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# The Lycourier

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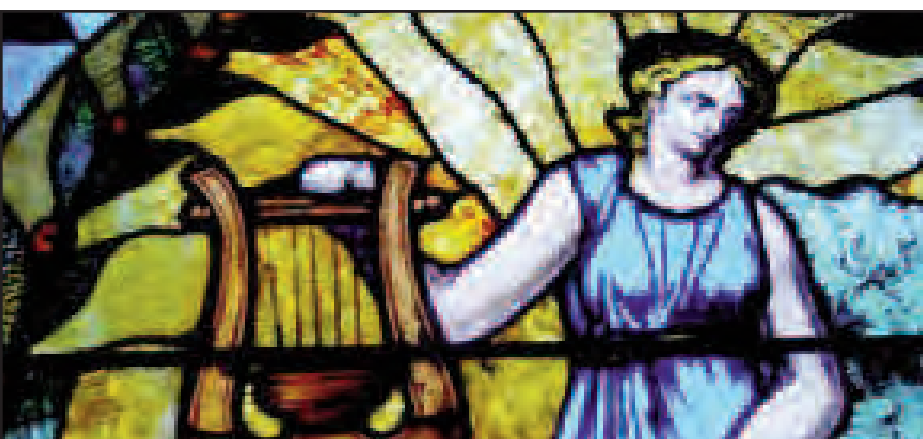
September 29, 2011

## Students aid in flood relief efforts



Photo Provided by Melissa Erlick

Lycoming students gather for a group photograph after assisting the relief efforts organized at the Plunkett's Creek Township Fire Co. in the wake of Tropical Storm Lee, which left parts of Lycoming County with severe water and flood damage. Organized through the Lycoming College Community Service Center, students worked to aid flood victims in Barbour's.



Windows such as this one in Rowley House, pictured above, are featured on the Stained Glass walking tour, starts at 1 p.m. Friday for Family Weekend.

## Annual Family Weekend hosts activities on campus

By Kimberly Dreese

Lycoming's annual Family Weekend will be held this weekend. At 1 p.m. Friday there is a Sculpture and Stained Glass walking tour starting in the Fine Arts Building.

Families making reservations for that night's sponsored dinner at Smokey Jo's will enjoy barbecue and picnic-style food. The Family Weekend concert, featuring both the Lycoming College Band and Choir, begins at 7 p.m. in Clarke Chapel.

On Saturday morning parents can attend "Parenting the College Freshman, Part II" with Regina Collins in the Jane Schultz Room. A Study Abroad Information Session will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Also available is the Hiawatha Riverboat Tour late Saturday morning. Lunch on Saturday will be served on the quad for a fee, and families can play traditional picnic games before participating in a great cause in East Hall Coffeeshouse, where the sisters of Gamma Delta Sigma

will hold an auction to raise funds for Hodgkin's disease research and a scholarship in memory of Brandy Lee Sudol, a sister who succumbed to the disease.

The football team faces off with Albright College of Reading at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Following the game, Snowden Library is offering a sold-out "Culinary Tasting" walking tour, which will provide samples from several restaurants in Williamsport.

Families can watch students hone their oratory skills by reading Bible passages aloud in Clarke Chapel as part of a scholarship contest sponsored by the Religion department which awards a prize to the student who presents the best reading.

A Family Weekend Dinner will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday in the Jane Schultz Room.

There are three events Saturday evening, including another showing of "Mauritius," the campus movie, "Pirates of the Caribbean, on Stranger Tides," and comedian Michael Dean Ester, who will perform in Clarke Chapel. All events commence at 8 p.m.

Sunday marks the end of Family Weekend. A protestant ecumenical service will be held at 10:30 a.m. in Clarke Chapel and a variety of other religious services are available in town for those who wish to attend. The dining hall is open for brunch until 1 p.m.

## Science Departments host 'Science Saturday' for potential students

By Suzanne Smith

Lycourier Staff

Lycoming College's annual Science Saturday was held last week. 63 prospective students registered for the Saturday open house. The number was lower than usual but according to Jason Moran, coordinator of Science Saturday, admissions is expecting low numbers in general due to a national decrease in 18 year olds.

Despite the lower turnout Science Saturday provided prospective students the chance to explore campus.

