to predict periods of fertility," McGahagan explained. "There are many variables and inevitably there will be a problem."

These new advances lead to pregnancy

prevention that, according to McGahagan, are as effective as any other means, without the Catholic moral dissonance and unreliability. He even went on to explain that many couples feel closer knowing each other's cycles and that there is a certain amount of self control and sacrifice involved.

The Zika virus, which is spread by mosquitos, seems to be causing microcephaly in newborns whose mothers are infected. Microcephaly is a birth defect that is marked by a very small head, and, subsequently, a small brain, which leads to a myriad of health problems for the child.

According to CNN, the Brazil Ministry of health has reported 404 cases of microcephaly since November, a number that is remarkably high. Women in El Salvador have been advised to avoid having children until 2018.

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Zika virus spread brings questions of health concern

By Gabby Glinski
Asst. News Editor

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Zika, a disease caused by the Zika virus, is spread to people through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito, the same species that spreads yellow fever. This species of mosquito is found in the southern United States, Caribbean and South America.

Symptoms of Zika include fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Only about one in five people infected with the virus develop symptoms.

Spread of the virus through blood transfusion and sexual contact have been reported.

Death in accordance to the virus is rare, however, there have been a series of reports that link the Zika virus to microcephaly, a serious birth defect in which the affected newborn's head is smaller than normal. Microcephaly may affect intellectual development, eyesight, hearing and balance.

Women who are pregnant or plan to become pregnant are advised to avoid areas where the Zika virus is reported.

Erica Acosta, Associate Director of Diversity Affairs, traveled to Puerto Rico in January. Acosta, four months pregnant at the time of the trip, did not know about the virus

until arriving at Puerto Rico.

"I was a little worried," Acosta said when she learned of the virus, "I used bug spray but I was still bitten."

Acosta said when she returned after the trip, she went to the doctor to check for symptoms. No symptoms were found and her pregnancy was found to be healthy.

Acosta, who was planning on attending the Alternative Spring Break trip to the Dominican Republic in March, removed herself from the program.

"I am sad to not be going but I am very concerned for my baby," Acosta said.

Pregnant women who have recently traveled to an area with Zika should talk to a healthcare provider about their travel even if they are not experiencing symptoms.

There is no medication or vaccine to prevent the Zika virus. The best way to prevent the Zika virus is to avoid mosquito bites. People in areas where the virus is likely to be contracted are advised to wear long sleeved shirts and pants, stay indoors and avoid areas where mosquitoes thrive, like stagnant water.

There are 52 reported cases of the Zika virus in the United States, all of which have been classified as travel-associated cases. With recent outbreaks, the number of cases among travelers visiting or returning to the United States is likely to increase.

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Panama, Wilkes collaboration celebration; culture, education



The Beacon/ Gabby Glinski

On Feb. 12, President Patrick Leahy awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane letters to Marcela Paredes de Vasquez, minister of education of the Republic of Panama. Right to Left: Anne Skleder, Senior Vice President and Provost; John Yudichak, 14th District of the Pennsylvania State Senate; Wilkes University President Patrick Leahy; Marcela Paredes de Vasquez, Minister of Education of the Republic of Panama; Christopher Hackett, Vice Chair of Board of Trustees; Tony George, Mayor of Wilkes Barre; Wil Del Pilar, Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.



The Beacon/ Gabby Glinski

A Panamanian culture event was hosted in the Henry Student Center after the Address by Marcela Paredes de Vasquez, Minister of Education, Republic of Panama. The event consisted of food, dances and information on Panama.



The Beacon/ Sarah Bedford

Members of Student Government attended a dinner celebrating at the Westmoreland Club celebrating the Panama/Wilkes collaboration. From left, freshman Ian Valles, junior Scotty Vandine, junior Val Woods.

Panamanian, American unity through education; historic event

Educational partnerships, STEM, education fields

By Sarah Bedford, Toni Pennello,
Gabby Glinski
News Editor, Staff Writer, Asst. News
Editor

From Feb. 11 to 12, Wilkes University celebrated a historic event with the campus community.

Marcela Paredes de Vasquez, Panama's minister of education, visited the university as part of a comprehensive new partnership being developed between the Latin American country and Wilkes.

On Feb. 11 Paredes de Vasquez met with President Patrick Leahy to sign the agreement which is to pave the way for educational partnerships in fields that include education and STEM fields.

"Let me just reiterate how significant this agreement is potentially for Wilkes University," Leahy said. "One of our goals as a university is to become more influential, not only on a national stage but on an international stage, and we set out to find ways that we might extend what we have here at Wilkes University to a broader audience."

Leahy explained that this is the first agreement of its kind in Wilkes' history.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for Panamanian teachers and professors," Paredes de Vasquez said. "We as a country have a very ambitious plan of having all of the education bilingual, Spanish and English, even in the official sector. For that purpose we are sending 10,000 teachers and professors to English speaking countries, and that project

that we call 'Panama Bilingual' or 'Bilingual Panama.' We have selected the best partners in the United States and also England, Scotia and Canada. Wilkes University is a valued partner."

Later that evening, members of the campus community as well as administrators, Panamanian dignitaries and visiting students, attended a dinner at the Westmoreland Club. Lt. Gov. Mike Stack and Panamanian Ambassador to the United Nations, Laura Flores were also in attendance to commemorate the event.


On Feb. 12, Leahy awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters to Paredes de Vasquez.

"This is a very special moment that I will remember with joy for the rest of my life."

said Paredes de Vasquez after receiving the award.

Mayor Tony George, Christopher Hackett, Vice Chair of Board of Trustees, Anee Skleder, Senior Vice President and Provost, John Yudichak, 14th District of the Pennsylvania State Senate and Wil Del Pilar, Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, all spoke on behalf of Wilkes University and Paredes De Vasquez's accomplishments.

The event concluded with a Panamanian Culture event in the Henry Student Center with information on the event, dancers and food.

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The Beacon/Toni Pennello

President Leahy and Marcela Paredes de Vasquez sign historic agreement unifying Wilkes University and Panama through education.



The Beacon/Gabby Glinski

President Leahy awarded Marcela Paredes de Vasquez, minister of education of the Republic of Panama, an Honorary Degree of Humane Letters from Wilkes University.

Resident to face charges; fire code

Staff Report

According to Wilkes-Barre Police, on Feb. 6, a fire code violation occurred in University Towers at Wilkes University.

The incident involved a resident student who allegedly applied painters tape over all but one of the smoke detectors in the apartment rendering them useless, police said.

Officials explain that this put other occupants at risk.

According to the university fire safety and prevention information on the university website, "Tampering with fire extinguishers and other fire equipment or the sounding of false alarms is a serious threat to the safety of all and is strictly prohibited. Violations of this policy will result in serious disciplinary action by the University."

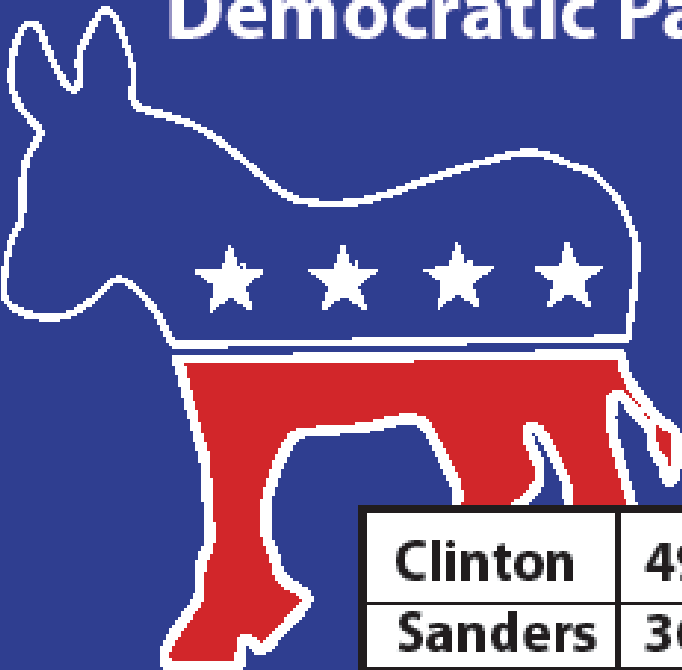
Wilkes-Barre City Fire Department personnel filed a citation through the office of District Justice Rick Cronauer. The student is facing charges according to reports.



The Women's and Gender Studies Department hosted an event for sexual health awareness. Guest speakers from the Wilkes Nursing Department and a health care educator from Planned Parenthood. The event was hosted on Feb. 11 in the Ballroom. From left, Dr. Jennifer Thomas, Dr. Maria Grandinetti, Sharon Whitebread and Dr. Michalene Davis.

