

# THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

## WBB: Colonels honor three on Senior Night

By Jason Eberhart  
Staff Writer

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. -- In what was one of its last games at the Marts Center this season, the Wilkes women's basketball team fell to the visiting Misericordia Cougars, 69-60, during Wilkes' Senior Night on March 12.

The Colonels had split the previous two games with the Cougars, winning the first non-conference matchup and dropping the opener of the home-and-home on March 11 at Misericordia.

This year's seniors - Maddie Kelley, Gabby Smicherko and Carolee Pierce - have been influential to the program, demonstrating key leadership the first few years in head coach Tara Macciocco's tenure at Wilkes.

"The three of them, over the last three years, have done an outstanding job of trying to build a culture within the program and trying to establish some expectations and goals," said Macciocco. "It may not show up in the win column, but it shows up in so many different areas."

In the game against Misericordia, Smicherko and the other seniors made their last stand. Smicherko fell slightly short of a double-double, scoring eight points and grabbing a team-high nine rebounds.

"I think, for the seniors, we just wanted to come out and try to finish as hard as we could," said Smicherko. "Even though we didn't get the win, I think we gave a great



Courtesy of Wilkes Athletics

Head coach Tara Macciocco (left) poses with Carolee Pierce, Gabby Smicherko and Maddie Kelley (from left to right) with their framed jerseys on Senior Night.

effort and tried our best to have a good end."

The Colonels grabbed the game's first points, but Misericordia responded with a 14-0 run and would carry a 20-9 lead after the first quarter. The Cougars started to get hot from behind the arc, drilling four three-pointers. The Colonels started to battle back heading into the second quarter, with the score at 30-23 heading into the break.

Misericordia went into the third quarter with a headstrong mentality, scoring 22 of their total game points in this quarter, including three straight three-pointers to open the quarter. The Cougars also held their largest lead of the game in the third quarter when they went up by 21 points.

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## Opinion: Sayonara, student lounge; here comes the campus bookstore

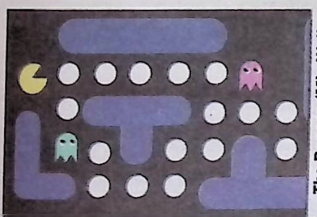
By William Billingsley  
Asst. Opinion Editor

I couldn't quite believe the email when I first read it: The university was really going to move the Barnes & Noble bookstore into the student lounge at the Student Union Building? I had so many questions. Like why would they do this? Is the administration truly blind to what the student body needs or wants?

Who was on this "committee of students, faculty and staff" that they unironically concluded that the best location for a campus bookstore, or any bookstore, was in the middle of campus? Was this announced in a "Today at Wilkes" email? Or did I have to know someone in order to say my piece? Truthfully, I do not know.

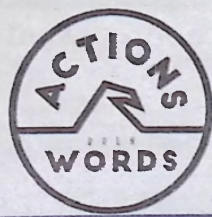
But what I do know is that if this decision is allowed to go forward in the SUB, it will do far more long-term damage to the student body than any illusionary gains for students. Sure, Dr. Greg Cant might claim that this will result in "cost savings on academic

BOOKSTORE, page 18



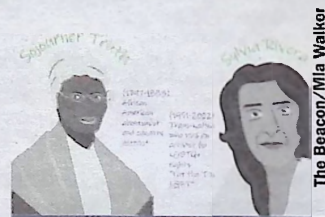
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Courtesy of Actions Over Words

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The Beacon/Mia Walker

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The Beacon/Ariel Reed

MLAX: Wilkes falls to 0-2 in non-conference play, page 19



# News

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

## Student Government: March 10 weekly meeting notes

By Maddy Kinard  
News Staff Writer

Student Government held its sixth virtual meeting, in which the council voted on the Race and the Curriculum Small Group Session fund request, reviewed a club request, went over the 2021 Spring Fling budget proposal and oversaw other internal business.

To start the meeting, Morgan Burton returned to re-present the fund request for Race and the Curriculum Small Group Sessions, a follow-up event to the virtual open forum on race and curriculum. The goal for this event is to have students in groups of three or five attend mini discussion sessions with either Dr. Chris Zarpentine or Dr. Mia Briceño.

Students would then have the opportunity to give their thoughts on their experiences with race and the curriculum,

along with the possibility of adding classes on diversity and African studies into the general education requirements.

To encourage participation, each group would be entered into a raffle and so would each individual within the group. Group prizes include paint by numbers, Wilkes swag and gift cards. The individual prize is an iPad and an Apple pencil. In total, the fund request comes to \$1,080.

A motion was made to allocate the full amount, and the vote passed unanimously.

Next, a Wilkes University Golf Club was proposed. The main goal is to make the sport of golf more accessible and to create a friendly and safe environment for golfers

of all skill levels.

With the \$300 that Student Government could grant, the club plans to delegate funding to two separate areas: to lower the cost per round of golf for members and for advertising. Currently, there is no other Golf Club at the university outside of Wilkes Athletics' golf team.

Student Government will vote on the approval of the club next week.

Executive Corresponding Secretary Nataliya Scarantino presented the 2021 Spring Fling Budget Proposal.

The general plan, which is subject to change in case anything should happen, is to hold the event in a banquet hall. There



will be two dinners, 100 people at each, with one at 6 p.m. and one at 8 p.m. The dance will also meet COVID-19 guidelines by possibly requiring double masking and distancing tables.

The total budget request comes to \$20,000 and will be voted on next week.

In the way of internal business, the council voted on member and club of the month for February. First-Year Class Vice President Sarah Erickson and the Society of Student Nurses won with no opposition.

The hours on academic buildings have been changed from their normal times. Buildings will open as usual; however, they will now close at midnight. Weekend hours have been extended and will open at 10 a.m. and close at 6 p.m.

@wilkesbeacon  
Madelynn.Kinard@wilkes.edu

## Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Sara Ross

### Virtual Career and Internship Fair

The second Wilkes Virtual Career and Internship Fair of this school year is scheduled for March 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To sign-up, students are required to get an account on Handshake using their Wilkes student emails. This will allow them to not only register for the fair but also check out available internship opportunities.

Once students are registered, they can sign-up for company information sessions and one-on-one interview sessions. A few of the companies listed include Benco Dental, Geisinger, UGI, ENX2 Marketing, Domestic Violence Center and the Reading School District. Any questions about the event should be directed toward the Coordinator of Career Services Lisa Mulvey.

### English Department Welcomes Writer Poupeh Missaghi

As part of the Allan Hamilton Dickson Fund Spring Writers Series, the Wilkes

English Department is hosting a Zoom lecture with Poupeh Missaghi today around 7 p.m. She will read from her work and reflect on her creative process when writing.

Missaghi is a writer, Persian translator, the Iran editor for Asymptotejournal.com and an educator. She holds a Ph.D. in English and creative writing from the University of Denver and a master's of arts in creative writing from Johns Hopkins University. Her nonfiction, fiction and translations have appeared in a variety of journals, and she has many translation books published in Iran.

Currently, Missaghi is a visiting assistant professor at the Pratt Institute. Her debut novel was published by Coffee House Press in February 2020.

### Help HPSC Save Soda Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House

Throughout March, HPSC is running a soda tab drive with the Ronald McDonald House in Scranton. As an organization, the Ronald McDonald House serves and helps critically sick children and their families

stay close together while their child is receiving treatments.

This will be the first soda tab drive hosted through HPSC. Students can donate their soda tabs at various drop-off locations, including the Henry Student Center, the P.O.D., the Waller Hall student lounge, University Towers student lounge and near select vending machines around campus.

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## Upcoming Events: 2021 Spring Semester

**March**  
15-19 - Senior Pictures  
17 - Allan Hamilton Dickson Writer Series Lecture with Poupeh Missaghi  
17 - The Social Dilemma Film  
18 - Virtual Career Fair  
19 - Paint & Sip with Biology Club  
19 - Intermural and Esports Sign-Ups  
24 - Martha Posner and Amy Arbus Lecture  
26-28 - Spring Fling Festivities  
31 - Toxic & Unnatural Causes Film  
31 - Submission Deadline to be a Guest Reader at Wyoming Free Library

**April**  
2 - Manuscript Submissions deadline  
2 - Pharmacy Clothing Sale ends  
6 - Karley Stasko's Create Your Own Macrame Plant Holder Event  
14 - Crisp Camp Film  
19 - American Red Cross Blood Drive

**May**  
15-22 - Final exams period

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# Art in Context: The visu

By Sean Schmoyer  
Co-News Editor

Editor's note: This page contains graphic and potentially triggering themes and content.

In the most recent Art in Context Lecture titled, "From Silence to a Scream: The Visual Representation of Women's Trauma," Director of the Sordani Art Gallery Heather Sincavage discussed how art history has normalized violence against women and how women's trauma has been depicted over time.

A central focus of the lecture was the fact that for much of history women have been, "subjects to be depicted, seldom the ones to speak and be heard," as the SAG stated in the preview for the lecture.

Sincavage first presented statistics from the National Sexual Violence Research Center.

"One in four college undergraduate women in the United States are sexually assaulted as of 2019," said Sincavage.

She included statistics to explain that the topic of women's trauma relates to people and should be important to everyone.

"The topic of women's trauma in art is not talked about enough, (though it seems to be normalized in historical art)," said Jess Morandi, senior digital design and media art major. "Every artist is a person first, and dissecting how trauma, especially in women, affects their work is so important. Heather has a beautiful wealth of knowledge on the topic and verbalizes it in a way that is more easily digestible. Hearing her talk

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"Professor Sincava representation of the ( and the Swan in visua teach the W.B. Yeats J Swan, which is based When I teach the p



"Leda and the Swan" engraving by Louis Garreau after Jan V depicts Leda's rape.

Photos



# Art in Context: The visual representation of women's trauma

By Sean Schmoeyer  
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always amazes me, but especially with this lecture, hearing her speak about something she's so passionate about was wonderful."

Sincavage then spoke about the normalization of violence against women. She identified that much of this art was created by men with a clear purpose. Violence and rape against women being displayed in art allowed for patriarchal societies to relegate women to submissive positions, while also showcasing power and control they believed personified men.

One example Sincavage looked at is the myth of "Leda and the Swan" from Greek mythology.

The myth tells of Zeus taking the form of a swan to rape Leda. Sincavage noted that this image has been used by artists repeatedly.

Dr. Helen Davis, associate professor of English, discussed the relationship between Sincavage's lecture and her own field of study.

Davis explained that rape has been used in literature as a way to depict power and control, such as in works by white male British writers when writing about colonized lands. The rape of native woman reinforces ideas of colonial power and control, while also showing that rape is used as a plot device to legitimize abuse that occurs under colonization.

"Professor Sincavage discussed the representation of the Greek myth of Leda and the Swan in visual art," said Davis. "I teach the W.B. Yeats poem 'Leda and the Swan,' which is based on the same myth. When I teach the poem, I always talk

about the myth as a rape myth and discuss the many artistic representations of the rape in art by male artists. Professor Sincavage's talk included Martha Posner's 'Leda,' which offered a woman's artistic response to the myth. I'll be adding that image to my class discussions in this and future semesters."

Sincavage noted Martha Posner's "Leda," though not featured in the "Brutal Beauty" exhibit, the piece focuses on Leda as a victim and her trauma, rather than on the act of her rape or glorifying Zeus' power and control over her.

Sincavage spent much of the lecture speaking on the works of women who, instead of depicting the act of rape or sexual assault, depict the trauma and focus on the woman's physical or emotional state after being assaulted.

She identified that trauma rewires the body and that there are numerous immediate repercussions of trauma that are played out as emotional, physical, cognitive, behavioral and existential reactions.

The lecture closed with Sincavage's section titled, "At What Cost," in which she reflects and builds on the topics she discussed throughout the lecture.

"We really need to recognize trauma survivors first as people and acknowledge



Photo courtesy of The Sordoni Art Gallery/Jess Morandi

**Director of the Sordoni Art Gallery Heather Sincavage stands in front of Martha Posner's #MeToo collection in the "Brutal Beauty" exhibit.**

how trauma manifests in the body before it is used artistically," said Sincavage. "Rape and intimate partner violence trauma is akin to those who have survived war and natural disaster. It is important to realize that the nature of trauma should not be compared or measured against large scale events - they are the same."

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Sean.Schmoeyer@wilkes.edu



"Leda and the Swan" engraving by Louis Garreau after Jan Verkoyle (1650-93), which depicts Leda's rape.



Martha Posner's "Leda" (1993), which mimics other art of Leda and focuses on her genitalia and the state of vulnerability she is in.

Photos provided by Heather Sincavage during her lecture

rs: Sean.Schmoeyer@wilkes.edu and Sara.Ross@wilkes.edu

## Meeting notes

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### Events: 2021 Spring Semester

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- 19 - American Red Cross Blood Drive

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15-22 - Final exams period

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# Learn, play with game and emergent technology minor

By Sean Schmoyer  
Co-News Editor

Back in 2019, Dr. Shou (Andy) Ren, assistant professor of integrative media, joined the faculty at Wilkes. He hoped to bring with him a new curriculum, which would allow students to learn more about game design, virtual reality and augmented reality technology.

In 2020, Ren successfully incorporated the curriculum, and students were able to begin taking courses and earn a minor in game and emergent technology.

Sam Lacomby, senior digital design and media art major, will be the first student to graduate with the game and emergent technology minor.

"I still remember the day Eric Ruggerio sent out the email to the DDMA students about the first class, Game Design Foundations, back when it was just a topic class, not even with its own set number," said Lacomby. "It took me about five minutes to drop a class I was going to take and to email Eric to add me to the roster because game development has always been something I loved watching and seeing. Being a part of this growing minor is absolutely thrilling for me, and I'm so excited to see it grow after I graduate."

Lacomby mentioned that before the new minor, she was not sure what she planned to do for a career, but now her interest in coding and knowledge from courses she has taken has led her to pursue a career in game development.

The goal of the minor is to equip students with skill sets relating to coding and

programming, 3D modeling and animation and art and creativity.

"Media art and game design are very closely tied to each other," said Ren. "When you think about designing a game, you can think of it as a creative process, and it not only needs programmers, but it also needs artists so they can collaborate together to make this happen."

Some of the courses available to students are: Foundations of Game Design, Introduction to Game Development, Virtual Environments and Emergent Technology (AR/VR), 2D Mobile App Design and more.

Ray Parricelli, junior digital design and media art major, stated that the highlights of his experience in the minor have been the various games he and his classmates have gotten to build. This includes their own

platformer games as well as remakes of games like "Pong."

Parricelli also described games with flyable planes and even a controllable tank that was made in the 3D game development class.

"Professor Ren has been incredible to learn under," said Parricelli. "On every topic we have covered, Dr. Ren has always appeared knowledgeable and experienced. When it comes to his assignments, he has always been very understanding and inspiring over the production process. I really want to stress how approachable he feels as a tutor. Whenever I am struggling with an assignment, or I cannot get some of my code to work, I have never felt worried about how Dr. Ren would act upon me asking for more help, and when I do need extra help he is always very swift in helping me

find a solution."

Courses like 3D game assets modeling and 3D environments and animation allow students to get experience with programs not used in other courses.

Sean Wagner, junior digital design and media art major, said, "I've gained skills using Unity that I never had before, and I also learned more about coding, and a software called SketchUp, though we only used it a small amount. I also got some more experience using software like Maya and Cinema 4D."

Additionally, Wagner noted that the highlights of his time working on the minor were the LAN parties, where the students had cheesecake and had a chance to see the games and concepts other students came up with.

