



THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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

Students, faculty offer their unique ways to celebrate Valentine's Day

By Bailey Dejesus
Contributing Writer

Valentine's Day is just around the corner and with it comes some anxiety. Being an overtly commercialized holiday, there is a decent amount of pressure for couples to show their most romantic side on Feb. 14.

Many couples often find themselves at a loss for not only what to do but also how to feel about the holiday. From students to faculty and professors, celebrations can vary.

Dr. Chad Stanley, associate professor of English, admitted that he and his partner are going to go out for dinner and then going to see a concert together, which their child is very excited for.

"It is a great day economically, as well," said Dr. Stanley. "A huge restaurant and entertainment night especially after COVID."

VALENTINE, page 9

Colonels show off at white-out basketball games



Trent Fisher taking it all in before his freethrow attempt.
All photos are from Feb. 1. during the men's and women's white-out games as they hosted DeSales University.



Top: Yamirelis Matos searching for a teammate to pass to.
Bottom: Brianna Horton advancing with a guarded dribble.



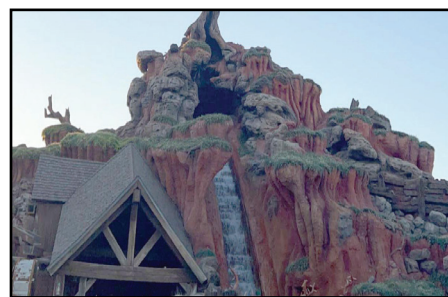
Photos: The Beacon/Lauren Bowers



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News

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

Student Government notes: Feb. 1 weekly meeting

By Kellie Scott
Staff Writer

Student Government held its third meeting of the spring 2023 semester on Feb. 1. The meeting consisted of covering a constitution change and fund request.

To begin, Student Government brought the Residence Hall Council back to the stand for week two of two for their request of a constitution change. The president briefly restated the proposal for the new constitution change regarding a new voting hierarchy. The motion quickly passed and the request for the constitution change was granted.

The next presentation consisted of a first look at the spring semester's casino week, held by Student Government. This was week one of two, where members of Student

Government presented a request for funding of the event.

The request was for \$20,800 for a four-day event lasting from Monday Feb. 20 to 23. This included things such as food, prizes, T-shirts and decorations. Some of the table games to

be played included "Black Jack," "Texas Holdem" and a collaboration with Programming Board for a "Price is Right" night.



After the initial look at what the week would look like and a budget breakdown of the different themed nights and costs, the presenters briefly left to let Student Government deliberate. There was some debate on some of the different themed

days, what days the events will be held and the overall budget of the event. There was no vote held as that would occur in week two of the request.

Finally, in some closing remarks of the meeting, the commuter lounge is being moved from the SUB to the basement of the library. This will allow the current commuter lounge to be used as storage for facilities and the lounge to be in a better location for commuters.

Another update is that the new SUB furniture is set to come in late next week, a week earlier than expected. Finally, the meeting concluded with each class and club giving their final remarks, and the meeting was adjourned.

The next Student Government meeting will be held on Feb. 8.

Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

Diploma Order Submission Reminder for May 2023 Graduates

If you have not already done so, seniors please submit your Diploma Order and Degree Audit via the electronic form for May 2023 Graduation.

Use this link to access the form and more information, which is also available on Etrieve: <https://www.wilkes.edu/academics/registrar/graduation.aspx>

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

Apply to become an e-Mentor

Applications are open for the position of first-year e-Mentor for the fall 2023 semester. As an e-mentor, full-time undergraduate students are trained to

provide support to a group of 12 to 25 new students beginning at summer Orientation and concluding at the end of the 2023 fall semester.

e-Mentors are student leaders who have varied campus experiences. Applications are due Feb. 20 at 4 p.m.

To fill out the application, please visit this link <https://www.wilkes.edu/campus-life/student-development/leadership-opportunities/e-mentors/e-mentor-application.aspx> or contact the Director of Student Development, Stacy Mullen, with any questions at stacy.mullen@wilkes.edu or 570.408.4645.

Creative Writing Community Workshops

Vicki Mayk, journalist and published non-fiction author, will teach "Telling it True: Writing Memoir and Nonfiction" which is a six-week online course that will take place Tuesdays, Feb. 14 to March 21

from 7 to 9 p.m. Registration can be found in the Wilkes Today Feb. 3 email.

Another six-week online course for writers of any genre are called to join "The Writers' Block", facilitated by Monique Franz, published playwright and fiction novelist.

The course will take place Thursdays, Feb. 9 to March 16 from 7 to 9 p.m. Registration can be found in the same email mentioned above.

LEAP Into Action

Spend your spring break volunteering with LEAP Alternative Break. You can spend a week at Give Kids the World Village, working with critically ill children.

Only six spots are left. For more information, contact megan.boone@wilkes.edu

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Upcoming Events: 2023 Spring Semester

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 16 - Black Artists in NEPA lecture
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Want your event featured in the calendar?
 Email: Madelynn.Kinard@wilkes.edu

Observing Lunar New Year at Global Coffee Hour

Hoping for good luck and prosperity

By Maddy Kinard
News Editor

On Feb. 1 during Global Coffee Hour, students celebrated the Chinese New Year and developed a deeper understanding of traditional celebrations.

Mary Ellen McLean of international student services and Madison Becker, assistant director of global engagement, presented on the holiday's history.

As outlined, Lunar New Year is the most significant Chinese holiday, though it is also celebrated by other cultures. It is also known as the "Spring Festival." The holiday is a "jubilant" occasion, Becker said, due to families coming together to celebrate.

An old legend surrounds the holiday, involving Nian, a cruel and ferocious beast who is said to attack and eat people on New Year's Eve. To ward him off, red paper couplets are placed on doors, torches are lit and firecrackers are set off through the night, as these are all things Nian is afraid of. A popular saying throughout the night is "Gong Xi," or "congratulations."

Starting on New Year's Eve, the festival itself is two to three weeks long. Preparations begin on the 24 day of the 12 lunar month (Jan. 14), which operates on Gregorian dates.

On Chinese New Year's Eve, family members who no longer live at home

make special efforts to return home, as the family is important during this holiday. They share a meal of traditional foods like whole fish, whole chicken, oranges and longevity noodles.

The Chinese zodiac and lunar calendar play an important role in shaping the New Year. The Lunar calendar names each of the 12 years after an animal, either a rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog or pig. These zodiacs also cycle through five elemental types, wood, fire, earth, metal and water.

"Legend has it that the lord Buddha summoned all the animals to come to him before he departed from Earth and only 12 animals came to bid him farewell. So, as a reward, he named a year after each of the animals in the order they arrived," said Becker.

The animal that rules the year a person was born is believed to have influence on personality, similar to western ideas of the zodiac.

2023 is the year of the water rabbit. The prior year was the year of the tiger, which was about making big changes. For the water rabbit, however, this year is about taking a step back and slowing down or reflecting. Water years are believed to bring out emotions and some people may feel impatience due to a lack of growth, but it is instead a slow burn toward success.

"It'll be a year where thoughtful action is rewarded more than huge risks. So after all the difficulty of the last few years, this year is sorta meant for cultivating peace and patience moving forward," said Becker.

McLean also goes on to discuss traditional red envelopes in which family members hand out "lucky money." The amount of money in the packet is to be of even numbers, particularly eight and six

which are regarded as particularly lucky.

"I think it's important for students to come to the global coffee hour not only for our international students on campus to get to know American, domestic, students but for everybody to get an understanding of other cultures and see the similarities, the differences and celebrate those differences with them," said McLean.



Oranges were provided at the event, as they are believed to provide good luck. Students were also able to view traditional Chinese art and accessories.



Pork and vegetable dumplings were served to represent traditional dumplings eaten in China, as they are shaped like money pouches and represent good fortune.



Crystal Cool (left) led students (Lucas Coe, right) through an origami rabbit tutorial to symbolize the year of the water rabbit.

Professors, staff in Breiseth recall Christmas flood damage

By Amanda Montgomery
Asst. News Editor

Frozen pipes created havoc over winter break for one university building.

On Dec. 25, Breiseth Hall flooded, causing damage to various parts of the building.

The flooding was caused by a frozen pipe above the third floor psychology computer lab. During that time, water flowed from the third floor down to the basement, impacting offices and other rooms on the southern part of the building.

Breiseth Hall is open to and utilized by the majority of departments in the university, most notably the majors in the arts and sciences.

“The arts and sciences dean’s office is located two floors below the leak. We had water flowing down the walls. Our copier was ruined along with some furniture. Otherwise, the main impact was wet carpet throughout the suite. Other parts of the building certainly took more damage,” said Dr. Paul Riggs, dean of Arts and Sciences.

University facilities responded quickly to get the water shut off and to start the process



The Beacon/Amanda Montgomery

Facilities were called in on Christmas morning to stop the flooding that damaged the third floor of Breiseth Hall.

of removing as much water as possible. They also set up dehumidifiers and fans to further combat the humidity.

Everything was fixed and back in place by the time classes resumed; however, the damages had lasting effects. Professors’ offices and books were damaged during the flood.

“I was told that the sprinkler system in Breiseth froze during the deep freeze and then

the pipes burst on the fourth floor, running down the stairs and down into the walls,” says Dr. Gina Morrison, global cultures professor and Fulbright advisor.

Morrison’s office was flooded, but, no books or artifacts were destroyed.

“My office was flooded up to two inches, I believe, based on the change of the color of the wall caused by the contact with water,”

said Dr. Akira Shimizu, global cultures history associate professor.

After the flooding, faculty and staff had to rearrange the books and other belongings out of their rooms so facilities could repair the damages.