Presidential Candidates at the Polls

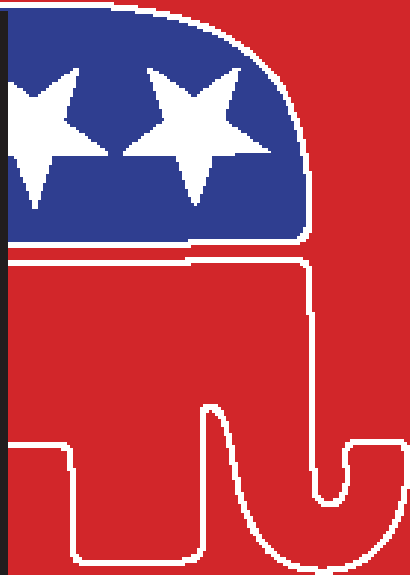
Democratic Party



| | |
|---------|------|
| Clinton | 49.3 |
| Sanders | 36.0 |

Republican Party

| | |
|----------|------|
| Trump | 29.5 |
| Cruz | 21.0 |
| Rubio | 17.8 |
| Carson | 7.8 |
| Bush | 4.3 |
| Kasich | 4.0 |
| Christie | 2.5 |
| Fiorina | 2.5 |



Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have a story or want your event to be featured? Contact the Life, A&E Editors: Nicole.Zukowski@wilkes.edu or Justin.Topa@wilkes.edu

Airing dirty laundry

Students' concerns grow over residence hall laundry facility

By Nicole Zukowski

Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

Imagine an average winter day, trucking through campus with newly fallen snow glistening on the ground and cool wind ripping through your hair during your daily commute to class.

Warm coat, scarf, gloves, hat, boots and jogging shorts on because the laundry room is once again backed up, resulting in wearing the only remaining clean clothes you have in the middle of an NEPA winter.

This image is reality for many residents of Evans Hall.

"For the over 200 freshman living in Evans and Residence Life staff, there are only five washers and five dryers for the whole building," Joseph VanderWaag, nursing major and Evans resident explains. "There's often a backlog of dirty laundry sitting on the side waiting for one of the machines. There is no way of getting one's wash done efficiently or timely in general."

VanderWaag is a student ambassador and class representative in student government. As such, he becomes aware of student issues and takes concerns of the student body seriously.

"This is just one issue I see in Evans in which I think there is a need for immediate action."

Using his leadership role, VanderWaag started a petition a few weeks ago in hopes of raising the attention of the offices of Residence Life and Student Affairs.

"We (residents of Evans Hall) complained about the laundry situation but there was no initiative to get it fixed. I hope the petition acts as a starting point showing students that someone cares and their voices don't go unheard," VanderWaag said.

According to Vanderwaag, being able to do your laundry within Evans Hall is a process that takes many students several



The Beacon/Nicole Zukowski

Students living in Evans Hall are upset with the current laundry setup. The laundry room often has a growing backup of laundry waiting to be cleaned.

days to complete.

"Some students actually walk through Wilkes Barre to a laundromat to clean their clothes. Others drive miles home just to do their laundry," VanderWaag said. "It is very upsetting to know that students are going to these extreme, and frankly dangerous, measures to wash their clothing."

One of the main goals of the petition, explained VanderWaag, is to make the issue known and create talk for possible solutions.

Stephen Enders, Residence Life graduate assistant, commented on the laundry issue.

"We have been made aware and are working with facilities, RAs, RSA's and area coordinators to create a plan to resolve the issues."

Students seem to agree that the two main issues of the laundry room are the quality of the machines and laundry rules that Wilkes has set in place not being enforced.

The issue of students' clothes being left in

the washer and dryers for excessive amounts of time after the cycles have finished is largely contributing to the line of laundry waiting to be cleaned.

"The laundry rules are documented and can be found in the Wilkes University Undergraduate Student Handbook," Enders said.

Wilkes University provides free laundry machines in each residence hall only for the use of students. With this service, Wilkes has certain rules in place to regulate the process.


According to the Student Handbook, "the University will not be responsible for the loss of or damage done to clothing through the laundering or drying processes."

Although reading further in the case of a broken machine, the University takes responsibility for making "every effort to repair the machines as quickly as possible."

It continues to state, "If a student leaves their laundry in the laundry room for more than 24 hours, the Office of Residence Life will confiscate the items. Students are not permitted to remove other students laundry."

VanderWaag offered some alternative solutions to correcting this laundry matter, "policing the situation better along with mandatory use of name tags would be a start."

He also added "newer machines that could sustain constant use, possible whiteboards for name tags, and maybe mirror King's College's use of a swipe on the laundry machines that sends you a text when your laundry is finished."

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Wilkes Students Participate in Ash Wednesday, Lent Season

By Marissa Spryn
Staff Writer

This year Wilkes started off Lent season with a church service held by Father Alex Roche from St. Ignatius Parish and Interfaith Coordinator, Caitlyn Czech.

Ashes were also distributed throughout the day on the second floor of the Henry Student Center.

Many students and faculty members received ashes between class periods and wore them with their heads held high. Some of these students were asked what they plan to give up for the next 40 days. The most popular answers consisted of relinquishing their reliance on fast food and desserts.

"It's not exactly healthy food," said Jessica Baker, senior psychology student. "It's not good for me, so I'd like to eat better."

While a large portion of those surveyed pledged a healthier diet, there were students who decided to make unique and personal sacrifices. Kayla Hiryak, junior pharmacy major, will also be giving up a particular food, but her choice runs a little deeper.

"I really like Cheez-Its," Hiryak admitted. "I basically live on them as my snack of choice, so it'll be really tough for me to go without them."

Danay Rosa is a freshman at Wilkes University who plans to give up two things she said will be difficult to live without.

"Well, I'm giving up watching my television shows," Rosa said. "I normally feel like I can't live without them. Oh, and I'm also giving up cursing."

Emma Leach finds herself heavily involved within a number of organizations on campus. Her vow for the Lent season is one we may all find to be useful.

"I plan on giving up procrastinating," Leach said. "I can't tell you how that's going to work right now."

The next 40 days will hopefully be a success for those who celebrate the season. As students test their self-control or continue with business as usual, all are invited to attend Interfaith services each week.

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The Beacon/Marissa Spryn

Father Alex Roche from Saint Ignatius Church led a service for students, faculty and staff last week in honor of the start of the Lent season. Ashes were distributed throughout the day for those who partake in Ash Wednesday.

Class of 2016 celebrates its final 100 days of classes



Courtesy of Bridget Giunta

Senior students who forgot to pick up cords or their T-shirts are asked to schedule an appointment via email, at Lauren.Pluskey@wilkes.edu. They can also pick them up at Senior Salute or stop by the Student Government office.



Courtesy of Bridget Giunta

Nursing students and department faculty pose for a photo at the Senior First Farewell. Students are counting down toward the Final Farewell event which will be held on Wed., May 18.

Policy prevails; tensions fly high during student govt. meeting

By Justin Topa
Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

Controversy arose during the Feb. 10 student government meeting, as representatives were called upon to allocate funding for the university's production of *The Vagina Monologues*, held Feb. 12 and 13.

During the initial proposal presented by Jennifer Magnotta, senior communication studies student and director of the production, concern was raised due to the recipients of the money raised at the event. While the proceeds for the event will benefit the Domestic Violence Service Center and the Victim's Resource Center, a third recipient was the cause of much concern, according to student government representatives.

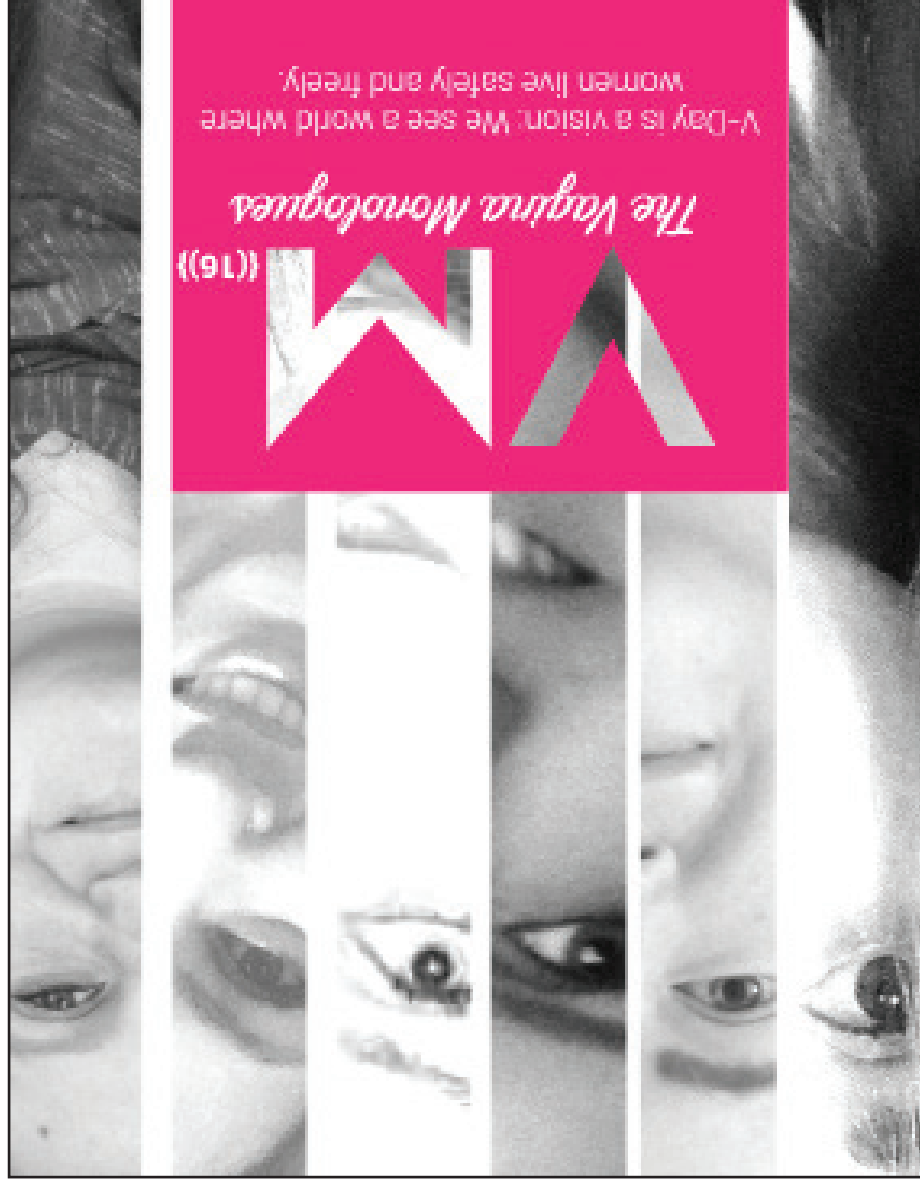
"Funding some of these organizations, especially funding for Planned Parenthood, is such a controversial decision," said Casara McCleaf, vice president of the class of 2017. "I didn't think that we should blindly give them the money without taking into consideration that some people are very against [Planned Parenthood]."

