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THE BEACON

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Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

Student Government hold semi-annual Casino Week

By Cabrini Rudnicki
Co-News Editor

Students had the chance to win some exciting prizes at this semester's Casino Week.

The event, hosted every semester by Student Government, was a week long faux gambling themed week.

The events included Texas Hold-Em on Tuesday, bingo on Wednesday, and finally ending with the much-attended Casino Night on Friday.

Casino Night took place in the Ballroom of the Student Union Building.

No actual money is gambled by the students, instead chips and tickets are utilized.

Hunter Hughes, student government president, spoke about the process of planning the event.

"The planning process begins in June," he explained. "Once we get back from the winter break, we start getting together the prizes and make sure all of the little details are together."

The event had a healthy influx of students coming in and out of each event, with Casino Night having the highest attendance.

"It gets a lot of students out and gets them together in a healthy way," said Hughes. "Everyone pays student activity fees, and this is way of getting something



The Beacon/Cabrini Rudnicki

Students play blackjack at Casino Night. From left to right: freshman Josh Brown, nursing; sophomore Victoria Bilski, nursing; freshman Joey Verespey, pharmacy; freshman Bryce Yencha, pharmacy; freshman Joseph Carey, pharmacy; freshman Jennifer Gronsky, pharmacy.

real out of it."

Student activity fees come out of tuition. Last semester's budget for Casino Week was \$12,385, with around \$9,000 spent on prizes.

Prizes this year included things such as Wilkes flags, a television, purses, a chromebook, makeup and a kayak.

CASINO, page 4

Residence Life to hold annual first-year student Battle of the Halls

By Sean Schmoyer
Asst. News Editor

Wilkes Residence Life will host their biggest event of the year, the Battle of the Halls on Sunday and first-year students are getting excited for the event.

With posters around campus and resident assistants (RAs) talking to students in their respective halls, everyone is gearing up to get ready.

Battle of the Halls is a night time event for first-year students that will be held on at 7 p.m. in the MAC, and is planned to be packed with different events and activities.

Kendra Smith, first-year psychology major, said that different dorms will compete against each other in games like dodgeball, kickball and basketball. Food will also be provided.

Other activities planned are minute-to-win-it games, volleyball and tug of war between the dorms participating.

BATTLE, page 8



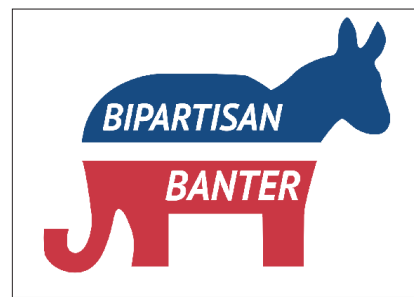
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Residence Life adds three resident halls for Fall of 2019, page 5



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The Beacon/Maddi Hummer

Is marijuana legalization reasonable?, page 16



The Beacon/Nicole Gaetani

Meet this week's #BeaconAOTWs, pages 22 & 23

News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact either news editor: Cabrini.Rudnicki@wilkes.edu or Madelynn.Davis@wilkes.edu

Student Government notes: Mar. 13 weekly meeting

By Sara Ross
Staff Writer

The Student Government meeting started with a second presentation from the Nursing Student Organization (NSO).

The NSO was looking for funds in order to attend the National Student Nurses Association Convention (NSNA) in Salt Lake City. The event will take place from April 3-7. By attending the convention this year, the NSO hopes to establish the precedent of attending the convention every year to provide nursing students with networking opportunities.

NSO requested a total of \$5,760, which would cover all the travel expenses for four students. However, though the motion passed with 18 in favor, 14 opposing, and

zero abstaining, they only received \$5,440, which excluded food costs.

Next was a discussion about the Block Party, which will take place later this spring on Apr. 13 from 12 to 4 p.m on the Fenner Quad. The Block Party is carnival themed, and will include games and activities, such as a dunk tank, tie-dyeing and face painting. The total amount requested for the event is \$10,550, which will cover all expenses.

Next, on the agenda, is the Student Body Forum. Student Body Forum seeks to provide Wilkes students with the opportunity to make a positive impact on campus for future students by voicing their opinions to Student Government about what changes they would like to see made. It will be held on Apr. 2 from 5 to 7 p.m in the Henry Student Center lounge and will need \$500 to cover all costs.

The Spirit Committee also presented their Spring Into Sports Giveaway which will include prizes like Wilkes baseball caps. The total budget will vary depending on the number of hats they decide to get -- either \$1,023 or \$1,576.

Last but not least, there was a discussion from Capital Projects, who provides funding for university projects. Upcoming projects involve the replacement of the carpet in the Green Room at Marts Center with blue turf, and the restoration of the Student Government volleyball sand court.


The total cost for both projects comes to a total of \$62,514, which breaks down into \$55,560 for the new turf room and \$5,000 for the volleyball court.

Final announcements include some changes that were made to the Commuter

Council's constitution. The Commuter Council combined its two secretary positions into one and they are looking to have a public relations officer as well.

Student Government had its nominations and votes for the Member of the Month and Club of the Month. Sophomore, Kevin Long won Member of the Month, while the NSO won the Club of the Month.

After this, the classes went over their upcoming activities. The freshman class is planning a Dogs and Donuts Day during finals week, and the sophomores are having Moe's Monday on Apr. 15. In addition, tickets for Spring Fling will be sold up until Mar. 22.

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Beacon Briefs: The upcoming happenings on campus

Compiled by Sean Schmoyer

Come to the Spring Fling

Student Government will host this year's Spring Fling from 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday, March 29 at Genetti's. The theme this year is Breakfast at Tiffany's.

Get your tickets in the Henry Student Center during club hours. Tickets are \$5 each and will be on sale until Friday, March 22.

Sign Up for the Downtown Establishment Tour

This semester's Downtown Establishment

Tour is Saturday, April 6. Sign-ups start Tuesday, March 19. The night will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Woodstock, thus WilkesStock.

Cost is \$10 for seniors, and \$15 for any non-seniors. This covers the T-shirt, food and bus transportation to River Grille. There will also be various drink specials.

You must pay cash to reserve your spot. Email Lexie Panek with any questions.

Programming Board Hosts Bryce Vine

Wilkes University Programming Board presents Bryce Vine at 7 p.m. on Saturday,

March 30, at the MAC in UCOM.

Admission is free to all Wilkes undergraduate students. Any students with a valid college ID (or P3/P4, graduate students and Wilkes faculty/staff) can pay \$10 at the door. Tickets for the general public will be \$15 at the door.


If you have any questions please contact the Wilkes University Programming Board at wupb@wilkes.edu.

"Beyond My Accent"

People are exposed to accents on a daily basis. If you've ever been interested in

learning about the different biases revolving around an accent, or simply want to learn some basic tips to break down different tough accents, then this event is ideal for you.

Amy Kuiken will host "Beyond My Accent" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, in Breiseth 320. This event will cover social stigmas and justice issues related to accents, and offer you a basic toolkit to help dissect those tough accents.

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Upcoming Events: 2019 Spring Semester

March

18 & 19 - Pres. Search Forums
19 - Ballots Close (SG)
19 - Free Tire Gauges (CC)
19 - Movie Night
19 - UN Speaker - EC
20 - Presidential Nominations Wk 1 (SG)
21 - Presidential Nominations Avail. (SG)
21 - "Beyond My Accent"
22 - Medieval Times (SD)
24 - Ice Skating & Pizza (SD)
26 - Impeachment Speaker - EC
26 - UN Speaker - EC
27 - Presidential Nominations Wk 2 (SG)
28 - Career Fair

28 - Fondue Night (WUPB)

29 - Spring Fling
30 - Bryce Vine concert
31 - Mall Shopping Shuttle

April

2 - Presidential Forum (SG)
2 - Wine and Cheese (SG)
4 - Palm Reader (WUPB)
4 - Presidential Ballot Opens (SG)
4 - Future Night (WUPB)
6 - Downtown Establishment Tour
9 - Presidential Ballot Closes (SG)
10 - Executive Board Nominations Wk. 1 (SG)
11 - Giveaway (WUPB)

13 - Block Party (SG)
17 - Executive Board Nominations Wk. 2 (SG)
25 - Motivational Sticky Notes (WUPB)
25 - Get Ready for Summer Bingo (WUPB)
27 - Big Event

WUPB denotes Wilkes University
Programming Board
CC denotes Commuter Council
SG denotes Student Government
SD denotes Student Development

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

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Political science professor announces retirement after 28 years

By Parker Dorsey
Asst. Opinion Editor

Dr. Thomas Baldino has announced his retirement at the conclusion of the spring semester after working at Wilkes University for 28 years.

Baldino originally wanted to major in history and be a high school history teacher. One of his high school teachers, however, noted that he “was less interested in names and dates and facts, and more interested in causes,” and recommended him to take political science courses while he was at LaSalle College. This led to him becoming interested in being a university professor instead.

“I ended up liking those more. For me, it was kind of an evolution of an appreciation for what I thought I was interested in to what I was really interested in. From high school to college, college to grad school and from one grad school to another,” said Baldino.

His primary interests are trying to understand how governments operate and how policy gets made, as well as foreign politics. He wrote his master’s thesis on Italian foreign policy while he was at the University of Illinois. He received his Ph.D from the University of Pennsylvania and wrote his dissertation on Congress.

His first teaching job was at St. Francis University, and then after a year he spent 12 years at Juniata College. In 1991 he came to Wilkes and has been teaching since. He has been teaching 41 years full-time. His job

searches were exclusively at small schools like Wilkes, as opposed to large research universities where “research came first and students came third.”

“I can tell you without any hesitancy that if I were teaching at, say, Harvard, maybe I’ll teach one course a semester. Maybe two. I would be around once a week for office hours and my teaching assistants would do most of the interaction with the undergraduates,” he explained, “That’s not what I wanted. My undergraduate experience was not that. I experienced that at Illinois and at Penn and I realized that’s where I didn’t wanna be.”

Baldino said he feels lucky and blessed to have had the opportunity to making a reasonable good living doing what he loves doing: teaching students at a small school. Being a first generation college student, Baldino said he assumes his college experience was very similar to lots of the student body here. He said he feels his responsibility is to help students achieve their dreams, and he tries to give them as much advice as he can. He wants to pay forward what his mentors did for him.

“You can go to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and look up salaries for particular professions. Finance and accounting PhDs, if you find a job at the right school, can start at the 150 thousand dollar range. But they’re not easy to get. A lot of people start and don’t finish. So the few that do can command good salaries from good schools because there aren’t that many of them. That’s just the nature of what

the market is: there’s not enough of them.”

Baldino also twice served as the chairperson of the political science department and division of social sciences as well as the dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The first was for 18 months and the other for almost two years. Both times Baldino noted the intensity of the jobs and how he was much more comfortable being faculty.

“Someone once described leading academics as herding cats. I would say that is not quite accurate. It’s actually like herding lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs; animals that will rip your throat out if you’re not careful. They’re all headstrong because of their intense training. If you try to lead someone who doesn’t want to be led in a direction that that person thinks is wrong, they can and will challenge you. Rank is irrelevant at that point, it’s who has the better argument,” he said.

After retirement Baldino said he’s excited to start another phase of his life. He hopes to do more volunteer work and plans to spend time traveling the world with his wife without having to plan around the constraints of the academic cycle. He wants to go to Europe again and spend time in places like England, Iceland and Venice.