Science Saturday started as a way for the college to showcase the new chemistry and biology building, Heim, and has since been a way for prospective students interested in the sciences to see what Lycoming College has to offer.

Faculty and students from the astronomy and physics, biology, and chemistry departments welcomed high school students and their parents into their labs.

Prospective students had an opportunity to not only see the lab settings each department offers but to meet faculty and students from possible majors. The students have the opportunity to choose from a number of sessions to get a more personalized view of the department that piques their interest. Sessions include meetings with the professors of each science department, and a session devoted to current student that have participated in out of classroom experiences such as internships, research experiences, or even volunteer work.

During the past 15 years it has been Dr. Michelle Briggs, biology, and Dr. Holly

Bendorf, chemistry, who have coordinated the session for the out-of-the-classroom experiences. The Saturday session showed prospective students and their parents that "there are great opportunities here," Briggs said. The panel of six to nine students from across the science majors also demonstrates to the visiting students what they can accomplish in a few short years at Lycoming College, she said.

Dr. Edward Gabriel, biology, said Science Saturday is a good opportunity for students thinking about attending Lycoming College for school "to see if it feels good."

With so much information offered in such a small amount of time, Gabriel referred to Science Saturday as a way for students to get "ideas fast." With all the laboratories and buildings open for the day it really is a good chance for students to check out the campus.

Dr. Christopher Kulp, physics, summed up the event: "Science Saturday is an excellent opportunity for prospective students and parents to learn about our programs in the Department of Astronomy and Physics. The prospective families also get to hear about the various opportunities that are available to our students in both the classroom and the research laboratory. Our goal as the faculty and students of the Department of Astronomy and Physics is to provide an entertaining and informative even for Science Saturday."

The same is true for the biology and chemistry departments as well.

For a number of current students within each major Science Saturday is the reason they

Dave Kenward, sophomore physics major, said Science Saturday was the first of his many visits to Lycoming College before decided to attend here. The power of an open house where the faculty and the students are at the full disposal of someone making a decision that will resonate for the next four years of their life is a great thing.



## Update: students react to new dining service

By Sarah Logue

Lycourier Staff

Lycoming has a brand new food service to go with it.

Parkhurst Dining Services is a catering company whose vision is to "continue our innovative approach to dining with extraordinarily gifted chefs, fresh, distinctive cuisine, and superb service."

The only question is, is it fulfilling its vision here at Lycoming College?

The most important person at food services here at Lycoming is Head Manager Nick Zolak.

It is clear that Zolak cares about what he is doing here at Lycoming.

Zolak said the cookies are good, adding, "They are amazing! It's a homemade recipe."

Upon further investigation, it was discovered that a lot of the food is made from scratch, like the burgers, pastries and even the pizza dough.

Zolak said, "We in the business say you are only as good as your last meal and it had better of tasted good!"

Not only are the cookies good, so are Parkhurst's business practices.

Parkhurst Dining Services especially changed its name here on campus to Lycoming College Dining Services to make it seem like part of campus, not a separate entity.

Parkhurst not only serves Lycoming College, it assists the local community and helps the environment through a program called EcoSteps.

Through EcoSteps, Parkhurst purchases 20 percent of its food from local farms, converts excess frying oil to bio diesel fuel, uses cage-free eggs, uses hormone-free dairy and are able to use biodegradable practices in the making of their foods.

Business practices aside, what do the students of Lycoming College think of their new food service?

After interviewing a number of students, it is clear that the student population has mixed feelings regarding their new food service.

Most of the new freshmen are indifferent because they have little to no experience with the old food service. Most freshman said that the food is good, the



staff are friendly and that they enjoy eating in the cafeteria.

However, the upperclassmen have more knowledge of the old food service and how it compares to Parkhurst Dining Services.

Several students commented that, the new food service is definitely different from last year's food service.

One student noted that she is wary eating of some of the pans from Bravissimo! Because she has seen workers re-use pans without first washing them out first.

Another reason for her caution is because this person has a severe shellfish allergy, and any sort of contact could send her into an allergic reaction.

However, Zolak explained that "in a controlled environment, this type of cooking process is acceptable and that

"Any student with allergies should always take extra precautions," he said.