It is Student Government policy that all money granted from the student activity fund goes toward student-sponsored events and activities. Student Government does not donate to any charities directly. According to an executive representative, it has become protocol to stipulate that any money in excess of what is used for students is returned to Student Government.

Ultimately, student government voted to allocate the money requested for the production with the stipulation that any money in excess of the number of students who attend be returned to the university and not added toward donations to any organization.

McCleaf said she is opposed to Planned Parenthood, but says personal bias did not play a role in her decision-making. "My religion does oppose Planned Parenthood and abortion, but I believe that taking into consideration that other people on campus also believe that abortion is wrong is why I did it," she continued. "If it was just me and my religion, I wouldn't be representing the school well."

McCleaf said that she is in support of helping women who have undergone



Courtesy of Kahdijah Venable/The Vagina Monologues

Tensions flew high during a Student Government meeting last week as a decision was made to allocate funds for *The Vagina Monologues*.

abuse and hardships, but would have wished to see the production support local organizations that are not involved with

Ian Valles serves as the sergeant-in-arms and secretary for the Class of 2019. He contends that the opposition went deeper than serving the best interests of the student body.

"I don't believe it was opposed simply for the best interest of the student body, but because they put their own personal emotion and opinion into it," Valles said.

"One of the core duties within Student Government is that you are supposed to vote with your mind clear of biases and, in my opinion, they put their biases first when making the vote."

Emma Leach, class of 2017 representative, was also opposed to allocating funds for *The Vagina Monologues*.

"They chose to raise money for Planned Parenthood and I think there were better options that they could have chosen," Leach said. "There is a portion of campus who do not agree with that and I know for

a fact that there would be students on campus who would be uncomfortable with the idea of their activity fees going towards an organization like that."

Statistics released by Planned Parenthood state that the majority of their funding goes toward general healthcare, sexual education and contraceptives, while only three percent of their services are related to abortion. Leach states that this statistic does not change her stance due to the lobbying for and supporting of abortion practices by the organization.

"I would never agree with anything that has anything to do with abortion, unless it was due to extreme circumstances," Leach said.

Scott Vandine, parliamentarian of student government, noted the importance of wording involved with the decision made.

"The money that was allocated for *The Vagina Monologues* goes towards funding the ticket prices of students in order to spread awareness," noted Vandine. "This money is in no way a direct donation to any organization."

Vandine took issue with the stipulation added, in which the production must return any excess money.

"It doesn't seem fair," said Vandine. "It is their money at this point and they should have the right to donate it to any organization they choose.

The reason that they motioned to take back any excess money was because they knew that they wouldn't have the power or control to tell them who they could and could not donate to, as it really is there money," he added.

Valles also has mixed feelings on the ultimate decision made by the members of student government.

"I am glad that it was funded, but I am disappointed that the motion was to take back any additional money that was not spent," Valles said.

With a vote of 30 in favor, four opposed and two abstaining, Magnotta left the student government meeting with the funding she had requested.

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This Week in History: Chicago Seven acquitted

By Justin Topa

Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

On Feb. 18, 1970, the defendants known as the Chicago Seven were able to breathe a sigh of relief after being found innocent of charges that they conspired to incite a riot during the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

The month of August 1968 brought two very separate groups of people from across the nation to the city of Chicago, Illinois. While political leaders were meeting for the National Democratic Convention in order to select a presidential nominee, social protesters were also gathering to denounce the Vietnam War and the military draft process.

The social protests that took place that week were abnormal, violent and powerful. They were also one of the most iconic moments used to represent the anti-establishment culture of the sixties and early seventies.

Angered by the spectacle and the attention it had been receiving from the media, Richard Daly, Chicago mayor, ordered police to use any force necessary against the protesters.

While different individuals and organizations present at the protests had individual reasons for being in attendance, many feared being drafted into the Vietnam War, despised American involvement or were concerned with international issues and rights.

Hoping that politicians, voters and the general public would take notice of their demonstrations, the protesters spoke out, delivered speeches, wrote poems, chanted and engaged in symbolic interactions before being tear-gassed, beaten and bloodied by the local police and National Guard.

Once the situation began to calm down, seven men were charged with inciting

the riots that led to the violence and destruction.

These men were David Dillinger, chairman of the National Mobilization Against the War; Jerry Rubin and Abbie Hoffman, activists and leaders of the Yippie movement; Tom Hayden and Rennie Davis, founders of the Students for a Democratic Society; John Froines and Lee Weiner.

By the end of the trial, which lasted about five months, every defendant and their lawyers had been charged with contempt of court for ridiculing the judges, the courtroom, the trial and the American government.

On Feb. 18, 1970, the Chicago Seven were acquitted of all conspiracy charges brought against them.



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What do you think about Daly's call for the use of force on protesters?

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On-campus coffee shop welcomes any and all

By Austin Ely

Life, Arts & Entertainment Asst. Editor

The coffee bean and the revitalizing liquid it produces when soaked in hot water has been a commodity to human life for centuries.

When the first Starbucks opened in 1971 however, the company had only started to turn the commodity of coffee into a necessity.

Fast forward to the beginning of 2016, 45 years after the first Starbucks opened in Pike Place Market in Seattle, according to the Starbucks website, a quaint and modern corner coffee shop opened in downtown Wilkes-Barre.

Where Gambini's Café once existed with a partial Starbucks menu, a fully renovated Starbucks shop opened on Jan. 18, just in time for classes and the winter season.

Fortunately the opening ceremony is slated for Feb. 18, therefore, there is still time to prepare for the free beverages, giveaways and prizes to come.

As that day looms for caffeine-heads, other aspects such as the location, the workers and the renovations can become

a coffee shop conversation in itself. What does Starbucks bring to the community?

Samantha Reid, who is a sophomore psychology and criminology major at Wilkes, also works at Starbucks. Reid says there are a number of student employees who work there including herself.

She commented on the flow of business and saying, "It definitely gets most busy between classes and we see a lot of students and faculty."

Reid also contributed to how busy it gets to its location on Main Street stating, "It's on Main St. and it's right across from Towers. It's definitely closer than Dunkin Donuts. The only bad thing is that some people will spend all of their flex or dining dollars here."

Fortunately, Starbucks in Gambini's does take flex and dining dollars for Wilkes students. Unfortunately, someone who runs out of flex and dining dollars because they go to Starbucks just may not be able to get any more coffee in the morning, after class and before the shop closes.

However, since the coffee shop is dominantly connected to the coffee house culture, one who has never been to a Starbucks before may think all they serve



The Beacon/Israel Rodriguez



The Beacon/Israel Rodriguez

Some of the options Starbucks offers in regards to size is short, tall and grande.

is coffee, when in reality, they have a new full sized menu including teas, frappuccinos, cappuccinos, espresso, iced-coffee, premium roasted coffee, hot-cocoa and even baked goods and pastries. The renovations also included two coolers, which hold alternatives to the menu such as water, juices and Starbucks chilled coffee.

Sheri Murray, who is a manager at Starbucks at Gambini's, gave a statement about

the location as a whole.

"Starbucks is considered the 'third place' in people's lives. Where the home is the first, work or school is the second and Starbucks in the third."

"Having a Starbucks here adds to the sense of community," Murray said, "I see so many different people a day and Starbucks considers everyone welcome."

According to Wilkes University's website, the full size Starbucks in Gambini's is part of the partnership made with Aramark to improve options to students on campus. Its opening comes in addition to POD in the Stark Learning Center as well as Grille Works and Which Wich in the S.U.B.