Although he had written several political science books with Dr. Kyle Krieder, Baldino plans to write short stories that aren’t strictly political science. He is a massive fan of Star Wars and Lord of the Rings, and has a 1967 Middle-earth poster in his office.

“Everyone thinks they can write the Great American Novel. That’s not me, but I wouldn’t mind dabbling in some short stories. I’m a sci-fi fantasy sort of person. I want to take my interest in politics and merge it in, kind of like Game of Thrones but not that intense,” he said.

As for music, he has eclectic tastes. Baldino likes all kinds of music: bluegrass, jazz and classical music. His favorites, however, are folk and protest music. He’s very big into artists like Bob Dylan; Simon & Garfunkel; Buffalo Springfield; Peter, Paul and Mary; and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. One of the big regrets, he said, was not having the ability to go to Woodstock due to lack of funds and lack of parental support.

He also said he would never be able to forget his draft number, 64, due to the Beatles song “When I’m Sixty Four.” He signed into an army reserve unit and received a draft notice a



week later. Enlisting in the reserves precluded him from being drafted and he got to choose the branch of service and unit he got into. He did six months of active duty and then spent six years in the army reserve.

“I went into, which doesn’t exist anymore, a railroad transportation battalion. They trained me to work in electronics equipment. Which is totally bizarre because I’m colorblind. So connect the red wire to the green wire,” he said.

Baldino said he’s consistently enjoyed teaching. He’s grateful about achieving his dream and having a very satisfying career. He’s happy about leaving on his own terms and retiring, as he called it, “vertically.”

“Years ago, the person I was hired to replace literally died in his office. And they carried him out. He was in his 50s and he had a heart attack. And I swore that was not going to be me,” he said.



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Courtesy of Wilkes Archives

Baldino, far right back row, with students in April 1998 at a political drive.

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Mark Engineering Center awarded Diamond Award

By Michelle Grossbauer
Staff Writer

The Mark Engineering Center in Stark Learning Center was created to give engineering students the necessary tools to compete with industry demands. This center was awarded the 2019 Diamond Award for Engineering Excellence last month.

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania (ACEC/PA) presented this award in the building and technology systems category (Category B).

The 20,000 square foot renovation kept engineering students and faculty in mind. They created open concept hangout areas while keeping classrooms and study rooms still private, but visible for all to view.

The changes include flex-labs, a manufacturing lab, faculty office suites, handicap able lobbies and new entrance doors. There were changes made to the multi-purpose wet lab and microfabrication suite.

They also focused on doing energy efficient renovations which include the LED lighting as well as a flow system for heating and air conditioning.

The Mark Engineering building was named after Randy and Robin Mark. Randy Mark earned a bachelor's degree in 1981 from Wilkes. He is the founder of Pulverman, a global manufacturing company that distributes metal components which is located in Dallas, Pa. He has served on the board of trustees for Wilkes University since 2013.

Dr. Prahla Murthy, Dean of the College of Science & Engineering, explained that the award was given to the engineering firm, Borton-Lawson, that did the renovations for Wilkes University.

Wilkes University was represented by Joseph Demarteau, special assistant to executive director and facilities, at the awards ceremony held in Lancaster last month. Assistant to the Dean, Tracy Pumbo, was also present at the awards ceremony.

Murthy and Pumbo have witnessed the first impression the new

center makes on prospective students.

Pumbo said since the renovations have been made, she always sees students engaging, even when she arrives in the early morning.

"Environment plays a large part in learning," Murthy said. "It just makes me feel better. I have been here for 26 years and this was an easy and positive adjustment."

Murthy said that faculty and students both want a good class atmosphere. Students can be proud to show off their creations, such as the art made from a 3-D printer in one of the labs.

This is also used as a marketing tool by Wilkes University to entice new students. Murthy said someone who is not from the Wilkes-Barre area can now come to Wilkes University and be impressed by the modern designs of the restored buildings.


Pumbo pointed out Dr. Lucent's Computational Research Lab. This is a study room designated for students to do research for professor Dr. Lucent. This was an addition included in the renovations.

Pumbo said how students used to have to walk up three floors just to find their advisor's office. Murthy expressed how there are many students that are not engineering majors that have classes in these areas. He believes it is great to see how easy the Mark Engineering Center is now for everyone to navigate.

Lukas Wood, a senior engineering major, has seen the process of these changes being made throughout all of his years at Wilkes.

"The Mark Engineering Center has been an awesome upgrade and finally makes Stark actually feel like a true University building," Wood stated.

Wilkes University offers a large variety of majors, minors, and master's programs in the engineering field. Murthy is optimistic in hoping these renovations benefit existing students as well as drive new engineering students to come to Wilkes University.

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CASINO, from front page

After playing the many casino style games at the events, students can trade in their chips for tickets which they can use to try to win the prizes.

Not much has changed from previous years' events, according to Alanah Guerrero, student government member.

"We try to get a little creative," she said. "This year we included projects from the IEM class to support fellow students."

The bundle of IEM projects replaced the usual bundle of Wilkes merchandise.

"We know what works. Students really like it, and they always give their opinions."

This year was also a departure from the free T-shirts given out at last semester's event.

"Last semester was the first time we ever (gave out T-shirts.) We'd rather more students benefit from the prizes versus the T-shirt because we give them out so often."

According to Guerrero, the event encourages students to come together.

"It's Friday night, so rather than you going out into the community, you can

keep the community here," she said. "I think it's important to play with your fellow peers. Not everyone is 21, so it's a fun experience to bring to Wilkes."


This year's Casino Week fell in the same week as the annual Winter Weekend. Winter Weekend is often marked by drinking and partying at off-campus houses.

The event was not consciously chosen by Student Government to fall the same week as Winter Weekend. Winter Weekend typically falls prior to Spring Break.

"The way Student Government works, we plan our events a semester ahead. At the end of this semester, next semester will be already planned out. Technically, their event was moved to the same weekend as this event."

The events also notably fell on the same weekend as St. Patrick's Day, another holiday that is typically heavily celebrated with drinking.

"You can walk away with just a new experience, or a new prize which you wouldn't be to afford yourself," said Guerrero.

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Residence Life adds new resident halls for fall

By Sean Schmoyer
Asst. News Editor

As housing selection for the fall semester begins it is important for students to understand how housing selection works as well as the new options available for upperclassmen on campus.

The schedule for the housing selection process is laid out on the webpage, wilkes.edu/housingselection. Some of the important dates include that housing applications opened on March 1 and the applications along with group selections are due April 5.

“There will be two new buildings, and while we have not finalized it yet we are looking at utilizing two of our River Street mansions to focus our living learning communities in those areas,” Debbie Scheibler, director of residence life said. “They are currently in Evans Hall right now, but we want to be able to focus on the community feel of the living learning community.”

The living learning communities are created alongside of two FYF courses, one centered on global diversity and the other on leadership. By changing two of the current mansions on campus to freshman housing, the living learning

communities are more compact and near each other and create a better community feel.

The two mansions that are most likely to be switched to freshman housing are Weiss and Sterling halls, which house up to 22 and 23 students respectfully. While upperclassmen will not be able to dorm in these two halls, there are two new properties that have been acquired by Wilkes University.

First, there is 134 S. Main St., which can hold up to nine students. This housing option is an apartment style housing that offers mostly doubles in single bedrooms. The other new option is West Northampton Street, which is also apartment style housing and can hold up to 21 students. This apartment-style housing offers three triples and three quads for students to live in.



The Beacon/Maddie Davis

Previously a vacant office building, Residence Life will add this building which is located on 134 South Main Street to their list of resident halls for students.

Along with the new housing there are also options available for students in terms of keeping their housing from the previous semester.

Students can choose to homestead. Homesteading allows residents to remain in the hall or room in which they are currently assigned. Residents, currently assigned to upper class residence halls, who wish to remain in the same hall, same room or same hall, different room will have homesteading options available. In either case, all roommates currently assigned to a space need to stay.

However, one complication is that with Weiss and Sterling Hall becoming freshman dorms, upperclassmen will not have the ability to homestead.

“It is very disappointing that a lot of upperclassman have to relocate without a lot of notice,” said Gianna

Brown, junior criminology and sociology major.

Until March 20, Residence Life will be tabling in the SUB to answer questions from students and to host a contest.


“When they complete the application they should receive a bounceback confirmation email, all they have to do is show us that email and they will be entered into the drawing. On March 30 and 31, we will also be doing housing tours to showcase the rooms and housing layouts; the two new spaces will not be available for the tours because one is under construction and the other we do not own until the summer,” said Raymond FeDora, assistant director of residence life.

Students with any questions comments and concerns should look out for the student survey being sent out by Residence Life, the survey is what Residence Life looks at as they plan for the upcoming years. Students with any direct questions about housing selection contact Residence Life directly.



The Beacon/ Maddie Davis

Joan Henry Hall located on 77 W. Northampton St. will be offered to students this upcoming semester. This hall contains triple and quad apartments featuring single bedrooms.

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PA Harm Reduction Coalition hosts policy change forum

By Maddie Davis
Co-News Editor

The opioid epidemic has become a more recent issue in light of the media not only around the United States but in many local areas in Pennsylvania including Luzerne County.

To educate and promote advocacy among the Wilkes University and greater Wilkes-Barre community, the campus invited Devin Reaves the co-founder and executive director of the Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Coalition (PAHRC) based in Philadelphia, Pa.

PAHRC fights for the health of individuals who use drugs and helping communities affected by drug use.

The community engagement and advocacy forum was held on Wednesday in the Ballroom of the Henry Student Center and was open to all. The forum focused on the greater idea of harm reduction.

Reaves created an interactive environment where he shared the necessity for advocating for harm reduction policies in local government to aid people in recovery.

He began by sharing about himself and how he got to be where he is today, a person living in recovery.

“As soon as I wanted help, it was

there,” said Reaves about the availability of recovery measures for him.

Here, Reaves stated different measures he and his organization had taken to make recovery resources abundant to people who want to access them, like naloxone. Naloxone is a medication used to reverse the effects, mainly instances of overdoses.

As apart of his work, Reaves has most notably worked with the expansion of access to Naloxone, a once illegal in Pennsylvania because it was believed that it would enable people to use drugs. Reaves said that this is incorrect.

He then split the group of students, faculty, and community to talk about and share to the audience why they choose to be at this event and overall what they hope to learn.

Cody Morcom, a P3 pharmacy student, shared his thoughts with the audience and Reaves.

“Sometimes, I think that when we are so rooted in Wilkes-Barre and all of the services we do in the surrounding areas we can sometimes get so entangled in the issues here when there are also issues outside that we need to understand before we start advocating effectively,” said Morcom.

Fox also added his thoughts and why he, his peers and the faculty sitting at his

table decided to come to the talk.

“I am super excited to be here to learn more about the expansive problem and really what we can do early on and not waiting till we are adults or acting professionals,” said Fox.

Reaves then broke his talk into five parts leading to his explanation of the “Hero Initiative:” the problem, a solution, how to use this information, into action part one and two.

Reaves used graphs and maps to explain that the idea of the ‘opioid epidemic’ being just about opioid-related deaths is not true.

“It is not that prescription drugs aren’t important, but they are not killing people,” said Reaves. “The number one killer is fentanyl!”

He then moved to the communicable diseases, or what he calls the unspoken epidemic, that can be contracted through unsafe drug use because of the lack of harm reduction. HIV, Hepatitis C and soft tissue infections are all ways people who use drugs are being affected by unsafe practices.

“Our drug policies should reflect and take into consideration that most people who use drugs don’t have a problem. But that is not what it does. It treats everybody and paints everybody with a really broad brush and that’s part of the


reason it doesn’t work very well.”