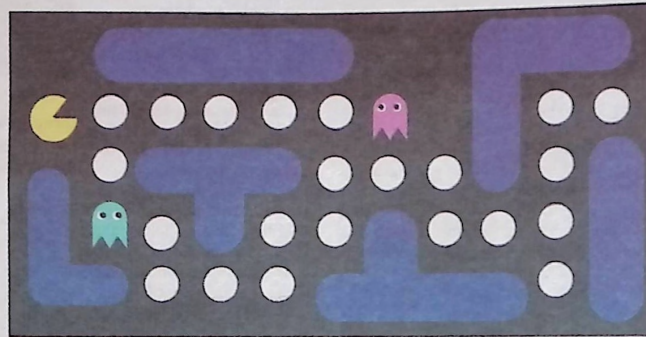
Ren talked more about the LAN parties, explaining that the parties are meant to allow students to relax at the end of the semester after they have completed their major projects, as well as allow students to play-test each other's games.

Ren explained that the job market for the video game industry has been projected to continue to experience huge growth, meaning there will be a large number of job openings for students who acquire the minor.

With a group of students passionate about the minor, Ren hopes to be able to enhance the quality of the minor over time by getting new windows PCs for the lab and potentially to move the lab out of the basement of Breiseth.



Sean.Schmoyer@wilkes.edu  
Graphic by Mia Walker



# Terry Gross brings "Fresh Air" to Max Rosenn Lecture

By Anna Culver  
Staff Writer

Wilkes University communication studies students had the opportunity to chat with Terry Gross, award-winning host and co-executive producer of Public Radio's Fresh Air. Gross was invited to the university over Zoom through the 39th Annual Max Rosenn Lecture in Law and Humanities series.

Gross spoke with students about her experiences with interviewing individuals and her personal life. Students asked her questions about specific interviews and about how Gross prepares for them. Further, Gross discussed broadcasting, debriefing after interviews, how the pandemic has affected her work and more.

Gross revealed how she prepared for interviews before the pandemic by doing as much research about her interviewee and then sleeping on that information. Gross detailed how her thought process

of developing questions came from a good night's rest and a fresh mind.

"It should surprise no one that Terry Gross is a phenomenal conversationalist," said Jennifer Boch, an honors student and international relations major. "What did surprise me is Terry Gross is simultaneously open and genuine but still able to keep a sense of intrigue and almost mystery about herself. I also appreciated her candidness concerning the trade-off between a full-time career and a personal life, as this is a decision I will have to make. I honestly wish that we could have spoken with her longer."

"My favorite part of the Q&A was at the very end when she gave the students some final words of encouragement, concerning the future and opportunities. It is good to hear that COVID and other obstacles will be just a temporary blip in our stories. I was glad to be involved in this cool opportunity."

One student asked about the beginning of Gross's career, and Gross discussed how

she continued to stay in broadcast radio after beginning her career in a leaky office.

"The drive was the work," said Gross. "I loved the work. All I could think about was how lucky I was to find work that I really loved that seemed to have a certain magic to it because of the idea of radio waves and being able to say something and it be broadcast. The fact that it would be my voice and my interview on those airwaves, it seemed magical. I loved doing the interviews."

Through interviews, Gross has met many of her heroes and has not always had the best experience. With this said, a student asked Gross whether or not one should not meet their heroes if this can be the case.

"I have met some of my heroes, who either I have not liked very much in the interview or one of them walked out on me," said Gross. "Some of them just seemed like not especially nice people, and I have had to learn to divide the art from the person. Sometimes really nice people make not very interesting

art, and sometimes really interesting art is made by not very nice people."

Students enjoyed discussions of career advice and how Gross chose to follow her passions instead of what was traditionally expected of a woman in the early 1970s.

Gross went on to discuss her love of music, her cats and her interview experiences, which gave the students the chance to have a very personal conversation with her.

"The Terry Gross Q&A was a wonderful opportunity for us as students to communicate in a virtual, yet intimate space with a person of that stature," said Shawn Austin, a senior communication studies major. "She is highly regarded in her field, as she is a member of the Radio Hall of Fame. I was honored to be a part of the assembly put together by Wilkes University and Terry's team."

Students and staff will be able to view the recorded interview (conducted later in the afternoon) with Dr. Mark Stine later in April.

# Biden announces 1

By Genny Frederick  
Asst. News Editor

On March 10, President Joe Biden announced plans to purchase 100 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. Johnson & Johnson will partner with Merck, a multinational pharmaceutical company, to expedite the manufacturing of the vaccines. The vaccines are expected to be available by the end of May.

This planned purchase, in addition to vaccine purchases from Pfizer and Moderna, secures vaccine doses for all United States adults. This number of vaccines provides a security blanket in case extra vaccines are needed. Biden commented on the extra vaccines during the briefing.

"I'm doing this because in these wartime efforts we need maximum flexibility," Biden said. "There's always a chance that we'll encounter unexpected challenges or there will be a need for a new vaccine effort."

Biden added if the U.S. has extra vaccines, they will be donated to other countries.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine has the benefit of being only one dose, as opposed to the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, which are each two doses. This one dose vaccine offers increased convenience and is more reminiscent of traditional vaccine delivery.

The composition of the Johnson &

Johnson vaccine Moderna and Pfizer mRNA-based vaccine is an adenovirus modified version of an immune response to the adenovirus technologies.

Dr. Ka Lok Hon of pharmaceutical the two vaccine ty

"Before COVID adenoviral vector approved (by authorities) for use was the Ebola by Johnson & said Hong. "It

same technology COVID vaccine. many people misconception they hear the mRNA. Some p

believe it is gene th

and would alter gene of the recipe. In fact, both adenovirus vaccine and mRNA nucleus of human can affect our genes also dose-depend

# Ethics seminar talks

By Maddy Kinard  
News Staff Writer

On March 9, the Honors Program held an ethics seminar discussing who should receive the COVID-19 vaccine first and the decision-making process.

Interim Director Dr. Jonathan Kuiken and Assistant Jennifer McLaughlin were joined by Associate Professor and Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences Dr. Marie A. Roke Thomas and Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences Dr. Mary F. McManus to speak on the topic.

To start the lecture, McManus shared a list of seven hypothetical examples of recipients who would need the vaccine and posed a difficult question to attendees: Who should get it first?

McManus explained that many factors go into answering this, and who receives the vaccine first will be the most important decision made in 2021. For example, there are the elderly who die at a much higher rate than others, the front line workers who come into contact with

those infected and conditions.

When it comes ethical decisions that the least serious can take a negative view on how it is viewed.

"Our least seen community seen said Thomas. "Socially vulnerable by race or ethnicity social vulnerability a plan to roll vulnerability. But

that the first people this vaccine to really vulnerable out of them?"

To read the please visit thewill

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# Biden announces 100 million J&J vaccine doses by May

By **Genny Frederick**  
Asst. News Editor

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The composition of the Johnson &

Johnson vaccine is also different from the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine, which is an mRNA-based vaccine. Johnson & Johnson's is an adenovirus vector vaccine, which uses a modified version of another virus to produce an immune response. The mRNA vaccine and the adenovirus vector vaccine are both new technologies.

Dr. Ka Lok Hong, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, explained the two vaccine types.

"Before COVID, the only adenoviral vector vaccine approved (by European authorities) for human use was the Ebola vaccine by Johnson & Johnson," said Hong. "It uses the same technology as the COVID vaccine. I think many people have a misconception when they hear the term mRNA. Some people believe it is gene therapy and would alter the gene of the recipient."

In fact, both adenoviral vector vaccine and mRNA vaccine do not enter the nucleus of human cells, and neither of them can affect our genome. All three vaccines are also dose-dependent, meaning the vaccine

material wears off over a relatively short period."

There have been concerns about the effectiveness of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

According to the company's press release, studies "demonstrated the vaccine was 85 percent effective in preventing severe disease across all regions studied and showed protection against COVID-19 related hospitalization and death, beginning 28 days after vaccination."

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines both tested above 90 percent effective, but do the percentages of effectiveness matter at this level?

Hong explained that the trial time period was different for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which could account for the lower percent effectiveness.

"Johnson & Johnson entered the Phase III trial globally in late September 2020," said Hong. "By that time, a few reported new mutant variants have emerged, notably the B.1.351, from South Africa that can evade some of the antibodies produced by vaccination. This also affected the reported efficacy data from Johnson & Johnson's trial

in South Africa."

Hong also pointed out that the purpose of the vaccine is to save lives, and all three vaccines prevent serious cases of COVID-19 and death.

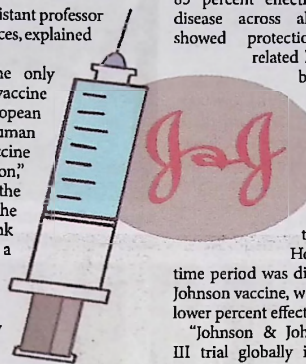
Hong, along with medical professionals across the country, is not alarmed by the lower percent effectiveness of the vaccine, and anyone who is eligible to receive the vaccine is encouraged to do so.

For many people, that eligibility is still up in the air. Right now, vaccine distribution is focused on healthcare personnel, residents of long-term care facilities, individuals 65 years of age and older, individuals with underlying medical conditions and essential workers. This eligibility is expected to grow as more vaccines are spread for distribution.

Sean McMonagle, a senior biology major, expressed his hope in the growing number of vaccines being distributed.

"Slowly but surely, vaccines are getting to people who need them and cases are starting to go down," McMonagle said. "Other strains are mucking things up a bit, but hopefully, we can get our feet under us, so to speak, with the main strain and then address the new strain."

Biden's current plan aims to bring the country back to pre-pandemic normalcy by July 4. The 100 million Johnson & Johnson vaccines are a step on the track for that Independence Day goal.



## Technology minor

find a solution." Courses like 3D game assets modeling and 3D environments and animation allow students to get experience with programs not used in other courses.

Sean Wagner, junior digital design and media art major, said, "I've gained skills using Unity that I never had before, and I also learned more about coding, and a software called SketchUp, though we only used it a small amount. I also got some more experience using software like Maya and Cinema 4D."

Additionally, Wagner noted that the highlights of his time working on the minor were the LAN parties, where the students had cheesecake and had a chance to see the games and concepts other students came up with.

Ren talked more about the LAN parties, explaining that the parties are meant to allow students to relax at the end of the semester after they have completed their major projects, as well as allow students to play-test each other's games.

Ren explained that the job market for the video game industry has been projected to continue to experience huge growth, meaning there will be a large number of job openings for students who acquire the minor.

With a group of students passionate about the minor, Ren hopes to be able to enhance the quality of the minor over time by getting new windows PCs for the lab and potentially to move the lab out of the basement of Breiseth.

Sean.Schmoyer@wilkes.edu  
Graphic by Mia Walker

## Terry Gross Lecture

art, and sometimes really interesting art is made by not very nice people."

Students enjoyed discussions of career advice and how Gross chose to follow her passions instead of what was traditionally expected of a woman in the early 1970s.

Gross went on to discuss her love of music, her cats and her interview experiences, which gave the students the chance to have a very personal conversation with her.

"The Terry Gross Q&A was a wonderful opportunity for us as students to communicate in a virtual, yet intimate space with a person of that stature," said Shawn Austin, a senior communication studies major. "She is highly regarded in her field, as she is a member of the Radio Hall of Fame. I was honored to be a part of the assembly put together by Wilkes University and Terry's team."

Students and staff will be able to view the recorded interview (conducted later in the afternoon) with Dr. Mark Stine later in April.

## Ethics seminar talks vaccines

By **Maddy Kinard**  
News Staff Writer

On March 9, the Honors Program held an ethics seminar discussing who should receive the COVID-19 vaccine first and the decision-making process.

Interim Director Dr. Jonathan Kuiken and Assistant Jennifer McLaughlin were joined by Associate Professor and Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences Dr. Marie A. Roke Thomas and Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences Dr. Mary F. McManus to speak on the topic.

To start the lecture, McManus shared a list of seven hypothetical examples of recipients who would need the vaccine and posed a difficult question to attendees: Who should get it first?

McManus explained that many factors go into answering this, and who receives the vaccine first will be the most important decision made in 2021. For example, there are the elderly who die at a much higher rate than others, the front line workers who come into contact with

those infected and those with pre-existing conditions.

When it comes to making these types of ethical decisions, it is important to ensure that the least served group benefits. This can take a negative turn depending upon how it is viewed.

"Our least served individuals in our community seemed to be hit the hardest," said Thomas. "So, do we give the vaccine by race or ethnicity? Should we look at social vulnerability? The CDC developed a plan to roll it out based on social vulnerability. But, what happens then is that the first population you are giving this vaccine to are all people who are really vulnerable — are you just testing it out of them?"

To read the rest of the article, please visit the News section on [thewilkesbeacon.com](http://thewilkesbeacon.com).

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# Wilkes lights the night with hope at COVID-19 vigil

By Sara Ross  
Co-News Editor

As the sun set on March 9, the Wilkes community gathered outside of Weckesser Hall for a vigil to honor the 500,000 lives lost since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The walkway near Weckesser and UCOM were outlined with bags filled with candles. Around 5:45 p.m., crowds gathered around Weckesser.

Short speeches were given by Interfaith Coordinator Kristen Osipower, Student Body President Kevin Long and Wilkes President Dr. Greg Cant.


"The recent milestones that have passed, between the death toll count and then the year anniversary of us dismissing as a

college - it all came together that now is the right time," said Osipower.

Briefly, everyone quieted for a moment of silence before sentiments were shared by Long and Cant.

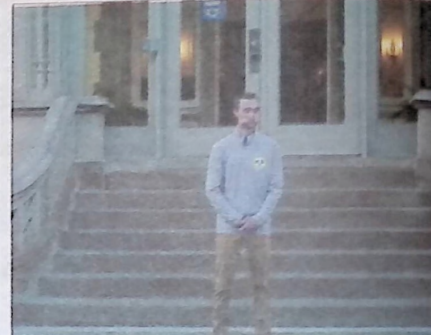
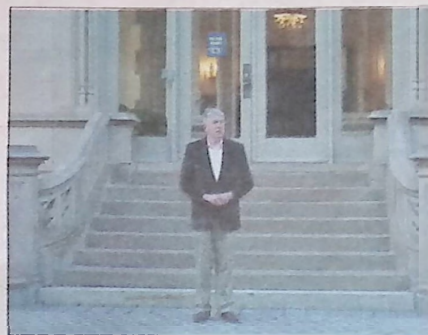
Cant touched upon his experience of becoming president at the start of the pandemic. He thanked those who provided him with guidance when he first transitioned into his role.

The vigil wrapped with Wilkes University's Chorus, led by its director Dr. Leesa Levy, singing, "The Lord Bless You and Keep You," a song that lifted and lightened the spirits of all despite the occasion.

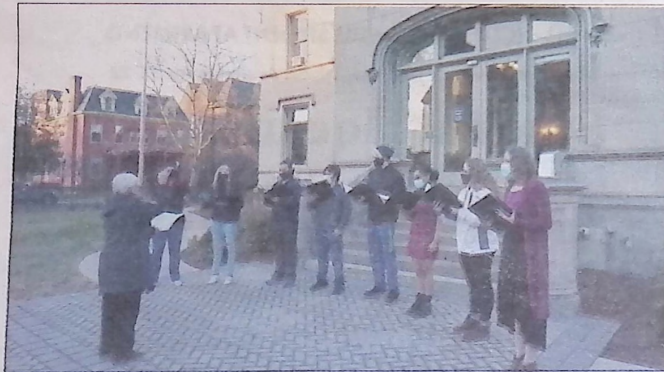
 @wilkesbeacon  
Sara.Ross@wilkes.edu



Student Development Intern Logan Blechy held a sign remembering the 500,000 lived lost to COVID-19.



Pictured from left to right: Outside of Weckesser Hall, Interfaith Coordinator Kristen Osipower, Wilkes University President Dr. Greg Cant and Student Body President Kevin Long gave their speeches during the vigil. Each of them highlighted how the pandemic affected them personally and also the Wilkes community.