In the wake of the opening ceremony scheduled for Feb. 18, Murray and staff seem prepared to show everyone what Starbucks really stands for and will undoubtedly continue to expand options for students on campus and abroad.



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NO PAIN, MORE GAIN

Martz Gym Receives New Equipment

Story by Rachel Leandri | Design by Kahdijah Venable



Martz Gym on Wilkes University's campus, a place of fitness for many students, recently received a donation of updated equipment on behalf of the university's Student Government.

A committee within student government entitled Capital Projects was the source behind this initiative. Capital Projects consists of typically four or five student government members chosen because of their well roundedness as individuals that are aware of what is going on around campus.

Capital projects' purpose is to look for ideas of improvements that could be made to campus that would benefit the students. This past year, Capital Projects approved a project to buy furniture for the new commuter lounge in the Hiscox Room on campus. Within the given budget, the committee utilized the funds provided to buy the brown outdoor tables, water fountains with the water bottle fillers and improvements to the recreation center in the SUB.

This year's committee consists of John Scalese, Dylan Fox, Casara McCleaf

and Nathan Barnhart, all who were approached by the trainer at the Martz gym asking if there was anything they would do in replacing some of the broken equipment.

Looking into what needed to be fixed and if it was really essential, Scalese asked nearly 30 students what improvements they deemed necessary. What he found is that the majority of students all had similar feedback. Therefore, with approval from the Student Government board and the academic advisers, Capital Projects paid for the new equipment.

"We as an organization hope to make the students' time at Wilkes a little bit better and to have more of the 'little things' that everyone likes and enjoys on campus," Scalese stated.

Overall, seven ellipticals, three recumbent bikes, a set of new dumbbells, a set of kettle bells, three decline benches and two sets of plyo boxes were swapped in as new equipment for the facility.

Junior Michael Conrad is excited for the advancements made.

"The new equipment is a really great addition to the direction we hope to go towards here at Wilkes," he said. "As a former athlete, it really helps us as students to feel like we can be a part of the athletic environment here."

Though currently not in season, junior student athlete Ryan Dupre trains all year round as a player on the Wilkes football team, making Marts his second home.

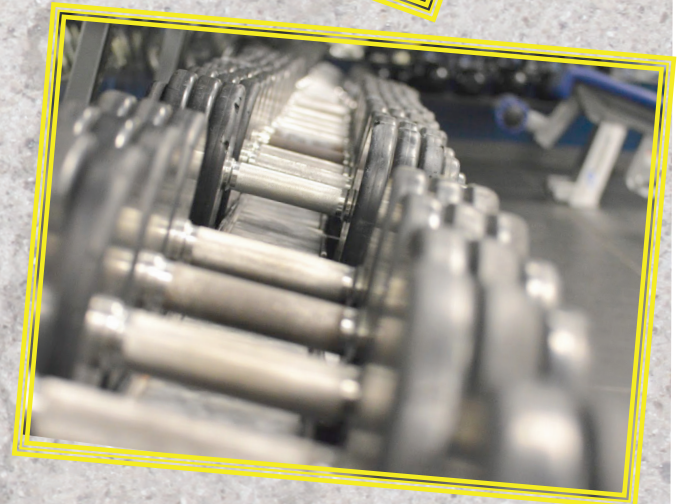
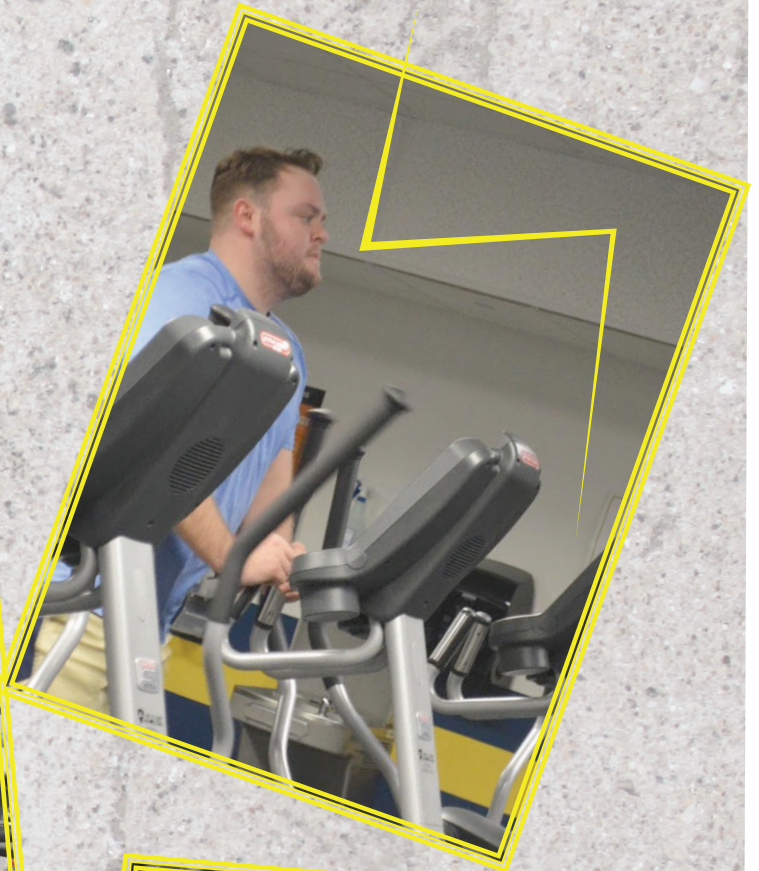
"I believe the equipment has really added to the weight room in beneficial way," Dupre stated. "It allows us as a team to get work done in an efficient and smoother manner, strengthening our abilities off the field."

Keith Klahold, Head Strength Coach/Fitness Center Coordinator at Marts, is extremely satisfied and grateful, as the cardio equipment that was replaced was 13 years old.

"Cardio equipment is like buying a car," Klahold explained. "The companies are always upgrading their products thus it doesn't take long before it becomes difficult to get parts to fix equipment that is 13 years old."



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Opinion

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

When failure now equals success later Student urges peers to remember education is more than book learning

By Luke Zack
Guest Writer

Luke Zack is a 5th year pharmacy student and has a minor in chemistry. On campus, he has done biochemistry research, helped co-found the Wilkes University Industry Pharmacist Organization and Teach Assisted in Medical Anatomy and Physiology. He is currently employed by Noven Pharmaceuticals which is located in the Empire State Building in Manhattan. Luke absolutely loves to read and write, and he enjoys using this skill to help others realize their full potential.

"I have never let my schooling interfere with my education."- Mark Twain

Dear Students,

You might have been fed a lie. The lie is that if you study hard in school, get good grades, get into college and get a degree, then your success in life is guaranteed.

This statement might have been true 50 years ago, but not today. In fact a four-year college degree is now becoming the new high school diploma.

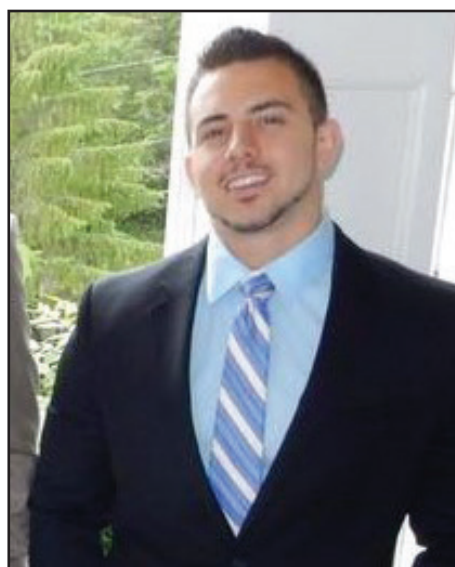
Almost everyone has one.

Not only that, but there is little evidence that grades bear any causal relationship at all to real-world results, success, achievement or satisfaction in life.

So what's the deal? Well today, things are different, which means you must become different.

As stated above, there is little causal connection between academic grades and future success and/or satisfaction. To further that argument, you can even suggest that college does not teach you to be a responsible adult.

Does this mean I am recommending that you blow off your classes and school?



Courtesy of Luke Zack

No, not at all. In fact, I believe grades are correlated with work ethic.

What I am trying to do here is make an important point that may lead you to a better life with greater job satisfaction. It is something I wish someone told me earlier in my educational career.

But why do I have the right to tell you any of this?

Well, this past year I have had two internships in New York City related to the pharmaceutical industry. These experiences in the city have shown me that no matter where you are in life, no matter what your age, or life circumstances, you can still strive to achieve more, to make a greater impact and to aim for higher dreams.

If you have the will and drive to better yourself, you usually can, no matter how much (or little) education you have.

With these internships, I got to see and experience what working in the real world was like. I got to see, do and live with the millions of others in our nation's largest city.

These experiences I had in the city were tremendously insightful. They permitted me to compare and contrast the real world to the working world, and what I learned was incredible and somewhat scary. It is something that I desperately need to share with other students so they can be guided correctly.