In the solution part, Reaves mentions there are lots of paths to recovery and AA does not work for everybody. He also talked about the specific medication that helps people in recovery: vivitrol, methadone and naloxone. He mentioned different safe practices that he says are proven to help people stay safe while using drugs including safe needle exchanges, legalizing fentanyl strips, and lowering prices and having abundances of safe needles.

Reaves finished the talk by giving the audience the information and tips to effectively talk to legislators in the area to gain support for harm reduction practices in Pennsylvania. He then introduced the “Hero Initiative” where he plans to go around all over Pennsylvania to educate people about harm reduction and how they can get involved in the fight for this by advocating legislators and to be apart of his team.

“I am asking you to join the solution,” said Reaves.

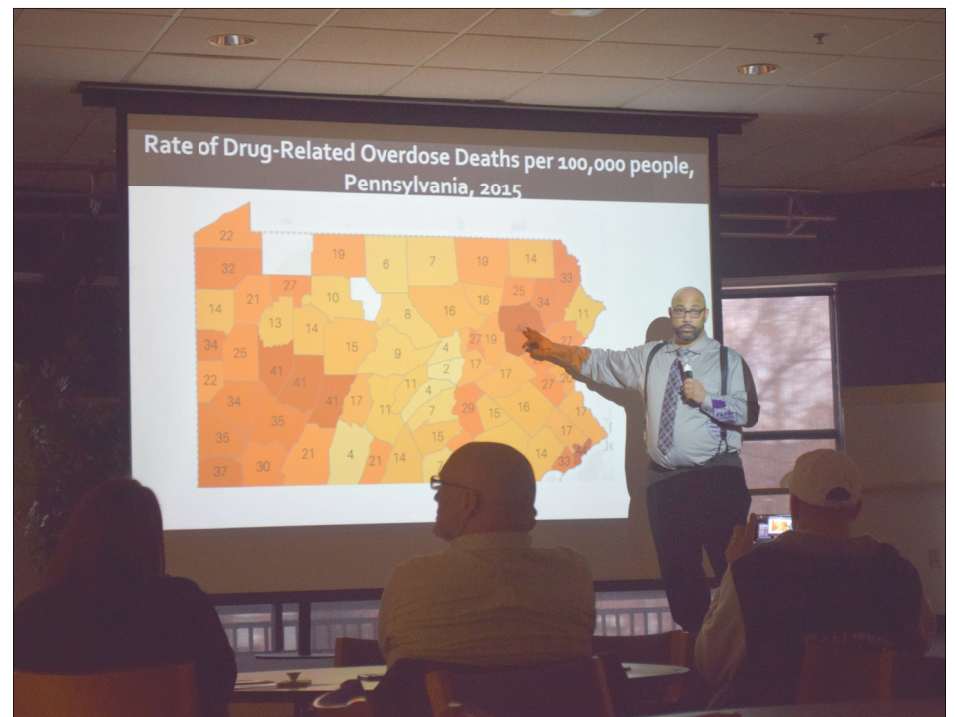
For more information about Devin Reaves and the Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Coalition, please visit paharmreduction.org.

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Photos: The Beacon/Maddie Davis

Devin Reaves poses with Wilkes Pharmacy and Nursing students, faculty and community professionals who attended his talk about harm reduction.



Reaves referred to different heat maps of Pennsylvania to explain the increase in drug-related overdose deaths within the past five years.

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have a story or want your event to be featured? Contact the Life, Arts & Entertainment editor: Sarah.Matarella@wilkes.edu

Allen P. Kirby Center launches the Kirby Cares Women's Campaign

By Anna Culver
Staff Writer

The Allen P. Kirby Center's Kirby Cares Campaign will be collecting items to support Ruth's Place up until April 30.

The Kirby Cares Campaign is a social initiative run by the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. The campaign is focused on the importance of giving back to the local Wilkes-Barre community.

The campaign started in 2017 with donating to the local homeless shelter. The idea for the Kirby Cares Campaign was initiated by the Kirby Scholar Michelle Lehman. The campaign started out collecting packages of warm socks to give to the local Wilkes-Barre community homeless shelters.

Lehman started this campaign after learning that socks were the number one thing that many people asked for when they receive services at shelters. Since the start of the campaign, Kirby Cares has donated to the homeless, veterans, and this

year they are donating to a local women's shelter.

"All staff and students of the APKC are very blessed to be part of a great organization and this is our way of helping the community in some small way. Different causes are chosen annually or semi-annually based on community need," said Charles J. Pierce, assistant director of the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship and adjunct professor at the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business.

Pierce continued to explain that as long as the ultimate goal of helping the less fortunate is fulfilled, then the campaign is successful. The campaign will be supporting Ruth's Place this year, which is located in the Wilkes-Barre community. Ruth's Place is dedicated to providing shelter, case management services and employment development services for women who are currently experiencing homelessness.

Any donation can be dropped off in specially marked boxes that are in several buildings and residence halls on the Wilkes

University campus. This campaign is looking for donations of items like toothbrushes, deodorant, hand wipes, nail clippers, dental floss, tissues, wet wipes, Q-tips, bandages, maxi pads, tampons, lotion, sunscreen, soap, shampoo, conditioner, lip balm and toothpaste. These items can be dropped off at the Allan P. Kirby Center or at specially marked boxes placed around campus.

This particular initiative of the Kirby Cares Campaign is coming to close at the end of April, but the campaign will continue with new initiatives in the coming semesters. Taylor Baker, graduate assistant and the Kirby Entrepreneurship Scholar, shared that it is important to participate in a campaigns and events like these and stated that she is more than willing be involved with a campaign like this again in the future.

"I wholeheartedly believe that if you are going to have an organization or a business of any sort, then this needs to be a part of it," Baker said. "If you are not part of the local community, you are not actually providing for it as they are providing the

revenue for you."

Baker later stated that in the future she will continue to volunteer and give back to her community as they are so important to the success of every business.

The Kirby Cares Campaign is open to everyone who wants to donate products. To donate drop off your products in one of the boxes placed around campus. Boxes are located in the Allan P. Kirby Center, the Farley Library, University Towers, Public Safety, the lobby next to Starbucks in the UCOM, and the lobby of the Henry Student Center. Everyone can donate their items in these specially marked boxes up until April 30th through the Kirby Cares Campaign.

To get involved with the Kirby Cares Campaign in the future, or if you have any questions about the campaign, please contact charles.pierce@wilkes.edu, taylor.baker@wilkes.edu, michelle.lehman@wilkes.edu or jordan.fritz@wilkes.edu.

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Nick's Flick Picks: Marvel Studios has done it again

Brie Larson and Samuel L. Jackson shine in their roles as Carol Danvers and Nicholas Joseph Fury

By Nick Filipek
Managing Editor

Captain Marvel (2019) - Directed by Anna Boden & Ryan Fleck. Screenplay by Anna Boden, Ryan Fleck & Geneva Robertson-Dworet. Story by Nicole Perlman & Meg LeFauve. Starring, Brie Larson, Samuel L. Jackson, Ben Mendelsohn, Jude Law, Lashana Lynch, Clark Gregg and Annette Bening.

Marvel Studios has done it again. Over a decade in the business, and the now juggernaut movie studio still knows how to deliver awe-inspiring spectacle without having to repeat itself.

Though still a super-hero origin story, the familiar three-act structure takes a break and allows this story to jump around in the hero's timeline to deliver a different way of introducing a character. It is a bit risky, considering there are times you will sit there and think, "wait, did I miss something?" but rest assured the film ties itself up beautifully in the end, taking all the pieces and displaying the big picture like a astonishing mosaic.

From this point on, there will be spoilers to the plot. If you do not wish to know what happens in the film, please wait to read this until after you have seen it.

Before the movie even released, it was obvious that the entire films success would bank on Larson portraying a superhero that the people will love. Iron Man wouldn't be the cinematic powerhouse that he is today without having it all rest on Robert Downey Jr.'s shoulders, so it was inevitable that Larson was going to have to face the same test, and she crushes it completely. Larson is so good, in fact, that you forget that she is not actually the title character come to life.

Carol Danvers is a United States Air force pilot who is infused with an astounding power after she purposefully causes an explosion, involving alien technology that she was trying to keep out of evils hands. After the blast, the only thing left of Carol Danvers is a half of a dog tag, leaving the beings that find her in the wreckage to assume she was called Vers. Vers is then recruited into an ancient war between two alien races and by either fate or coincidence, makes her way back to Earth where she is left to figure out who she really is, and just how powerful she truly is.

It is the transition of watching Vers remembering who Carol Danvers

truly was, and then how Carol Danvers had to become the hero that we would know to be, Captain Marvel



that is truly just incredible and is the success of the film. Another key factor was how successful of a period piece this ended up being.

Though the 90's do not seem that far away when compared to other films that tackle subject matter

sometimes going back centuries, it is still something to behold and feel nostalgic about when Vers first comes to Earth via crashing through a Blockbuster video. The shelves are lined with hits from 1995, which are all in their VHS sleeves, of course.

There are cardboard cut outs of famous actors, and the parking lot of the now extinct video rental store shares a parking lot with another blast from the past, a Radio Shack.

Finally, this movie would not have worked without Samuel L. Jackson coming back to reprise his role as S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Nicholas Joseph Fury. Marvel has truly perfected their "de-aging" process with the technology they have developed, first showcasing the process with Michael Douglas in Antman, and really takes center stage as Jackson looks to be around the same age he was when he shot Pulp Fiction. The same can be said for Clark Gregg and his character Agent Phil Coulson. Watching the two of them start what we all know blossoms into a beautiful relationship, is so satisfying.

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BATTLE, from front page

Of the halls on campus, all dorms with first-year will be participating including: Evans, Sturdevant, Roth, Pearsall, Ross, Waller, Doane, Schiowitz and Michelini.

"Teams are broken down based on the amount of people per floor. Evans, since it is a bigger hall, is split up by floor," said Danah Lassiter, graduate resident director.

Other buildings like Roth are clumped together because they have less students.

"We try to be as equal as we can. Certain residence halls have also been grouped together to make it even," said Lassiter.

Lassiter also expressed that she expects a smaller turn out than past

years due to the busy time of year. Though if that is the case, Lassiter stated that teams and games would be adjusted to fit to the number of participants.

Of the 10 or so first-year students spoken to about the event, more than half expressed excitement of the event and were planning on participating.

However, a few students that had their own reasons for sitting out of the event.

"Unfortunately, I was not blessed with literally any athletic ability whatsoever. I will definitely be there to root for my dorm though," said Donald Ballou, first-year international relations major.

Ryan Chapman, first-year chemistry major, said, "Me being so busy before spring break made the advertising

more useless in that I had not paid much attention to what I had seen."

After learning more about the event Chapman expressed that he was interested in taking part and possibly getting some of his friends involved who may have shared his previous concerns.


While the possibility of the event having a small turn out is present Lassiter also expressed that students from previous years were excited for the event when they were freshmen.

Ashton Gyenizs, senior, communication studies major, said, "Battle of the Halls, to my knowledge is the same as it was my freshman year. Just all different freshmen halls competing in some fun games and for the most part it was not too serious, it was just about having fun."

"I would recommend freshmen participate. It is a way to go have a little bit of fun and a break between classes and work that you may have to do at this point in the semester," said Matt Howard, junior biology major.