“We came in the day after Christmas and a few times afterward, over the break, to take boxes of books out of the wet rooms and then bring them back in and put them on the bookshelves,” Morrison explains.

Shimizu was out of the country at that time and returned to campus before the beginning of the Spring semester. He found stacks of books, documents and other things, explaining that there have been no odors related to fungus and residues from leaked water detected.

In addition to removing the water, facilities also repaired and repainted the walls.

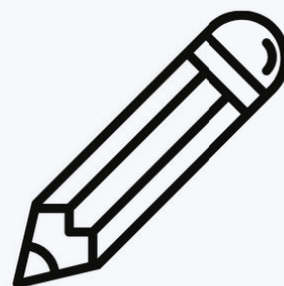
“My thanks and the thanks of everyone who was impacted go out to Charlie Cary and his colleagues in facilities,” said Riggs. “They gave up much of their holiday for our benefit and made sure we were ready to resume our work in time for the start of the spring semester.”

REMINDER!

The Beacon is looking for News writers!

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Prioritizing mental health with Honors Program students

Setting boundaries for yourself

By Maddy Kinard
News Editor

Honors students learned the importance of prioritizing mental health with Dr. Maria Richards during a Pizza Plus session.

Richards outlined four key points when thinking of mental health in terms of priority: basic needs, routine, boundaries and balance.

In terms of basic needs, Richards references Maslow's hierarchy of needs, that certain lower-level basic necessities, like sleeping and safety, must be met before one can move to the next levels where self-esteem, purpose and self-actualization lie.

"The crux of that is the base of the pyramid, the basic needs," Richards said. "As students, I encourage you to prioritize those basic needs, sleeping and eating especially. I understand that in the midst of finals and the midst of multiple papers and exams, sometimes those basic needs can take a back seat, but realize that your ability to meet those demands is contingent on these basic needs being met, so I caution you not to neglect your basic needs in the mindset that you just need to get these things done."

Richards and colleagues at the counseling center frequently hear from students that they have a hard time falling asleep due to their minds racing and thinking of the next day's tasks. Building a routine, and prioritizing it around sleep can help mitigate these inhibitors. While

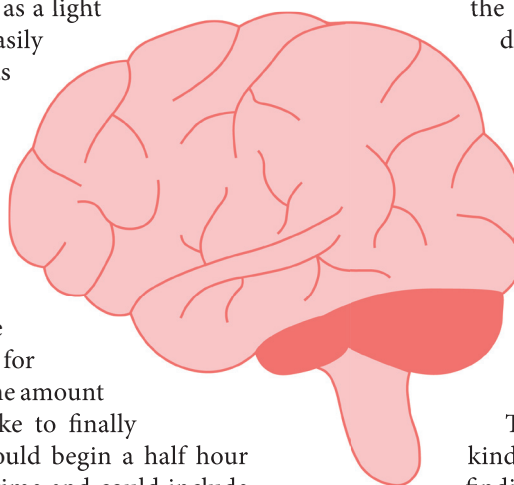
sleep is often seen as a light switch that can easily be flipped, Richards emphasizes the importance of seeing it rather as a "dimmer switch." Gradually preparing and transitioning the mind and body for rest can decrease the amount of time it may take to finally fall asleep. This could begin a half hour before target rest time and could include unplugging from phone, journaling or reading.

Boundaries are particularly important to a student's mental health, especially those that are ambitious and quick to say "yes" to tasks. Boundaries involve setting realistic expectations, particularly that it is okay to say no and turn things down.

Similar to boundaries, balance can be difficult as taking on too much can take away from the personal time needed for replenish the self.

"When you're asked to do something, resist the urge to say yes right away," said Richards. "Get in the habit of buying yourself time by saying, 'thanks for thinking of me, let me just think about it and see if I can make it work. I'm not sure, but I'll let you know.' Take time to really figure out if taking on something new would extend you."

Richards also highlights balancing



the things you have to do with the things that replenish or rejuvenate you to ensure that you can complete those must-do tasks.

Similar angles to taking care of mental health involve self-care. This means being kind to oneself and finding the activities and resources to keep ourselves emotionally

fueled. For some people, self-care can be taking a break, or watching a favorite comfort show or movie.

Self-reflection and self-validation are also factors in taking care of mental health. This means paying attention to what one might be feeling instead of bottling it or ignoring it to the point where it becomes a problem. Self-validation means not judging when feeling stressed or anxious.

"Give yourself the patience to experience and recognize that you are struggling, and then from there try to figure out and access supports and resources that are available to you. Whether it's coming back to those self-care things or other support available to you," said Richards.

Further, the more a person is connected with others, the greater the positive impact on mental health. Getting involved in

things and trying not to fall into the trap of isolation can prevent detriments to the mind.

Richard also emphasizes self-compassion, which she states is more positive and valuable than the contrasting idea of self-esteem. Self-esteem is unstable and based on outcomes and performance; achievements are required to reach self-satisfaction. However, self-compassion is stable. It is present even when struggling, while self-esteem is not. It is being patient and kind to oneself, giving permission to struggle and to have bad days without judgment—the same compassion given to a friend if they were struggling, which, for ourselves, is not always intuitive or automatic.

"The biggest thing I took away from Dr. Richards's session is in order to prioritize your mental health, you have to obtain a balance in your life," said Jake Middleton, first-year biology-chemistry major. "For example, if you have a lot of assignments due in a week, it is good to spend a lot of time on those; however, your mental health can take a hit. So, if you can create a balance of work and take time for yourself, you can get things done without your mental health taking a hit."

Megan Makovsky, P2 pharmacy student and student body president also felt the presentation to be beneficial as she finds herself very busy often.

"Coming to this event has given me good tips and tricks on how to better my mental health," said Makovsky.

Graphic by David Marks

The counseling center can be reached at 570-408-4100 and is located on the second floor of Passan Hall.

The center offers free, individual counseling that requires no insurance and has no cap on appointments per semester.

The counseling is confidential, meaning that they will not share any information without permission. There are in-person, masked counseling sessions along with virtual telehealth.

If students do not have privacy in their rooms, a space in the library is reserved through the counseling center for these virtual sessions. 570-408-CHAT is the 24/7 crisis support number. For more information, visit the counseling center page on Wilkes' website.

Professor Profile: Dr. Jayme Hines, education department

By Amanda Montgomery
Asst. News Editor

Dr. Jayme Hines has joined the undergraduate education department as an assistant professor.

She also serves as the program coordinator for the pre-k-4 alternative pathway program and the NAEYC accreditation coordinator.

Hines grew up in Irondequoit, New York. She received a bachelor of science in elementary education from St. Bonaventure University in Saint Bonaventure, NY. Later, she received a master of education degree in early childhood education from The College of Charleston in Charleston, SC. In addition, she received a doctorate in education from The College of Saint Mary in Omaha, Neb.

"I love our students. We really have the best, most engaged and fun students. I enjoy getting to know them and learning how I can create learning opportunities

to build on what they already know," said Hines.

Hines describes herself as a teacher's teacher and is honored to work with future educators. She explains that the program was student-centered and that the faculty believed in the power of relationships, all of which helped influence and affirm her decision and beliefs.

"I am constantly learning new ways to engage the online learner," said Hines, explaining that she loves building and creating engaging online coursework.

Hines tweaks the coursework in the



Hines and her daughter Ella.

alternative pathways program to ensure the online students get the same robust and complete education as the residential students. The program serves students who

are currently working full time, with many in the early care and education setting and completing their degree part-time online.

In the future, Hines says she doesn't know what she wants to be when she grows up, and she explains that "I know that I am in the right place right now, and that teaching future teachers is

exactly where I want to be."

She would also like to write a book about the best practices for faculty to support teacher candidates.

Hines has lived in 10 different states, moved 15 times and taught in seven different schools. She has been married for 25 years, and for 20 of those years, her husband was in the Army.

"It can be challenging for military spouses to pursue their own careers, but with the support of my family, I was able to support my husband during his career, which included several deployments, while chasing my own dreams," said Hines.

One piece of advice Hines has for students is to go to class and to participate in their education. She explains that "you will only get out of your education what you put into it," and advises students to get involved.

Photo Courtesy of Jayme Hines

Professor Profile: Dr. Todd Hastings, nursing department

By Maddy Kinard
News Editor

Dr. Todd Hastings has returned to his alma mater as an assistant professor in the department of undergraduate nursing.

Hastings has experience in several fields, describing himself as a "career jumper times two." He graduated from Rutgers University with his undergraduate degree and pursued graduate school at Penn State where he was a nutrition and applied physiology student, which morphed into food science.

After working as a food technologist for several years with the federal service Uniformed Services Benefit Association (USBA), Hastings realized it no longer translated for him anymore.

Ten years after graduating college, he returned to school where he found that nursing did translate.

Hastings then pursued Wilkes as his graduate institution, where he grew into the profession and became centered in

his specialty: mental health as a focus for health care.

"Wilkes provided me this opportunity to come back to school, get a graduate degree that focused on a clinical specialist area in psychiatric mental health nursing," said Hastings.

From there, he tried several directions including hospital settings, management and outpatient therapist when, on a whim, he was recruited by Misericordia and had stuck with teaching since. Hastings has taught at several institutions including Bloomsburg and Cedar Crest.



Hastings is aiming to boost mental health talk across campus.

Emphasizing his love for small private colleges as he is afforded more flexibility to embark in both scholarship and service, he found himself back at Wilkes, which he described as, "sort of like going back home."

At Wilkes, he wanted

to cultivate the same agenda he was working on at Cedar Crest relating to his interest in mental health and suicide prevention which, thus far, he has done on a multitude of levels.