With experimentation, and talking to hundreds of people, I have established a conclusion related to my success and the achievement of others.

I have discovered that real success does not depend on grades, but something else, courses you cannot graduate from.

Real success has to do with your drive, your initiative, your persistence, your ability to make a contribution to other people's lives, your ability to come up with good ideas and pitch them to others effectively.

Success comes from your charisma, your ability to navigate through social networks and an unwavering belief in your own eventual triumph, no matter the amount of failures in your life, and no matter what the naysayers tell you.

Unfortunately, these things I just mentioned are not taught in college. College does not teach you how to deal with failure. And guess what, failure is much more prevalent than success will ever be, so you must learn to embrace it and use it as a learning tool.

From this internship over winter break, one of my coworkers mentioned that, "We all know everyone is really equivalent once they are done with school."

"We all know we can probably teach them anything. What it comes down to is soft skills. We need to know if we can really work with this person and actually be friends with them."

My advice: Take action! Get yourself out there; work in the field you are studying now.

Educate yourself in soft skills. Meet

people in your trade and communicate with them frequently.

Look for ways to take risks, to innovate and to make a difference. Failure is necessary for learning!

Understand that all experience comes from mistakes, and mastery comes from taking action on those mistakes to correct them.

With that said, I will leave you with these words of wisdom. Don't wait for the time to be right, it never will be. Don't wait for everything to be perfect, it won't be. Don't wait until you learn just a little more.

There's always more to learn.

Never Settle,
-Luke Zack

What is the
best piece of
career advice
you've been
given?

Tell us on Twitter
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Diaries: Kafka's intense classic still holds true for readers

By Sara Pisak
Opinion Editor

Although not a new text, Franz Kafka's *Diaries* is one my favorite works and still commands respect among some of the most talked about literary works. Kafka is one of my favorite authors as I especially enjoy his texts *The Trial* and *The Metamorphosis*. One aspect I notice about *Diaries* is it is often listed on must read lists. For example, *Diaries* is listed in both *501 Must Read Books* and *1001 Must Read Books*.

Ultimately the question becomes, "What is the key to *Diaries* continued success? There are many possible reasons critics and audiences still love Kafka's work, especially his text detailing his day to day life and activities.

The first explanation to the enduring popularity of the text is the time period which the work covers. *Diaries* covers Kafka's life and travels from 1910-1923, stopping the year before Kafka's death at the age of 40. Looking broadly at this time period, we see expansion and growth as well as war and destruction. Kafka lived in Prague, Czech Republic but he often traveled to France as well as closer neighboring countries such as Germany and Austria. During this time World War I both begins and ends, Prague's population booms among other global events; thus Kafka found himself in the middle of warring countries and expansion.

Given the geographic location of the Czech Republic and Kafka's love of travel, Kafka was uniquely able to comment on globally and historically significant events. Kafka offers this commentary in varying ways. Often, he flat out states what is occurring at the time. However, in candidly stating events, Kafka is able to intertwine these events into his everyday life. He speaks of his feelings for his family and the woman who he is to marry, all while reflecting on life during this time. Kafka's emotions are ultimately reflective of life during this turbulent time.

A second reason *Diaries* is such a beloved work: emotions. Many of Kafka's works were left unfinished at the time of his death. In fact, more than once throughout the text, Kafka asks acquaintance, Max Brod to burn his manuscripts and "to set fire" to his diaries. Thankfully, Brod of course does not listen to Kafka and he publishes Kafka's works. If it were up to Kafka, the world would have never heard of him or his


literary masterpieces.

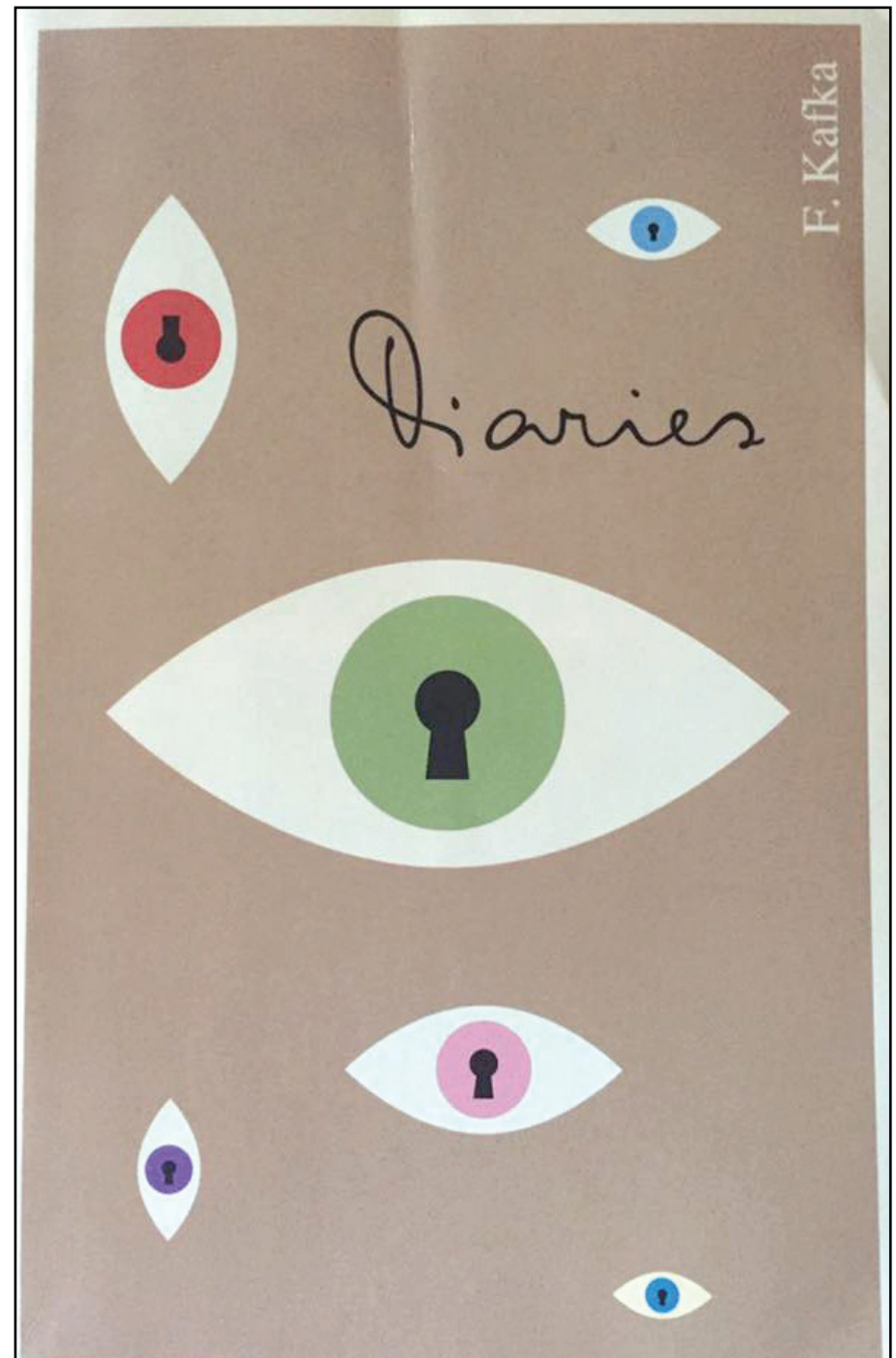
In studying Kafka, one finds he is insecure and conflicted about his life and work. *Diaries* showcase his insecurities and the emptiness he sees in himself which he cannot seem to fill. Kafka's writing often reflects this sentiment. There are gaps and holes which are left open in the text. Readers must fill these gaps with their own symbolic meaning. However, as *Diaries* reveals, if Kafka felt a draft was not up to par, he would simply stop. He would make several drafts in an attempt to revise or he would put off finishing a work. Thus many manuscripts were discovered unfinished upon his death. The amazing aspect of *Diaries* is with its gaps and emptiness it is still filled with poignant ideas and genius literary composition. In what has become a metaphor for his life, Kafka was unaware of how rich and intelligent his texts were.

Finally, when discussing Kafka's writing, this article would not be complete without what I would consider the highlight of *Diaries*: Kafka's own view of the craft of writing. Writing is one of the most mentioned ideas in this text. Kafka speaks of recording dreams and trying to write when he is uninspired. I have frequently heard fellow authors state, "if they only wrote when they were inspired they would almost never write." Kafka echoes these same sentiments. He speaks of ideas flowing freely and the joy he feels from writing but he also speaks of the times when writing feels like a job or a chore.

Toward the end of the text Kafka informs the reader, "The strange, mysterious, perhaps dangerous, perhaps saving comfort that there is in writing." This is one of the most poetic ways to describe writing. Kafka's works, themselves including *Diaries*, are "strange," "mysterious," "dangerous," and at times "comforting." Kafka is able to seamlessly combine every element which makes a writer and writing in general an expression of self.

As the reader closes the text, they will notice the back cover reads, *Diaries* offers "an account of life of almost unbearable intensity." Ultimately, this intense view of life is the very reason this classic text is still beloved.