Jacob Baranski, senior biology major, expressed the same sentiment that the event was one first-year students should participate in and also recounted an enjoyable time. Baranski described Battle of the Halls as a thrilling team building exercise, and Howard spoke about enjoyable events like kickball and an oreo-eating contest from his first year.

Students interested could sign up through their RAs over the weeks leading up to the Battle of the Halls.

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Self care with Sarah: Becoming a self expert in a fast paced society

By Sarah Matarella

Life, Arts, & Entertainment Editor

Setting time aside to self reflect and be introspective can pose a challenge with the constant presence of stimuli in a fast paced society.

Technology and social media surrounds us, filling the gaps of our free time between our daily schedules and responsibilities with family, social life, work and school. With that being said, down time is limited and valued, especially in American culture. Any form of down time is often used to prepare for and worry about the future.

"I feel that we are always on the move as a society and it is very hard to slow down and just think about the day instead of thinking about the next day," said Timothy Brown, junior biology major at Wilkes University.

Plus, self reflecting also forces us to acknowledge our deficiencies, imperfections and mistakes which can prove to be quite uncomfortable. It can be generally difficult to admit your mistakes and wrongdoings, especially if you are already going through a difficult time in your life.

"Self reflecting is such a hard thing to do, especially if you've done something

you don't want to bring up again. Some people may like it better at certain times in their lives, and find it harder to do in other times of their lives. It takes a very strong person to be able to look back on all the things they've done and all the mistakes they made and learn from all of it," said Courtney Corona, first-year political science major at Wilkes University.

Consequently, a common idea of self reflection correlates with the mockery that often surrounds the phrase "talking about your feelings." Some people consider it to be unnecessary and find other ways to cope with their issues.

"Some people might find it cheesy, it's not the norm," said Gregory Navestad, junior marketing major.

So, why would someone ever even think about practicing self reflection?

Self reflecting, although it can be challenging and time consuming for some, is essential to be able to grow and develop as a person. If your mind is constantly occupied with technology or

your responsibilities, all of the important thoughts and emotions are pushed to the side and can accumulate if they are ignored for too long.

"Life gets you in such a routine, especially in college, and you get so swept up in it it's hard to break it," said Corona.

Despite this, becoming introspective is possible and does not have to require you locking yourself in a dark room with your thoughts or sitting alone thinking for hours and hours.

"I'm definitely more introspective now than I have been in the past. I would never focus on what I wanted personally. It definitely helps you become a better person and get to know yourself better," said Navestad.

Navestad continued to explain that he likes to self reflect when he is playing the guitar. He said the music he plays reflects his emotions and allows him to connect with his thoughts.

In addition, if you are mindful about your own perceptions and feelings, it will

allow you to be able to do this for other people's circumstances as well.

"I definitely feel that self reflection has made me a better person, and helps when trying to be empathetic and sympathetic to others," said Brown.

However, too much self reflecting can lead to an increased amount of negative thoughts that will cloud your self perception.

"It is hard to take that extra step back and look at the whole situation and own your faults, but also recognize your achievements," said Brown.

Therefore, in order to reap the benefits of practicing self reflection, you have to find that medial point between overthinking and not being introspective enough. Being still and becoming in touch with yourself and your thoughts.

"Reflecting on yourself and being introspective helps you make more conscious decisions for yourself. You will make more decisions for yourself versus what other people may want you to do...You should worry first about your happiness, and then worry about the happiness of others," said Corona.



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The Beacon's Featured Photos of the Week



Signs of life have begun popping up around the flower beds on campus.



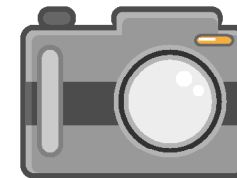
Students seized the opportunity to soak up the sunshine with a game of soccer on the Greenway.



The Wilkes-Barre skyline above Wilkes University campus is highlighted by sunshine and blue skies after a winter that seemed to never end.



The John Wilkes statue, just off the campus Greenway, is finally starting to see signs of green grass and warmer tomorrows.



PHOTOS
of the
WEEK



While the sunshine that covers campus may seem warm, the shade still provides that familiar winter chill.



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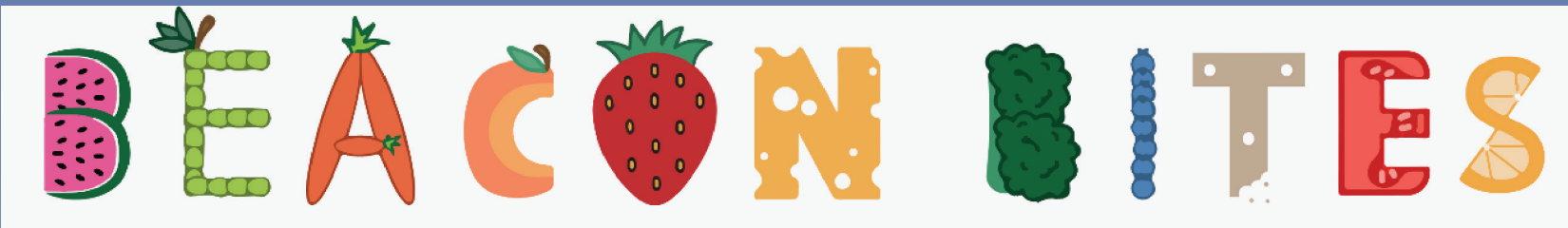
THREE-WEEK PRESESSION
May 20 to June 7

FULL SESSION
May 20 to Aug. 16

SUMMER SESSION I
June 10 to July 12

NINE-WEEK SESSION
June 10 to Aug. 13

SUMMER SESSION II
July 15 to Aug. 16



ROASTED CHICKPEAS

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 can of chickpeas (also called Garbanzo beans)
- 1 tablespoon of olive oil, ½ teaspoon of paprika
- ½ teaspoon of garlic powder, ¼ teaspoon of salt

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees.
2. Open the can of chickpeas, drain the liquid from inside of the can.
3. Gently dry the chickpeas in a paper towel.
Note: Dry the chickpeas as much as possible so that they become crunchy in the oven.
4. Toss the chickpeas in a bowl with the olive oil.
5. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and spread the chickpeas on the baking sheet.
6. Bake for 25 minutes.
7. Remove the chickpeas from the oven and sprinkle the paprika, garlic powder, and salt on top.
8. Mix/roll the chickpeas around on baking sheet until the chickpeas are evenly coated in the spices.
9. Bake for an additional 10 minutes.
10. Enjoy.

Jordan Fritz, *Staff Writer*





Spreading Self-Love and Empowerment

By Natalie Stephens
Asst. Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Department of Diversity and Inclusion hosted the Conversation About Self-Love event in UCOM at 11 a.m. on March 14. The students that attended the event discussed a variety of topics that had to deal with self-love and being true to who you are as a person.

The goal of the event was to promote and encourage empowerment and inner strength.

Debbie Scheibler, Director of Residence life at Wilkes University led the event and talked about how every single person is worthy of self love and feeling good about themselves, even if it is not how society says they should. Sometimes it can be the situations or places we are born in to and other times, it is the experiences that we have throughout our lives that can make it

difficult to love and be our true selves.

“It’s interesting how you can communicate deep and thoughtful messages by just doing a simple activity,” said Danay Rosa, senior Wilkes University student.

Throughout the majority of the event, the attendees worked in groups on an activity led by Scheibler. She used the game Mr. Potato Head to have the students build their potatoes the way that they think society wants it to be.

Each group presented their potatoes and gave them names as well as personalities. Most of the potatoes were middle aged teachers in heterozygous relationships with children and they also dressed them so that they were ‘put together’ with matching clothing and accessories.

There was one group that put a hat on their potato person’s bald head.

“Men get shamed for not having hair,”

said Rosa.

After each group finished presenting their potato, Scheibler talked about how people conform to societal expectations about who they should be and how they should act, rather than loving themselves and expressing themselves as they truly are.

Scheibler then asked the groups to make their potatoes the way that they wish they could show up everyday.

“When we get up everyday, we are the potato head,” said Scheibler.

Everyone in the room perked up and went to work immediately. There was laughter and love throughout the room as groups were able to express what they like, whether that be mismatched clothing or a change in the personality of the potato. You could tell that each person added a little bit of themselves.

The program coordinator for International Engagement of the Medusa


10 Panamanian students at Wilkes University, Donna Novicki, thought the event would be good for the Panamanian students because she said that their culture is still traditional.

“It’s still not okay to be different in Panama,” said Novicki.

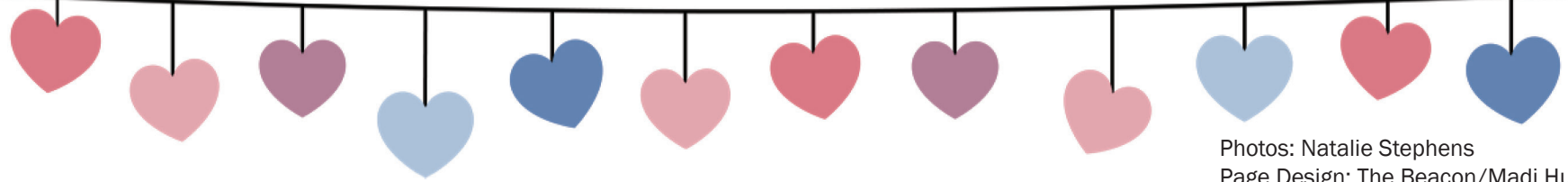
This event helped to show the Medusa 10 students that it is okay to be different and to start the conversation about what it means to be true to yourself and love yourself.

The first step to self-love is the empowerment that you get from listening to others stories and realizing that it is okay to be true to who you are, whether or not it is what society expects of you.

Any questions on this event can be directed to erica.acosta@wilkes.edu or debbie.scheibler@wilkes.edu.

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NatalieStephens@wilkes.edu





Photos: Natalie Stephens
Page Design: The Beacon/Madi Hummer



A Yankorlys Corralos, Madeline Coitez, Yasmeen Ahmed, Dayanna Sandoval and Morgan Burton carefully build their Mr. Potato Head.

B Marta Abrego and Luricel Garcia, Wilkes University students, show off the design for their Mr. Potato Head.

C Kelvin Rujano presents his group's Mr. Potato Head, a group activity the students worked together to create.

D Wilkes students Amina Musfafa, Conroy Yearde, Danay Rosa, Keila Abrego, Eva Castillo, Evelyn Saldana and Loury Gonzalez Henera work on their Mr. Potato Head together.

E Debbie Scheibler, Director of Residence Life at Wilkes University, speaks to the group of attentive students about self-love and accepting themselves as they are.

Opinion

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

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2018-19

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Our Voice

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

US educational system is on the decline

The US education system is failing and this issue must be resolved. To some, this statement may be a source of discomfort as a result of America's patriotic spirit.

However, the truth must be received in its purest state in order to inspire a shift in thought and subsequently create change.

As academics, aspiring professionals, professors and faculty of Wilkes University, the subject of American educational issues is by no means new.

The vast majority of pedagogical affiliates have some understanding of the nation's gradually fading strength in the realm of education.

The US education system's failing state is a major problem that must be effectively resolved. Overlooking this issue in hopes that it will resolve itself is no longer good enough.

With this being said, what is the extent of failure in the nation's educational system?

According to the Worldtop20.org, as of 2018, the world's top 10 performing countries consists of South Korea, Finland, Norway, Russia, Hong Kong, Japan, Estonia, Latvia, Israel and Sweden.

Of this list of top performing countries, the United States is nowhere to be found. In fact, the United States ranks 26 educationally.