Hastings is the adviser for the National Alliance on Mental Health club and affiliated club, Morgan's Message.

He is also working on a cross campus

based initiative, the Green Bandana Project, which is campus specific in nature but the message and intention around it is widespread.

The Green Bandana Project is a national campaign in which willing students opt to wear a green bandana to symbolize that they can provide information about where someone could go if they need help or support. In other words, students can present themselves as a safe space for mental health resources.

Hastings emphasized his gratitude for student interest in these subjects along with, particularly, the university's willingness to move forward with the clubs, which he depicted as challenging at other institutions that had to be pushed to support and embrace these themes.

"It really shows there is heart at Wilkes," said Hastings.

Photo Courtesy of Todd Hastings

Life, Arts & Entertainment

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

Programming Board hosts murder mystery night

By **Laury Angeles**

LA&E Photographer and Staff Writer

Programming board presented a Murder Mystery Night on Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. in the Henry Student Center Ballroom. Actors were present at this event and they acted out the moment in which a staged crime happened.

"I am enjoying all this, it is really nice," said Nae Giddings, first-year early childhood education major. "I love murder mysteries, and I'm a drama student also."

Not only were there actors involved in the performance, but some students had roles and costumes as well. The rest of the audience was also present and part of the investigation of finding out who the murderer was.

"I really like murder mysteries," said Aspen Kattner, first-year secondary education and English major. "I got a deep passion for them so when I learned there was going to be a murder mystery I was like 'wow.' If there were any events that I was going to, I have known pretty much all of them, but it was definitely

this one. I have been hyping it up since I learned about it two or three weeks ago."

Another feature to the event was that students had to work in teams to discover the mystery. Each team had a folder with clues that could help them find the murderer. Free food was provided to all the participants too.

"What motivated me to come was

that I always come to the programming board activities because of its great organization, its prize incentive, food and drinks," said Moises Alvarado, senior business management major. "And so far I've had an incredible time."

Next week, programming board will be hosting Black History month Bingo.



Maggie McHenry, junior digital design and media arts major, and Brian Guzman, junior business management major, are paired as a team for the investigation.



Photos: The Beacon/Laury Angeles Martinez

Two murder mystery characters and enemies for their positions in a company's business, Vice President Reginald and President SalFee.



The "crime scene" that was created for the night.



Nae Giddings, first-year early childhood education major, getting ready to help her team look for the clues in the folders while wearing a decorative mask.

Cocktail of the Week: The pink and sweet love potion #9

By Haley Katona
Contributing Writer

February: the month of heart-shaped candies and love! This is a perfect light drink to sweeten up your Valentine's Day evening. It is pink, made with strawberries and will cool down any butterflies about whatever plans you have for this holiday.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup ice
- 1/2 cup fresh strawberries, can also be frozen
- 1 scoop vanilla ice cream or flavor of your choosing
- 1 ounce vodka, could be plain but for a more flavorful taste try strawberry or vanilla vodka
- 1/2 ounce white crème de cacao liqueur
- 1 strawberry for the garnish

Directions:

First, pour all ingredients into a shaker filled with ice and shake thoroughly.
Then, strain the drink into a chilled glass.
Garnish with whipped cream if you want an even sweeter treat.

Cheers!

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



The Beacon/Jordan Daniel
Give this drink a try for Valentine's Day and you will be in love with it forever.

Beacon Bumps

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

Emily Cherkauskas, Editor-in-Chief: **Zara Lantzman, Opinion Asst. Editor:**

Flesh and Blood - Shooting Star

Getaway Car - Taylor Swift

Morgan Rich, Managing Editor:

Baylee Guedes, Sports Editor:

The Great War - Taylor Swift

I'm Somebody Else - LYELL

Maddy Kinard, News Editor:

David Marks, Designer:

Chokehold - Sleep Token

Blue Boy - Mac Demarco

Amanda Montgomery, News Asst.

Maggie Murphy, Designer:

Editor:

Risk - Deftones

I'm Good (Blue) - David Guetta, Bebe

Jordan Daniel, LA&E Editor:

Spin Bout U - Drake, 21 Savage

Rexha

Laury Angeles, LA&E Photographer

Lara Mullen, Designer:

& Staff Writer:

Don't - eAeon, RM

Badhead - Blur

Sydney Allabaugh, Opinion Asst.

Elizabeth Cherinka, Social Media

Editor:

Millionaire - Kelis, André 3000

Manager/Staff Writer

WISH ME LUCK - Wallows

VALENTINE, from front

Thankfully, Wilkes-Barre seems to have plenty of options for couples, friends and families that want to have a nice night out together without too much pressure or financial strain.

On Feb. 11 Arts YOUiverse will be hosting an arts night for couples with a few different classes choices. There will be a “Couples Collage” art class, a “Candlelight Couples Yoga,” a ballroom dance class and a “Nearlywed Game” led by Angel Berlane to guide couples through some fun activities and light improv.

At Millennium Salon and Spa there is also a special for couples massages. Couples can reserve an appointment for an hour, have a full body massage together or check out their couples mani-pedi options as well.

As always, there are also restaurant options around town and \$3 movies on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Students also have many different plans themselves for what they will be doing on Valentines Day. Not only are some clubs selling cookies and valentines, but students

have all kinds of plans for them and their significant others.

For some, Valentine’s Day is their favorite holiday.

“I love all of the pink and the red, the flowers especially, and the gifts,” said Taylor Douple, junior early childhood education major.

She then went on to explain that it was not just the gifts that got her but the emotions behind the holiday as well.

“I love being reminded that there are so many people in my life that I care about,” said Douple. “My parents have always made this a special holiday for me and it is a great day for people to show their love and appreciation for each other.”

Douple will be spending her holiday like many other college athletes: “classes, more classes and practice. Then I am spending



the rest of my day with my girlfriend.”

Others have to find ways to spend their favorite holiday with their long-distance partners.

“My boyfriend lives in my hometown so we aren’t able to do anything on the day but I am excited because we are celebrating early,” said Lizzie Carter, sophomore nursing major. “We will be going to lunch then seeing a movie so it will be a cute day just the two of us.”

Like Douple, Carter is more than happy to spend the day remembering that she is

loved by many and spending that time with those close to her.

So, what is actually done on Valentine’s Day?

From the looks of it, many couples are using the day to step back and appreciate each other.

While some are going on dates,

buying presents, cards, chocolates and

roses, all can agree that it is simply a perfect time to show each other their appreciation.

To everyone who celebrates the holiday, Valentine’s Day can be a day to also remember to love oneself and the platonic relationships that are just as important. Practice some self-care, eat chocolate and go to the bar with friends to spend some quality time with those that support you. Valentine’s Day is a holiday for all kinds of love.

Graphic by Lara Mullen

‘The Great War’ between Ticketmaster and Taylor Swift

By Anthony Cazun & Morgan Rich
Contributing Writer/Managing Editor

Following a debacle featuring Taylor Swift and her new “Eras Tour,” Ticketmaster is currently in the hot seat from music fans and the government. The entire ticket fiasco shed light on Ticketmaster’s exploitation of the market and its consumers and they have had enough.

According to Yale University, Ticketmaster is the largest ticket broker company worldwide. The purpose of Ticketmaster was to simplify the ticketing process for consumers, artists and venues.

After the release of Swift’s new album “Midnights,” she announced the “Eras Tour.” Fan excitement was at unprecedented levels and Ticketmaster was not properly equipped to handle the onslaught of fans.

On Nov. 15 Ticketmaster’s website crashed due to the number of fans attempting to purchase tickets. 3.5 million visitors were on the website, 2 million of which were placed in an indefinite queue.

Only a few of the remaining 1.5 million visitors were able to jump further in the queue due to their status as a “Verified Fan,” though, not all of them did.

To achieve this status, fans registered in advance for a chance at a presale code and had to previously purchase tickets and merchandise from Swift. If the customer was lucky, they received a code.

This system was created in order to combat botting, however, the practice is deemed by many as exploitative, as it requires customers to purchase other products from Swift’s site for the slight chance at the opportunity to buy a ticket. Despite this verification method, those deemed as a “Verified Fan” would still encounter dozens of site bugs, overpopulated queues and lack of customer support.

“I managed to get two tickets after waiting five hours on the Ticketmaster website because I was lucky enough to get a presale code,” said Jessica Rushton, a junior history and political science major. “I think this situation has definitely made people question why Ticketmaster has so

much power over buying tickets and why scalpers are able to resell tickets for so much more than face value.”

Those lucky enough to proceed from the queue were met with exorbitant prices and fees, often in the thousands. A reported 2.4 million tickets were sold in one day, a historic record that caused the general sale to be canceled.

Frustrated, ignored and empty handed, Swift’s fans took to social media to air out their grievances. In Ticketmaster’s response, they blamed a lack of inventory, an unexpected number of site visitors and bots, despite their verification method. Swift also went to Instagram to voice her disappointment in Ticketmaster regarding the situation.

“Ticketmaster? No. Taylor? Yeah. Her job is to create music and perform,” said Jennifer McLaughlin, the assistant director of the honors and scholars program. “As an artist myself, if I had to handle my book sales and make sure customers were happy, I’d never have time to write.”

The negative attention led to many criticizing Ticketmaster as a company,

bringing to light their oppressive practices and control of the ticket distribution industry.

“From what I understand, Swift warned Ticketmaster about what it could be (and what actually happened),” said Carolyn Purdy, a junior psychology major. “I don’t think Ticketmaster responded well. They were unprepared and did not take responsibility for it but blamed it on others. Very immature of them.”