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Courtesy of Sara Pisak

Sara's Score:



A deadly profession: When journalists become the news

By Allison Rossi
Staff Writer

There are many jobs in the world that are designed for one sole purpose: to inform others of current events locally and globally. Some of those jobs are news reporters, journalists and columnists. These professions are useful to allow people to learn more about the world around them, give others advice, update them on new trends and other current events.

These careers entail a great love for investigating, creative thinking and a passion for writing. However in the career descriptions, it does not mention the prosecution, discouragement, negative remarks -- or worse -- they may face.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) 1,127 journalists have been killed since 1992.

Of that total, 166 people died in Iraq, 81 people sided in Syria and 77 died in the Philippines. Others died in Algeria, Russia,

Somalia, Pakistan etc. In percentages, 66 percent were murdered, 21 percent died of crossfire in war, and the other 13 percent died from reporting in other dangerous circumstances.

CNN.com reported on an issue similar to topic on Aug. 27, 2015. CNN explained, After he shot two journalists on live TV and before he shot himself, Bryce Williams sent a message: "I've been a human powder keg for a while....just waiting to go BOOM."

Those were the words the gunman wrote in a chilling fax to ABC News, according to the network.

"The document purportedly from the Virginia shooter came after he gunned down WDBJ-TV journalists Alison Parker and Adam Ward, spurring a manhunt that ended when he turned a gun on himself as troopers closed in."

Another incident occurred in Belize in 2015. ABC7 Chicago journalist Anne Swaney, according to *the Inquisitor*, was killed. The search for Swaney's body

concluded when authorities found the journalist "floating in the river face down and in a state of undress, murdered." According to the autopsy, the murdered journalist was found to be a victim of "asphyxia by compression of the neck, manual strangulation and blunt force trauma to the head and neck."

So far in 2016, three journalists have been killed. One of the journalists killed was Almgadad Mojalli on Jan. 17 in Hamam Jarif, Yemen.

The Committee to Protect Journalists explained further, "Almgadad Mojalli was killed by a Saudi-led coalition airstrike outside the capital of Sanna on the morning of January 17, 2016."

The journalist was on an assignment for Voice of America.


The Committee to Protect Journalists stated, "Mojalli, 34, also frequently assisted international journalists in covering the conflict as a fixer and source of information. According to IRIN, Mojalli considered

fleeing Yemen multiple times but decided to stay to continue his work documenting the conflict.

More than 5,800 people died in the fighting since the start of the conflict in March 2015 including Mojalli's death, according to the Associated Press."

The other two journalists killed in 2016 are Al-Anbaki and Safi Talal. The CPJ explained "Talal, a correspondent for the independent television channel Al-Sharqiya, was shot dead alongside one of the station's cameraman, Hassan al-Anbaki, on January 12, 2016."

Individuals need to be aware of these horrible incidents. It is a shame that journalists, news reporters and columnists can be and have been prosecuted for informing others around them.

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Hot yoga; hot topic

By Keci Lynn Pivis
Special to The Beacon

Since the New Year just started, many people have resolutions of getting fit and healthy. College students, fearing the "Freshman 15" and surviving on dining hall food and takeout, are no exception to these resolutions.

A great way to get started at Wilkes is to use the free YMCA membership, or to attend a campus fitness event. A great and affordable opportunity is offered by the Wilkes Adventure Education with its private hot yoga sessions.

At 11:15 a.m. every Tuesday, Wilkes Adventure Education hosts a private hot yoga session for Wilkes students and faculty at Melt Hot Yoga. I finally had time in my schedule to attend, and on Jan. 26, I met my friend and the rest of the attendees at the 11 a.m. shuttle, since the yoga studio is in Edwardsville (about a five minute drive).

It seemed really intimidating—the room is heated to 105 degrees, and is extremely humid as well. The heat helps to loosen muscles and joints, to increase flexibility, and help sweat out toxins in the body. Fun stuff, right?

Yoga mats and towels are provided, and they have a locker room where attendees could change or shower post-sweat.

Many people seem to think that all yoga classes involve the instructor not saying any-thing and simply doing the poses along with the class, but that is not the case for this—the instructor explains the poses and goes around to help each person perfect their pose.

As someone who doesn't have much experience with yoga, the class was very friendly to all levels of expertise, from beginner to advanced.

During class, I saw some faces with smiles and some with grimaces, and when it ended, most of the attendees, including me, looked like they had just stepped out of the shower, and smelled the exact opposite.

The pain and sweat and smell are definitely worth it in the end—I felt refreshed and strong and tired and calm, all at the same time.

And at \$2 a class, or \$20 for the entire semester?

Yes, please

Climbing over fears

By Taylor Balsavage
Special to The Beacon

Adventure Education and the Climbing Club will host Open Climbing. Open Climbing takes place every Monday and Friday from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. in the UCOM building.

Students and staff have the opportunity to free climb the rock wall, an opportunity to challenge themselves in a new way on campus.

Open Climbing provides a friendly and fun place for groups to get together and make the most of their evening when boredom arises.

Furthermore, attempting to scale the rock wall can give students a better understanding of what it means to learn through adventure-based experiences. Forrest Jordan, a senior Engineering major, participated in Open Climbing for the first time.

"At first I thought it would be easy, but I found it surprisingly challenging and walked away after with a lot of satisfaction and determination," Jordan said.

It is important to remember that assumptions are usually what hold people back from trying new things. But often

what people come to find is that their initial assumptions are wrong, and new experiences can open a door for parts of ourselves that we did not know existed before.

Open Climbing can help in overcoming the fear of opening yourself up to something new, as well as understanding what makes challenging ourselves one of the most rewarding things a person can do.

Will you be trying out any of these events?

Tell us on Twitter
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Colonels Talk Back

We asked: "Describe the best or worst Super Bowl commercial."

Interviews by
Luke Modrovsky
luke.modrovsky@wilkes.edu

Photos by
Jesse Chalnack
jesse.chalnack@wilkes.edu

The Super Bowl is one of the nation's most watched events on television. While some people will watch for the game, others will watch to see the millions of dollars spent on advertising being put to work.

The Beacon asked members of the Wilkes Community to recall their favorite or least favorite Super Bowl commercial

Want to be in the next Colonels Talk Back? Email luke.modrovsky@wilkes.edu

Lauren Burrows
Sophomore
Nursing

"The puppy one was cute. I really enjoyed it. I mean, who doesn't love watching puppies run around? I sort of remember the Doritos one, but not entirely. I don't think the advertisers did too good of a job this year compared to other years."



Tanner Stengle
Junior
Mechanical & Electrical Engineering

"I definitely remember the Doritos one. The Doritos one from this year where the baby, the mom and the dad were just throwing Doritos around like crazy was pretty fun to watch. That was definitely my favorite one for this year."

Patrice Lonardi
Freshman
Marketing

"The Skittles one was really bad. I just didn't like how everything came together for that one. I remember seeing Steven Tyler in one. I thought the weiner dog one was cute. I don't remember who it was advertising for, which is shocking because that's the whole purpose of a commercial."



Marissa Oertner
Junior
Education

"I can't say I really been too interested in the game since I'm an Eagles fan. I really end up just watching the Super Bowl for the commercials like everyone else. This year wasn't as good as some of the previous years so I was a little mad about that."

Tony Wallace
"Commander in Chef"
Wilkes Dining

"I'm used to seeing the Budweiser Clydesdale, the puppies and the horses. My favorite thing was more of the older commercials instead. The new ones were not good at all this year. The advertisers did not get the bang for the buck like the commercials in the past used to see every year."



Cara Basile
Senior
Communication Studies

"I slightly remember the Doritos one, but I really remember the one with the weiner dog. It's funny because I remember that commercial but not exactly who was for. I was dissapointed that I didn't see a Budweiser Clydesdale one. Overall, I thought it was a weak year."

Oscar's lack of diversity reflects a larger issue

By Josephine Latimer
Guest Writer

We need to talk about diversity, and the lack thereof in the media. Most of the media we consume, whether it be films, shows or even music, the vast majority of the people we see and hear are white, and more times than not are white males.

The media is so saturated by whiteness that it comes as a surprise when a person of color is given a lead spot in a show or movie. It has become the default that the hero will be a white male.

The person who endures beatings and bear attacks (I'm looking at you Leo) are tough white males. And of course, Leonardo DiCaprio is nominated for an Oscar for his performance in *The Revenant*. I'm not saying that he didn't give a fantastic performance, but what about the other nominations?

Who on the ballot is a person of color? What lead role is a black man or woman? Who on the ballot is Asian, Hispanic, Indian?

This is the Oscars, the most prestigious

of all award shows, where credit should be given where credit is due.

In a nation that is already so diverse, where there are diverse actors and directors out there, the assumption should not be that all of the actors nominated for an Oscar are white.

The root of the problem is the fact that these roles are continuously being given to white people. It's a cycle that needs to be broken. There are so many talented people in this country, why should all the roles ostracize those people of color?

Mary Cordisco, junior English major, agrees that there is a problem with the lack of diverse roles, "the biggest issue is



Creative Commons

LA Times, "Oscar voters are nearly 94% caucasian and 77% male" and the "median age is 62."