This list consisted of 201 countries. It must also be said that the nation cannot afford to be complacent in understanding these figures.

Ranking 26 of 201 countries should not be seen as, "well, we perform better than 175 other countries so we're OK". As Americans we should aspire to be excellent on an academic level.

According to historynet.com, "as recently as 20 years ago, the United States was ranked No.1 in high school and college education." What this essentially reveals is that in the past two decades something changed in the United States education system.

What factors contributed in this shift from number one to 26 in education?

Matthew Lynch writing from theedadvocate.org suggests that this change came as a result of 18 different factors.

A few of these reasons consist of a lack of parental involvement, lessened school funding, outdated teacher training methods and not knowing how to handle and integrate technology into the classroom.

Evaluating the root of the issue is integral in our hopes of improving the educational system. There are a series of factors that have resulted in a mediocre level of performance in comparison to the world's top 10 countries in education.

As Americans we should aspire to be in the list of the world's top 10 countries educationally. Settling for 26 is not part of what makes us American.

In order to effectively resolve this

phenomenon, I feel that it is imperative that teachers, professors and those involved in educating the masses are paid well.

As a nation we pay doctors, lawyers, engineers and those involved in STEM related fields generously for their amazing efforts in health, medicine and justice.

However, who is responsible for allowing our nation to have these professionals. How do these professionals acquire their knowledge? The answer lies in teachers.

As a result of this, teachers should be paid the same amount or more than these professionals as they are the source of their expertise.

The antiquated chalk on a blackboard and rote memorization must also be left in the past. As inhabitants of the Information Age, we need to take advantage of technology; it is not the enemy but the future.

We also need to establish a standardized, nationwide curriculum. In order to provoke an improvement in education, the nation has to undergo great changes.

We have to not be afraid to shake up the pillars of our current educational paradigm. In order to resolve this matter, we can no longer settle for the status quo, we need an educational reform.



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College admissions fraud and its effects on all academics

By Savannah Pinnock
Opinion Editor

SAT preparation books, AP test preparation books, college applications, extra curricular activities and studying. What is this list of things you ask? What is their significance?

To many, this list is just a few of the tools juniors and seniors in high school must use in order to be accepted into the college and/or university of their dreams.

The vast majority of students around the world rely on their academic integrity and intellect in order to get into their preferred school of choice.

However, in light of recent events, it has been revealed that approximately 50 individuals took part in a college admissions scheme that has cheated many out of positions in Ivy League and other prestigious schools.

These individuals have tampered with the pure traditions that surround the college admissions process.

According to Holly Yan writing for CNN.com, federal prosecutors state that fifty people were involved in a scheme that which consisted of "cheating on standardized tests or bribing college coaches and school officials to accept students as college athletes--even if the student has never played that sport."

As students, staff, professors, alumni and pedagogical affiliates, this news is incredibly repulsive. One of the fundamental components of being a student is the idea of academic integrity and/or honesty.

Alongside this, millions of students have taken their SATs with the

understanding that it is undoubtedly standardized and non-corrupted. This news makes many college students feel cheated and emphasizes the disparity between the rich and the poor.

Although this difference does in fact exist, the college admissions process has done an excellent job at making sure that one's admission is contingent on one being well-rounded, intelligent, capable and ambitious. Actresses Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman are the faces of this scheme.

However, it must be said that they are not the only people involved in this scheme, just familiar faces involved.

Across the country, millions of American students are outraged and livid in response to this occurrence.

In light of these events, Wilkes senior communication studies major Natalie Carleo states, "It makes me really angry. Just because you're rich doesn't mean you should get any special treatment when everyone else works their butt off."

Bryanna Chase, a freshman criminology major at Wilkes states, "It's a serious issue, but if there were no celebrities involved you wouldn't even have heard of it. It happens more often than you think."

As a junior English major, I feel as though this event interferes with the integrity of the admissions process. The process is only successful when everyone adheres to the rules. To disobey the rules is essentially saying that you are above the law due to wealth, social status or other factors.

However, thousands of hardworking teachers, professors and organizations work hard to make the admissions process

and entrance exams standardized. It has been this way for decades and it gives everyone a virtually equal opportunity to go to the college of their dreams.

Due to this scandal, somewhere there is a student who rightfully earned a spot at an Ivy League or prestigious school and was cheated out of it. This act is dispicable and seeks to lower the strength of America's college admissions process.

Fortunately, with the work that is being done by these institutions, the only thing that has been lowered is the reputation of these parents and individuals involved.

It must be understood that until further notice, the students who have been a victim of their parents actions are not to blame. Also, there happens to be a great deal of affluent academics who received their positions via hardwork and dedication.

Although this may be apparent to many, it begs the question, what impact will this have on academics and the admissions process as a whole?

Well, according to Yan, this college admissions scam is "thought to be the biggest ever prosecuted in the United States." Due to the gravity of this situation, it is safe to assume that the current rules and procedures that are enforced for standardized tests will be stricter.

Colleges and universities may also pay close attention to one's income and occupation in order to discern if the student's family has conducted any form of admissions fraud.

However, the truth is that this event is still unfolding. Over the course

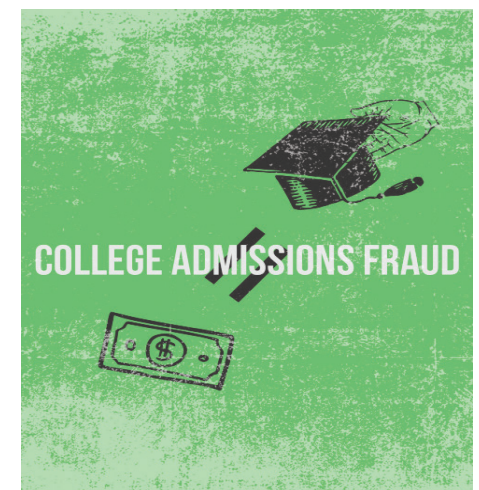
of the next few weeks, months and years, colleges may issue heightened regulations in response to this event.

At the moment, one cannot know for certain what affects this scandal may have on college admissions and students as a whole.


For now, one can be comforted by the understanding that this event may allow for the disadvantaged applicants to receive the spot that they deserve and earned.

This event may also provoke the change necessary to inspire affluent celebrities and everyday people to understand that with wealth comes power.

Use that power wisely and don't allow it to infringe on the happiness of someone who may have to work a bit harder in life than you.



The Beacon/Savannah Pinnock

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Bipartisan Banter: Is Marijuana Legalization Sensible?

By Neil Murphy
Staff Writer

One of the biggest issues regarding social policy in the United States of America is whether or not marijuana should be legalized and decriminalized. Look anywhere in the United States if you need to see this further.

According to the Defense Information System Agency's website, there are a total of 11 states that have fully legalized marijuana usage medically and recreationally, as well as decriminalizing marijuana.

According to the same source, in 23 states the decision on marijuana legalization is mixed, with most of these states only having medical marijuana legalized.

Pennsylvania is one of the states that have a mixed legal status. Governor Tom Wolf announced on April 6th, 2016 that medical marijuana usage would be legalized.

In January of this year, Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman announced he would be going on tour starting in February to tour 67 counties in Pennsylvania to listen to the public's view on full marijuana legalization.

What is interesting to note is that despite solid support on this issue, the love for this issue is not entirely widespread.

According to an article published

by Harvard University's Institute of Politics, less than half of Democrats (49 percent) support legalization while 29 percent oppose it. Meanwhile, 32 percent of Republicans support legalization and 50 percent of Republicans oppose it.

Will this bring people out to vote for this? According to the same source listed above, 23 percent of Americans say they are more likely to vote where marijuana legalization was an issue to vote on, 32 percent disagreed, and 43 percent stated that it was a "non-issue."

However, when it is just about medical legalization, more people would be more likely to vote on this issue.

Why do individuals want to vote for medical marijuana instead of voting for overall legalization? It's quite simple, it is strictly for medical purposes.

Despite hearing the word "medical," do people know what medical marijuana does? Well according to Samuel T. Wilkins, M.D., not many people really do.

In Wilkins' publication "More Reasons States Should Not Legalize

Marijuana," published in the journal *Missouri Medicine* in December of 2013, there are many negative reasons to not legalize marijuana.

the question, "Should we be regulating marijuana the same way as alcohol?"


One last point I would like to mention from this article would be the point of the potential for diversion. Many states that legalized marijuana allow individuals to grow their own marijuana, which can lead to contamination.

Individuals can be presented with the opportunity to go around laws and sell their own strains of marijuana instead of just going to dispensaries. Should this be regulated too?

The point of this article is not to say that marijuana is bad or that this shouldn't be recognized. I am actually a supporter of full legalization. The main idea behind the article is

far more than that. Just because we legalize marijuana doesn't mean the issue is resolved there.

There are many kinks that need to be worked out, as it is a much deeper issue. Legislators voting for legalization should keep issues brought up by individuals like Wilkins in mind.

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The Beacon/Madi Hummer

For one, there are the many effects on an individual, including cognitive decline and damage to organ systems like the respiratory, gastrointestinal and immune systems.

Another point Wilkins brings up is the effects on driving that marijuana has. According to the article, in many studies done on motor vehicle fatalities, marijuana is the most common drug detected in people besides alcohol. This leads us to ask

OpEd: Attend "Beyond My Accent" presentation on Thursday

By Andrew Matcho
Guest Writer

Have you ever run had a hard time understanding someone because of their accent?

"Beyond My Accent" presented by Amy E. Kuiken discusses why and how we form opinions based on the accents we hear.

We will learn how to unpack this topic using a linguistic framework. Furthermore, she will be teaching useful tips when it comes to understanding accents from people across the world.

I see this as an opportunity of a lifetime since accents are an issue I face daily when interacting with people face-to-face.

It is almost inevitable that you will

come across people who are hard to understand based on where they are from. I personally encounter this sort of phenomena almost daily, in texting and speaking to people across the globe. Also, anyone interested in travelling should strive to attend this event.

Being able to respect and understand the backgrounds of people who come from areas with different accents is important for a

good experience.

We will learn that even if our accents are different, there are many things that can also bring us together.

I also see "Beyond My Accent" as a great event for those who are trying to get out of their comfort zone in small steps to become accustomed to diversity as a whole.

There are many people, like me, who aren't the most comfortable striking up a

conversation with someone I know has a hard to understand accent.

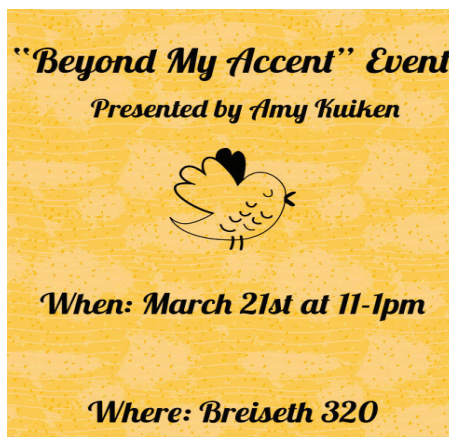
Unfortunately this puts me in a spot where I'm not being as inclusive as I could be, and I'm missing out on an opportunity to create new connections.

I am hopeful this event will break me out of my shell and create a new social skill that will be beneficial to my future.

I deeply encourage anyone who is interested to see Amy Kuiken's talk on March 21 at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room Breiseth 320.

Andrew Matcho is a Wilkes junior and is studying computer information systems.