According to Yale University, Ticketmaster and Live Nation Entertainment control 70% of the concert ticketing market. Their stranglehold on the industry has led to many monopoly and antitrust concerns from the masses but has been largely ignored by government officials until recently.

Several attorney generals have launched an investigation into Ticketmaster’s practices. Coupled with a senate hearing launched by Amy Klobuchar, chairwoman of the subcommittee on competition policy, antitrust and consumer rights, Ticketmaster is facing the brunt of what antitrust has to offer.

Meet the Majors

This week's major: Psychology

Interviews and photos by

Jordan Daniel

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Editor

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

Sarah Aschoff **Senior**

“My favorite aspect of my major is how the classes are set up. Originally I was a biology major and the classes were constructed rigidly and you took notes the whole time. Whereas in psych classes, they are mostly discussion based and I feel you can connect deeper with the subject this way.

“With this major I hope to go into law enforcement and potentially work in Washington, D.C.”



The Beacon/ Jordan Daniel

Keelyn Myers **Sophomore**

“I am looking forward to this year expanding my knowledge of psychology and the different aspects. I have already really enjoyed the psychology courses I have already taken.

“I chose this major because I always had a passion for children and how they learn and develop. I am also big on mental health and want to help children and teens with their mental health.”



Krista Morris **Sophomore**

“This year I am looking forward to my personality psychology class and digging deeper into what makes up a person's personality.

“I did not come to Wilkes as a psychology major but my freshman year I took a Psych 101 class and it really opened my eyes to the world of psychology. It was so interesting to me and I knew that I wanted to pursue psychology instead.”



Bella McKeefery **Sophomore**

“I chose this major because the subject of psychology was always so interesting to me. I love learning about the way the brain works in terms of our psychology. I love being able to understand what is going on inside our heads.

“I am hoping to go to grad school after I am done here at Wilkes and pursue a career in the field of psychology.”



The Self Help Saga



How to get back into reading when it feels defeating

By Morgan Rich
Managing Editor

Reading for pleasure is a pastime often lost among college students. When students are tasked to read 10 different chapters in a textbook for class, the last thing they want to do is sit down and open another book.

There are plenty of college students out there who desperately want to get back into reading for pleasure but just do not know where to start. Here is how to find the spark for reading again and incorporate it into that hectic college routine.

How to find the motivation to get back into reading:

I know that I have heard plenty of my professors preach on and on about how reading for pleasure is extremely beneficial for the brain.

A majority of the time, people are motivated to do something if it benefits them. Reading improves lots of different aspects of a person, particularly brain health.

Reading forces the brain to be creative, increase empathy, increase emotional intelligence, expand vocabulary, obtain new knowledge and much more. It is essentially the brain's way of exercising.

I have a creative writing minor, which forces me to read academically a lot for my English classes. Like everyone else, I too fall victim to not having motivation to read for pleasure even though a big part of me wants nothing more than to sit down with a book.

One of the best ways I find motivation to read is by looking at reading for pleasure as a privilege.

Truth be told, there are plenty of

people around the world who do not have access to a college, high school, middle school or even elementary school education. There are also plenty of people who have disabilities that refrain them from being able to read.

I also find motivation to read by looking at the contents of reading as a movie that I get to picture and make up in my mind.

I view it as a way to tune out the outside world and dive deep into my own imagination. It is a way to explore one's own mind and creativity.

How to incorporate reading into a hectic and overwhelming schedule:

Now, I will be the first person to tell you that I too find it hard to read for pleasure during the fall and spring semesters. With exams and homework, sometimes it feels impossible to find the time to sit down and read a book.

However, reading for pleasure should not be something that feels like a chore or something that is required to be in one's schedule.

The easiest way to incorporate reading into a hectic and overwhelming schedule is to slowly incorporate it into a night routine. Start off slow with reading fifteen minutes before bed and then slowly work up to reading an hour before bed. It is the best way to put the phone down before bed and decrease screen time.

It is also important to remember that reading for pleasure, not a competition. Put down the TikToks of "how many books I read in a year."

Just because someone was able to read 50 books in a year does not mean anyone else has to catch up to them. I

find that not comparing progress is the perfect way to read for pleasure.

It also helps to bring the book to classes to read during some kind of downtime. Personally, I am someone who cannot read without it being silent, but reading bits and pieces in between class is the perfect way to chill out before, between and after classes.

How to annotate books according to the content:

I found that annotating made reading 10 times more fun. Perhaps it is just because I am the kind of person who enjoys writing down my thoughts, but I think that annotating can help one get a more firm grasp on what they are reading.

Annotating is specifically any kind of action that deliberately interacts with the text to enhance the reader's understanding of the text.

I like to annotate with sticky notes, tabs, pens and different colored highlighters so I can mark what is interesting to me and so it is easy for me to spot later on.

Annotating allows people to grasp concepts easier and helps provide the reader with a broader understanding of what is going on. Plus, going back and re-reading annotations can expand thoughts and make the reader think differently about their previous thoughts and ideas.

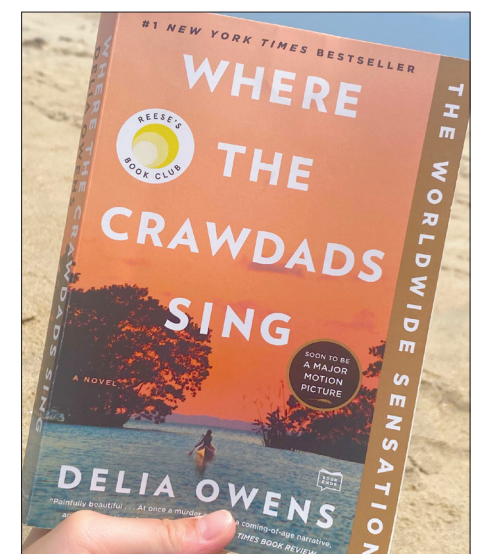
I usually annotate different vocabulary words that are unfamiliar to me, my favorite romance moments, characterizations, emotional moments and much more. The fun thing about annotating is that it is specific to every person.

Weekly book and song recommendations to get back into reading:

The book that pulled me out of my reading slump was "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. I recently read this book this past summer and I could not put it down.

This book follows two different timelines, one following the adventures of an outcast girl named Kya in the marshes of North Carolina. The second timeline follows the investigation of the murder of a local boy named Chase Andrews.

To go along with the book, my song suggestion of the week is "Carolina" by Taylor Swift. Swift made this song for the movie after she read the book back in 2020 and it matches the vibe of the book perfectly. It is the perfect book and song to get out of a reading slump.



The Beacon/Morgan Rich shows off her book of the week.

Winter Weather Fits

By Lauren Gardner
Contributing Writer

Wilkes students have bundled up for the winter weather around campus. As the forecast for the weekend dips below 10 degrees, this week has been particularly chilly, and students have adapted to the cold.

Students have coped around campus by bundling up with their favorite apparel, including Wilkes apparel sweatshirts and sweatpants. While some are not accustomed to such weather, others are keen toward it.

“I enjoy both winter and summer weather, but I enjoy winter better,” said junior environmental science student Tyler Mendoza.

Even for those more inclined toward the summer warmth, the winter weather offers a unique sense of creativity.

“I enjoy winter and summer but I do like dressing for the winter, but I really am a summer girly” said sociology major Laila Porterfield.

During these winter months, students are also often seen wearing parka jackets, for example, to protect themselves from the harsh Northeastern Pennsylvania weather.

Parkas originate from the Caribou Inuit in Canada. The word “parka” actually means animal skin. The animal skin used for parkas was primarily made up of seal and caribou skin to keep warm.



The parka still remains very popular to this day and has kept many warm for generations.

Other ways people keep warm, besides bundling up, are enjoying hot drinks. Winter is the time of hot chocolate or white mocha, caramel brulée and chestnut praline lattes and sugar cookie drinks, which are all available at the Starbucks on campus, offering warmth and comfort to those in need of some energy while on the trek to class.

In recent years, we have also seen the rise of UGG boots once again, which may cause some to grimace.

UGG, however, has kept up with the trends and seems to have completely revamped their style to adapt to the changing times. More popular styles of UGG that are seen around campus are the minis, ultra short minis and the platform minis. The neumel shoe and of course the tasman slipper are campus favorites

There are many winter activities students participate in, such as snowboarding and skiing. But not everyone shares the same interests during the winter time.

“I prefer to stay in the comfort of my home, cozy and warm while watching a movie while enjoying a warm cup of hot cocoa,” said senior digital design and media arts major Emily Makaravage. “When it is 16 degrees outside, there is no way I am going out in that weather when I can be cozy in the comfort of my home instead.”

While warmer weather seems like it will never come with weather like this, maybe we can find something we can all appreciate because



of winter weather. We can have snow days, or maybe now what some may call “Zoom days,” which is always better than bundling up, waiting for your car to heat up, driving on the roads (which sometimes are impossible to drive on since they seem to be unsalted) and then finding a parking spot and while keeping your balance when walking to class.