The Wilkes University Chorus led by Dr. Leesa Leevy closed the vigil singing, "The Lord Bless You and Keep You," as the sun began to set and dipped over the hills.



Photos: The Beacon/Sara Ross and Steffen Horwath  
The walkway between Weckesser and UCOM was decorated with luminaries lining each side.

# Life, Arts & E

## Farley Library creates W

By Liz Cherinka  
Social Media Manager

The E.S. Farley Library is celebrating Women's History Month with a virtual suggested reading list available on the library's website.

To access this list, head to the E.S. Farley library website and look for "Women's History Month" under the library resources and research guides tabs.

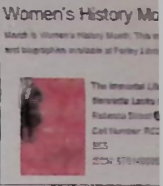
"Women have made so many important contributions to history, but unfortunately, many of those achievements have not been shared or credited in the same way that achievements by men have been," said Heather Bowman, electronic resources librarian. "The books on this list tell stories that a lot of us have never heard before."

Other staff of the library also feel that this list is important to commemorate Women's History Month.

Helen Campbell, a sophomore environmental science student, said, "I think it is good to show that perspective of another person's experience."

Colette Elick, who works in circulation, seconds Campbell's point.

"I think it's great because a library is a place that has information and should list titles for people," said Elick. "It is pertinent to what is going on right now."



### The "Women's Hist

guide in the Farley |  
The reading list has a others on the Wilkes can Dr. Helen Davis, as English, said, "Like other women have frequently their scientific, technol philosophical contributi history and highlighting of women is important."

Some of the reading "Becoming" by Michelle The Girl Who Stood I was Shot by the Talibar a biography titled "Th Eleanor Roosevelt's H Stephen Drury Smith; the American Dream of the Black Womer

## Manuscript Society pu

By Jordan Danlel  
Asst. Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Manuscript Society partnered with the Multicultural Student Coalition to publish a Spring 2021 special edition of the Manuscript. This issue's theme, "Black Lives Matter," came out earlier this month on March 5 and displays works by students that used their talents to voice their own stories and experiences in relation to the BLM Movement.

The "Black Lives Matter" issue is considered a special edition because Manuscript Society usually releases an issue annually, and they do not always include a theme. This is the first time in recent years that they released a second edition and even one with a theme.

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director over the su board about finding Black Lives Matter M said Sarah Weymand and executive directo "White authors usual we wanted to chang scale, and give the m We really took the 'i moment' concept the summer seriously. the talents of our ca pay attention to these

Before Weymand c the Manuscript Socie Zoom meeting with and discussed how inclusive on campu



# Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be featured? Contact life, arts & entertainment editor: [Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu](mailto:Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu)

## Farley Library creates Women's History month book collection

By **Liz Cherinka**  
Social Media Manager

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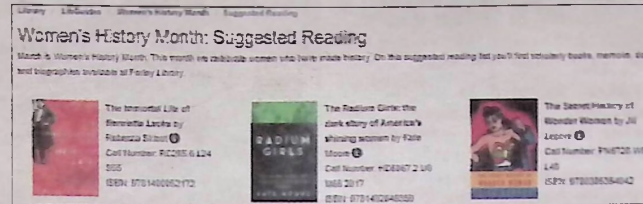
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"I think it's great because a library is a place that has information and should list titles for people," said Elick. "It is pertinent to what is going on right now."



The Beacon/Emily Cherkauskas

The "Women's History Month" collection is now available as a research guide in the Farley Library online database.

The reading list has also caught the eye of others on the Wilkes campus.

Dr. Helen Davis, associate professor of English, said, "Like other marginalized groups, women have frequently not gotten credit for their scientific, technological, theoretical and philosophical contributions, so celebrating that history and highlighting the accomplishments of women is important."

Some of the reading options on the list are "Becoming" by Michelle Obama; "I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban" by Malala Yousafzai; a biography titled "The First Lady of Radio: Eleanor Roosevelt's Historic Broadcasts" by Stephen Drury Smith; and "Hidden Figures: the American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians who

Helped win the Space Race" by Margot Lee. The reading list contains a wide variety of books, such as memoirs, biographies, scholarly books and diaries.

Bowman notes that her favorite book on the list is "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot.

"Picking a favorite book is always so hard — I had never heard of Henrietta Lacks or HeLa cells before I read this book," said Bowman. "She made an incredible contribution to medical research, but it was done without her consent. At the time I read the book, I didn't know there was still racial injustice and disparity in health care. It opened my eyes in many ways."

Davis shared that there are a number of influential women writers who have

influenced her.

"I have many favorite writers who are women, but a few of my favorites are: Audre Lorde, poet and essayist; Adrienne Rich, poet; Toni Morrison, novelist and essayist; Charlotte Brontë, novelist and poet; and Virginia Woolf, novelist and essayist."

While these authors are not included on the reading list, their works can be found in the Farley Library.

The library also had a virtual reading list for Black History Month in February. That list was created with help from Erica Acosta, associate director of diversity initiatives for the Center for Global Education and Diversity.

Bowman believes this project is just an extension of the Black History Month project. She says that sharing stories helps to educate people and "advocate for change."

"We've had a lot of conversations as a society and within the Wilkes community about diversity, equity and inclusion this past year," said Bowman. "I wanted to find a way to bring the library's collections into these conversations as a supporting piece."

The suggested readings for Women's History Month will be accessible year-round on the E.S. Farley Library website. Interested readers can check out the empowering collection.

[@wilkesbeacon](https://twitter.com/wilkesbeacon)  
[Elizabeth.Cherinka@wilkes.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Cherinka@wilkes.edu)

## Manuscript Society publishes special Black Lives Matter issue

By **Jordan Daniel**  
Asst. Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Manuscript Society partnered with the Multicultural Student Coalition to publish a Spring 2021 special edition of the Manuscript. This issue's theme, "Black Lives Matter," came out earlier this month on March 5 and displays works by students that used their talents to voice their own stories and experiences in relation to the BLM Movement.

The "Black Lives Matter" issue is considered a special edition because Manuscript Society usually releases an issue annually, and they do not always include a theme. This is the first time in recent years that they released a second edition and even one with a theme.

"I acquired the position of executive

director over the summer and emailed my board about finding ways to emphasize the Black Lives Matter Movement in our work," said Sarah Weynand, senior English major and executive director of Manuscript Society. "White authors usually take the spotlight, but we wanted to change that, even on a small scale, and give the microphone to our peers. We really took the 'it's the movement, not a moment' concept that was emphasized over the summer seriously. We wanted to showcase the talents of our campus and make people pay attention to these pieces."

Before Weynand discussed this issue with the Manuscript Society board, she attended a Zoom meeting with other people on campus and discussed how to be more aware and inclusive on campus. During the meeting,

the topic of showcasing the voices of Black students on campus came up, which inspired the board. Manuscript Society is always looking for outreach initiatives with the student body.

Therefore, Weynand took it upon herself to email the president of MSC, Brianna Rowland, because she remembered Rowland hosted an incredible poetry slam event that many of last year's members of Manuscript Society participated in. Although they knew COVID-19 would be a challenge they would have to overcome to get this issue out, they worked hard, and the special edition was successful in memorializing students' voices with the focus on BLM.

"I am immensely proud of the editorial board's work, of all Manuscript staff work on

the issue and regarding the student writing contained in this edition," said Dr. Chad Stanley, associate professor of English, writing center director and co-adviser of Manuscript Society. "It is an especially significant accomplishment given the challenges of the last year, and of our current and still-distanced situation."

There are a total of 23 pieces of work in the "Black Lives Matter" issue of the Manuscript, and all the works are incredible and very emotional. Weynand shared her opinion on some of the pieces included in the issue.

According to Weynand, on the subject of the pieces within the issue, she could not choose a favorite.

**MANUSCRIPT, page 9**



Photos: The Beacon/Sara Ross and Steffen Horwath  
Weckesser and UCOM was decorated with luminaries

Logan Blechy held a sign remembering the COVID-19.

University President Dr. Greg Cant and Student Body elected them personally and also the Wilkes community.



# Moody Foodie's baked balsamic portobello mushroom dish

By Anna Culver  
Staff Writer

*I decided to pair this recipe with some butter herb noodles, but this recipe goes wonderfully with a salad or can be eaten by itself, depending on your preference. The simplicity of the mushroom dish allows for an overall easily customizable entree.*

**Ingredients:**

- Portobello mushrooms
- 6 tbsp. balsamic vinaigrette
- Garlic
- Thyme
- Rosemary
- Basil

**Directions:**

Put the mushrooms in a sealable container, and add in the balsamic vinaigrette with garlic.  
Marinate your mushrooms for your desired time.

Side note: I like to marinate my

mushrooms for about 24 hours, so the mushrooms absorb the flavor. But if you do not like balsamic vinaigrette, or if you are not able to marinate for that amount of time, you can simply marinate them for about 20-30 minutes and still have a similar flavor in a shorter amount of time.

**Cooking:**

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit.

Place the mushrooms stems up on a baking sheet with parchment paper. I like to add garlic on top with sprinklings of thyme, rosemary and basil.

Bake for 15 minutes, then flip over and bake for another 15 minutes.

Take out of the oven, and let cool for a few minutes.

Enjoy!

Anna.Culver@wilkes.edu  
Graphic by Anna Culver



The Beacon/Anna Culver

Although this baked balsamic portobello mushroom dish takes some time to prepare, the effort is simple and the end result offers a unique taste.



## BEACON BUMPS

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff adds a song to their 2020-2021 Beacon Bumps playlist under Chris Gowarty's account on Spotify. Look below for this week's list of songs.

**Kirsten Peters**, Editor-in-Chief: [29](#) - Carly Pearce  
**Sean Schmoyer**, Co-News Editor: [Kids](#) - Adam Jensen  
**Sara Ross**, Co-News Editor: [Kaleidoscope](#) - A Great Big World  
**Genny Frederick**, Asst. News Editor: [All Your'n](#) - Tyler Charles  
**Maddy Kinard**, News Staff Writer: [Scream Drive Faster](#) - LAUREL  
**Emily Cherkaskas**, LA&E Editor: [On My One](#) - Jake Bugg  
**Jordan Daniel**, Asst. LA&E Editor: [City Girls](#) - Chris Brown, Young Thug  
**Breanna Ebisch**, Co-Opinion Editor: [Baby Blue Shades](#) - Bad Suns

**Dylan Mehl**, Co-Opinion Editor: [What's Next](#) - Drake  
**William Billingsley**, Asst. Opinion Editor: [Red Caped Driver](#) - Foxy Shazam  
**Ariel Reed**, Sports Editor: [Youuu - Coin](#)  
**Chris Gowarty**, Asst. Sports Editor: [No Flockin'](#) - Kodak Black  
**Mia Walker**, Lead Designer: [Tonight \(ft. iann dior\)](#) - jxdn  
**Steffen Horwath**, Staff Photographer: [Alien Boy](#) - Oliver Tree  
**Liz Cherinka**, Social Media Manager: [24 Miles](#) - Banana Club

# Raising money for charity

## How Alec Levin '20 hopes to bring

By Emily Cherkaskas  
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Alec Levin, a member of the Wilkes Class of 2020, has created his own apparel company, Actions Over Words. For every item sold, \$5 is donated to charity.

When he was 17, Levin attended a leadership conference in N.J., and listened to public speaker Mike Smith, who inspired him to help others. Levin said he was "inspired to make a change in my life by figuring out how I can make an impact on the world."

A short amount of time later, Levin founded Actions Over Words on Feb. 2, 2015, an apparel company with unique designs. Out of every sale, \$5 is donated to various charities, one that is chosen for every month.

"Ultimately, actions speak louder than words," said Levin. "I wanted to make an impact with my actions instead of my words."

It was not just the name of Levin's company that was dear to him. The logo itself — an ocean wave with "Action" above and "Over Words" below the wave — also has a unique story behind it.

"Incorporating a wave into our logo with 'Actions' being on top of the wave was important for two reasons. First, because I grew up on the beach, and second, because waves resemble a movement and that's what we are trying to create with Actions Over Words," said Levin.

However, in his sophomore year, Levin became so busy with tennis and his college

courses, leading him to dissolving the business. After graduating, Levin started his career in financial services in Boston. Despite that, something felt wrong to him, and he wondered where his path in life would go.

"I called my dad and told him how I just didn't feel like myself. I felt like I was trying to be someone I wasn't," said Levin.

Fortunately for Levin, his father remained supportive in Levin's dreams in whatever career he chose. On Jan. 12, 2021 Actions Over Words was officially launched as a business based out of a garage in Wilkes-Barre.

Levin's roommates hold onto boxes until Levin comes home. Levin also credits his family members and to volunteer their time. The majority of apparel sold at Wilkes-Barre, Levin's roommates hold onto boxes until Levin comes home. Levin also credits his family members and to volunteer their time.

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### MANUSCRIPT, from page 7

"Oh, I find it difficult to choose," said Weynand. "They all say something raw and passionate; some break your heart, some make you smile, but all of them take your breath away. I remember, however, reading 'The Great American Hypocrisy' by C. Smith and getting goosebumps because we never thought about how the Pledge of Allegiance was so untrue and coded when we were kids, but we definitely do now. 'Biracial Rage' by Monique Franz also really moved the board."

Not only is this issue special because Manuscript Society decided to release an

extra edition this year, but it is an important and unique addition to our society today.

By reading the words of our particular, many people gain a better understanding of our world and prejudice against society today.

"At times when we receive your submissions, we work hard at the message coming from Dr. Michelle A. English professor, chair of the Department and Manuscript Society. It is a white board, and it will lift these voices up, w



# mushroom dish



The Beacon/Anna Culver  
mushroom dish takes some time to  
result offers a unique taste.

Beacon staff adds  
21 Beacon stories  
warty's account on  
3 weeks of songs.

What's Next - Drake  
Editor: Red Caped Driver -  
- Coin  
or: No Flockin' - Kodak Black  
ter: Tonight (ft. iann dior) - jxdn  
a Than That - Lauren Jauregui  
pher: Alien Boy - Oliver Tree  
ager: 24 Miles - Banana Club

## Raising money for charity with style through "Actions Over Words" How Alec Levin '20 hopes to bring change by partnering with charity initiatives

By Emily Cherkauskas  
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Alec Levin, a member of the Wilkes Class of 2020, has created his own apparel company, Actions Over Words. For every item sold, \$5 is donated to charity.

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However, in his sophomore year, Levin became so busy with tennis and his college

courses, leading him to dissolving the business. After graduating, Levin started his career in financial services in Boston. Despite that, something felt wrong to him, and he wondered where his path in life would go.

"I called my dad and told him how I just didn't feel like myself. I felt like I was trying to be someone I wasn't," said Levin.

Fortunately for Levin, his father remained supportive in Levin's dreams in whatever career he would take. On Jan. 12, 2021 Actions Over Words was officially launched as a full-time business, based out of a garage in Cape May, N.J.

Actions Over Words is not a one-man project. Fortunately, Levin has the help of family members and friends who offer to volunteer their time and effort. With the majority of apparel being printed in Wilkes-Barre, Levin's girlfriend and her roommates hold onto the large delivery boxes until Levin comes to pick them up.

Levin also credits his 17-year-old sister Sophia, whom he considers to be the



Photo courtesy of Alec Levin

Actions Over Words donates \$5 to charity for every item sold. The apparel catalog is available online.

being fresh and new in the apparel business environment, it has already proven to be a success.

One charity project involved the Michael J. Fox Foundation, which raises funds for research of Parkinson's disease. By selling apparel, Actions Over Words was able to raise almost \$8,000 for the foundation. With a loved one dealing with the disease for over 10 years, Levin was amazed at the support.

Levin has explained that seeing the influx of charity funds has left him speechless, and he wanted to give credit to those who donated.

chief-operating-officer of their company. Sophia is in charge of the general inventory. She helps with fulfilling orders and shipping them to their locations.