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The Beacon/Savannah Pinnock

Meet the Majors

This week's field: Criminology

Interviews and Photos by
Michelle Grossbauer
Staff Writer

Every week, The Beacon will offer a chance for majors to be placed in the spotlight. Each student that 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.



Jordan Stiles
Senior

"I am a double major in criminology and sociology. I chose my major because I have a strong desire and passion for helping others. I am looking to go into law enforcement which having these majors would directly aid in pursuing said goals. Eventually, I would love to be a part of the FBI."



Samantha Trobe
Junior

"I am a criminology major with the intent of going to law school. I enjoy history which goes well in politics. It intertwines history, contemporary politics, law, policing, etc. which allows me to have a better idea on the political system. I would love to be an attorney dealing with patent law and eventually becoming a lobbyist for foster care."

Clark Jr. comes into his own with his new age blues anthem

By Parker Dorsey
Asst. Opinion Editor

RHYTHM REWIND with Parker Dorsey

Blues rock musician Gary Clark Jr. released his new album *This Land* a week earlier than expected on Feb. 22. It debuted at number six on the US Billboard 200 and he is currently touring the United States to promote the album.

Clark returns with a deft and masterful genre synthesis of blues, hip-hop and soul on his third studio album. The lead single is the title track, which Clark wrote with inspiration from the iconic "This Land is Your Land" from Woody Guthrie. It is a scathing criticism of the current political climate and a direct addressing to racism in America, and is unlike anything the traditionally tight-lipped Austin, Texas native has ever penned.

"I'm 34 years old now and I've seen enough, and I've just had enough," Clark told American Songwriter. "I spent my whole life being black in Texas, and you experience blatant and subtle and abrasive

discrimination. With the current climate politically, it's like, 'What [...] is happening?' Everyone just wants to be treated like a human being."

Clark has always been a dynamic musician, but *This Land* is a quantum leap in songwriting quality from the blues rocker. While no one could ever fault his guitar skills, the songwriting in his previous releases often left much to be desired. His guitar playing evokes Hendrix and his vocals are equal parts Bob Marley reggae and Childish Gambino rap.

The main criticism about the album is that it can be overwhelming and fatiguing. It contains fifteen tracks for a run-time clipping over an hour. That's not to mention two bonus tracks that add ten minutes to it. At its worst, *This Land* feels like it has too many ideas. At its best, it shows Clarke's evolution from a guitar virtuoso to a full-fledged songwriter.

That being said, there isn't much filler to be had on this album. Almost all the songs have their own distinct identity, due in no small part from the genre mixing. "The Governor" is authentic, old school delta blues. "The Guitar Man" is a mellow R&B

jam while "Feed the Babies" is littered with falsettos and guitar pedals.

"I Got My Eyes On You" is a slow blues track that has built-up guitar explosions saved for the end. "Pearl Cadillac" is a killer ballad with Prince inspired falsettos and roaring guitars. He emulates Stevie Ray Vaughan with "Highway 71," an instrumental that is essentially extended guitar solo.

B.B. King and Buddy Guy are emulated in "Dirty Dish Blues," a pure slab of old school blues ripped straight out of the 60's. "I Walk Alone" is an emotionally deep song with hypnotic psychedelic grooves. "Don't Wait Til Tomorrow" is another R&B ballad with a mournful, futile guitar solo reminiscent of the lyrical themes of infidelity present in the song.

However, Clark's songwriting blunders come back in "Feelin' Like a Million," a clichéd quasi-party anthem that is a real lowlight of the album. "Gotta Get Into Something" is... a punk rocker? While it sounds neat and unique, it feels wholly out of place on *This Land*.

At times *This Land* is cheesy. At times it can also be aggressive and too flashy. However it is a solid release from Clark who is beginning

to come into his own with confident songwriting. The album is littered with old school sounds that Clark masterfully works into a modern production. If he was trying to make *This Land* play like a live album, then he completely succeeded in that task.

Parker's Picks: "This Land," "I Walk Alone," "When I'm Gone," "Low Down Rolling Stone"



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How you can become a more culturally refined person

By Jennifer Boch
Staff Writer

When you think of someone being culturally refined, you may picture fashionably dressed upper-class individuals discussing art while sipping wine and listening to classical music.

In mainstream society, being cultured is seen as a reflection of other characteristics such as class, education and career.

However, this is a misperception. Anyone can be cultured and while it does require some time and effort, it is worth it. Being culturally refined is having a well-rounded understanding of Western culture and being familiar with different cultures.

It will help you become a better conversationalist and more personable as it allows you to have more information and better understanding of a wide array of topics. This also helps you develop qualities of empathy and tolerance. Therefore, putting in the effort will ultimately be a benefit.

There are four main ways to start your culture journey: Read, watch films and documentaries, listen to new music and travel. There is a popular Western cultural canon that you should understand, which includes specific novels, poetry, music and films. In

fact, according to Marelisa writing from daringtolivefully.com, it is recommended that one "read 50 books from the canon of western literature."

Alongside this, it is also recommended that one develops the ability to identify or "recognize the world's 25 greatest sculptures."

Classic works of literature or art are essential as they have withstood the test of time and are still considered relevant to today.

You can start as far back as the Renaissance. If you prefer more recent times then start with modern art movements and classic Hollywood Golden Age movies, like *Casablanca* or *Singin' in the Rain*.

There is something for everyone as the variety of themes is just as vast as the timespan. Music is another important aspect because it mentally stimulates.

Research has been conducted on how different music affects the mind so listening to a more eclectic mix will allow you to exercise different parts of your brain.

Finally, do not be ignorant about other cultures. In the United States, we often have a very self-centered and closed view of the world, although the country is full of different ethnic groups. Explore different communities in your area to get a taste of other cultures and make

new connections. Some of these communities are even within Wilkes University, including some students from Panama and Middle East.

The best way to experience other cultures is to travel. This allows you to immerse yourself and step out of your comfort zone, which helps you grow and view the world from other perspectives.

Another interactive way to immerse yourself in learning is exploring museums. Many people view them as boring and stuffy, but once you learn the deeper significance of the objects and exhibits, the experience is what you make it.

Here at Wilkes you have many opportunities to experience culture and become well-rounded. While general requirements seem like an inconvenience, they allow you to take classes on things you wouldn't take otherwise, such as Anthropology, Art, or Music.

These classes can ignite additional passions and hobbies you might not have realized before. In addition to classes, there are concerts, theatre performances, and even an art gallery on campus. The Sordoni Gallery is a great place to start experiencing art.

The next exhibit will display Japanese Woodblock Prints from the Syracuse University Art Collection April 2 - May 18.

The Wilkes University Theatre department is putting on its last show of the semester the first weekend in April. "The Dining Room" is a sentimental comedy of interrelated scenes that are woven together to tell messages of family, humor, and humanity.

Take advantage of these opportunities and other sponsored trips to experience new knowledge and culture, because it will benefit you in the long run. Besides, you might just enjoy it.



The Beacon/Savannah Pinnock

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Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact the Sports Editors: Benjamin.Mandell@wilkes.edu or Kirsten.Peters@wilkes.edu

NBA contenders' quest for the Larry O'Brien trophy

By Kevin Singhel
Staff Writer

The long grueling NBA regular season is dwindling down to its final days. The regular season ends on April 10 and postseason play starts soon afterwards on April 13.

With less than a month left of the regular season, we have a pretty good idea on who are the main contenders for the Larry O'Brien trophy. This will be the first NBA Finals since 2014 that won't feature a matchup between the Golden State Warriors and Cleveland Cavaliers, as LeBron James left the Cavaliers to join the Lakers last summer and the Cavs subsequently missed the playoffs.

However, any conversation about NBA title contenders must still start and end with the Golden State Warriors, as it has for the last half-decade. It's no surprise that the Warriors currently sit atop the tough Western Conference.

Golden State has won three of the last four NBA Championships, and have gotten even better this summer when they added All-star center Demarcus Cousins. This means that the Warriors starting five of Kevin Durant, Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, Draymond Green and Cousins consists of five different players in their prime who may have a legitimate argument at making the Hall of Fame when they retire.

On top of their talent, the roster has a ton of postseason experience, has a great head coach in Steve Kerr. On top of that, they will likely have home court advantage throughout the western conference playoffs. Yes, the Warriors are struggling more than they have in recent years, but the general consensus around the league is that the Warriors are just coasting until the playoffs roll around. The team has dealt with a slew of injuries, and is focusing on getting all of their roster healthy so that they can make a push for their third title in a row and fourth in five years.

The surprising Milwaukee Bucks currently have the best record in the NBA, and will likely clinch home court advantage throughout the entirety of the

NBA Playoffs. The team is led by MVP candidate Giannis Antetokounmpo, a player many believe has become the best in the league. Antetokounmpo is averaging 27 points per game with 12.6 rebounds per game, all while shooting 58% from the floor.

Antetokounmpo also has a great supporting cast in secondary All-star Khriston Middleton, as well as other key pieces such as Eric Bledsoe, Brook Lopez, and Nikola Mirotic. The Bucks have star-power and are relatively deep, but their main weakness is their inexperience when it comes to postseason play. Having home court advantage throughout the playoffs will be a nice remedy to this problem, but their inexperience could come back to haunt them.

Antetokounmpo and others on the team have never even won a postseason series, let alone an NBA title. Regular season success is one thing, but the Bucks have yet to prove that they can replicate that success in the postseason.

The Houston Rockets are another contender, led by James Harden, and are making an extremely strong push to the postseason. Harden is having an absolutely historic season, averaging 36 points per game and 7.5 assists per game.

Harden and Antetokounmpo will likely duel to the regular season's finish to determine who is the league's MVP.

However, the Rockets talent doesn't stop at Harden. Harden is also joined by future Hall of Famer Chris Paul and star center Clint Capela.

Houston have one of the best offenses in the league, and certainly have the talent to win a title. Their coach, offensive genius and reigning Coach of the Year, Mike Dantoni, can gameplan for just about any team and can ensure that his

stars get the shots they need. In fact, the Rockets took the Warriors to seven games in last year's playoffs, and were extremely close to ending the Warriors' dynasty.

However, the Rockets aren't a particularly strong defensive team, something opponents in the postseason will likely exploit. In addition, James Harden and the rest of the Rockets are reliant on getting to the free-throw line, and the referees are

known to be a little more conservative with their whistles in the postseason. Still, James Harden is a threat to drop 60 points on any given night and has plenty of talent around him, making the Rockets a legitimate contender for the title.

One of the main contenders in the Eastern Conference is the Toronto Raptors. The Raptors are led by two-way star Kawhi Leonard, a player who is adept at both the offensive and defensive ends of the floor. Leonard is joined by fellow All-star Kyle Lowry, forming a talented duo that few in the league can match.

The Raptors also have a deep supporting cast, as Leonard and Lowry are joined by Most-Improved Player candidate Pascal Siakam. Other key contributors to the team include veteran Serge Ibaka and the recently acquired Marc Gasol.

This roster also has a lot of postseason experience, meaning that they won't shy away from the big stage. Toronto has struggled to make it through the East in the past few years, as they are always eliminated by James during his time with Miami and Cleveland. However with James out of the Eastern Conference it may just be Toronto's year to go all the

way.

Making it out of the Eastern Conference will be rough for the Raptors with the presence of strong teams like the Bucks and the Philadelphia 76ers.

The 76ers are owners of some of the best young talent in the NBA in Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons. The rest of the starting five includes star Jimmy Butler and solid contributors in JJ Reddick and the recently acquired Tobias Harris. Philadelphia's starting five is one of the best in the league, making them a serious contender for the title.