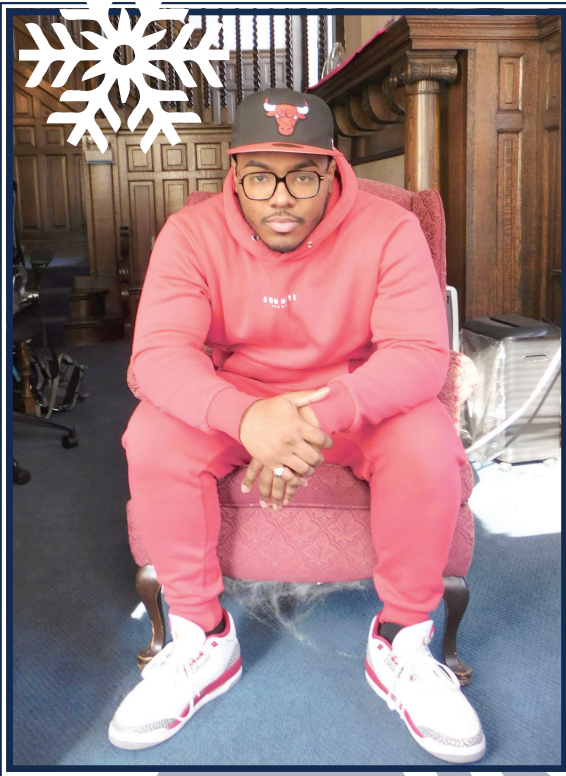
Admittedly, with a Zoom class, you have time to make yourself a cup of hot coffee or hot cocoa (whichever you prefer) and not even have to leave your home while staying warm. Zoom classes are nice at times, but nothing can quite compare to the joy of receiving an email informing you that class has been canceled and you have a snow day to enjoy.

Wilkes students always seem to dress for the weather, with of course the occasional person wearing shorts when there is a wind chill warning. As quirky as it is, though, it is important to protect yourself from the elements.

Whether it is by bundling up, layering, bringing back your out of style UGG boots from 2010, it is necessary to keep warm during these months. Dressing for the weather always doesn’t have to be boring, you can always find something to add like a personal touch to your outfit. Remember: Layering is key to keep warm and a great way to keep in style

“If you see me in the library with pajamas, mind your business,” said Makaravage. “Half of the time I am either in sweatpants and sweatshirts or any type of fleecy thing. Layers are also crucial for survival in this area whether you like it or not.”





Ancel Santana, first year civil engineering major, warms up with a sleek outfit of a matching pair of a hoodie and joggers.



Felix Hiltabidel, digital design and media arts first year student, warms up with a cute bunny puffer jacket.



Katherine Ermeus, junior political science student, goes for a business casual fit that still bring coziness.



Emily Makaravage, digital design and media arts senior, opts for stylishly subdued colors for the outdoor air.



It's important to keep your pets warm in this weather as well. Lance Gardner shows off his sleek parka.



Simple and sweet: first year sociology major Laila Porterfield shows off a monochrome winter fit.

Opinion

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

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Our Voice

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

Artificial intelligence must be regulated ASAP

It can go by a lot of terms: artificial intelligence, AI, deepfakes, computer generated intelligence, algorithmic bias and the like. Whatever you want to call it, it has to be stopped.

Although artificial intelligence has been a concept for a long time, the means of using artificial intelligence have gone beyond expansive evolution. So much so, that humans cannot control what they themselves have programmed.

How did this happen?

Humans are naturally inclined to curiosity. Artificial intelligence helps generate answers to questions humans cannot find a collective answer for.

Art theft

Have you ever thought about what a dog realistically driving a motorcycle while eating ice cream would look like? AI image generators can do such tasks.

Although one can easily photoshop or draw certain visions and ideas, there is something magical about artificial intelligence creating something up out of just a prompt. While a human might be biased towards a specific style or perspective, AI can certainly be more open. These programs do this by scraping

the Internet for photos and taking traits that are common conceptions of an idea.

Stable Diffusion has been hit with a number of legal challenges filed by artists and companies. Getty Images announced in January that they were initiating legal proceedings against Stable Diffusion.

Text generators

AI generation has also adapted to text. ChatGPT is a newly popular language optimization software, claiming that the program is able to answer followup questions, admit mistakes, challenge premises and reject inappropriate requests.

Concerns have already been murmured by professors and students during class about such programs being used for purposes of academic dishonesty. After all, why would someone put in the work of writing an essay, when a program can do it for you in just a couple of minutes?

The question arises if we as human beings can trust these artificial intelligence programs to do our important tasks. Can we trust artificial programs to represent the very real and physical entity that is our humanity? No, we can't.

Although text generation can certainly be helpful, it is neither ethical nor honest.

Deepfakes

In the Twitch streaming world, one particular streamer, Brandon "Atrio" Ewing confessed to looking at paid deepfaked pornography of fellow female streamers—some of whom are his friends. Erwing was exposed after accidentally revealing these deepfake websites.

Female streamers, including Sweet Anita and QTCinderella, have expressed their anger at the exposure of pornography, after finding out they themselves were subjected to portrayal of deepfake pornography.

Certain websites have already banned the use of deepfakes, like Reddit, Discord and Pornhub. When Pornhub is more up to date on a particular social issue than our Congress is, there's a problem. Technology is too quickly evolving for legislation to crack down on it

Wherever you are, nothing will protect you. Nothing can stop perverted freaks from deepfaking photos of you. Nothing can stop AI image generators from stealing your artwork and photography, and text generators have free reign to scan your own work.

These AI programs and generators have to be regulated. For a safer society.

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

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

Email: Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu

Phone: (570) 408-5903 (Voicemail: 30 seconds or less, please.)

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

Valentine's Day is more than just romance and chocolate

By Sydney Allabaugh
Asst. Opinion Editor

Valentine's Day is coming up, which means we will soon be subjected to endless posts from single people complaining about how they hate this holiday.

I understand the pain and cynicism that arises from breakups and loneliness. I do not understand, however, the immense widespread hatred towards Valentine's Day.

I have always loved Valentine's Day. When I was a kid, I remember the excitement of going to Walmart to pick out what valentines I would give my classmates each year.

I inevitably would pick ones of kittens and puppies. The whole car ride home I would stare at the card design variations, anticipating sitting on my floor putting the heart-shaped lollipops in each one.

At our Valentine's Day party at school, I remember eating those delicious pink frosted sugar cookies as my classmates put their valentines that they wrote out specially for me in my shoebox covered in pink and red construction paper.

I would dig into the box and examine each one, thinking about how honored

I felt to receive a card with a princess on it that said, "U R My BFF."

That is what Valentine's Day is about, I think. It is nice to feel special and reminded that you are loved and appreciated, even if it is just by means of receiving a simple card from a classmate. It is also rewarding and fun to reciprocate

That person you love could be a parent or family member. Take your mother out for lunch or go golfing with your dad. Call up your grandparents. Buy some snacks or a gift for your brother or sister.

Oftentimes, we take our families for granted and fail to show our appreciation for what they do for

The person you love can be someone in your life who you simply want to show a greater appreciation for. Write your favorite professor an email. Buy a box of chocolates for your coworker.

Give a tip to the Starbucks barista who makes your drink every day. Valentine's Day gives us an opportunity to show our gratitude for these people who improve our lives.

Many of us hate Valentine's Day because we feel a lack of love somewhere in our lives, yet the power to love and feel loved is something we are all capable of.

Moreso, expressing love adequately and frequently is something we commonly claim we fail to do, but we often do nothing to change our behaviors. Valentine's Day is the perfect day to start. If you feel as though there is a lack of love around you, be the one to initiate it.

Valentine's Day allows for us to slow down and appreciate all the great people we have in our lives. When we remain caught up in the negatives, we fail to realize that love is all around us. Even if you are single, you can love and be loved this Valentine's Day.

Love will always find a way.

Graphic by Lara Mullen



that love to others.

That person you love could be a romantic partner. Having an excuse to do something extra special—like making a fancy dinner or buying a dozen roses—for your lover is worthwhile.

Although you may express your love to this person frequently, it can strengthen a relationship to show this love in a refreshing and elevated way.

us. A small gesture could go a long way.

That person you love could be a friend. Put together gift baskets for a friend who means a lot to you. Get dressed up in pink and red outfits and spend the night out, or spend the night inside watching movies in your heart-patterned pajamas.

Why spend the holiday alone when you can make memories with the person or people you care about most?

The surprise struggle of the sunny spring semester

By Rudy Urenovich
Contributing Writer

Maybe I am feeling some type of way because that groundhog saw his shadow. Maybe it was because of the snow squall I drove in this morning. Regardless, I have a sinking feeling spring is a long time away.

As a result it seems the spring semester feels all the more long and arduous.

However, upon reflection, I feel the spring semester always seems more lengthy and taxing, going as far back as high school, maybe even junior high or middle school.

I am sure many of you feel the same way. I think it will always be like this as it is the way education unfolds.

I have a hunch that regardless of

course load, school will always be more intense when we return from Christmas break.

I know that in college and university, we come back to all new courses and schedules, we do not continue the routine we had become accustomed to in the fall.

That being said, I feel there is always an underlying sense of anxiety and awareness that we have reached a transitional period of change in the spring.

It might just be me who always feels underlying anxiety.

Once we complete the spring semester we are hoping to advance to a higher level or a more rigorous era in our educational journey.

The spring is preparing us to move

to the next grade level, or even into the workforce and the real world. It can come in the form of moving from a 200 level course to a 300, or maybe taking an extra credit so there is not even the slightest chance we will fall behind for a second.

The course load and content in each individual course tend to be more extensive and quite frankly, harder in the second semester.

The spring implies that new things are evolving, growing and showing that time keeps progressing.

This manifests itself in a collegiate journey.

It may jar us from further putting off things we need to complete; requirements for graduation, internships and involvement in

extracurriculars that will look enticing on transcripts and resumes.

The spring semester starts in August. Everything is warm and golden, the sun is out until 7 p.m., there is a sense of hope and energy.

In the winter when we return from holiday break for the spring round, it is the diametrical opposite. The month of January is dark and cold.

I return with a sense of bitterness, a taste of freedom, an opposition of hostility towards corporate and collegiate organizations, all in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

It is not going to be sunshine and warmth by March.