"Actions Over Words has brought nothing but good things into my life being alongside my brother. Every day is a new adventure, and Alec and I love the challenges that we are faced with every day," said Sophia Levin.

Despite the company still being fresh and new in the apparel business environment, it has already proven to be a success.

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Levin has explained that seeing the influx of charity funds has left him speechless, and he wanted to give credit to those who donated.

"I think about it a lot and can't believe the amount of support that we get," said Levin. "It's not me raising this money, it's 'we.'"

Actions Over Words' current charity partner is The Happy People Foundation. The organization is seeking to buy a handicapped accessible school bus for students at Dibra Special Needs School located in Dibra, Albania. The foundation explained that students "must walk to school every day, which is especially difficult during the winter months." This led to students not being able to attend classes.

Actions Over Words has made special bus logo designs for their apparel, with all proceeds going to the foundation.

Actions Over Words can be reached on their Instagram page, @actionsoverwordsapparel, or on their website. Levin is always open to hear new suggestions, such as design or charity ideas.

After raising a total of over \$11,500 for these various organizations, Levin hopes that more people will become involved and participate in their cause.

"This is something we have worked very hard to create, and it's a movement we believe the world needs to hear about," said Levin. "With every purchase, we believe in making the world a better place to live. \$5 at a time."

@wilkesbeacon  
Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu

### MANUSCRIPT, from page 7

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Not only is this issue special because Manuscript Society decided to release an

extra edition this year, but it centers on an important and unfortunate issue in our society today.

By reading the works in this issue in particular, many people will have a better understanding of the mistreatment and prejudice against Black lives in our society today.

"At times when we were reviewing submissions, we would just sit silent at the message coming through," said Dr. Mischelle Anthony, associate English professor, chair of the English Department and co-adviser of The Manuscript Society. "We are a mostly white board, and it was an honor to help lift these voices up, while at the same time

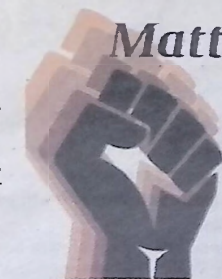
sobering to read about these experiences and know we will never suffer that way, yet here are representative voices of so many that continue to suffer, at the very least, the mentally draining repression as a regular part of their lives. It's a duty and a sobering joy to celebrate these voices."

Manuscript Society is still accepting submissions for their normal 2020-2021 issue.

For those interested in submitting, they can email magazine@wilkes.edu for more information.

@wilkesbeacon  
Jordan.Daniel@wilkes.edu

## Black Lives Matter



A Wilkes University  
Spring 2021 Special  
Edition

Courtesy of Manuscript Society



# Liz's Craft Column: St. Patrick's Day pom-pom wreath

By Liz Cherinka  
Social Media Manager

Celebrated on March 17, St. Patrick's Day is a holiday that originated from the feast day of the patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick. He is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland, and the holiday commemorates Saint Patrick's death on March 17, 461 A.D. What began as a religious holiday and originally came to America with Irish migrations has now become a commercialized holiday celebrated all over the United States.

In the spirit of the St. Patrick's Day season, this pom pom wreath is sure to add the hint of Irish that your space has been needing.

This wreath is affordable and easy to make. The only required materials are white yarn, different shades of green yarn,

an embroidery hoop, hot glue, scissors, a fork and a green foam sheet. The shades of green are up to one's preference, and the hoop can be as large or as small as preferred as well. The example uses a small hoop and two shades of green yarn. Any of these supplies can be purchased on Amazon or at a craft store, such as Joann Fabrics or Michaels.

To begin, make the pom poms. Grab the first color of yarn and start wrapping it around the fork over and over again to make a large spool. Leave extra space on the top and bottom of the fork in order to secure it later.

The size of the spool is proportional to the size of the pom pom, but as the spool gets larger, the harder it is to cut and secure. Once the spool is as large as preferred, cut the end of the yarn attached to the ball. Run a string of yarn through

the middle prong on the bottom of the fork and then through the middle prong on the top until the ends meet. Then, tie the ends together as tight as possible.

Carefully, slide the yarn spool off of the fork. If the tie in the middle is too loose, grab more yarn and re-tie it tighter. The pom-pom will fall apart if this is not tight enough; however, do not get discouraged if one pom pom falls apart. Cut the extra yarn still attached to the ball.

Now, cut every loop of yarn on both ends. It is okay if they are not cut evenly. Once all the loops are cut, rearrange the yarn pieces to resemble a ball. Then, cut any yarn pieces that are abnormally long. The middle tie may still be visible, but the pom pom can be arranged on the wreath in a way that it cannot be seen.

Repeat these steps for as many pom poms as needed and in as many colors as

preferred. Once enough pom poms are made to circle the whole hoop, it is time to form them into a wreath.

Using hot glue, glue each pom pom onto the hoop in a circle in whichever order preferred. They can be in a random order or in a pattern. Once the whole hoop is full, it is time to add just a little bit of St. Patty's Day flair.

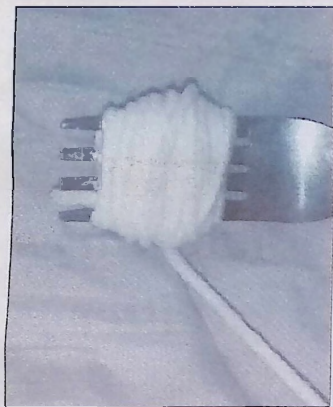
Using the foam sheet, cut out a shamrock with three or four leaves, depending on how lucky you feel. Using hot glue again, glue the shamrock onto the wreath in whichever position preferred, and add as many as wanted.

Once this is done, display the wreath anywhere, and have a happy St. Patrick's Day.

Elizabeth.Cherinka@wilkes.edu  
Graphic by Anna Culver



Liz's Craft Rating: Three out of five yarn-balls. Although the supplies for this craft are affordable and easy to acquire, the steps may take some skill and technique to execute.



1, top left) Grab some yarn and start wrapping it around the fork over and over again to make a large spool. Be advised that, although you can make the pom pom a size you prefer, it will be difficult to secure and cut through later in the process.



2, top right) Once your spool of yarn has reached your desired size, cut the line of yarn. Run the string through the bottom of the middle prong to the top of the middle prong. Tie the ends together as tight as possible.



3) Carefully, slide the yarn spools off the fork, making sure that the tie around the spool is secured tightly. Cut the loops off the ends to form the pom pom, and cut away long



4) Repeat the previous steps for as many pom poms as you need. Once finished, start hot gluing the pom poms onto your embroidery hoop.

5, left) Be sure to cover all parts of the embroidery hoop with your pom pom pattern. Then, take a piece of green foam and cut out a shamrock shape. Use hot glue to secure it to the wreath. Add as many as you would like to.

Once completed, hang this wreath anywhere around your house to add some St. Patty's day flair for the March holiday.



# D.P. Dough: The new calzone h

## The city square's newest restaurant

By Judah Nicole Lyles  
Staff Writer

There has been a new addition to the Wilkes-Barre Public Square, and Wilkes students and staff will be especially happy about it. D.P. Dough, an American chain of calzone restaurants started in Amherst, Mass., has now made its way to Wilkes-Barre and is operated by co-managers Laura Watkins and Shannon Welch.

Its journey from Massachusetts, however, is a different story indeed.

"In the mid 1980s, a dude and his mom came up with an idea that would change college life forever: calzones!" reads the D.P. Dough website. "Dan (the dude) and Penny (his mom) named their new restaurant D.P. Dough after their initials. The first D.P. Dough opened in 1987. Today, D.P. Dough delivers ooey, gooey, cheesy happiness on and around college campuses throughout the United States."

For those who are confused on what exactly a calzone is, the golden rule is that if it can be put on a pizza, it can go in a calzone.

"It's a piece of dough between the size of a personal pan pizza or small pizza, you stick the selected ingredients inside, you push it together, you crimp up the sides, you put a hole in the middle, and there's your calzone," said Watkins.

D.P. Dough is ready and willing to give

Wilkes students what they need. Wilkes University is home to a wide variety of foodies, picky eaters and workaholics alike. D.P. Dough has something for everyone, whether that be night owls or professors who are hungry after a day of hard work. The restaurant is open from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. and is looking to extend its hours with more business.

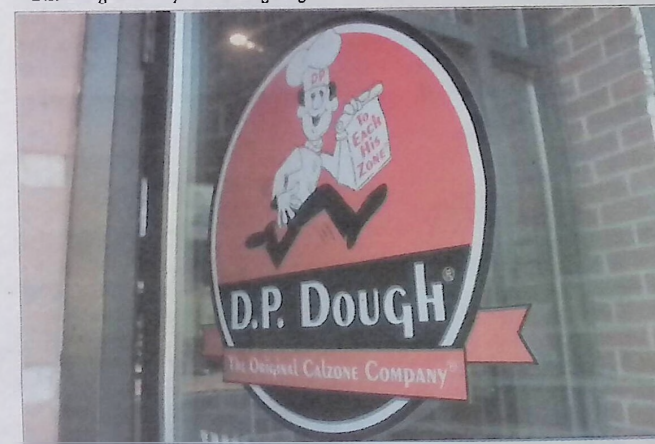
D.P. Dough has a few things they want Wilkes students and staff to know.

"We cater to the students and staff. That's our main objective right now. All our D.P. Dough stores cater to the students, so we locate the stores in a college area," said Watkins.

Surrounded by other Wilkes cuisines, such as Thai Thai, Lett's Eat and Rodano's, D.P. Dough has a high standard to meet — and meet it they do.

D.P. Dough has calzones, or "zones," as they call them for everyone. Whether sweet or savory, they are willing to cater to you and your specific needs.

The "Chicken Parmazone," for instance, is true to its name. Stuffed inside is breaded chicken breast, mozzarella, Parmesan and marinara sauce. For the more adventurous, the "Maui Wowi Zone" has pineapple, ham and mozzarella for the customer to enjoy. For those with a sweet tooth, they have an "Apple Pie Zone," which tastes just as good as it sounds.



D.P. Dough, Wilkes-Barre's newest unique restaurant, offers calzones, dunkers, tater tots, wings and desserts to anyone interested in a flavorful dinner meal. Stop by the restaurant on 41 South Main St. between 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. for a quick bite to eat.



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 [Elizabeth.Cherinka@wilkes.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Cherinka@wilkes.edu)  
Graphic by Anna Culver



Photos: The Beacon/Liz Cherinka

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# D.P. Dough: The new calzone headquarter of Wilkes-Barre

## The city square's newest restaurant tailors to late-night cravings

By Judah Nicole Lyles  
Staff Writer

There has been a new addition to the  
Wilkes-Barre Public Square, and Wilkes  
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and mozzarella for the customer to enjoy.  
For those with a sweet tooth, they have an  
"Apple Pie Zone," which tastes just as good  
as it sounds.

If these do not appeal to you, they also have  
a "Construction Zone," where the customer  
gets to build their own calzone to their liking.

The shop's managers shared a few of their  
personal favorites to recommend.


"I prefer the 'Buffer Zone' and the 'Twilight  
Zone,'" said Welch.

Watkins, on the other hand, said, "I would  
probably say the 'Cinnamon Dough Bites.'"

D.P. Dough also has options for other  
college cravings. They have chicken wings,  
boneless and bone-in, that come with various  
sauces, such as the classic buffalo, barbecue,  
sweet chili or even honey mustard. If you are  
looking for a quick snack, they have tater tots  
that can be dressed up. For sweet-toothed  
readers, they have edible cookie dough,  
cinnamon breadsticks and freshly baked  
cookies.

D.P. Dough plans to continue its expansion  
to college campuses all over the U.S., so if you  
are looking for a job opportunity with flexible  
hours, such as a cook or delivery driver, there  
are plenty at D.P. Dough. They are hiring  
and even looking to pass the gauntlet of  
franchise ownership onto a willing and ready  
candidate.

To apply, you can go to the D.P. Dough  
website, or stop by.

 [@wilkesbeacon](https://twitter.com/wilkesbeacon)  
[Judah.Lyles@wilkes.edu](mailto:Judah.Lyles@wilkes.edu)



Photos: The Beacon/Emily Cherkauskas  
**Leave a piece of art at D.P. Dough:**  
The restaurant has left pieces of  
chalk around for anyone in the  
mood to show their artistic side.  
The creative installation resonates  
with the business's mood — happy,  
colorful and welcoming to patrons.



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Co-managers Laura Watkins (left) and Shannon Welch (right) operate D.P.  
Dough, and are always welcoming to customers who stop by. They hope to  
further expand the business by increasing hours and hiring more workers,  
which will allow for greater accessibility for hungry patrons.



# Women's History Month:

By Breanna Ebisch  
Co-Opinion Editor

When someone mentions the month of March, many people will typically think of St. Patrick's Day, the spring season finally arriving or maybe even the big March Madness basketball tournament that is held every year. But, the uncommon answer that very few people either know or recognize is that March is actually Women's History Month.

Similar to other dedicated months of the year for a variety of reasons or causes, women's history is allotted the 31 days of the third month of the year for official governmental recognition.

And while that small collection of days is significant, the importance of women's history stretches beyond just a fraction of the year. A month is simply not enough. It never was and certainly is not anymore.

Through the course of America's

recent history, the holiday and acknowledgement of women have seen extensions to be recognized for longer periods of time.

Although International Women's Day is celebrated across the world on March 8 every year, the United States has been making efforts to broaden the scope since the late 1970s, when a local celebration started in California. From there, things have only grown larger.

According to Women's History Month's official website, "In 1980, a consortium of women's groups and historians — led by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance) — successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8, 1980 as National Women's History Week."

Today, the entire month of March is dedicated to women's history, which seems like leaps and bounds

ahead of the efforts only a handful of decades ago. And while each day is used to educate others on prominent figures of the movement, highlight women in communities who are changing the world or simply share the knowledge of women's place in history that have been often overlooked, there is too much work to be done to only limit women's history to a short amount of time.

According to the website History.com, the purpose and goal of Women's History Month is to be a "celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society" with a specific focus on the achievements of women in the United States.

But why is this recognition not carried through the entire year? Why are students across the country not able to learn about the prominent women who have shaped the world as we know it today through their countless and amazing contributions all year

round? What makes women's history so much less important that it only matters for just a single month of the year?

The answer is both simple and complicated. Women's history should be included in all school curriculums, prioritized just as equally as the rest of the important events or accomplishments in the past and be common knowledge for every American citizen. That is not up for debate. Yet, society deems this information to be beneath what should be taught and suddenly, it is only put in the center of attention when it is necessary, especially after March was designated Women's History Month in 1987.

And that needs to change. Now. The current generation has already been making great strides toward integrating women's history into many more aspects of life throughout the year outside of the first spring month. With the use of technology and social media,

# Its Importance

sharing knowledge is easier than ever, and the young people of today have already been responsible for change that has not occurred for decades. Whether it be posting information about issues that pertain to Women's History Month or spotlighting women from all walks of life, the Internet has become a source for promoting the impact of women throughout history every single day, no matter what time of the year it is.

Higher education institutions also offer classes in women's and gender studies, educating their students on pieces of history that have been willingly overlooked in their previous years of schooling. And while the option for these courses is a step toward the future, not every student is required to take them, which further proves that women's history is not as valuable or held to the same standard. This knowledge is just as beneficial to all students as their general education English and math classes, yet, just

like the value of Women's History Month, learning about any capacity seems unnecessary.

However, the and lack of respect is still alive and well in 2021. Many might be the opposite — that society is more equal for all women, but it is playing field still is not.

Because not every citizen has the privilege on women's impact leading up to the same misogynistic views that have persisted in generations continuing and damaging in ways. Varying from to simple everyday women are still discriminated even could consider society.