Another student says that she does not like the placement of the lines and wishes that the servers would give students bigger food portions.

In response Zolak said that "We have been working on this and currently feel we have corrected the issue."

In regards to the size of the portions, "Portion control is necessary when feeding large number of people at any one time," Zolak said.

What students seem to agree on, though, is that the food is of quality, and that the new food service has good ideas for the future.

Zolak emphasized that Parkhurst continues "to tweak the program."

Zolak and the staff of Lycoming's new dining service seem to be dedicated to providing students with the best dining experience possible, and the feedback shows it.

Zolak said that the feedback he has received is, "Overall extremely positive. You unfortunately cannot please everyone although we try very hard."

## Community Service Center lists volunteer opportunities

The Community Service Center at Lycoming College announced the following local volunteer opportunities:

**Alzheimer's Association:** The Alzheimer's Association is holding an Alzheimer's Walk at Indian Park on Saturday. Sign-in for the walk will be at 9 a.m. and the walk will begin at 10. For more information, contact Carole Fulmer at 570-322-4185 or -email her at cfulmer2@comcast.net.

**Sunny Brook Meadows Therapeutic Riding:** Sunny Brook is seeking volunteers to assist with riding lessons, stable and property projects, events, and fundraising. Volunteers for riding are needed Tuesday and Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. and Friday from 9a.m. to noon. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.sunnybrookmeadows.com> or contact Edna Riddell at 570-547-1565 or e-mail her at eriddell49@windstream.net.

**Advancing Communities by Educating and Serving (ACES):** If you are interested in making a difference in the world, then ACES may be for you. Most of the activities center on projects in the Dominican Republic where the Dominican version of this organization does on-the-ground work directly with people. Members in Pennsylvania are the fundraisers for those endeavors. Anyone interested in volunteering may visit [www.acesnorthamerica.org](http://www.acesnorthamerica.org) or contact Linell Stabler at 570-326-2961 or 570-419-1218, or e-mail her at linell529@aol.com.

**American Rescue Workers:** The American Rescue Workers are constantly seeking volunteers to help work at their thrift store and help in the kitchen. They are willing to put together a project for a group that is interested in helping them. For more information, contact Kevin Carrol at 570-323-8401, ext. 18.

**Community Alliance for Progressive Positive Action (CAPP):** Beginning in October and continuing every Saturday throughout the year, mentors and tutors are needed to help younger students with academic work at Cochran Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. And there are after school opportunities 3:30 to 6p.m. Monday through Thursday as well. For more information, contact Carolyn Perry at 570-326-7700. e-mail: [cappa@comcast.net](mailto:cappa@comcast.net) Website: [www.cappaproject.org](http://www.cappaproject.org).

**Shepherd of the Streets:** Shepherd of the Streets is seeking volunteers to help clean their offices once a week. For more information, contact Ruth Hogue at 570-322-6538.

**Manor Care North:** Manor Care North is looking for volunteers to spend time with their residents. For more information, contact Mike Liddic at 570-323-8627.

**Big Brothers/Big Sisters:** Big Brothers and Big Sisters need volunteers for its mentoring program. This would require about three to five hours a week. For more information, contact Mary Chaplain at 570-321-5437.

**United Churches - Center City Food Pantry:** The United Churches and Center City Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help at their food pantry, which provides a three-day supply of food to those in need. Volunteers would assist in helping to hand out food to those who need it most. If you are interested in making a donation, items currently needed are: canned fruits, sugar, saltine crackers, coffee, noodles, cocoa mix, powdered drink mixes (Kool Aid and lemonade), chunky soups, stove top stuffing, and canned vegetables (especially stewed tomatoes). For more information, call 570-322-1657.

**Lycoming County Historical Society:** The Lycoming County Historical Society and the Thomas T. Taber Museum are looking for volunteers to do odd jobs at any time. For more information, contact Gary Parks at 570-326-3326.

Students interested in these and other volunteer opportunities should contact either the Community Service Center at [CSCENTER@lycoming.edu](mailto:CSCENTER@lycoming.edu) or Rev. Jeff LeCrone at [lecrone@lycoming.edu](mailto:lecrone@lycoming.edu).

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# Great reasons for a study break!