Hopefully by late May, once graduation season rolls around, but it is always a coin toss.

Splash Mountain closes amid talks of racism versus nostalgia

By **Zara Lantzman**

Asst. Opinion Editor

Editors Note: *Zara Lantzman is a former intern under the Disney College Program at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom.*

"Zip-a-dee-doo-dah-zip-a-dee-ay. My, oh, my, what a wonderful day."

Walt Disney World fans hear these lyrics and think of the nostalgia of the water ride, Splash Mountain.

It is time to move on.

Splash Mountain was a log flume boat ride that focused on Brer Bear and Brer Fox's pursuit of Brer Rabbit. The ride had three lifts and five drops with a five-story drop going at 40 mph. During the big drop, you would get wet and sometimes soaked.

I witnessed people completely break down riding Splash Mountain for the last time.

Newsflash: It is going to be the exact same ride. Disney is changing the ride to Tiana's Bayou Adventure. It will be a "Princess and the Frog" themed ride, and it will cater towards a younger audience. Splash Mountain closed for good on Jan. 23 and Tiana's Bayou Adventure is opening up in late 2024.

If we are being honest, most people who like Splash Mountain have never even seen "Song of the South."

Disney adults do not like change, and that is clear, but this ride absolutely needed to be changed. The ride itself had parts falling apart. It also broke down. But the worst part of all is that the ride is based on an extremely racist movie.

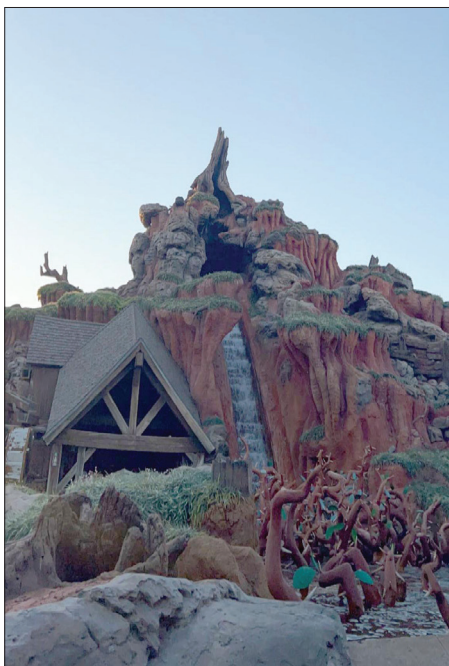
Are you considered racist if you still want this ride? The short answer is no.

Is it wrong to want this ride to still exist? In my opinion, yes. "Song of the South" was completely removed from all platforms and for good reason.

"Song of the South" focuses on a Black man reminiscing of the "good times" of being a slave.

What good times?

Why is Disney portraying this movie as being a slave was OK and good? This



The Beacon/Zara Lantzman

Disney World's well-known Splash Mountain will be retired, set to be replaced by Tiana's Bayou Adventure. The log flume ride itself will stay the same.

is just wrong and this movie should have never been a thing. So yes, I think one is considered wrong if they want this ride to still exist.

There is the claim that the ride is not racist at all. While this may be true, as mentioned, the movie that the ride is based on is racist and that should be enough to open up people's eyes.

Over 92,000 people have signed a petition to save Splash Mountain. These people need to get a grip on reality.

Aside from the fact that the theme

is racist, Disney is trying to bring in new crowds and cater to the younger and newer audience as Disney is changing its parks to focus on the newer princesses instead of the older ones.

Disney removed Belle from the parks as

they replaced her statue and section in the France pavilion at EPCOT. They replaced it with Remy the rat from "Ratatouille." Disney is paving the way for a new Moana attraction as well.

Splash Mountain was not in Disney's plan moving forward as it was part of the "old" Disney.

Disney is changing and the guests need to accept it and move on.

You are not racist if you want the ride to exist. If you like the ride because of the nostalgia, then that is fine. Memories are memories and that is it. You can always make new memories and this new theme looks beautiful.

The only worry that I have about Tiana's Bayou Adventure is the fact that it does not fit in Frontierland in Magic Kingdom. Frontierland has this western style theme whereas "The Princess and the Frog" is set in the bayous of New Orleans.

On Splash Mountain's last day, the posted wait time on the My Disney Experience app was 220 minutes. That wait time is absurd and over three hours long.

Disney adults need to evaluate themselves if they are truly distraught about this ride being reimaged.

The ride is not changing.

It is just improving.

Tiana's Bayou Adventure will be better than ever, and I am so excited for it.

We want to hear your voice!

Let your thoughts be known within the community. Join the Opinion section!

CONTACT:

Assistant Opinion Editors: **Sydney Allabaugh** and **Zara Lantzman**



Politics, culture, social issues

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Percy Hynes White may be no more at Nevermore

By Morgan Rich
Managing Editor

Editor's note: This article contains potentially triggering content for some readers.

Percy Hynes White, a 21-year-old Canadian actor, has been accused of sexual assault and saying racial slurs on Twitter. Turns out White might not be the artistic heartthrob everyone thought he was.

The star recently gained traction with his role as Xavier Thorpe in the hit Netflix horror comedy television series, "Wednesday." "Wednesday" follows the story of Wednesday Addams, played by Jenna Ortega, who attends Nevermore Academy and tries to solve the mystery of a killing spree in town.

Thorpe, White's character, was primarily known for being a psychic student at Nevermore who became a friend of Addams and developed a crush on her. On the show, Thorpe was very outspoken about his distaste for Tyler Galpin, a "normie" (someone who is a normal human) character who had an onscreen romance with Wednesday Addams.

White's character also gained traction on all social media platforms with people debating if they were "team Tyler" or "team Xavier" in regard to their romance with Addams (personally, I am a "team Tyler" girl). As time progressed, the majority of people began to root for Thorpe and Addams to get together, with #xavierthorpe having over 2.6 billion videos on TikTok alone.

On Jan. 18, a Twitter user by the name of @milkievich started a thread claiming that White and his high school friends drugged and assaulted her and her friends when he was 17 in Toronto, Canada. After the thread was started, multiple other women then came forward about their own experiences with White and his friends, which were then quoted in @milkievich's thread. The thread has since been deleted but many users have started

their own threads.

The thread also includes women coming forward about parties White and his friends threw when they were between the ages of 17 to 20 while the victims were aged 13 to 17. It is alleged that these parties were thrown with the intent of getting girls drunk and/or high in order to take advantage of them.

"Despite this situation coming about from Twitter, I think it's still important that we recognize that we should

believe and support victims of sexual assault and make sure their stories are heard and necessary action is taken," said Kaelin Hughes, a junior history and political science double major. "It's very hard when you enjoy something like "Wednesday"

or another piece of media, follow these actors, then information like this surfaces but it is important that we as consumers recognize

the severity of this situation and hold people accountable for their actions."

Screenshots have also been included of White and his friends randomly putting minors in group chats on Instagram and sending them vulgar and inappropriate messages. The most popular messages floating around are nude pictures of White in bed and on the toilet.

"I believe that it is super important to believe the accuser because it takes so much courage to confront your abuser," said John Hannaway, a P2 pharmacy major. "So many cases of sexual assault do not get reported, so it is super important to support those who do find the courage and come forward."

A TikTok video of White making racist claims and displaying racist behavior is also beginning to surface on social media platforms. The uncomfortable and shocking video is of White acting out violence against a person of color from the 1950s and includes White mouthing a racial slur.

A video also went viral on TikTok where White "accidentally" touched his costar Ortega's breast and she immediately pulled herself away from him. The cast of "Wednesday," including White, has yet to speak out against these allegations.

Fans have recently taken to social media platforms to address their new distaste for the actor and how he needs to be removed from the show immediately since

Netflix announced its renewal for season two. Though some fans are arguing that people can lie, screenshots can be edited and that he should not be removed from the show until these claims are proven to be factual.

"I think that he should face repercussions because those are serious allegations," said Rebecca Timko, a junior business management major. "Even though the situation came from Twitter, it needs to be taken seriously and he should face the consequences."

Personally, I believe he should be removed from the show immediately and that silence speaks louder than any words. I think that the character, Xavier Thorpe, should be written out of the show entirely or recast by another young actor.

The silence of Netflix also speaks volumes to me since I believe they

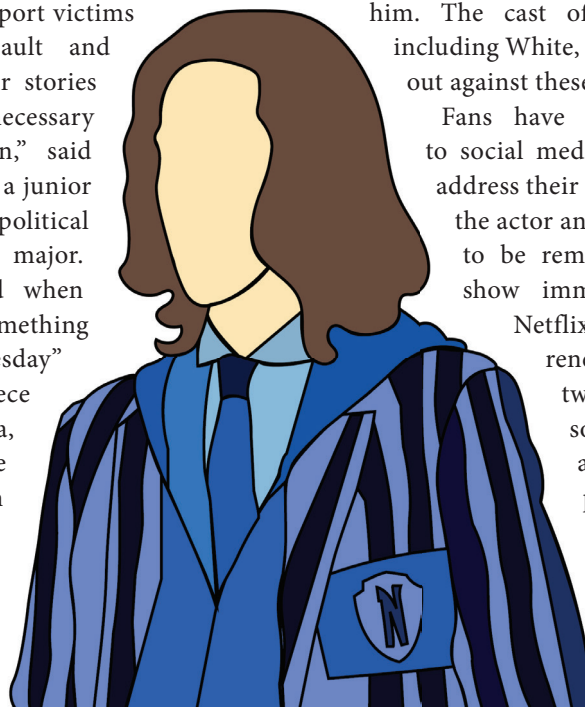
should announce their awareness of the situation. However, I cannot say that I am surprised they have not spoken out about them yet considering how big companies never like to speak out about sexual assault. In my opinion, this looks extremely bad on Netflix's part, especially considering how huge this show has become.