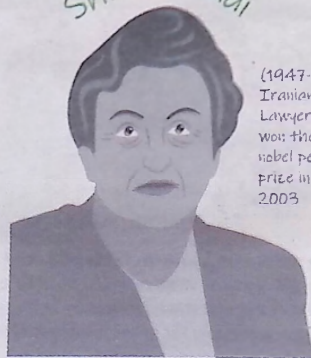
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Anna May Wong



(1905-1961)  
First Chinese American actress, also the first Chinese American actress internationally recognized

Shirin Ebadi



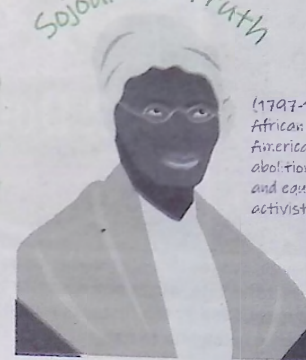
(1947-)  
Iranian Lawyer who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003

Nellie Bly



(1864-1922)  
White American journalist who exposed the mistreatment of patients in asylums

Sojourner Truth



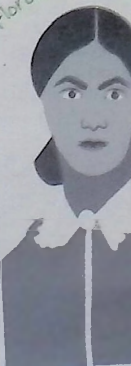
(1797-1883)  
African American abolitionist and equality activist

Lili Elbe



(1882-1931)  
Trans Danish Painter who was an early recipient of sex reassignment surgery

Florence Nightingale





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# Its Importance Goes Beyond a Month

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like the value of Women's History  
Month, learning about women in  
any capacity seems to be seen as  
unnecessary.

However, the discrimination  
and lack of respect for women  
is still alive and well in the year  
2021. Many might like to think the  
opposite - that society has become  
more equal for and accepting of  
women, but it is clear that the  
playing field still is not even.

Because not every American  
citizen has the proper education  
on women's impact on history  
leading up to the current day,  
the same misogynistic and sexist  
views that have persisted through  
generations continue to be evident  
and damaging in a multitude of  
ways. Varying from the workplace  
to simple everyday occurrences,  
women are still subject to  
discrimination even in what we  
could consider a progressive  
society.

"Unfortunately," as reported  
by Forbes, "anti-discrimination

laws don't always protect women  
against discriminatory practices,  
especially subtle interactions or  
nuanced body mannerisms where  
they are treated differently. Gender  
bias persists even in 2021 affecting  
women, women of color and  
transgender women."

Again, unfortunately, this is only  
one instance of the discrimination  
women continue to experience  
on a daily basis, even after all the  
progress that has been made.  
And while Women's History  
Month is an effort to change the  
tide by educating as many people  
as possible that women have  
been significant in our history,  
it is also a crucial tool to ending  
discrimination in the U.S.

But it still is not enough.  
So, over the next thirty days  
(or what remains of them), as  
you scroll through your social  
media feeds, watch the news or  
have conversations that focus on  
the importance and celebration  
of women throughout history,

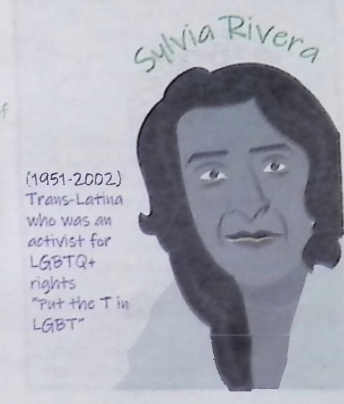
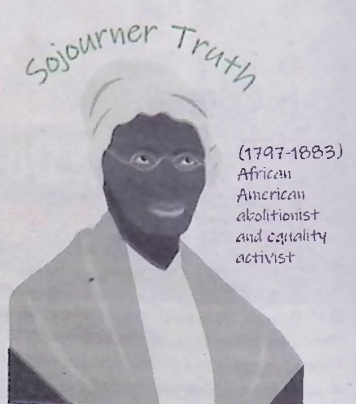
remember to continue those  
practices past the month of March.  
Learning about women's history  
does not and should not stop on the  
last day of its designated month.

Tell the stories of the women who  
have done the unimaginable and  
received almost no recognition.  
Fight for equality of all women in  
every way possible. Be the voice  
of change for the future while also  
combating the misogyny in society.

Women's History Month is  
crucial for so many different  
reasons that cannot all be covered  
in a single page. But the importance  
of this movement's purpose goes  
far beyond just one single month.  
Official recognition does not  
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Remember that after March ends.

@wilkesbeacon  
Breanna.Ebisch@wilkes.edu

Page Design/Layout: Mia Walker  
Mia.Walker@wilkes.edu





# Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact the co-opinion editors: Breanna.Ebisch@wilkes.edu and Dylan.Mehl@wilkes.edu

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141 S. Main Street  
Clayton and Theresa Karambelas  
Media & Communication Center  
Wilkes University  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766  
Phone - (570) 408-5903  
www.thewilkesbeacon.com  
Socials: @wilkesbeacon

 The Beacon  
Est. 1936  
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## Our Voice

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

### True meaning of St. Patrick's Day lost in revelry

St. Patrick's Day is a well-celebrated holiday throughout the United States where many enjoy engaging in its revelry. But, as a result, the true meaning behind the holiday and the importance of the Irish heritage has been lost over time.

In modern times, the occasion has become more commercialized. Most of its associations, especially in America, revolve around drinking, partying and going to bars. Not to mention, images of people wearing loud shamrock green T-shirts, plastic beads and leprechaun hats probably come to mind as well.

When the Irish first came to America, they were seen as immigrants and not true Americans. Ridiculed and discriminated against, they were seen as disease-ridden, unskilled and poor. You could say that they did not have "the luck of the Irish" on their side.

Certainly, this is quite different to the views Americans have now of the Irish and St. Patrick's Day, which in actuality only receives the attention it does today because of the Americans adjusting it to fit their culture.

With not much regard for Irish heritage, they took, in their minds, some of its best parts - partying, drinking and parades - and assimilated them to fit the American lifestyle.

In a way, it is truly a mockery of the Irish heritage, as the holiday is no longer

celebrated for its true occasion.

In some of the holiday's other traditions, they were actually developed by Americans, which has contributed to more of the holiday's misconceptions. The iconic meal of corned beef and cabbage was an American innovation.

Other well-associated St. Patrick's Day foods like the McDonald's Shamrock Shake and green beer have originated from this continued commercialization.

While many Irish traditionally also indulge in these activities, it is often forgotten that St. Patrick's Day is a religious holiday honoring the Feast Day of Saint Patrick.

The celebration is held to mark the death of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, who was believed to have died on March 17 during the fifth century.

Much of what is known about the real St. Patrick is wrapped up in folklore and legend, and it has led to many misconceptions about St. Patrick's Day.

Compared to the excitement that consumes this holiday, St. Patrick led an early life of hardship. One myth is that St. Patrick was originally from Ireland. When really, he was born in Britain and was only brought to Ireland due to being kidnapped by Irish raiders.

An unfortunate tale, he labored as a slave for six years before becoming a missionary in Ireland. While the occasion was all about

remembering his legacy, it has become a stark contrast to the more indecent behavior that is seen today.

Drunken behavior and late night outings have become the norm for celebrating this holiday, which resulted from America putting its own spin on Irish heritage.


So, when did St. Patrick's Day become a part of the American tradition? And at what point did it become so intoxicatingly commercialized?

There were early celebrations and parades held in 1601. In 1737, it was brought to Boston and New York by Irish soldiers in the English military.

By the 19th century, St. Patrick's Day became part of mainstream American culture with New York City hosting the world's largest celebration of St. Patrick's Day almost every year.

Now, it is celebrated across the whole country (when there is not a global pandemic) and in various parts of the world. It has become such a phenomenon that not only Americans enjoy its delights.

It is funny to think that the Irish were not always praised and welcomed in America, especially after introducing an occasion that is almost dedicated nowadays to commercialism, alcoholism and the color green.

 @wilkesbeacon  
TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu

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

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

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

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

# COVID-19 American Resc

By Liam Flynn  
Staff Writer

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package passed by the 117th United States Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden on March 11. Its purpose is to speed up the United States' recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing recession.

First proposed on Jan. 14, the package builds upon many of the measures in the CARES Act from March and in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 from December.

Beginning on Feb. 2, Democrats in the United States Senate started to open debates on a budget resolution that would allow them to pass the stimulus package without support from Republicans through the process of reconciliation.

The House of Representatives voted 218-212 to approve its version of the budget resolution. A voting session started two days later after the resolution was approved, and the Senate introduced amendments in the relief package.

The day after, Vice President Kamala Harris cast her first tie-breaking vote as vice president in order to give the Senate's approval to start the reconciliation process, with the House following suit by voting 219-209 to agree to the Senate's version of the resolution.

On Feb. 8, the Financial Services and Education and Labor committees released a draft of the \$1.9 trillion stimulus legislation. A portion of the relief package was approved by the House Ways and Means on Feb. 11, setting it up for a vote in the House. The legislation was also approved by the Transportation and Infrastructure, Small Business and House Veterans Affairs committees.

On Feb. 22, the House Budget Committee voted 19-16 to advance the bill to the House for a floor vote. The bill passed the House by a vote of 219-212 on Feb. 27. All but two Democrats voted for the bill, and all Republicans voted against the bill. A modified version passed the Senate on March 6 by a vote of 50-49.

The final amended bill was passed by the House on March 10 by a vote of 220-211, with one Democrat voting against it

with all Republicans. The bill was into law by Biden on March 11, which is the one-year anniversary of COVID-19 being declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization.

The bill's economic-relief provisions are overwhelmingly geared toward income and middle-class Americans who will benefit from (among provisions) the direct payment bill's expansion of low-income credits, child-care subsidies, health-insurance access, an expanded unemployment benefit stamps and rental assistance program. The bill contains little direct aid to high-income-earners, who retained their jobs during the COVID-19 economic shock and bolstered savings. Biden's administration plan, in part, because economic recovery to lower-income and middle-class Americans are more likely to stimulate the U.S. economy than an aid program for the wealthy.

The Institute on Tax and Economic Policy found that the bill's direct payments, child tax expansion and earned income tax expansion would boost the income of the poorest one-fifth of Americans by \$3,590.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the bill's increase





Editors: Breanna.Ebisch@wilkes.edu and Dylan.Mehl@wilkes.edu

Opinion

will take a stance on a current issue.

# St. Patrick's Day lost in revelry

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Beacon

# COVID-19 American Rescue Plan: A huge win for citizens

By Liam Flynn  
Staff Writer

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The bill contains little direct aid to high-income-earners, who largely retained their jobs during the COVID-19 economic shock and bolstered their savings. Biden's administration crafted the plan, in part, because economic aid to lower-income and middle-income Americans are more likely to stimulate the U.S. economy than an aid to higher earners.

The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy found that the stimulus bill's direct payments, child tax credit expansion and earned income tax credit expansion would boost the income of the poorest one-fifth of Americans by nearly \$3,590.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the bill's increase in health

insurance subsidies would lead to 1.3 million previously uninsured Americans gaining health insurance coverage.

An analysis by Columbia University's Center on Poverty and Social Policy estimated that the original stimulus proposal would reduce overall U.S. poverty by a third, reduce child poverty by 57.8 percent and reduce the adult poverty rate by more than 25 percent. However, these estimates relied in part upon a minimum wage increase that was not included in the final bill, meaning effects on poverty may be notably different than anticipated in that study.

The Tax Policy Center wrote that, for households making under \$25,000, the bill would cut their taxes by an average of \$2,800, which would boost their after-tax income by 20 percent. Additionally, low-income households with children would see an average tax cut of about \$7,700, and this would boost their after-tax income by 35 percent.

Middle-income households will also see an average tax cut of about \$3,350, and this would increase their after-tax income by 5.5 percent. Overall, about 70 percent of the bill's tax benefits will go to households making under \$91,000.

The Republican Party's inability to ignite a grassroots backlash against the \$1.9 trillion Democratic COVID relief bill moving toward final passage underscores

the GOP's transformation into a coalition energized primarily by cultural and racial grievance and the opportunity that opens for Biden to advance his economic priorities.

Although every House and Senate Republican voted against the rescue plan, it has not generated anything like the uprisings against new government spending and programs that engulfed Democratic Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama during each man's first year in office.

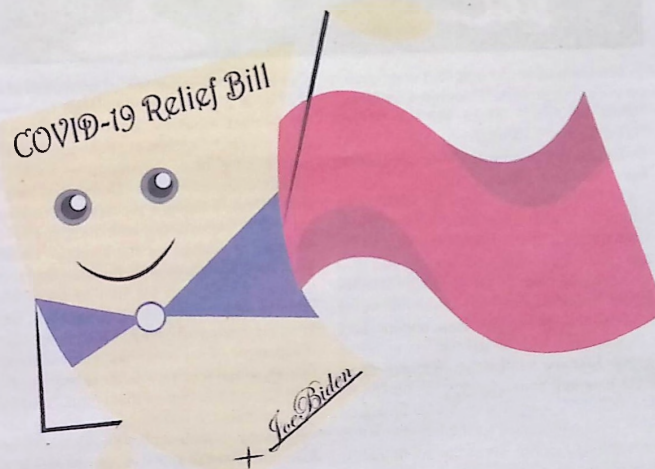
Indeed, throughout the legislative fight, congressional Republicans and conservative media outlets like Fox News appeared more interested in focusing attention on peripheral cultural issues, like whether Dr. Seuss had become a victim of liberal "cancel culture."

That stress on cultural complaints reflects the shifting source of motivation inside the GOP coalition, with fewer voters responding to the warnings against "big government" once central to the party's appeal and more viscerally responding to alarms that Democrats intend to transform "our country," as former President Donald Trump often calls it, into something culturally unrecognizable.

The open question for Biden, as he finalizes his next proposals, is whether there is a cumulative weight of proposed spending that awakens the slumbering conservative recoil against "big government."

Both Clinton and Obama saw the grassroots backlashes against their agendas intensify when they followed their initial economic plans with other expensive proposals, particularly their efforts to overhaul the health care system. Each of those dynamics culminated in crushing losses for them in the first midterm after their election.

The safest bet is that so long as the GOP remains fixated on the cultural and racial grievance, Democrats will feel confident pushing forward the most aggressive expansion of government's role in the economy since President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society during the 1960s.



Liam.Flynn@wilkes.edu  
Graphic by Mia Walker



# Drake album review series, part two: "Take Care" 8.9/10

By Dylan Mehl  
Co-Opinion Editor

"Take Care" – 8.9 out of 10

The sophomore album for Drake, "Take Care," is widely regarded as his "classic" project. The term "classic" has several interpretations, as one can argue that "Take Care" is Drizzy's best or his most recognizable album. Whichever way one chooses to spin it, there is no doubt that this album has had a huge impact on his career.

Coming out on Nov. 15, 2011, "Take Care" debuted at number one on the Billboard charts, being Drake's second album to do so and selling 631,000 copies in its first week alone. The album also went RIAA platinum six times, with several songs also going platinum.

This album was heavily influenced by another Toronto native, The Weeknd. Drake and The Weeknd share similarities in their struggles with women and discussing the toxicity of relationships, which can be seen all throughout this record.

The introduction track to the album, "Over My Dead Body," features Drake talking to his audience and competition about his newly acquired fame. The methodical, cocky tone to Drake's voice perfectly matches the sentiment of the song, in that the only way to take his fame and success from him is over his dead body.

Tones are quickly shifted in "Shot for Me," as we see Drake open up to his audience on a personal level, which is something that was missing at times on his last album, "Thank Me Later." Drake shows off his excellent singing ability to go along with his sensitive side.

Continuing the roller coaster of mood changes that are the first three songs of this project, "Headlines" sets in stone an early theme that will carry throughout this album: Drake is a superstar.

A much more confident Drizzy than on projects in the past, he silences the haters who suggested he may be a one-hit-wonder with excellent rapping over a beat to match.