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# Greek Life adopts new anti-hazing measures



By  
**Samantha Ferraro**

Lycourier Staff

With fall recruitment under way, many students, both men and women, attended the regular recruiting events held by each of the eight fraternities and sororities on campus.

The current chapters include Alpha Rho Omega, Alpha Sigma Tau, Alpha Xi Delta, Gamma Delta Sigma, Kappa Delta Rho, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Kappa Psi, and Tau Kappa Epsilon, which each offer to share their chapter's longstanding traditions and values with new members each year.

A problem of hazing is a growing issue across the nation and colleges are doing all that they can to combat it.

Lycoming College is no different with its various means of providing alternatives to hazing and promoting prevention through its Hazing Prevention Website as well as across campus, leading to each chapter's understanding of the serious issue.

The school provides awareness and offers ways to combat hazing and ensure a safe and fun Greek experience for anyone interested.

Hazing, by definition, includes anything that can "jeopardize safety both physically and emotionally," Jacob Kiessling, president of Kappa Delta Rho at Lycoming College, said.

As a national fraternity, Kappa Delta Rho has a zero tolerance policy for hazing and if witnessed by any member of the fratern-

ity, it is immediately put to an end and those found guilty are faced with proper punishment, he said.

According to Daniel Miller, Dean of Student Affairs, and the "Student Policies Manual," the levels of punishment span all the way up to the dismissal of the given organization.

Over the years, there have been just three reported incidences of hazing at Lycoming College, but is an underreported occurrence, Miller said.

"We just have to stop this. It can't happen anymore," he added, emphasizing the presence of guest speakers and means of prevention that the college has put in place to help educate against hazing, because it is a serious matter and is not treated lightly by any means as it creates an unjust and distressing situation for those concerned and is not fair to anyone; not the new members nor the current members that were uninvolved, Kiessling explained.

According to Candida Rivera, assistant director of Student Programs and Leadership Development at Lycoming College, the system that was formerly known as "pledging" is now known as the "New Member Education Program," which is a growing trend among other colleges to try to avoid hazing.

She said the incoming members once known as "pledges" are now "Potential New Members" who can, after recruitment, receive bids to enter the fraternity or sorority of their choosing.

After being selected, a PNM must go through the education program that lasts about six to eight weeks and teaches the new members the values and history of the given Greek organization, Riviera said.

Potential new members can only go through 20 hours of new education with 10 of those hours being devoted to studying the information, which is one of the demands.

Each organization has to come up with a curriculum for their new members to partake in and a copy of said curriculum must be turned in and looked over.

Each chapter must sign an agreement by which each member

must abide and understand, she said.

Rivera explained that in order to promote awareness and avoid hazing, the college brings in speakers who talk not only about recruitment, but also alcohol awareness and other precautionary subjects related to college and Greek life.

The college requires that each Greek chapter meet with New Member Educators, who bring awareness to the rules and regulations of recruitment and of the process that is to be followed in welcoming new members to the chapter.

During the fall, there's also a week-long event devoted to hazing prevention on campus.

Lambda Chi Alpha President Myles J. Biggs said that the Lambdas' new members "are referred to as "Associate Members" and have the right to vote, serve on committees, and even hold certain offices," which proves that new members are not there to fight for their acceptance or earn the right into Greek Life, but rather to "help grow and move forward to continued success."

Melissa Erlick, president of Alpha Xi Delta, said, "the Risk Management chairwoman reminds us every semester at weekly chapter meetings what the policies for Lycoming College, Alpha Xi Delta, and the state of Pennsylvania contain."

Erlick emphasized that in the event of hazing, "the college community will take action."

According to the Lycoming Webpage under the Anti-Hazing site created by the Student Programs and Leadership Development group, "hazing kills self esteem, chapter unity, respect, Greek systems, and possibly people."

In the eyes of many fraternities and sororities, hazing is simply unacceptable.

From the start of their membership with any given fraternity or sorority, the idea of anti-hazing is consistently touched upon, especially with recruitment just around the corner.

For more information about hazing and how it is avoided here at Lycoming College, visit the Student Programs and Leadership Development site on the college Webpage.

# Language students welcome assistants

By  
**Ahmar Zaman**

Lycourier Staff

Every year, the Lycoming College language departments bring foreign language teacher assistants from countries around the world. With a new school year having arrived, there are a few new faces to get familiar with.