Those who vote on what movies make it to the Oscars, the people that determine who is nominated for those coveted spots, hold the most power. When the people who have the power who makes it into the

the lack of roles for people of color...I think the solution to better representation within awards shows... is first addressing the issue of more roles being offered to non-white people."

Another major problem is the lack of diversity on the Academy board. According to the

Oscars do not reflect the general public, there is an issue.

Sarah Kennedy, junior Education major, also sees the problem with the mainly old, white male Academy voters. "I do think it is an issue that the board does not have much diversity...it is important for the people in charge to have fair representation."

If the Oscars did not rely on having white males be the default, diversity would grow. And if the biggest award show in the nation, if not the world, had better representation, we would see an increase of diversity in all forms of media.

I hope that in the coming years the Oscars will broaden its scope and become more diverse, I hope those who vote better represent the country we live in and I hope people of color are cast in fully fleshed roles, that they are the ones who are recognized for their fantastic performances.



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Interstates have become playgrounds for tractor-trailers

By Ian Valles
Staff Writer

Recently I was traveling on a well known interstate highway in Pennsylvania, and I noticed something somewhat disturbing: the stark amount of tractor-trailers, which were nearly exclusively hauling private, well-known corporations' goods and cargo. I have always passively noticed the amount of tractor-trailers on the highway when I travel, but this time, it almost felt like an awakening.

Why are there so many tractor-trailers on the road?

What happened to the times when American cargo was shipped on the vast railroads that dotted and stretched across the United States?

Why can I no longer travel down a length of highway without being boxed in by long, cold trailers, often being driven by long overworked drivers?

What are the potential dangers of having this many tractor-trailers on the roads?

I have found that around the same time major railroads went bankrupt during the 1960's and 1970's, the rate of tractor-trailers being used as cargo haulers all but exploded. This is despite the fact that modern diesel trains can haul more freight and cargo, while using considerably less fuel and taking up virtually no space on the highways.

The vast lines of railroad track? Gone.

Since the 1960's, track has slowly been eroding, being ripped up, or being paved over for natural expedition trails.

In Wilkes-Barre alone, you can see serious changes. The city once had a bustling rail yard, but in less than 60 years, we have dissolved into a single track, which infrequently operates, carrying scrap metal from destination to destination.

These days, you'll see tractor-trailers, fresh off the highway, clogging up small streets, trying to make their deliveries to businesses that now sit on the lot of the former rail yard.

There are so many problems with tractor-trailers on the road. One serious problem is the safety risk they pose, especially during the inclement weather Pennsylvania experiences during this time of the year.

I know I have heard a fair share of horror stories including out of control vehicles, cargo spills and gruesome crashes that involve tractor trailers, on top of that, you hear of a scary number of drivers falling asleep at the wheel while hauling their cargo.

These safety issues are current and near term, but another, possibly worse outcome of tractor-trailers overtaking our roads, is the amount of pollution being emitted into our atmosphere.

As the amount of trailers has increased, there has been little progress on fuel efficiency and carbon emissions, and tons of pollution has been -- and is continuously being -- dumped into our planet. The damage is serious and could lead to irreversible side effects on our lives.

We have a serious problem on our hands, but seemingly no way to combat it.

Have we lost this fight, and are we trapped in its consequences, forever having to deal with roadways and interstates clogged with clunky, somewhat unsafe, and inefficient cargo haulers?

Are we doomed to a sea of metal boxes surrounding us as far as the eye can see?



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Sports

Want your sport covered? Contact the sports editor: Rachel.Leandri@wilkes.edu

Closing in on 100 wins Fleck looks to achieve some final career goals

By Danny Van Brunt
Asst. Sports Editor

Senior Michael Fleck is in his final year wrestling at Wilkes University. He has had a very successful season with an overall record of 28-2 at the 125 pound weight class.

Fleck has worked very hard in his final year to make the most out of it. His only two losses this season were both against the same wrestler. The wrestler from Messiah is ranked above Fleck, but it won't stop Fleck from giving it all that he has.

"I know that I have to continue to work hard and take every opportunity that I get in the practice room," Fleck said.

Fleck wants to dedicate his final month left of wrestling to prepare himself for the national tournament. The wrestler from Messiah is a former two-time national runner-up, and Fleck believes he is wrestling at that national level.

Fleck has been ranked in the top-ten for a great portion of the season. He has more confidence knowing that he is ranked, but he also knows ranks can be misleading.

"One poll said I was ranked fourth, and another said I was ninth. However, the rankings don't mean that much to me. I try to stay focused, always work on the tasks at hand and get better every day," he said.

Fleck has wrestled at Wilkes all four years, and is sitting at a career record of 94-24. A 100-win career would be an honor for Fleck. He is on his way to win it too: He has two matches, and hopefully, two tournaments to wrestle in, which should give him the opportunity to reach his goal.

One of the most important and influential people to Fleck's wrestling career here at Wilkes was Anthony Dattolo.

He wrestled while Fleck was a first-year



The Beacon/Jesse Chalnicks

Michael Fleck practices a takedown with Pankil Chander at a recent practice this past week.

and was a two-time All-American.

"He is the reason why I became such a good wrestler. He really helped me turn the corner and qualify for nationals in my first year," Fleck said.

Along with Dattolo, Fleck's coaches have all influenced him in their own unique ways. He credits his current coaches Jon Laudenslager, Mitch Marcks and Brian Broderick as well as his former coaches.

Fleck can now see the end of his academic career too. With only one class and a senior project, Fleck's final semester is a bit slow. He appreciates the extra time so he can focus on wrestling even more.

Mechanical engineering was a struggle for Fleck. Since he has just about finished his degree, he chooses to help his teammates within the same major.

Dustin Zuzulock is a wrestler and mechanical engineer, and he has received help from Fleck.

"I hope that I can pass on my knowledge to others, so they don't make the same mistakes that I did," Fleck said.

Zuzulock appreciates Fleck for that reason, and admires his work ethic.

"Fleck is really motivated. No matter what, Fleck comes ready to work hard in practice, and is always ready for a

challenge," Zuzulock said.

Fleck is in his last rodeo. He hopes for everyone to do well in the upcoming tournaments. He has wrestled for most of his life.

When it comes down to the moment where his career is on the line, he will have to take a step back and realize that he may never wrestle again.



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Wilkes men's lacrosse team: Back after 33 years

By Andre Spruell
Asst. Sports Editor

For the first time since 1983, Wilkes University will have a varsity men's lacrosse team, which will be under the leadership of first time Head Coach Curtis Jaques.

Despite not having a varsity team for the last 33 years, many students have been playing the sport on the club level.

Sophomore midfielder Glenn Weist said, "I'm very excited to be part of something special. It's going to be really nice to be playing lacrosse on the varsity level so we have something to compete for, which is a championship."

There have been so many students playing the sport on the club level that Jaques credits those students as one of the major reasons why Wilkes was able to finally make a team to compete on the varsity Division III level.

"I am very excited for the inaugural season," Coach Jaques said. "I know that the support from the school, support from the alumni, and support from the whole lacrosse family is here, and it's fun to see it all come into fruition."

As a result, the coaching staff has been recruiting the last two years in areas like upstate New York, Long Island, New Jersey, Connecticut, Philadelphia and Maryland, as well as other parts of Pennsylvania, where the sport is very popular.

The men's lacrosse coaching staff will likely have no issue getting recruits due to lacrosse being the fastest growing sport in the country.

For the inaugural season, the team already has some goals set, one of which is being able to compete right away for a chance to win a conference championship. Even with that goal, the team, along with the coach, knows it is all about the long term, with the inaugural season being the first step for that.

"Before we even get into things, I want our program, I want our team to learn how to compete and be our personal best," said Jaques.

The team's first two games will take place in Virginia during spring break on March 8th and 9th, against Ferrum College and Bridgewater College respectively, to kick off the inaugural season.



Bobby Lok is breaking down in a defensive drill at a preseason practice this past week.

The Beacon/Jesse Chalnack

Wilkes University softball: One team, one dream



Wilkes Softball players warm up their throwing before practice.

The Beacon/Purvit Patel

By Sean Grundy
Sports Writer

The 2015 season was one to forget for the Wilkes Softball team. The team finished the season with a record of 13-21, going 4-10 in the Freedom Conference.

"We were very disappointed with the way the season went; we expected a lot more out of ourselves," said junior Jenna Graziano.

The Lady Colonels started out red hot on the road during their annual trip to South

Carolina for spring break. They went 4-3 and played very well, but something changed when they came back home from Virginia. The Lady Colonels struggled in the first two games after returning to Pa., dropping both the game against Lebanon Valley College and against Misericordia University. They lost both games by a total of two runs in the final innings.

The softball team captured its first home victory of the year in 2015 against the Del Val Aggies, but then proceeded to lose the next six games in the middle of the season.

"A lot of mistakes were made out on the diamond, we left a lot of errors out there that could have easily resulted in a few more wins for us during that losing streak," sophomore Grace Sanzalone explained.