Over the next three songs, "Crew Love," "Take Care" and "Marvin's Room," there is a more consistent somberness to sink your teeth into. Drake is back to discussing his hardships with women and the complications his lifestyle inevitably leads to in his relationships.

The Weeknd features on "Crew Love" and provides excellent vocals to go with a melodic tone. Drake and Rihanna then go back-and-forth on "Take Care," discussing the realness behind the saying, "It is better to

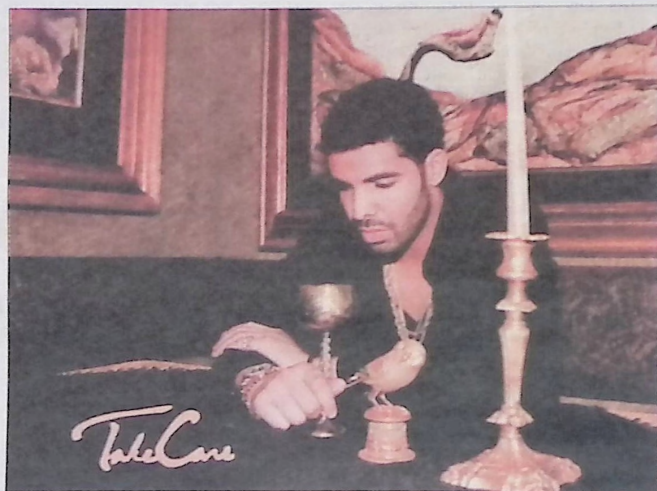
have loved and lost than to never have loved at all" on such a real level that the listener is unsure what relationship these two have. "Marvin's Room" details a drunk phone call Drake has with one of his exes. The sound of this song sucks you in to the point that you feel that you are alone in the studio, drunk on the call and in Drake's shoes. While the singing is not particularly impressive, Drake's storytelling is superb.

Kendrick Lamar then enters the scene on "Buried Alive," an interlude in which Lamar details his struggle with fame similarly to Drake's "The Resistance." Metaphorically, Lamar struggles with the idea of burying his former self alive.

mentality to Drake. "Lord Knows" closes out this stretch of on-top-of-the-world rapping from Drake, as he and Rick Ross body this track. Both men come across as if they are on a mission and so high up that God can see what they are doing.

The Weeknd really gets his fingerprints on this album in tracks "Cameras," "Good Ones Go" and "Doing It Wrong." With many of the songs on this album said to originally be The Weeknd's, it is no surprise that his style is plastered all over this project. While these tracks are good, you can tell at times that they are better suited for The Weeknd's own style.

On "Cameras," Drake explains to a girl



This leads us to the best four-song stretch on the entire project: "Underground Kings," "We'll Be Fine," "Make Me Proud" and "Lord Knows." Through all of these tracks, Drake exudes confidence at levels that we have never seen before.

In "Underground Kings," he starts off by telling us he will never relinquish the crown, suggesting that he is already the king of the rap game. This is the best rapping and flow we have seen from Drake at this point in his career. "We'll Be Fine" has Drake reassuring his crew that he has got them, and nothing can stop his climb to the top. Nicki Minaj is also back with this project, providing killer bars and dynamite rapping on "Make Me Proud," a song that is essentially a note from Drake to Minaj, telling her that while he is the king of rap, she is the queen. Minaj ferociously responds with an "I know"

that he is not a self-involved individual and that he is a genuine guy through the slow tempo track. However, as a listener, I am not fully convinced of this, as Drake just told us what a "king" he is.

"Good Ones Go" and "Doing It Wrong" detail Drake's thought process in breaking up with a woman, but surprisingly, Drake blames the woman for the breakup. Drake goes back-and-forth with the idea that this woman should wait for him to finish his current stage of life. This message has The Weeknd written all over it, which is strongly reminiscent of his own toxic views on love that we would see through his career.

While the message of these tracks may be questionable, the quality of the singing and storytelling is undeniable. Drake is able to make the listener feel something, and it is like they are watching a soap opera.

"The Real Her" is a side story that features Drake, Lil Wayne and Andree 3000 at a strip club, where Drake instantly becomes infatuated with one of the strippers. The storytelling – again – is great on this song, and the beat very much matches the tone.

On "Look What You've Done," we see an emotional Drake open up again, but this time he lets us into his family life and the relationship with his mother and uncle. Through the lyrics, Drake details intimate thoughts to his audience, indicating that the genuine side he was alluding to on "Cameras" is still alive and well.

"HYFR" takes a step away from the strong storytelling and is an excuse for Drake and Lil Wayne to show off their rapping ability. In terms of the overall arc of this album's message, it is not necessary and could have been delivered as a bonus track.

In "Practice," we see Drake detail another conversation he is having; however, this is not a drunk call over the phone, but rather, one with an exotic dancer at the club. Although the singing is great, the track does not serve a tangible purpose.

In "The Ride," the closing track of the album, Drake speaks directly to his audience again, telling them that while he may come off as cocky, he has worked hard and taken a lot of risks to get where he is. You can hear the emotion in Drake's voice, as he is clearly frustrated with the criticism that he has been receiving, and The Weeknd's background vocals perfectly wrap up this project.

Hit song "The Motto" and "Hate Sleeping Alone" are the two bonus tracks on this album. The former continues the rich and famous lifestyle theme and is regarded as being responsible for popularizing the motto "YOLO." "Hate Sleeping Alone" feels like the words came right out of The Weeknd's mouth, as Drake details the toxic lifestyle that he has with women, saying that sometimes he has them around just to not be alone.

Drake certainly blossomed into a superstar on this project, as his rapping and storytelling greatly improved in only one year. It also proved that Drake was a different breed from other artists by making top quality rap songs and being a singer too. While Drake did take many steps up, he still has the issue of bouncing around several different themes, rather than telling one consistent story.

It is no surprise that with the high-quality rapping and singing from Drake, this album is commonly referred to by many as being his "most classic." But is it his best album?

@wilkesbeacon  
Dylan.Mehl@wilkes.edu

# Predictions for the e

By Dylan Mehl  
Co-Opinion Editor

As NBA All-Star Weekend draws to an end, we look forward to the second half of the season. With that being said, it is time to decide who will win the MVP award among many others, what teams will make the playoffs and who will win it all.

**The MVP Award – LeBron James**  
Starting with the most sought-after regular season award in the NBA, the MVP award, there are two major candidates who stand out: Joel Embiid and LeBron James. While great players such as Damian Lillard, Nikola Jokic and others also have cases, their teams' records will ultimately hold them back.

Moving onto James and Embiid, Vegas has recently made the 76ers' big man the favorite to win the award. However, this is a predictions column, and with Anthony Davis coming back to the Lakers and the team also potentially acquiring yet another big man to play alongside James and Davis, the Lakers could very well propel to the one-seed in the West when all is said and done.

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# "Coming 2 America"

By Matthew Matricciano  
Staff Writer

Comedy legend Eddie Murphy is back as Prince Akeem of Zamunda in "Coming 2 America," the unexpected sequel to the 1988 classic. More than 30 years after his first trip to the United States, Akeem is set to become king of Zamunda. The only problem is that he does not have a son to become his rightful heir to the throne.

Bad meets worse when General Izzi (Wesley Snipes), the leader of Nextdoria, threatens to invade Zamunda unless there is an arranged marriage between Akeem's daughter, Meeka (Kiki Layne) and Izzi's son (Rotimi). When Meeka opposes this, all hope seems to be lost. That is, however, until Akeem learns he has a long-lost son living in Queens after a one-night-stand that occurred with an American woman during his first trip to the States.

Akeem offers to bring his son back to Zamunda to marry Izzi's daughter. Izzi accepts, temporarily stopping a war. Soon after, Akeem and his reluctant servant, Semmi (Arsenio Hall), return to America to discover that Akeem's son is Lavelle

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## Predictions for the end of the NBA season: Awards edition

By Dylan Mehl  
Co-Opinion Editor

As NBA All-Star Weekend draws to an end, we look forward to the second half of the season. With that being said, it is time to decide who will win the MVP award among many others, what teams will make the playoffs and who will win it all.

### The MVP Award - LeBron James

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## "Coming 2 America" review: The prince returns- 5.5/10

By Matthew Matrisciano  
Staff Writer

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As for the 76ers, they currently already hold the one-seed in the East.

Statistics show that both James and Embiid are having great individual seasons. James is averaging 26 points, eight rebounds and eight assists a game, leading the Lakers in all three categories. Embiid is averaging 30 points, 11.5 rebounds and three assists per game.

If the award was given out today, Embiid would get the slight nod. However, predicting the rest of the Lakers' season with Davis healthy, James is my choice for NBA MVP. The story writes itself for King James, winning the award in year 18 coming off of his fourth NBA title.

### Other Awards

The NBA also gives out a variety of other awards that highlight the league's rookies, defensive players, coaches and more.

The Defensive Player of the Year will be coming out of Philadelphia this season with the team's point guard, Ben Simmons. Simmons is currently averaging one and a half steals per game and almost a block per game - at the point guard position. Standing at 6 feet 10 inches tall, Simmons can guard any team's best player, which

puts him far above the competition when it comes to DPOY - no pun intended.

LaMelo Ball has had a fantastic season thus far, which is only emphasized further when you consider the fact that he is just a rookie. Ball has earned himself a starting spot for the Charlotte Hornets with 16 points, six rebounds and six assists per game.

Overall, Ball certainly should be considered (and is) the favorite to win the Rookie of the Year Award.

Many coaches have a strong case this season to win the Coach of the Year Award. Of these, Quin Snyder of the Utah Jazz is a leading contender, as his team currently has the best record in the NBA.

Another contender is Monty Williams of the Phoenix Suns, as the team has gone from a fringe playoff team to the second seed, but I believe that the award should go to Doc Rivers.

Rivers currently has the 76ers as the number one seed in the Eastern Conference. The 76ers have been a team with limitless potential over the last four seasons, and Rivers has been able to finally channel that.

NBA Finals Prediction: Lakers over Nets in six

Looking at the current teams in the playoffs, there are at most five teams that have a realistic chance of winning it all: The Clippers, Lakers, Nets, 76ers and Bucks. Coming out of the West this season, I do expect that we will get the battle of Los Angeles in a Clippers versus Lakers matchup.

Now, the East is much more of a toss up, especially between the 76ers and Nets. Brooklyn has the NBA's only true big three, with Kevin Durant, James Harden and Kyrie Irving.

As for Philadelphia, they may have the best defense and deepest team in basketball, but there is a lack of reliable late game offensive presence. In a likely six- or seven-game series in a star-driven league, the Nets will surely prevail and have a date with the Lakers for an NBA title.

A star-studded finals match between the Nets and Lakers would see a further installment in the famous James versus Durant matchup, in which there is surely no doubt that James and the Lakers would emerge victorious.

dropping, raw comedy, this film is sure to make you laugh, or at the very least chuckle a few times. A good mix of dark and light-hearted humor gives this rowdy sequel the perfect balance for a die-hard comedy fan.

Jokes are all well and good, but even the most masterfully-written punchline is only as funny as the person who says it. Luckily, the cast of this sequel executes this perfectly. It is hard to go wrong with Murphy, and his reunion with Hall is a recipe for hilarity.

However, this film is monumentally helped out by its new characters. The mishaps, misunderstandings and cultural differences between life in Queens and the fictional African nation of Zamunda are acted out perfectly by this side-splitting cast. Rising actor Jermaine Fowler also knocked it out of the park as the heir-to-be with his witty comebacks and New York City attitude.


A funny cast and witty one-liners can carry a slapstick comedy like this a long way, but it will not be enough if the story is as predictable and cliché as "Coming 2 America." The plot is extremely lacking

in originality, and although funny, this film flat-out did not need to happen. It is forced, sloppy and changes part of the original story from 1988 to make this one work. The love story involved is boring and predictable, not to mention reminiscent of just about every other romantic comedy that has ever existed. Comedies can tread water even with a dumb story, but this one is on the verge of needing a rescue boat.

"Coming 2 America" currently has a 52 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes, which I would say is as fair a score as it gets. The story alone would be a 3/10, but the return of funny man Murphy and the original cast bump it up a bit.

While better than expected, the sequel still did not come close to touching the genius of its predecessor. If I gave this movie anything over a 6/10, it would morally haunt me for the rest of my life. Taking all of this into consideration, my final rating is a 5.5/10.

Let's just hope there is not a third one in 2052.

 @wilkesbeacon  
Matthew.Matrisciano@wilkes.edu



### BOOKSTORE, from front

materials," but you will have to forgive me if I am more than a little skeptical in believing that these savings will either be significant or long-lasting.

So, if you are a fellow student reading this right now, ask yourself: How many places exist on campus for students to study or socialize outside of their dorms in an indoor setting?

Not many.

Due to our lovely seasonal weather here at Wilkes, there is a concerning low number of sheltered spaces for the general student population. And of these spaces, exactly two locations exist that are able to accommodate the largest number of students indoors – the library and the SUB.

As you know, the library consists of three floors and a basement. While the basement and first floor have no restrictions on volume, the other two are designated for quiet study. And what of the SUB?

As it stands today, the SUB also only has a single area for indoor studying: the very same student lounge that the administration is so keen on demolishing for a bookstore. It should also be noted that this area also doubles as an area for socialization – many students utilize this area to meet other students or engage in study groups. Notably, the gaming lounge towards the back of the SUB and dining area in between also double as effective mediums for socialization.

With these things in mind, ask yourself: How often have you utilized the SUB lounge before the pandemic? How many Programming Board or other events like Paint n' Sip or the everlasting bingo have taken place in that memorable space time and time again?

This space in the student lounge acts as a momentary respite for us – a haven. This space works precisely because the location itself is so frequently traveled.

Now ask yourself: How many times have you graced the Barnes & Noble bookstore downtown? I do not know about you, but even assuming you were not a savvy purchaser of your textbooks to buy or rent them from just about anywhere else for a (concerningly) cheaper amount, I would wager that you would still only visit this bookstore twice a semester – once to buy the books, and once more to resell your books at rates comparable to what GameStop might offer you for a used game.

This leads me to my main query: How or why did the Committee of Wisdom come to the contemptible conclusion that we should replace one of the few refuges

### Opinion

available to students outside their dorms with a bookstore that is already scarcely visited by students?

I know businesses have been particularly hard hit by COVID-19, but who does this university bookstore actually support that the university cannot find other ways of achieving said support without tearing into existing free spaces? Is that "competitive financial contribution" truly so great?

In his announcement email, Dr. Cant mentioned that the university has partnered with Barnes & Noble for the last 15 years. It is not exactly clear why this matters in any way whatsoever when making the decision to continue forward with this new partnership. We are not operating in the world of yesterday, of 2006. We are in the world of tomorrow, of 2021.

We should not blindly prop up businesses that are slow on the uptake in offering affordable textbooks to students. What is even more damning about all this is that the administration at the university appears to have, quite literally, leapt at the opportunity to renew its business lease with Barnes & Noble for five years! Thank god for the Committee of Wisdom.

I know that this might come as a shock to some individuals in our out-of-touch administration, but textbook prices at Barnes & Noble are rarely the cheapest around.

And the simple reality is that only the most affluent or naive students would seriously consider Barnes & Noble as a reliable first resource for buying textbooks at a competitive price.

But all this being said, there is still a more important rationale for keeping the student lounge the same: The concept of the third place. The third place refers to a place that you visit of your own volition outside of your home (the first place) or where you work (the second place) – somewhere you can decompress, study in peace or socialize with people.

In everyday society, such places include coffee shops, movie theaters, parks and so on. These places are essential considerations for any kind of serious community planning, and yet it seems that neither the Committee of Wisdom nor the administration bothered to consult actual experts for suitable locations.