When companies such as these do not speak out about the situation or fail to announce that they are going to look into it, I believe it discourages victims to come forward. White's racist TikTok video is clearly proven to be him and was posted from an account of his, so why is Netflix not speaking out about that either?

We have to remember that celebrities are not royalty that deserve to be put on a pedestal. Celebrities are people, just like everyone else, and can make horrible decisions. Seeing people treat White as if he can do no wrong is quite sickening to me and reiterates the idea that some cannot separate the character from the actor. Just because Xavier Thorpe might be your favorite character does not mean that you need to stick up for the actor portraying him.

"I think that there should be action taken to hold White accountable for his actions (both alleged and proven)," said Hughes. "It's important for companies, in this case Netflix, to take these allegations seriously and choose to not work with people that promote intolerant and dangerous behaviors. Continuing to work with someone with these allegations puts other actors, workers and fans at risk of facing harm. Additionally, continuing to give a platform to an alleged abuser perpetuates fanbases to support these people (given parasocial relationships) and prevent action from being taken to hold White accountable."

The sexual assault hotline is 1-800-656-4672 for victims of sexual assault, harassment and domestic and dating violence.



Roving Reporter: Wilkes students' Super Bowl predictions

Will the Eagles or Chiefs win the trophy?

Compiled by Sydney Allabaugh — Asst. Opinion Editor



Mia Decker

Sophomore - History and Secondary Education

"I guess I want the Eagles to win. I originally didn't want them to win, but now I have beef with the Chiefs because they beat the Bengals. I wanted the Bengals to be in the Super Bowl. I even bought an NFL+ subscription to watch the Bengals play in the Super Bowl, but now it's gone to waste."



JJ Kochanski

First-year - Criminology

"I'm rooting for the Eagles. I grew up in an Eagles household and always have been an Eagles fan. They did good this year."



Chris Dugard

Sophomore - Biology

"I would say Kansas City will win. I feel like the Eagles had no resistance in the game they played against the 49ers. The 49ers did not have enough preparation. The Eagles could have an advantage though because they might be well-rested. I'm a Washington fan, so I don't want to see the Eagles win."



Ben Kubic

Sophomore - History and Secondary Education

"The Chiefs. I'm a Pittsburgh Steelers fan, so it would be tough to see the Eagles win the Super Bowl."



Alex Munoz

Junior - Sociology

"I think the Eagles will win. They're healthy and Patrick Mahomes is hurt. I think the Eagles are young and want it more. Philly fans are just crazy."



Madelyn Rex

First-year - Secondary English Education

"The Birds. I am not super into football, but my boyfriend is an Eagles fan."

Sports

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

TENNIS: Looking to capitalize on MAC Freedom appearances

By Adam Grundt
Sports Staff Writer

The men's and women's tennis teams look to follow up last season's successes with another great year.

Head coach Todd Kane is entering his second season leading both teams. Kane led the men's and women's programs into the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom Finals in his first season as head coach in 2021-22.

Men's Tennis

The Colonels finished last season with a record of 10-8 with an appearance in the MAC Freedom Finals.

This season's roster is compiled of five juniors: Drew Fiedler, Jonah Nguyen, Dominic Tyler and Ian Williams. Wilkes also returns three sophomores to round out the roster: Amin Ali, Connor Frey and Nathaniel Rathe.

With a younger roster this season, the Colonels players are working hard in practice, working towards gaining knowledge and getting ready to compete in match action.

"We will have a lot of guys who will be getting a chance to become regulars for the first time in their careers," said Kane. "This year is a great opportunity for them to develop on and off the court. We have a close-knit team and I think that sets us up great for the future as the guys coming next year will fit right in."

With the upcoming conference changes for the 2023-24 season, Wilkes is striving towards placing in the MAC Freedom.

"With this spring season being our last season in the MAC, we are approaching this season with the mentality that we'd like people to remember who we were," said Frey. "Despite some changes in the roster, our chemistry with each other has never been better. I would anticipate some great doubles matches and exciting singles battles with all the support we have from each other."

Through their successes last season,

the Colonels gained a realization of the importance of hard work and how much of a role hard work plays in preparation for the upcoming season.

"We've been on the court hitting balls every day to prepare for what's in store for us this season," said Frey. "We are all incredibly excited for a fun last season in the MAC and can't wait to see what we are capable of in the coming years."

Women's Tennis

The Colonels are coming off of a season where they had an appearance in the MAC Freedom Finals. Wilkes finished last season with a record of 10-7 with current sophomore Tea Amerise being named to the All MAC Freedom First-Team, as well as being named the MAC Freedom Rookie of the Year. Current junior Cassidy Greenman was named to the All MAC Freedom Second-Team.

The women's roster is compiled of four sophomores: Amerise, Sydney Farmer, Sara Hoskins and Karlee Yuscavage. Greenman, Zoe Klein, and Kaitlyn O'Neil are the three juniors on this season's roster.

"I hope to build off the success I had last year by being more confident, working with my teammates and listening to my coach," said Amerise. "I think the successes I experienced last year were a result of hard work, my teammates, and my coach. We all worked very hard last year and pushed each other to be better, and it paid off because our team was successful, not just me personally."

The experience that the Colonels gained from playing deep into last season's schedule will benefit the team going into matches this year.

"Our captains, Zoe and Cassidy, bring a lot of experience and leadership to the team," said Amerise. "The entire team and our coach are very committed to working hard, so we should do well."

The men's and women's tennis teams return to action on Feb. 27, as they host Houghton University at the Ralston Athletic Complex.

MEN'S

TENNIS SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 27	3:00 P.M. HOME
MARCH 13	4:00 P.M. HOME
MARCH 17	4:00 P.M. HOME
MARCH 28	3:30 P.M. AWAY
MARCH 31	3:00 P.M. AWAY
APRIL 1	12:00 P.M. HOME
APRIL 5	3:30 P.M. AWAY
APRIL 8	12:00 P.M. HOME
APRIL 12	4:00 P.M. HOME
APRIL 15	12:00 P.M. AWAY
APRIL 16	12:00 P.M. AWAY
APRIL 19	4:00 P.M. HOME
APRIL 22	TBA

WOMEN'S

TENNIS SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 27	3:00 P.M. HOME
MARCH 13	4:00 P.M. HOME
MARCH 17	4:00 P.M. HOME
MARCH 25	1:00 P.M. HOME
MARCH 28	3:30 P.M. AWAY
MARCH 31	3:00 P.M. AWAY
APRIL 1	12:00 P.M. HOME
APRIL 4	3:30 P.M. AWAY
APRIL 8	12:00 P.M. HOME
APRIL 12	4:00 P.M. HOME
APRIL 15	12:00 P.M. AWAY
APRIL 16	12:00 P.M. AWAY
APRIL 18	4:00 P.M. HOME
APRIL 22	TBA

Graphics by Baylee Guedes

WIH: Assistant coach Caty Flagg making impact on Colonels

By **Julia Mazur**
Contributing Writer

The Colonels have made a lot of changes for this 2022-23 season, not only on the ice, but also behind the scenes as well.

Wilkes hired an entirely new coaching staff for the women's ice hockey team at the start of the year, including assistant coach Caty Flagg.

Flagg, who is only 24 years old, admits that it was an interesting experience beginning to coach a team as the players are so close to her own age. She appreciates how welcoming the team was to the new coaching staff this season.

"They (the players) have been awesome at listening and respecting me, even though I am practically the same age as them," said Flagg.

Previous to coaching, Flagg played

the position of goaltender professionally for the Buffalo Beauts of the Premier Hockey League. While playing for the Beauts, Flagg also volunteered as a coach for the Islanders Hockey Club, one of the top-ranked girls' hockey programs in the Northeast.

Flagg noted that she chose the position of goaltender growing up as she found it an important role on the ice as you can control the game.

Those previous experiences of playing at different levels of hockey have helped her transition from player to coach in the most effective way at Wilkes.

Flagg's role with the Colonels is to work primarily with the defensive players on the team as it is her area of expertise.

"Defensively speaking, she has helped us improve our game tremendously," said senior defenseman Abby Miller.

Flagg spends her days helping the players improve on the ice by assisting at practices. When she is not on the ice, she is breaking down film or looking for other ways to help the team develop.

The team feels the shift from previous seasons in the coaching staff and energy, expressing that it has been nothing but positivity this year.

"She (Flagg) has the most infectious energy," said senior defenseman Abbey Barless. "She's always smiling, laughing, and full of positivity".

The shift in the team is evident, not only to the players but to Flagg and the entire coaching staff.

"Seeing the overall improvement from the team has been awesome," said Flagg. "Even just from the start of the season until now, it has been a drastic improvement for them as individuals with their skills, and as a whole team

the team play and systems have done a complete 180."

The team has experienced ups and downs throughout the season, however, they have remained resilient.

"No matter the situation they always come back stronger and ready to go," said Flagg.

Both Miller and Barless acknowledged that Flagg has made a positive impact on the team and their playing ability.

"(Flagg) is a great addition to the program and playing for her is an honor," said Barless.

Under Flagg and the coaching staff, Wilkes has more wins this season than they have had in any previous season. Bringing in this new coaching staff and adding energy can tremendously affect how a team plays, and it seems Flagg's hiring has emphasized that.



Flagg in goal during one of her professional games for the Buffalo Beauts of the Premier Hockey League.



Photos courtesy of Caty Flagg
(Left to right) Gianna Manzi, Flagg and Barless on "wear any jersey but your own to practice" day.