However, the roster is still young and relatively inexperienced when it comes to postseason success. In addition, their bench is suspect meaning their starters will have to play a lot of minutes, something that could take a toll over the course of a seven game series. Despite this, don't be surprised if Philly's young core pushes the team to a deep postseason run.

Winning four best of seven series in order to secure the NBA title is never an easy task, but this year it seems especially difficult. The NBA has been criticized for a lack of parity in years past, but this year there seems to be an abundance of contenders for the title. After four years of Cavaliers-Warriors finals it will be nice to see a new Finals matchup, and it will be intriguing to see which team stands atop the league in the end.



**Beacon
Picks**
B A S K E T B A L L

Kevin Singhel
Staff Writer
Golden State Warriors

Ben Mandell
Co-Sports Editor
Golden State Warriors

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Which NHL contender will win the Stanley Cup?

By Ben Mandell & Kendyl Kalish
Co-Sports Editor, Staff Writer

The race for Lord Stanley's Cup is on and the playoff picture is starting to take shape. There are still some teams on the verge of getting into one of the most exciting postseason events in all of sports, but the true contenders have all made their cases.

The Eastern Conference has seen a power shift as it has quickly gone from the Metropolitan division to the Atlantic. While aging stars like Alexander Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby still dominate the game, they now have company at the top with stars rising in the other division.

Tampa Bay seems to have finally put everything together as they are the first team to clinch a spot in the playoffs. They have an offense that has only been blanked twice so far this season, and they average over four goals per game.

The issue the Lightning have had in the past is that their offense goes cold in the playoffs and their defense/goaltending falters. Despite their past, they have stars on the offensive, defensive and goaltending facets of the game, which makes them the most dangerous team going into the playoffs.

Star power and playoff experience is crucial, and the Penguins and Capitals have that. Ovechkin and Crosby have battled for the Eastern Conference crown since they broke into the league in the mid 2000s. As long as they play at a high level with their Stanley Cup winning goalies, they should always be considered threats.

In the West, the Calgary Flames have proven to be dangerous, but their lack of a true presence in net will prove to be their downfall. The San Jose Sharks are the West's best team with a good offense, stars on defense and a goalie in Martin Jones who can be unbeatable when he gets on a hot streak.

In the Central, the Nashville Predators emerged as the last team to get into the playoffs two seasons ago. They went to the Stanley Cup Finals that year and have been one of the league's best teams since. With the best all-around team, the Predators will be difficult to bring down, especially of goalie Pekka Rinne gets hot.

Overall, I think Tampa will struggle with Washington leading to their downfall. Brayden Holtby will get hot again and lead the Capitals to another Stanley Cup.

Kendyl

Tampa Bay Lightning seems to have a chance to make it into the Stanley Cup Finals. They had 112 points going into their game against the Washington Capitals on Saturday, Mar. 16.

The only other team close to that is the San Jose Sharks who had 94 points going into their Mar. 16 contest against the Nashville Predators.

It looks as though the other teams in the playoffs from the Atlantic Division will be the Boston Bruins and Toronto Maple Leafs. The

Bruins haven't been looking great lately and the Maple Leafs have had some good games lately, but lost three of their last seven contests.

For the Metropolitan Division, it seems like the Washington Capitals, New York Islanders and Pittsburgh Penguins are contenders.

The Capitals have won six of their last seven contests taking their only loss against the Penguins 5-3 on Mar. 12. The Islanders have won four of their last six games, taking their only losses on Mar. 3 and 9 against the Flyers.

It seems the Eastern Conference wild cards will be the Carolina Hurricanes and Columbus Blue Jackets. Both teams have had recent shutouts.

The Blue Jackets recorded their shutout Mar. 15 against the Hurricanes. The Hurricanes recorded theirs in their Mar. 11 contest against the Avalanche.

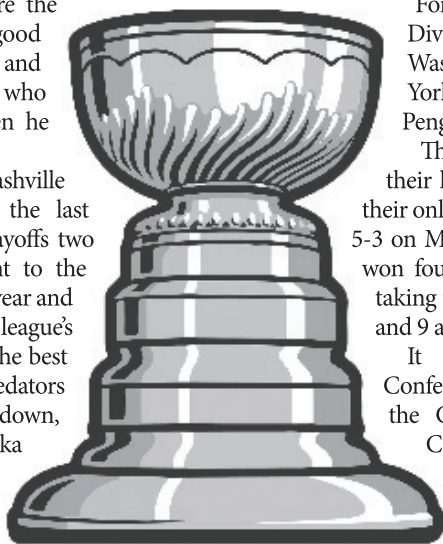
Central Division contenders are the Winnipeg Jets, Nashville Predators and St. Louis Blues. The Jets are first place in their division, while the Predators are in second and Blues are in third.

Contenders for the Pacific Division are the San Jose Sharks, Calgary Flames And Vegas Golden Knights. The Flames are in first place in the division taking wins in their last three games.

The Western Conference wild cards look like

they'll be the Dallas Stars and Arizona Coyotes. Both teams are fourth in their division and have won five of the last seven contests.

I believe that the Tampa Bay Lightning will be taking home the Stanley Cup this year. They've been looking pretty solid winning five of their last six contests, have already clinched their spot in the playoffs and lead the NHL in points.



Beacon Picks

ICE HOCKEY

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Spring Sports Schedules

Men's Tennis

3/16 @ Muhlenburg W 7-2
3/17 @ Yeshiva W 5-4
3/23 vs Franklin & Marshall 1 p.m.
3/24 @ No. 12 Wesleyan 11 a.m.
*3/30 @ FDU-Florham 12 p.m.
*4/6 vs Manhattanville 1 p.m.
*4/10 vs Misericordia 3:30 p.m.
*4/13 @ DeSales 9 a.m.
4/13 @ Villanova 3 p.m.
4/14 vs Drew 9 a.m.
4/14 vs Keystone 3 p.m.
*4/17 vs Eastern 3:30 p.m.
*4/24 @ King's 3:30 p.m.
4/25 @ Bloomsburg 4:30 p.m.
*4/27 vs Delaware Valley 11 a.m.
*Denotes MAC Freedom match

Women's Tennis

3/16 @ Muhlenburg W 9-0
3/23 vs Franklin & Marshall 1 p.m.
3/24 @ No. 5 Wesleyan 11 a.m.
*3/30 @ FDU-Florham 12 p.m.
*4/6 vs Manhattanville 1 p.m.
*4/10 vs Misericordia 3:30 p.m.
*4/13 @ DeSales 9 a.m.
4/14 vs Drew 9 a.m.
4/14 vs Keystone 3 p.m.
*4/17 vs Eastern 3:30 p.m.
*4/24 @ King's 3:30 p.m.
4/25 @ Bloomsburg 4:30 p.m.
*4/27 vs Delaware Valley 11 a.m.
4/27 vs Rutgers-Camden 3 p.m.
4/28 @ Stevens 12 p.m.
*Denotes MAC Freedom match

Men's Volleyball

1/16 vs Immaculata W 3-0
1/23 @ Mount St. Vincent W 3-0
1/26 vs Elizabethtown L 3-2
1/26 vs Keuka L 3-1
1/30 @ CCNY W 3-1
2/2 @ Purchase W 3-0
2/2 @ Baruch L 3-0
2/6 vs PSU Altoona L 3-0
*2/13 @ Widener W 3-0
*2/16 @ No. 4 Stevenson L 3-0
*2/16 vs Arcadia L 3-0
*2/23 vs Messiah College L 3-1
*2/23 vs Alvernia W 3-1
2/26 @ York (N.Y.) W 3-0
*2/28 vs Eastern W 3-1

*3/12 @ Misericordia L 3-0
*3/15 @ Messiah L 3-0
3/16 vs St. Joe's-Brooklyn W 3-0
3/16 vs Medaille L 3-0
*3/20 vs Misericordia 7 p.m.
*3/23 vs Stevenson 2 p.m.
3/23 vs PSU-Behrend 4 p.m.
*3/27 vs Arcadia 7 p.m.
3/30 vs Sarah Lawrence 11 a.m.
3/30 vs New Jersey City 1 p.m.
*4/3 @ Eastern 7 p.m.
*4/6 vs Alvernia 2 p.m.
*4/6 @ Widner 4 p.m.
*Denotes MAC match

Women's Lacrosse

2/23 @ Gwynedd Mercy L 18-8
3/2 vs Notre Dame Md. W 16-15
3/5 vs Purchase W 19-9
3/16 @ Old Westbury L 20-17
3/20 @ Keystone 4 p.m.
3/23 @ Maritime 1 p.m.
3/24 vs Medaille 2 p.m.
3/28 vs Mount St. Vincent 4 p.m.
*4/3 vs King's 5 p.m.
*4/6 vs Manhattanville 1 p.m.
*4/10 @ Eastern 4 p.m.
*4/13 vs Delaware Valley 1 p.m.
*4/17 @ Misericordia 4 p.m.
4/22 @ Cazenovia 4 p.m.
*4/24 vs DeSales 4 p.m.
*4/27 @ FDU-Florham 1 p.m.
*Denotes MAC Freedom game

NFL offseason kicks off

By Ben Mandell
Co-Sports Editor

Fans of the National Football League took a break from watching the Alliance of American Football last week as the NFL offseason picked up a lot of steam.

Many stars from around the league have found a new home including two of the league's best wide receivers.

Antonio Brown forced the Pittsburgh Steelers to trade him following a lot of drama with future Hall of Fame quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and long-time head coach Mike Tomlin. Brown was sent to the Oakland Raiders for third and fifth round draft picks.

The bigger surprise was the New York Giants shipping, Beckham, their dynamic receiver to the Cleveland Browns who have been very busy this offseason. The Giants received a third round pick, a first round pick and Jabrill Peppers, the No. 25 pick from the 2017 draft.

The move comes as a surprise because it comes less than a year after the Giants made him the highest paid receiver in league history, and a month after general manager Dave Gettleman stated "we did not sign Odell to trade him."



Other big moves around the league came from free agency. Landon Collins, one of the league's top safeties signed a huge six year \$84M contract with the Redskins after the Giants refused to franchise tag him.

CJ Mosely and Nick Foles were other players who took advantage of their teams

not placing the franchise tag on them. Both players scored

big in free agency as

Mosely signed a five year

\$85M contract with the Jett and Foles signed a

four year \$88M with the Jaguars.

The other huge name to sign was Leveon

Bell as he signed a four year \$52.5M contract with the Jets.

Many other players found new homes in the last week.

Golden Tate signed with the Giants, the Raiders made

Trent Brown the the highest paid offensive lineman per

year in league history thanks to a four year \$66M deal. The Eagles brought

in Malik Jackson and Desean Jackson as well as resigning Ronald Darby. The NFL offseason has just begun, and more moves will be made leading up to the entry draft next month. Many questions will be answered once the Cardinals make the first selection of this year's draft.

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BASE, from backcover

Not only did the weather conditions improve on Sunday, but so did the Colonels game play, which was evident as early on as the first inning against Koch. With one out, the Colonels were able to load the bases with Fischer, Capozzi and Giacometti, with the former two being walked and the latter being hit by a pitch.

This proved to be the perfect scenario for Nifenecker, who was the designated-hitter for pitcher sophomore Matt Konikow. After tying the game up with his clutch single to centerfield on the previous day, Nifenecker demonstrated his ability to deliver under high-intensity situations yet again, scoring Fischer on another single to centerfield.