For a great many students living on campus, the student lounge is one of the few remaining large indoor spaces that we can find that elusive reprieve from the rigors of academic life, the cramped confines of our dorm and shelter from the elements.

And if the Committee of Wisdom's

dubious conclusion was to literally bulldoze this great haven for a bookstore that students already rarely visit, what kind of message does that send to the student body?

I'll tell you: That you should pay your ever-increasing tuition, pay for inconsistent housing qualities and give on Giving Day after you graduate while the administration does what it wants with reckless abandon and no regard for what the student body actually needs.

Allegedly, the university claimed that this desire for a bookstore on campus was one of the common concerns cited by students "according to a study" two years ago.

Really? How was this question phrased? Did all of these students really express a desire for the student lounge to be replaced with a bookstore? Or did they express the sentiment that the bookstore should be on campus? These are two very different questions, with very different answers.

As a personal aside, can we also stop pretending that these faux committees that include an infinitesimal number of students are somehow fully representative of the student body? And though I speak only for myself in this piece, it is worth noting that The Beacon interviewing two students for their feedback on the idea of a bookstore is also not indicative of what students want.

While student input on the Committee of Wisdom was undoubtedly important, I think polling the student body on this specific issue would have been infinitely wiser.

Did we really want a bookstore, or is that just what the university wanted to do?

And what about future students? While it is obvious that the university goes all out in cultivating their Open House days with fine dining in the SUB, how do they think that the future bookstore will transform the SUB? Few things are as organic as seeing dedicated spaces where students can enjoy themselves.

But what happens when the bookstore destroys that aesthetic? Instead of a space that caters to a variety of student needs, we will have the barest of mini-malls. "Continuing the university's commitment to community engagement" indeed.

But I do not write this critique for its own sake, to offer no alternatives against the Committee of Wisdom's ridiculous conclusion. No, there are actually several alternatives that would work just as well, if not better, than obliterating this endangered third space.

One such alternative might include the

UCOM's second floor. The Marts and its second-floor classrooms also come to mind as being particularly cumbersome places for classes, and thus, perfect fits for a bookstore. These two locations are on-campus, but remain on the outer edges of campus, rather than the direct center of operations for daily student life.

Failing these, there is also the second floor of the SUB to consider, where it would be out of the way enough to be useful when needed, and ignored otherwise – much like the Ballroom or Miller Room generally are.

And what of the classroom immediately across from the Honors office? That awkwardly purposed classroom replete with full glass windows, multiple entrances, and generally remote location strikes me as the perfect setting for something that students do not need to access on a regular basis, but as something to be utilized when needed. But what do I know?


These alternatives are inherently superior than any idea proposing to essentially pave over the student lounge for the simple fact that the university is not in short supply of classrooms. And excepting the UCOM and Miller Room alternatives, these other classrooms are quite possibly the least desirable ones on campus – for faculty and students alike. Repurposing them would be a boon to us all.

While it is a shame that I was not more aware of the Committee of Wisdom's efforts sooner, this decision to implement a campus bookstore once more and repeat history in perfect lockstep is yet another reminder of just the kind of university that we attend. A university that, instead of looking toward the future, would rather cling desperately to the past and solicit the opinions of the few in order to pursue their own agenda.

A university that would rather pursue a campus bookstore instead of addressing long-standing requests by the student body – like streamlining the residential experience so that all students could have equal access to the same basic amenities for the same cost.

But it sounds like these things would just be too challenging for the university to address.

Yet, when it comes to providing the answer to an unasked question of where the most digitally-attuned generation of students might buy their textbooks in the world of 2021: Why, the university has the answer to your imaginary issue – it just so happens that the answer is from 2006.

 @wilkesbeacon  
William.Billingsley@wilkes.edu

# Sports

## MLAX: Wilkes falls to

By Ariel Reed  
Sports Editor

EDWARDSVILLE, Pa. — On March 13, the men's lacrosse team played on their home field for the first time since March 11, 2020. They fell to Messiah College, 9-4.

A vast amount of anticipation led up to this event, as Wilkes had not seen the field since the university closed down over a year ago due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Colonels showed a strong performance, but minor mistakes cost them the game.

"No adjustments needed to happen," said head coach Curtis Jaques. "We just needed to settle in and trust the things that we do everyday in practice."

Messiah jumped out to an early lead in, pounding three essentially back-to-back-to-back goals. Messiah's Sam Stone was instrumental on offense with five goals.

Messiah took six shot attempts in the first quarter; however, junior goalkeeper Ryan Lasher led his teammates in an effort to restrict the amount of shots that Messiah would be able to rattle-off in the first quarter.

"The most crucial part to leading an effective defense is respecting and trusting your teammates," said Lasher. "This allows communicating to be constant and for goalies to know that the defense has their back and vice versa."

Despite coming into the second quarter down by three, Wilkes did not bow their heads. Instead, Wilkes attempted to step up their physicality. With approximately eight minutes left in the period, junior attacker Alex Myers put the Colonels on the board.

"The goal was huge – it helped start some spark that we could build off to bring into the second half," said Myers. "The goal helped our team to get out of a funk that happened in the first half."

The Colonels gained some confidence in themselves with this goal, but a minor mistake with missing a ground ball led to Messiah being able to strike back quickly.

Wilkes gave Messiah an extra-man opportunity when emotions became high-strung and caused a player to commit a penalty. This gave Messiah another goal to close the first half with a score of 5-1.

"The refs are dusting the rust off – they have not seen a game in over a year," said



Junior attacker Alex Myers scores a goal as the Colonels lead 5-1.

Jaques. "You can't give up everything. You have to play physical. It's a tough – that's the rough part."

Coming out of the locker room to strike back, Wilkes attempted to step up their physicality. With approximately eight minutes left in the period, junior attacker Alex Myers put the Colonels on the board.

Seconds later, Wilkes capitalized off a loose ball.

Three minutes into the second half, Nico Lorenz scored a goal for the Colonels.

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# Sports

## MLAX: Wilkes falls to 0-2 in non-conference play

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact sports editor: [Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu](mailto:Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu)

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The Beacon/Ariel Reed

**Junior attacker Alex Myers spun around a defender and found a way to get a goal as the seconds on the shot clock wound down in the second quarter.**

Jaques. "You cannot rely on the refs to call everything. You need to play through it and play physical. We want to play physical and tough - that's our style."

The roughness of this game was evident going into the second half. Over half of the total penalties committed in the game occurred in the third and fourth quarters.

Coming out of halftime, Wilkes was eager to strike back. At the 9:26 mark, sophomore midfielder Jacob Kudysch found the back of the net and gave some spark to the Colonels.

Seconds later, Messiah was able to capitalize off of a faceoff violation to score.

Three minutes later, senior attacker Nico Lorenzo finessed his way through the defense to put the Colonels within three of the Falcons. Messiah then converted a ground ball pickup into another goal to get back to a comfortable four-point lead.

Wilkes attempted to battle back with a goal from first-year midfielder Colby Opromolla at a little under 10 minutes left to play; however, Messiah was able to stop every other attack from Wilkes while scoring two more times to secure a 9-4 win.

"I think those momentum goals were huge," said Jaques. "(Opromolla) hitting his first goal of the year was a big momentum

swinger. Ground balls are bigger for us though. There were a lot of momentum swings that we did not hold onto with some key rides that did not come back."

The Falcons' defense proved to be tough for the Colonels, as Wilkes recorded 12 shots as compared to Messiah's 29. Despite the fewer shot attempts, the Colonels were still able to create open looks at the net.

"The looks I was getting were because we were playing good team offense," said Myers. "I wish some more could go in, but it's helping us as a team be more fluid in the offense and know the looks are there."

Yet, Messiah got the best of the Colonels.

"Messiah threw a really good zone at us today, which frustrated us on offense. Kudos to them for holding us to four goals," said Jaques. "We need to get back to the drawing board and fix what needs to be fixed. At the end of the day, putting 10 penalties in the penalty box, we are going to be playing a lot of defense no matter what. We shot ourselves in the foot with that."

The Colonels will begin conference play today against DeSales at 7 p.m.

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[Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu](mailto:Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu)

### WBB, from front cover

Instead of staying down and accepting defeat in the fourth quarter, the Colonels began to claw back from an 18-point deficit that they faced at the onset of the fourth quarter.

Wilkes was the more aggressive team in the last period, as the Colonels attacked the rim and made their way to the foul line. The aggressive play helped Wilkes out-score the Cougars, 26-17, in the fourth quarter.

The attack was led by sophomore guard Brenna Babcock, who had a team-high 13 points for the Colonels. Babcock has seen her role increase over the season.

"All of our teammates and coaches will have our backs 100 percent, whether we are having an off shooting day or not," said Babcock. "It makes it easy to keep going hard and trying my best everyday when I have those kinds of people to lean on."

Brianna Horton also had 11 points and helped lead Wilkes' fourth quarter push, while the two other seniors, Kelley and Pierce, finished with four and two points, respectively.

The Colonels lost the previous day to Misericordia, 46-36, but the effort and competitiveness was apparent in the second game of the two-day series, as represented in Wilkes' ability to push the score into the 60s.

"I think we played right until the end, and I think that they showed me some toughness. I am really proud of the effort," said Macciocco. "As a coach, you are competitive - you want to win, but I can walk away from a game like that proud knowing we didn't give up."

Even with the late surge, Wilkes struggled to shoot the ball, shooting just over 50 percent from the free throw line and making only three triples throughout the contest, opposed to the nine three-pointers that Misericordia hit.

Elizabeth Fasti led the Cougars, by setting new career-highs in minutes (37), points (25), assists (three) and blocks (two).

Misericordia's regular season is over, but they can still play in the Middle Atlantic Conference crossover challenge between the MAC Freedom and the MAC Commonwealth.

Wilkes has one more scheduled game against FDU-Florham before heading into the MAC crossover challenge.

A link to the live streams can be found on [gowlkesu.com](http://gowlkesu.com).

[@wilkesbeacon](https://twitter.com/wilkesbeacon)  
[Jason.Eberhart@wilkes.edu](mailto:Jason.Eberhart@wilkes.edu)

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[@wilkesbeacon](https://twitter.com/wilkesbeacon)  
[William.Billingsley@wilkes.edu](mailto:William.Billingsley@wilkes.edu)



# WIH: Morey scores first goal MVB: Wilkes earns first set win

By Zara Lantzman  
Staff Writer

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. -- In their fifth game of the season, the Colonels fell 9-1 against Utica at the Toyota Sportsplex.

Despite the loss, head coach Earl Utter has been satisfied with Wilkes' efforts in this condensed season.

"I'm proud of everything," said Utter. "They made mistakes, but the mistakes they made were no different than the guys that make billions of dollars ... I'm certainly proud of the way they kept going on the bench, and they were always cheering each other on. That kind of stuff is impressive to me, and the fact they didn't quit. I saw no quit in them tonight."

Both teams put up goals on the scoreboard in the first 10 minutes of play. At 6:16, Utica's Maggie Ryloft opened the scoring. Two minutes later, Wilkes' first-year forward Rachel Morey scored the first goal of her collegiate career, assisted by sophomore Abigail Barcess.

"The goal started off of as a four v. four with Laurene (Fraser) and I breaking it out of the zone," said Morey. "Then, (Barcess) skated into the zone. She walked out of the corner and gave me a pass in front of the net. I then shot the puck on the ice through the five hole. Scoring my first goal was awesome. I really enjoy playing for Wilkes and being able to play hockey during these times is great. It also helps me realize that I am in the right place for me as an athlete."

The score remained tied at one until Utica's Carly Stefanini scored at 15:49 in the

first period to shift the momentum. Back-to-back goals from Ryloft and Rebecca Brown would sent Wilkes into the locker room trailing 4-1 after the first period.

By the end of the second period, the Pioneers had tacked on three more goals, bringing their lead to 7-1. Utica was able to find the goal two more times before the end of the game. Morey would score the only goal of the contest for Wilkes.

Junior captain Shauna Tubbs, who currently leads Wilkes' stats with five points, focuses on her approach to each game.


"My mindset going into the game is that I need to play to my full potential and worry about the things that I can control in a game," said Tubbs. "I also think about what we can do to improve as a team."

Despite the loss, Wilkes was able to get good looks on goal.

"Some of the things we have been working on are the way that (Morey) scored - getting loose in front of the net and getting passes out front," said Utter. "We have been working on a lot of cycling-type plays. We've been working on a lot of races to win the puck. I am happy with it. I see it paying off every game in terms of the way we move the puck."

Wilkes lost in their second contest to Utica, 5-2. Sophomore forward Julie Patterson scored both goals for the Colonels.

The women's ice hockey team returns to the ice on March 19 and 20 in a home-and-home series against Elmira College.

 @wilkesbeacon  
Zara.Lantzman@wilkes.edu

By Baylee Guedes  
Sports Staff Writer

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. -- On March 10, the Colonels fell to Misericordia, 3-1; however, Wilkes was able to get their first set win of the season in the match.

The Colonels were looking to play their Middle Atlantic Conference rival Arcadia on March 13 to have a multiple contest week. Regrettably, Wilkes was not able to compete due to a positive COVID-19 case.

Against Misericordia, sophomore Zach Evans led Wilkes in kills with 12. Following him were junior Ethan Speicher and first-year Noah Taylor each with seven. Taylor led the team in digs with 10 and sophomore Zach Shay led the team in assists with 30.

"Zach Evans had another good offensive night, and Noah Taylor's defensive game is developing," said head coach Joseph Czopek. "Zach Shay is doing a great job running our offense. He consistently has strong overall performances in many aspects of the game."

The Colonels will return to the court on the road today at 7 p.m. for their second contest against Misericordia.

"For the rematch (against Misericordia), we will need to pull not only our passing together but also our blocking," said Speicher. "Kills and blocks are great, but being able to get the passes and digs we need are more important."

Although the team lost in the first match, there are aspects of the sets that the team has been able to learn from and can now capitalize on in the rematch.

"Some positives we can take from that

loss is that we know we can play with them," said Shay. "We know what we are coming up against this time."

Czopek prepared his players for their matches against Misericordia as he would for any opponent. They practiced during the week, while physically and mentally getting ready for their rival.

"As a young team, with every match we play, we are continuing to grow and develop," said Czopek. "We build on the areas that we do well and learn from those aspects that we struggled at."


With the condensed season due to COVID-19 guidelines, Wilkes has been struggling to get a jump on the leaderboards.

"The condensed season has been weird because we had to go straight into conference play," said Taylor. "It is tough when you are one of the youngest teams in the conference."

A shortened season has led to a shorter time frame for game preparation. Shay and his teammates have been contributing where they can physically and mentally, but staying motivated in this season of uncertainty is tough for all athletes.

"We are all really happy that we have a season, but missing that preseason training hurt us," said Shay. "Keeping everyone motivated has definitely been hard, so we try to make sure to keep some practices lighthearted and fun so that everyone's spirits stay up."

A live stream is on [gowilkesu.com](http://gowilkesu.com).

 @wilkesbeacon  
Baylee.Guedes@wilkes.edu

# BASE: Failing to execute

By Kirsten Peters  
Editor-in-Chief

After 366 days, the Colonels stepped back out onto the diamond with a four-game series against Arcadia. Wilkes won the first, seven-inning game of the series, 12-1, before dropping the remaining three contests by scores of 12-1, 14-4 and 5-3.

"I think we started off well - we hit the ball well the first game and had a lot of positives from the pitching staff early on," said head coach Kevin Gryboski. "The middle two games we didn't play well - we didn't execute and do the things we should've. I thought the fourth game we played a little bit better, but we got sloppy there at the end, and it cost us."

On Saturday, standout performances from JT Hibschieman, Dominick Bayo and Nick Pronti led the Colonels to victory on the road.

Hibschieman went the distance on the mound, having a "dominant" performance according to Gryboski, in which he only allowed three hits, one walk and one unearned run over the course of seven innings and 77 pitches. He recorded three strikeouts.