2016 looks to be a big year for new beginnings for Wilkes Softball: With the retirement of head Coach Frank Matthews and assistant head coach Phil Stortz the softball team looks forward to some new, younger faces.

Wilkes has hired Sarah Maulorico to be its new softball head coach. Maulorico then appointed Jenn Dalickas and Danielle Thacker to be her assistant coaches.

Maulorico also brought back coach Jan Mazza from the 2015 coaching staff. In

addition to Mazza, Maulorico hired Alex Hoops, who played for Wilkes for 4 years. Hoops was named first team all Freedom Conference during her junior year and started all 38 games at first base.

"We expect to do a lot better than we did last year; we are a lot closer as a team and are more confident in ourselves because of it. I definitely think that we are in position to contend for the conference title," said sophomore Grace Sanzalone.

As the season nears, the Lady Colonels are working very hard to improve from last year's record and start the season off right.

"We have team goals that we set for ourselves every week that we do our best to fulfill. Maulorico expects a lot out of us, and we do our best to work as hard as we can because we know we can do big things in 2016," explained freshman Caitlyn Brown.

The team will take its annual trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina over spring break. The first game is against Penn State Harrisburg on March 13, and the home opener is March 19 against Eastern University.



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Men's and women's tennis look to continue dynasty

By Brandon Gubitosa
Sports Writer

Once again, the Wilkes University men's and women's teams have been selected to finish first in the Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom coaches' preseason poll. The women have won the last nine titles and look to make it 10 straight this season, while the men have won eight straight titles and will look to make it nine.

Men's and women's head coach Chris Leicht enters his 14th season as head coach for the Colonels. He has coached both the men's and women's teams for 13 years.

The eight-time conference Coach of the Year is excited for this upcoming season.

"We treat every year as a new year. We are very proud of our recent success, but we know we need to keep working hard. Also, every team wants to beat us now, so we have to play our best each and every match," said Leicht, talking about the teams' recent success.

When asked about how he keeps the teams motivated he added, "We are striving to not only be the best team in the conference, but to be one of the best in the region and on the national scene."

Coaching both the men's and women's team can be a challenge, but Leicht has it down to a science. Junior tennis player Alanna Denauski had nothing but great things to say about her head coach.

"He's a great coach and he motivates us to do our best on and off the court," said Denauski.

"One thing that makes this program



The Beacon/Jesse Chalnack

Adam Lefkandinos delivers the tennis ball to his teammate during a practice.

so special and successful is the amazing relationship between the men's and women's teams," Leicht said. "Our team is very close and often practices and travels together to a lot of matches. Our captains plan a lot of fun events off the court, and it helps in bringing our team closer. The annual spring break tennis trip to Hilton

Head Island, South Carolina is a great time for our teams to become very close."

Denauski, like many others other players on the team, is excited to go down to Hilton Head.

"We play some competitive teams and it will be a great way to kick off the season. It's a fun time as we get to bond as a team

and get to know each other better."

"No matter what happens, we are a team on and off the court and always strive to keep our family-like connection strong in and out of season," said junior captain Madison Salmon. Salmon was named captain of the women's team along with Olivia Hewison and Taylor Hoffmann.

For the men's team Collin, Strunk and Michael Kranz were selected captains by their teammates. "Their leadership and dedication to the team has really been a major reason for our success," Leicht said.

The men's and women's team have three and four freshmen respectively. For the men, Jaycen Murphy will play the No. 1 position. He went undefeated in the fall, with a perfect 9-0 record. He also captured the MAC men's individual title at the top spot.

For the women, Jordan Vasarkovy, Erin Volutza, and Grace Graham will all contribute to the team right away. Jordan went 9-0 in singles (and the No. 2 and No. 3 positions). She also won MAC Individual titles at No. 2 singles and No. 1 doubles.

Erin went 9-1 in singles, and also won a MAC title at the No. 5 spot. Grace went 8-1 in singles overall.

The Colonels spring break trip begins March 5 and they return back to Wilkes the 13. They will then travel to Bloomsburg the 16 and look to continue their success.



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Men's basketball: Pulling it together at the right time

By Mark Makowski
Sports Writer

The Colonels' men's basketball team hosted the DeSales Bulldogs on Wednesday, and lost the game 76-67. This was the team's first loss since their last matchup versus DeSales on Jan. 20.

The Colonels had a terrible performance from three-point line, only making 7 of 22 attempts. The loss puts the team at an (11-11) record with three games left. Senior guard Alec Wizar led the team with 18 points.

Although the men's team was outplayed and beat, they should be looking at the positives of the season with three games left. After their loss to DeSales last month, the

men's team was (6-10).

The team then faced FDU Florham, where they went into double overtime and pulled out the win 93-89. Alec Wizar logged the 1000th point of his college career, beginning a streak that lasted for almost a month.

Having a hot streak like this going toward the end of the regular season can help invigorate a team to achieve higher goals than may have been expected. Head Coach Izzi Metz has pinned the late season hot streak on one thing: maturity. Metz links the senior leadership as the key to team success.

"Our seniors in particular -- Alec Wizar, Steve Stravinski, and Devin Dunn -- have provided good leadership and have performed like veterans on the court," Metz

explains. "The rest of the team has stepped up under this leadership."

Senior guard Devin Dunn has enjoyed the ride, as he is slowly reaching the end of his senior year. Dunn is looking beyond the regular season and sees the Colonels making some noise in the conference tournament.

"I like to think this team can make a run at the MAC," Dunn said. "Everyone from 1 to 16 has stepped up and contributed to the positive attitude that is vital during a winning streak."

With the streak ending at five, the Colonels must not let the defeat to DeSales get the best of them. Alec Wizar, for one, enjoyed every moment of the winning streak, and believes that it is time to move on from the

loss and keep pushing forward, because the team still has unfinished business.

"The high point of the winning streak was the games themselves," Wizar explained. "Every time we won, the feeling would get better and better. I do not believe that we have reached the real high point of the regular season yet."

The Colonels will be on the road for their next two games against Delaware Valley University and FDU Florham. That leads the team to return home for senior night on Feb. 20, for a showdown with King's.



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Getting to know...

Grace Sanzalone

Sophomore Softball Player

By Purvit Patel & Elyse Guzewicz
Sports Writer; Copy Editor

Grace Sanzalone is a sophomore criminology major.

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

A: I wanted a small school that was far enough away from home that I felt away, but close enough that I could visit whenever I wanted.

Q: Do you have post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

A: My dream is to become an FBI agent.

Q: What are your hopes for your sophomore season as a Colonel?

A: I hope my sophomore season is filled with growth both mentally and physically for me and my team.

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

A: My dad bought me a glove when I was 11 and I've been playing ever since.

Q: If you had to choose one thing about Wilkes' softball program that you could improve, what would it be?

A: I wish that there was more school spirit for all sports. More people should support the teams and go to the games/meets.

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

A: I just like to spend time with friends and have a good time.

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

A: My father.

Q: A quote you live your life by?


A: "If you ain't first, you're last."

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

A: To be competitive, respectful, and tough all at the same time.

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

A: Bob Marley

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The Beacon/Purvrit Patel

Getting to know...

Tommy Stokes

Sophomore Wrestler

By Purvit Patel & Elyse Guzewicz
Sports Writer; Copy Editor

Wrestler Tommy Stokes is a Pharmacy major from Bensalem High School in Bensalem, PA.

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

A: Wilkes has one of the top wrestling programs and an excellent Pharmacy program.

Q: Do you have any post-graduation Plans in terms of a career?

A: To work as a clinical pharmacist.

Q: What are your hopes for your current season as a Colonel?

A: To become an academic all-American.

Q: When/Why did you first begin wrestling?

A: I started wrestling when I was 6 years old. I joined because I had seen older wrestlers and had been inspired by them and wanted to be just like them. I turned out to really like wrestling, and most combat sports in fact, and just stuck with them all my life.

Q: If you had to choose one thing about Wilkes' wrestling program that you could improve, what would it be?

A: There's not too much I see wrong with it. Wilkes wrestling is known to be a great program that has excellent wrestlers and works them hard. I feel they live up to this expectation. If I had to choose one aspect to improve, I would say campus publicity because we don't host many events or sell any apparel for students around campus.

Q: Do you have other sports/interest/

hobbies off of the field?

A: In the summers I like to train in MMA and Jiu-Jitsu. Rather than sports, I like to play guitar in my free time and go on adventures with my friends to explore and just have a good time.

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

A: I would say my father is the most influential person in my life because he has helped me through a lot of hard times in my life; he's always pushed me to my limits in every aspect of life, whether it be sports or academics, and I feel he's really helped to shape my personality and has gotten me to where I am today. He's helped to show me what I can really achieve in life, and he's always believed in me, even when no one else did, even myself. He's never missed any of my matches and has stood by my side the entire way.

Q: A quote you live your life by?

A: "Welcome any challenge life throws at you".

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

A: It means to work extremely hard in your schoolwork and give the sport you play everything you have, but don't forget to have some fun along the way.

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

A: It doesn't really matter. As long as they're still rich and take me out to a nice dinner I'll be happy.



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