Wing followed suit, singling down the right field line and scoring Capozzi. With Wilkes' offense making contact, Pronti put the icing on the cake with a three-run triple to right-centerfield, clearing the bases of his teammates and giving the Colonels the 5-0 lead in the first inning.

After the Cougars closed in on the Colonels lead over the course of three innings, Wilkes regained their momentum, tacking on three runs in the fifth inning. Junior Matt Reinert, who earned the Colonels top spot offensively with a .500 batting average on 10 at bats and added a walk, had a two-run single to centerfield to score Wing and Pronti. Patrizio singled to third base to score sophomore Vinny Bobbin to close out the inning.

In the sixth, Wilkes continued to rake with a lead-off triple to centerfield off of Giacometti's bat. Nifenecker did his job once again this weekend, scoring Giacometti on a productive ground-out to the shortshop.

Pronti, who followed Reinert on the leaderboard with a .444 batting average, a walk and a sacrifice bunt, singled to left field and scored on a Reinert single to centerfield.

The Colonels closed out the scoring in the bottom of the eighth when Bobbin scored on Fischer's sacrifice fly to right field, demonstrating their competitiveness with the 11-3 win they were able to snag from Misericordia.

Reinert, Pronti and Nifenecker proved to be imperative to the Colonels victory on the offensive end and Fischer led Wilkes' defense with two double plays in Sunday's game, including one that closed out the game and solidified the Colonels victory.

On the mound, freshman Gage Coudriet was able to stifle his opponents' bats. Being that Misericordia was pre-season ranked as third in the nation, this feat was impressive for a freshman who proved to be a calming influence despite the inevitable jitters he faced in his first appearance in a conference game.

The relief pitcher did exactly what his title entails - provided relief. Coudriet lasted five innings with one strikeout and gave up three hits and one run to lead his team to victory. Under his command, Misericordia suffered weak contact at the plate and their base runners were held to where they were. Coudriet's calm, cool and collected nature served him well in earning his first conference victory of his collegiate career.

Wilkes will go on to face Muhlenberg College in a non-conference matchup on Wednesday, Mar. 20 at 3:30 p.m. in their home opener at Artillery Park.

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Spring Sports Schedules

Men's Lacrosse

2/21 @ Marywood L 8-7 (2OT)
2/23 vs Wesley W 19-7
2/27 vs Utica W 12-9
3/5 @ Bridgewater L 12-8
3/9 vs Mount St. Vincent W 17-6
3/13 New England L 14-12
3/20 @ Alvernia 7 p.m.
3/23 vs Wells 1 p.m.
3/30 @ Mount St. Mary 1 p.m.
*4/3 @ King's 7 p.m.
*4/6 @ Mahattanville 1 p.m.
*4/10 vs Eastern 4 p.m.
*4/13 @ Delaware Valley 1 p.m.
*4/17 vs Misericordia 7 p.m.
*4/24 @ DeSales 7 p.m.
*4/27 vs FDU Florham 1 p.m.
*Denotes MAC Freedom game

Baseball

**3/2 vs Ma. Maritime W 9-7
**3/3 vs PSU-Behrend L 8-4
**3/3 vs Kenyon W 6-5
**3/4 vs Eastern Nazarene L11-9
**3/5 vs Muskingum L 7-3
**3/7 vs Dominican L 5-3
**3/8 vs NW Mn. (DH) L 4-3, L 7-4
**3/9 vs Houghton L 12-11
*3/16 @ Misericordia (DH) L 5-1, 5-3
*3/17 vs Misericordia 2 p.m.
3/20 vs Muhlenberg 3:30 p.m.
*3/22 @ Eastern 3:30 p.m.
*3/23 vs Eastern (DH) 1 p.m.
3/24 vs PSU-Brandywine (DH) 12 p.m.
3/27 vs Cabrini 3 p.m.
*3/29 vs DeSales 3:30 p.m.
*3/30 @ DeSales (DH) 1 p.m.

*Denotes MAC Freedom Game
**At Fort Pierce

Softball

3/3 @ Pfeiffer (DH) L7-0, L 1-0
**3/6 vs Wesley W 7-6
**3/6 vs Rivier W 10-1
**3/6 vs Mary Washington W 7-2
**3/7 vs Chatham W 7-6
**3/7 vs Guilford W 9-6
3/9 @ Randolph M. (DH) L 5-0, L 10-0
3/10 @ Eastern M. (DH) W 4-2, L 5-0
*3/17 vs Misericordia (DH) 2 p.m.
3/20 vs Keystone (DH) 4 p.m.
*3/23 @ Eastern (DH) 1 p.m.
3/24 vs Stockton (DH) 12 p.m.
3/27 vs Lycoming (DH) 3 p.m.

*3/30 vs DeSales (DH) 1 p.m.
4/3 @ Scranton (DH) 4 p.m.
*4/6 vs Manhattanville 1 p.m.
4/10 vs Clarks Summit (DH) 6 p.m.
*4/13 @ King's (DH) 1 p.m.
4/17 vs Marywood (DH) 4 p.m.
*4/18 vs Delaware Valley (DH) 1 p.m.
4/24 vs Susquehanna (DH) 5 p.m.
*4/27 @ FDU-Florham (DH) 1 p.m.
*Denotes MAC Freedom game
**Fastpitch Dreams Spring Classic



Getting to know...

John Wink

Senior Lacrosse Player

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week Mar. 5 - Mar. 11

Why John Wink was selected: Wink scored five goals in Wilkes' loss to Bridgewater, one of which was the 100th of his career. In a 17-6 win over Mount St. Vincent, Wink scored seven goals with two assists and four ground balls to lead Wilkes to a 1-1 week, recording 15 points and 12 goals.

Name: John Wink

Year: Senior

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Hometown: Glenside, Pa.

High School: Abington Senior HS

Position: Attack

Favorite building on campus?

Cohen Science Center.

Favorite professor?

Dr. Dralley.

What came first? The chicken or the egg?

The chicken.

Favorite meal to eat on campus?

My favorite meal to eat on campus is pizza from the SUB.

Coke or Pepsi?

Coke.

Most influential person in your life?

My dad.

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

If I could have dinner with a famous person, it would have to be Chris Farley.

A quote you live your life by?

I live my life by "G.E.T.S.O.M.E.," which means Go Every Time So Others May Everytime.

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

To me, "Be Colonel" means to be as "JT" as much as possible.

Anyone to give a shout-out to?

Sideline squad.

-Compiled by Kirsten Peters, Co-Sports Editor

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

I decided to come to Wilkes because of the river so I could go fishing.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

After graduation, I would like to move to New York and help Cody Geidel start a pickle plantation.

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I started playing lacrosse in the sixth grade because all my friends stopped playing baseball and started playing lacrosse instead.

Favorite thing to do during practice?

My favorite thing is walking all the way to the field house from the lower lot while at practice.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

This season, I hope that our team will make playoffs.

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

I would have the stadium on campus so that more people could come and enjoy our games.

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

I like to eat ice cream, and I really like a nice pair of slacks.



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."

The Beacon/Nicole Gaetani

Getting to know...

Kyra Boccio

Senior Lacrosse Player

The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week Mar. 5 - Mar. 11

Why Kyra Boccio was selected: Boccio earned the MAC Freedom Offensive Player of the Week honor after leading the Colonels second-half comeback against the Notre Dame of Maryland and reaching the 100-career-goals milestone by the end of the game.

Name: Kyra Boccio

Year: Senior

Major: Accounting & Management

Hometown: Dingmans Ferry, Pa.

High School: Delaware Valley HS

Position: Midfield

Favorite professor?

Professor Hughes.

Favorite building on campus?

Marts.

Favorite meal to eat on campus?

The ice cream.

Coke or Pepsi?

I don't drink either, so Ginger Ale.

What came first? The chicken or the egg?

Definitely, the egg.

Most influential person in your life?

My parents. They're both a big part of who I am and how I play. They're always at my games cheering me on, and they always believe in me, even when I don't believe in myself.

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

Robin Williams.

A quote you live your life by?

"Life does not have to be perfect to be wonderful."

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

It means that you should be strong and represent Wilkes in a positive manner.

Anyone to give a shout-out to?

My family: thank you for always showing up for me and being my biggest fans. Also, my teammates and coaches: thank you for supporting me and helping me reach my goals; I'm so glad to be able to finish my athletic career with you all.

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

I liked how close Wilkes is to home, and I had the opportunity to play lacrosse here.

Post graduation plans in terms of a career?

After graduation, I plan to work in the accounting department for a furniture company called Empire.

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I started playing around sixth grade because my family and friends taught me how to play.

Favorite thing to do during practice?

I really enjoy playing 7 v. 7 because it allows us to just have fun and play together. It really helps us mesh as a team.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

I hope to end my career with a strong season and just enjoy playing with my team for the last time.

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

I would improve our fundraising so we could do more activities as a team or even travel without having to spend our own money.

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

I enjoy working with horses and snowboarding.

-Compiled by Kirsten Peters, Co-Sports Editor

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The Beacon/Nicole Gaetani



BASE: Colonels salvage series against Misericordia

By Kirsten Peters
Co-Sports Editor

This past weekend, Wilkes baseball kicked off the start of their spring conference season.

After going 2-7 on their spring break trip to Myrtle Beach, the Colonels still appeared to be in a funk on Saturday, dropping both games of the doubleheader to Misericordia, 5-1 and 5-3. However, the Colonels were able to turn things around on Sunday, earning an 11-3 victory over the Cougars to finish the series 1-2.

In the first of their three-game series, Wilkes managed to get on the scoreboard early with a 1-0 lead in the top of the first. Senior Nicholas Capozzi was the only Colonel to tap each of the four bases, as he got on base with a single up the middle and scored when sophomore Charles Giacometti reached first base on an error to the shortshop.

With the temperature only getting lower

and snow squalls cascading over the field at various points throughout the second game, the Colonels ironically started to heat up and find their groove. In the top of the third, leadoff batter sophomore Michael Patrizio doubled to right field to put a man in scoring position. Senior Jack Fischer earned the RBI in the two-spot, singling up the middle to score Patrizio and leaving the Colonels trailing 2-1 after the third.

In the top of the sixth inning, Wilkes tried to execute a comeback. Giacometti started the inning with a single to centerfield, senior Brady Wing hit a bloop single over second base just into the outfield and sophomore Nick Pronti bumped the two runners over into scoring position with a sacrificial bunt. Pinch-hitter sophomore Bryan Nifenecker did his job with a single to centerfield, scoring Giacometti and Wing to tie the game 3-3.

Despite things looking up on the offensive-front for the Colonels, Misericordia was able to capitalize on Wilkes' hit-and-miss

pitching in the bottom of the sixth, scoring two runs and not relinquishing their lead in the top of the seventh to get the win.

After falling in both contests the previous day, the Colonels found themselves on the winning end during their final game of the series, earning their first MAC Freedom win of the season.

On the mound for the Cougars was senior pitcher Drake Koch, who shutdown Wilkes last season in the first game of the MAC Freedom Championship Tournament.

Although Koch went eight innings with seven strikeouts and only gave up four hits and three runs in Misericordia's dominating 16-3 performance to beat the Colonels last year, this season Wilkes appeared to have his number. The starting pitcher lasted a mere one-third of the first inning and gave up five runs before Misericordia pulled him and put in freshman Alejandro Santiago.

BASE, page 21



The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Sophomore Bryan Nifenecker proves to be instrumental at the plate, coming up clutch in each of the three games of the series and batting .375 on the weekend.

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