"I really worked on pitching inside and keeping batters uncomfortable in the box and off the plate to setup other pitches," said Hibschieman. "Keeping them off balance with my change up and fastball forced a lot of weak contact and poor swings."

In addition to Hibschieman's impressive outing, the bats were awake for the Colonels, as four pitching changes for Arcadia did not slow down Wilkes' offense. Arcadia's Jeremy



## Senior shortstop Nic doubles with two

Sabathne received the loss

Bayo went 2-for-3 at RBIs, while Pronti finished RBIs and one run score. Darren Kerdesky, Jonah Bobbin each added two RBIs.

"(Hibschieman) threw a lot of strikes, you can't throw strikes, you can't walk. We also had solid performance in the first game

## WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

### Men's Basketball

02/11 @ DeSales, L 99-55  
02/12 vs. DeSales, L 77-43  
02/18 vs. Arcadia, L 86-79  
02/19 @ Arcadia, W 97-93  
02/25 @ FDU-Florham, CANCELLED  
02/26 vs. FDU-Florham, CANCELLED  
03/04 vs. Delaware Valley, L 77-63  
03/05 @ Delaware Valley, W 59-53  
03/08 @ Alvernia, L 95-81

### Women's Basketball

02/11 vs. DeSales, L 79-55  
02/12 @ DeSales, L 68-44  
02/25 vs. FDU-Florham, CANCELLED  
02/26 @ FDU-Florham, CANCELLED  
03/04 @ Delaware Valley, L 59-42  
03/05 vs. Delaware Valley, L 57-47  
03/08 vs. Alvernia, L 75-70  
03/11 @ Misericordia, L 46-36  
03/12 vs. Misericordia, L 69-60  
03/15 vs. FDU-Florham, 4:30 p.m.

### Men's Ice Hockey

02/19 vs. Utica, W 3-2  
02/20 @ Utica, L 11-5  
02/26 @ Stevenson, L 3-1  
03/05 @ Nazareth, W 6-3  
03/06 vs. Nazareth, W 8-2  
03/14 @ Manhattanville, POSTPONED  
03/19 vs. Elmira, 5 p.m.  
03/20 @ Elmira, 7 p.m.  
03/26 vs. Neumann, 5 p.m.  
03/27 vs. Chatham, 7 p.m.

### Women's Ice Hockey

02/19 @ Alvernia, POSTPONED  
02/20 vs. Alvernia, POSTPONED  
02/26 @ Chatham, L 4-1  
02/28 vs. Chatham, L 4-1  
03/05 vs. Manhattanville, L 5-2  
03/06 @ Manhattanville, L 3-1  
03/12 vs. Utica, L 9-1  
03/13 @ Utica, L 5-2  
03/19 @ Elmira, 6 p.m.  
03/20 vs. Elmira, 3:30 p.m.  
03/26 @ Nazareth, 5 p.m.  
03/28 vs. Nazareth, 3:30 p.m.

## WINTER

### Men's and Women's Swimming

Both men's and women's swimming will be competing virtually this season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This means there are no official dates set for contests. The swimmers will race in their home pools and upload their times virtually for scoring.



# WB: Wilkes earns first set win

By Lee Guedes  
Staff Writer

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. -- On March 17, the Colonels fell to Misericordia, 3-1. Wilkes was able to get their first win of the season in the match. The Colonels were looking to play their first Atlantic Conference rival Arcadia since 2013 to have a multiple contest. Unfortunately, Wilkes was not able to get a positive COVID-19 case. At Misericordia, sophomore Zach Wilkes in kills with 12. Following junior Ethan Speicher and freshman Taylor each with seven. Taylor has 10 and sophomore assists with 30. Taylor has another good offensive game as Noah Taylor's defensive game is said head coach Joseph Czopek.

"We are doing a great job running our team consistently has strong overall records in many aspects of the game." The Colonels will return to the court on Monday at 7 p.m. for their second match against Misericordia.

"The rematch (against Misericordia), we need to pull not only our passing but also our blocking," said Coach Kills and blocks are great, but we need to get the passes and digs we need more important."

The team lost in the first match, but expects of the sets that the team needs to learn from and can now win in the rematch.

"Positives we can take from that

loss is that we know we can play with them," said Shay. "We know what we are coming up against this time."

Czopek prepared his players for their matches against Misericordia as he would for any opponent. They practiced during the week, while physically and mentally getting ready for their rival.

"As a young team, with every match we play, we are continuing to grow and develop," said Czopek. "We build on the areas that we do well and learn from those aspects that we struggled at."


With the condensed season due to COVID-19 guidelines, Wilkes has been struggling to get a jump on the leaderboards.

"The condensed season has been weird because we had to go straight into conference play," said Taylor. "It is tough when you are one of the youngest teams in the conference."

A shortened season has led to a shorter time frame for game preparation. Shay and his teammates have been contributing where they can physically and mentally, but staying motivated in this season of uncertainty is tough for all athletes.

"We are all really happy that we have a season, but missing that preseason training hurt us," said Shay. "Keeping everyone motivated has definitely been hard, so we try to make sure to keep some practices lighthearted and fun so that everyone's spirits stay up."

A live stream is on [gowilkesu.com](http://gowilkesu.com).

 [@wilkesbeacon](https://twitter.com/wilkesbeacon)  
[Baylee.Guedes@wilkes.edu](mailto:Baylee.Guedes@wilkes.edu)

## SCHEDULES

### Men's Ice Hockey

02/19 vs. Utica, W 3-2  
02/20 vs. Utica, L 11-5  
02/21 vs. Stevenson, L 3-1  
02/22 vs. Nazareth, W 6-3  
02/23 vs. Nazareth, W 8-2  
02/24 vs. Manhattanville, POSTPONED  
02/25 vs. Elmira, 5 p.m.  
02/26 vs. Elmira, 7 p.m.  
02/27 vs. Keimann, 5 p.m.  
02/28 vs. Chatham, 7 p.m.

### Women's Ice Hockey

02/19 @ Alvernia, POSTPONED  
02/20 vs. Alvernia, POSTPONED  
02/26 @ Chatham, L 4-1  
02/28 vs. Chatham, L 4-1  
03/05 vs. Manhattanville, L 5-2  
03/06 @ Manhattanville, L 3-1  
03/12 vs. Utica, L 9-1  
03/13 @ Utica, L 5-2  
03/19 @ Elmira, 6 p.m.  
03/20 vs. Elmira, 3:30 p.m.  
03/26 @ Nazareth, 5 p.m.  
03/28 vs. Nazareth, 3:30 p.m.

# BASE: Failing to execute leaves Wilkes 3-1 after season opener

By Kirsten Peters  
Editor-in-Chief

After 366 days, the Colonels stepped back out onto the diamond with a four-game series against Arcadia. Wilkes won the first, seven-inning game of the series, 12-1, before dropping the remaining three contests by scores of 12-1, 14-4 and 5-3.

"I think we started off well - we hit the ball well the first game and had a lot of positives from the pitching staff early on," said head coach Kevin Gryboski. "The middle two games we didn't play well - we didn't execute and do the things we should've. I thought the fourth game we played a little bit better, but we got sloppy there at the end, and it cost us."

On Saturday, standout performances from JT Hibschan, Dominick Bayo and Nick Pronti led the Colonels to victory on the road.

Hibschan went the distance on the mound, having a "dominant" performance according to Gryboski, in which he only allowed three hits, one walk and one unearned run over the course of seven innings and 77 pitches. He recorded three strikeouts.

"I really worked on pitching inside and keeping batters uncomfortable in the box and off the plate to setup other pitches," said Hibschan. "Keeping them off balance with my change up and fastball forced a lot of weak contact and poor swings."

In addition to Hibschan's impressive outing, the bats were awake for the Colonels, as four pitching changes for Arcadia did not slow down Wilkes' offense. Arcadia's Jeremy



The Beacon/Matt Konikow

**Senior shortstop Nick Pronti (3) went 5-for-14 on the weekend, tallying two doubles with two walks, six RBIs and three runs scored.**

Sabathe received the loss.

Bayo went 2-for-3 at the plate with three RBIs, while Pronti finished 2-for-5 with four RBIs and one run scored. Michael Patrizio, Darren Kerdesky, Jonah Harder and Vinny Bobbin each added two hits apiece.

"(Hibschan) threw strikes, and if you don't throw strikes, you can't win," said Patrizio, who went 4-for-9 on the weekend with four walks. "We also had solid base running from (Kerdesky), (Bobbin) and (Bayo) that helped us perform in the first game."

Following Hibschan's performance, the Colonels struggled defensively in their second contest on Saturday and in their doubleheader on Sunday.

In games two and three, Arcadia topped the Colonels by nine and eight runs, respectively. Game four proved to be the closest contest between the two teams, as Wilkes snagged a 1-0 lead in the fourth inning when Pronti scored off of Kerdesky's fielder's choice, which resulted in an out at second.

In the top of the fifth, Arcadia tied the


game at one with a solo home run from Trevor Mattson. The Colonels answered in the bottom of the fifth to regain the lead, 3-1, when Pronti doubled to left-center to bring in Bayo and Harder. Yet, the Knights would capitalize off of three Wilkes errors in the eighth inning to bring in four runs and solidify their 5-3 victory.

"Tony (Molitoris) had one hell of a game on the mound (in game four)," said Patrizio. "It's the little things that we didn't do - we just didn't take care of the baseball, and that can't happen if we want to be a championship team, and we absolutely can be. It's tough to readjust after not playing live baseball for a year, but all we can do now is learn from our mistakes, improve and simply be better."

In their three losses, Wilkes recorded a combined 15 errors. In their 12-1 win, Wilkes still recorded four errors, closing out their opening weekend total at 19 errors.

"Honestly, not going to Florida, and not getting to see the guys play some non-conference games prior to getting into conference games kind of hurts a little bit," said Gryboski on losing spring break competition. "When we usually go down there, guys get some reps down there, and we get to see who can play, and not getting those reps early on is tough."

Wilkes will face local rival Misericordia in a four-game MAC Freedom series on March 20 and 21.

 [@wilkesbeacon](https://twitter.com/wilkesbeacon)  
[Kirsten.Peters@wilkes.edu](mailto:Kirsten.Peters@wilkes.edu)

## WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

### Men's and Women's Swimming

Both men's and women's swimming will be competing virtually this season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This means there are no official dates set for contests. The swimmers will race in their home pools and upload their times virtually for scoring.

### Men's Volleyball

02/24 vs. Alvernia, L 3-0  
02/27 @ Stevens, POSTPONED  
02/27 @ Stevens, POSTPONED  
03/03 @ Alvernia, L 3-0  
03/06 vs. Stevenson, L 3-0  
03/06 vs. Stevenson, L 3-0  
03/10 vs. Misericordia, L 3-1  
03/13 @ Arcadia, POSTPONED  
03/13 @ Arcadia, POSTPONED  
03/17 @ Misericordia, 7 p.m.  
03/24 @ Eastern, 7 p.m.  
03/27 vs. Widener, 11 a.m.  
03/27 vs. Widener, 1 p.m.  
03/31 vs. Eastern, 7 p.m.  
04/03 @ Messiah, 1 p.m.  
04/03 @ Messiah, 3 p.m.

### Wrestling

02/20 vs. Delaware Valley, W 29-19  
03/07 vs. Alvernia, L 22-17



Getting to know...

# Trent Fisher

## First-Year Men's Basketball Player



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

**The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week from March 3 to 10**

**Why Trent Fisher was selected:** Fisher had standout performances in back-to-back contests against Delaware Valley and Alvernia, securing 23 points and nine rebounds against Del Val as well as a double-double against Alvernia with 21 points and 10 rebounds.

**Name:** Trent Fisher  
**Year:** First-year  
**Major:** Sports Management  
**Hometown:** Sellersville, Pa.  
**High School:** Pennridge H.S.  
**Position:** Power Forward

**Other interests or hobbies off of the field?**

Outside of basketball. I like playing lots of golf on the weekends, hanging out with friends and watching loads of movies.

**Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?**

My driving force to come here, besides being recruited to play basketball, was just how much I fell in love with the campus when I first visited and how good the business school is at Wilkes.

**Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?**

I am not really sure yet, but I still have a long three years to really decide what I want to do with my degree after college.

**Favorite memory as a Colonel?**

In my short time as a Wilkes student-athlete, my favorite memory is all the sport debates that we have in the locker room.

**Hopes for this season as a Colonel?**

My hopes for the season are for everyone to mold together, develop as a group in this condensed season and come back next year ready to take control of the MAC.

**When/Why did you first begin playing?**

I began playing basketball in the 5th grade after I was asked to tryout and play for a travel team by the dad of one of my best friends, who happened to be the coach.

**Favorite thing to do during practice?**

My favorite thing is when we do blue vs. white shooting competitions.

**Favorite meal to eat on campus?**

D.P. Dough.

**What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?**

Glacier Freeze.

**If your life was a movie, who would you want to play you and why?**

Ryan Reynolds. I am not sure why, but he is just a really funny actor.

**If you could have dinner with a famous person, who would it be?**

I would have to choose Matthew McConaughey.

**Most influential person in your life?**

My parents.

**A quote you live your life by?**

"One man can be a crucial ingredient on a team, but one man cannot make a team." - Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

**What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?**

What "Be Colonel" means to me is just to work hard every day in every aspect of your life, whether that be on the basketball court, in the classroom or with any other component of life.

- Compiled by Ariel Reed, Sports Editor

Getting to know...

# Shauna Tubbs

## Junior Ice Hockey Player

**The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week from March 3 to 10**

**Why Shauna Tubbs was selected:** Tubbs recorded a total of three goals against Manhattanville College, proving to be the only Colonel able to score against the Valiants across two contests.

**Name:** Shauna Tubbs

**Year:** Junior

**Major:** Early Childhood Education

**Hometown:** Maumee, Ohio

**High School:** Maumee H.S.

**Position:** Center

**Other interests or hobbies off of the field?**

I like to play other sports, such as baseball, basketball and football. I also like to be by the water and on boats.

**Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?**

I came to Wilkes because I liked the smaller class sizes and the ability for me to be a part of the startup of the ice hockey program here at Wilkes.

**Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?**

When I graduate, I want to return to my hometown and find a teaching job at the elementary school in my area.

**Favorite memory as a Colonel?**

My favorite memory is from my sophomore year when I scored with 7.6 seconds left in the third period to get our first win over King's.

**Hopes for this season as a Colonel?**

My hopes for this season is for our team to continue getting better with every game and play to the best of our abilities.

**When/Why did you first begin playing?**

I started playing at five years old. I started playing because I was always in a rink - every other sport I played, I did not enjoy as much as I did hockey.

**Favorite thing to do during practice?**

At the beginning of practice, I like to flick pucks at Abigail Barless and try to catch them.

**Favorite meal to eat on campus?**

Grilled cheese with the shoestring fries.

**What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?**

Yellow, but I prefer powerade.

**If your life was a movie, who would you want to play you and why?**

Julianne Hough. She is a very well rounded person and would be able to play me well.

**Favorite professor?**

Dr. Polachek.

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

Walt Disney.

**Most influential person in your life?**

My grandparents.

**A quote you live your life by?**

"Eventually, all the pieces fall into place. Until then, laugh at the confusion, live for the moment and know that everything happens for a reason."

**What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?**

It means that I am playing for not only myself, but my teammates, successors and my school. I am playing for so much more than just me.

- Compiled by Ariel Reed, Sports Editor



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The Beacon/Ariel Reed





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*May 24 to Aug. 20*

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**NINE-WEEK SESSION**

*June 14 to Aug. 17*

**SUMMER SESSION II**

*July 19 to Aug. 20*

Make an appointment with your advisor and visit [wilkes.edu/summer](http://wilkes.edu/summer).

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