Want a feature written about your coach?

Email the Sports Editor: baylee.guedes@wilkes.edu

Winter Sports: Updates going into end of regular season

By Baylee Guedes
Sports Editor

Women's Ice Hockey

The Colonels are sitting at 4-15-2 as they have four regular-season games left. Although the win column is under .500, it does not reflect on how the team has performed this season.

Most recently, Wilkes tied with King's College 2-2 and won the team's first-ever shootout win as junior defender Savanna Maxon was able to sneak one past the Monarchs goaltender.

Sophomore goaltender Emma Swansburg received the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Defensive player of the week honors after recording 84 saves in a doubleheader matchup.

Junior forward Bella Kaczorowski has earned two MAC conference awards thus far with Co-Offensive Player of the Week as well as Offensive Player of the Week.

In a singular play during a matchup with the Arcadia Knights, senior forward Julie Patterson became the Colonels' all-time leader in career points and Kaczorowski scored the first overtime goal-winning shot in program history.

Kaczorowski leads the team with nine goals on the season, while Patterson follows with five.

Junior forward Rachel Morey leads with seven assists, senior defender Abigail Barceless recorded 32 blocks and junior Addy Olson adds 474 saves in goal.

Wilkes will finish out the regular season with three home games and one away. On Feb. 11 and 12, the Colonels will host Utica University and then travel to Lebanon Valley College on Feb. 17. To finish out the season, Wilkes will host Lebanon on Feb. 18 for a Senior Day celebration.

Men's Ice Hockey

The 11-8-1 Colonels are five games away from postseason play. The team has earned themselves many accolades throughout the season as well.

First-year forward Cam Lowe has received the United Collegiate Hockey Conference (UCHC) Co-Men's Player of the Week as well as the UCHC Men's Rookie of the Week awards.

Senior goaltender Michael Paterson-Jones earned the MAC Defensive Player

of the Week twice as well as the UCHC Goaltender of the Week.

First-year forward Matt Carlson earned the MAC Offensive Player of the Week award and senior goaltender Garrett Nieto received the MAC Defensive Player of the Week award.

Currently, Wilkes is sitting in fifth place in the UCHC standings under the Chatham Cougars, the Nazareth Golden Flyers, the Stevenson Mustangs and the number one Utica Pioneers.

Wilkes will finish out the regular season with three away games and two at home. Tonight (Feb. 8) the Colonels will travel a short distance to take on the Monarchs. On Feb. 10 and 11, Wilkes will host Stevenson in a two-day doubleheader, with Senior Night celebrations on the 11th. To finish out regular season gameplay, the Colonels will travel to Neumann University on Feb. 17 and 18.

Women's Basketball

The Colonels hold a record of 6-15 with four MAC Freedom regular season games remaining.

First-year guard Yamirelis Matos leads the team with 176 points, averaging 8.8 points-per-game (PPG). Senior guard Brenna Babcock follows Matos with 139 points, averaging 7.0 PPG.

Matos and Babcock also lead in rebounds with 87 and 84, averaging 4.4 and 4.2 rebounds-per-game (RPG).

Junior point guard Julia Marino leads the team in assists with 58 and leads with 46 steals.

Wilkes will play tonight (Feb. 8) at Misericordia University and then host Arcadia on Feb. 11 for Senior Day. On Feb. 14, the Colonels will host the Monarchs and then finish out the regular season on Feb. 18 at Delaware Valley University.

Men's Basketball

The 11-10 Colonels have four games remaining in the MAC Freedom regular season.

Graduate student and guard Drake Marshall leads the team in scoring with 260 points, averaging 12.4 PPG. Sophomore guard Cayden Merrifield follows Marshall with 224 points, averaging 10.7 PPG.

Marshall also leads the team in rebounds with 120, averaging 5.7 RPG. Junior forward Trent Fisher follows with 104,

averaging 7.4 RPG.

Merrifield's 71 assists put him in the lead for the Colonels in that category as well as leading in steals with 27. Fisher leads in blocks with 19.

Merrifield is a recipient of the MAC Player of the Week award.

Wilkes will play tonight (Feb. 8) at Misericordia University and then host Arcadia on Feb. 11. On Feb. 14, the Colonels will host the Monarchs for Senior Day and then round out their regular season on Feb. 18 at Delaware Valley University.

Men's and Women's Swim

The regular season is over for the Colonels and they can now look forward to the MAC Championship tournament on Feb. 9. through the 12th.

The men's team went 2-11 in the regular season with wins over Gallaudet University and Moravian University.

The women's team consisted of only senior Maddy Kinard who holds two Wilkes records: individual record holder in the 100 Back (1:02.47) and 200 Back (2:19.49) as well as the relay record holder in the 200 Free (1:42.89), 200 Medley (1:56.76) and 400 Medley (4:13.27).

Wrestling

The Colonels are 6-13 with two dual meets left before the Futures Mid East Tournament (FMET) and the NCAA Southeast Regionals (NCAA SR).

Wilkes has had many wrestlers obtain awards throughout the season:

Five Colonels were ranked within the top six in the Southeast Region Preseason

Rankings (sophomore Austin Fashouer, junior James Geiger, sophomore Cameron Butka, senior Jack Bauer and junior Nevin Rauch). They were also ranked on the d3wrestle.com 2022-2023 National Rankings (Fashouer seventh, while Bauer, Geiger, Butka and sophomore Caleb Burkhart were Honorable Mentions).

Bauer won the 141-pound championship at the Ned McGinley Invitational along with Geiger in the 174-pound weight class.

Fashouer took home the 125-pound title at the Blue Jay Classic along with Butka in the 197-pound weight class.

Fashouer also won the Budd Whitehill National Duals All-Tournament Team title along with Burkhart.

Burkhart was also a recipient of the MAC Wrestler of the Week award.

Butka won the 197-pound first-place title at the 2023 MAC Championship tournament, while also earning the All-MAC Wrestling First Team award. Fashouer and sophomore Christopher Nuss both won third-place titles at the 2023 MAC Championship tournament, while also earning the All-MAC Wrestling Third Team award.

On Jan. 26, Burkhart was ranked second in the current NCAA Division III Wrestling Award Standings for most falls as he has 16 thus far this season.

Wrestling will compete on Feb. 10 as they host Ithaca College and on Feb. 17 hosting the Monarchs for Senior Day. Following the end of the regular season duals, the Colonels will compete on Feb. 19 at FMET and Feb. 24-25th at the NCAA SR.

WINTER SPORTS	
REMAINING SCHEDULE	
FEB. 8 MBB AWAY WBB AWAY	FEB. 14 WBB HOME MBB HOME
FEB. 9 SWIM AWAY	FEB. 17 WIH AWAY MIH AWAY WREST HOME
FEB. 10 MIH HOME WREST HOME SWIM AWAY	FEB. 18 WIH HOME MIH AWAY WBB AWAY MBB AWAY
FEB. 11 WIH HOME MIH HOME MBB HOME WBB HOME SWIM AWAY	FEB. 19 WREST AWAY
FEB. 12 WIH HOME SWIM AWAY	FEB. 24/25 WREST AWAY

Photos/Lauren Bowers | Graphic/Baylee Guedes

Athlete of the Week

Paul Binner

Junior Volleyball Middle Hitter

***The Beacon:* Male Athlete of the Week**

Binner was chosen as our Athlete of the Week (AOTW) after his performance during the volleyball double-header non-conference sweep on Jan. 29.

Binner recorded nine kills in each of the matches, totaling in 18. Binner also added six blocks and three aces throughout the double-header.

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Hometown: Tunkhannock, Pa.

High School: Tunkhannock

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

My favorite sports memory as a Colonel was in my freshman year when we took a set off of Messiah.

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

Steelers (even though they didn't do too well, haha).

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

I like hanging out with my friends in between classes and practice.

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

My favorite part is definitely how close we are as a team. It's like I have 13 extra brothers and it's nice to know they always have my back on and off the court.

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

"Thunderstruck."

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

Either basketball or golf, but I can't decide which I'd rather do.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

I'd still have to go with the win our volleyball team had over Messiah, it was just such an amazing moment when we won the last point of the set.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

I'd have to go with pizza. We get to hit a lot of pizza places on the way back from away games and it's always fun to try out the different types (especially in New York).

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

I am incredibly honored, but I couldn't do it without the rest of my team, especially our defensive players and Shay, our setter, who deserve it just as much as I do.

The Beacon/Baylee Guedes

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

Compiled by Baylee Guedes, Sports Editor

Athlete of the Week

Emma Swansburg Sophomore Hockey Goaltender

***The Beacon:* Female Athlete of the Week**

Swansburg was chosen as our Athlete of the Week (AOTW) after her performance this past week as she had 44 saves in a singular game and then 40 saves in game the next day. She tallied in 84 saves and a .905 save percentage in the split with Arcadia University on Jan. 27 and 28.

Swansburg also received the MAC Defensive Player of the Week award for the week of Jan. 30.

Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Shelburne, Nova Scotia
High School: Shelburne Regional

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

Winning my first NCAA game in overtime.

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

Seattle Kraken.

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Spending time with friends.

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

My favorite part of being an athlete here is getting to keep playing the sport I love with such a great group of people.

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

"Mighty Ducks."

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

Rugby or Volleyball.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Going undefeated in regular season games the last year I played for my hometown team and eventually winning Provincials.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Chicken chalupas and a blue raspberry freeze from Taco Bell.

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

I'm just happy to have the opportunity to keep playing, getting athlete of the week just goes to show that my hard work is paying off.



The Beacon/Baylee Guedes

Compiled by Baylee Guedes, Sports Editor

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

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