Silvana Rovetta, Florian Wagner and Oceane Bitaille are the three new foreign language teaching assistants. All three arrived through the Fulbright Program, a government-sponsored program that provides people the opportunity to experience another country on educational grounds. The program arose to build stronger relations with foreign countries by allowing international exchange. Through the International Bureau of Education, they were matched up with Lycoming College and will help their respective departments until the end of April.

Rovetta is from Trinidad, Uruguay. Through the Fulbright Program, she applied to come to the United States to improve her English and learn about U.S. culture. Rovetta taught Spanish at an elementary school in her hometown for nine



Ahmar Zaman/The Lycourier

The new foreign language teaching assistants are, from left, Florian Wagner, Oceane Bitaille and Silvana Rovetta.

years. She is working with the Spanish department on campus.

Wagner is the only one of the teacher assistants to have traveled previously to the United States. Wagner, from Nuremberg, Germany, was involved in a student exchange in 2003 in Portland, OR. Wagner says that he likes American colleges and American sports. He hopes to develop better English and teaching skills. He also

hopes to enjoy his time here and get to know fellow students. A university student in Nuremberg, is studying English, German and German. He is studying English and German and is the German language teacher assistant here.

Bitaille is the French language teacher assistant. She comes from Paris. Bitaille is also a student in her hometown at La Sorbonne. She has a concentration focus

on linguistics. Her main reasons for coming to the U.S. were to improve her English and teach her native tongue French. She also hopes to discover America during her time here.

The three students reside in what has come to be known as the Foreign Language teacher assistant house. They arrived in Williamsport on Aug. 23.

Before that, they participated in a summer orientation program at the University of Texas, where they all thought it was "Hot!"

Not everything has gone according to plan though. Bitaille shared how she lost her passport on her first day in Williamsport and had to travel to Washington, D.C., to replace it.

They also attempted to get a tour of Williamsport on the local trolley, but unfortunately, it never arrived.

The three said they routinely are asked about their biggest culture shock. They unanimously declared weather and food. Rovetta said that the food is "different." Bitaille also made it a point to add "The large quantity of e-mails."

The teaching assistants enjoy teaching their native languages and participating in the conversation tables. They like the relaxed and fun learning environment of the conversation tables.

"We're happy to be here," Rovetta said.

Wagner added, "I think the people here are very nice and very open. It's nice to make new friends."

## Upcoming Events in Career Services

**Oct. 5-** Kaplan GRE Timeline Presentation, Snowden Library 7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 8-** Kaplan Graduate School Practice Tests (GMAT, GRE, LSAT, etc.)

**Oct. 11-** third Annual Graduate School Fair, Pennington Lounge  
-Participating Schools Include: Bucknell, Susquehanna, Lock Haven, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Bloomsburg and Mansfield

**Oct. 25-** Kaplan Personal Statement Workshop, Snowden Library Classroom 7:30 p.m.



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# Faculty Spotlight: Psych professor Igor Bascandziev

By **Brianne Charnigo**

*Lycourier Staff*

Everybody has a story to share. Lycoming College is a diverse collection of people from different places, of various ages and studying multiple subjects.

One individual with an especially unique story that Lycoming is proud to welcome this semester is Dr. Igor Bascandziev.

Bascandziev was born and raised in Macedonia, a small country north of Greece. To be specific, he proudly comes from the small, historic and beautiful town of Ohrid which boasts a gorgeous lake and building remains that dates back to the Byzantine Empire.

Bascandziev discovered his passion for psychology when he was young.

"When I was in high school, I became interested in answering questions I had at that age."

He had broad questions of life, humans and other creatures. These questions could only be explored through the field of psychology, and he grew to love the subject and the possibilities it offered him.

After completing high school, Bascandziev traveled to Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, where he studied psychology at a university. He taught for a number of years at a different college after receiving his degree.

Despite his love for psychology, Bascandziev still was not satisfied. What he really wanted was an opportunity to



**DR. IGOR BASCANDZIEV**

do research. Unfortunately, this was not readily available in Macedonia due limited access to resources, funding and other researchers, so he came to the United States. Since he's been here, he has received both his master's and doctorate degrees at Harvard University in the graduate

school program for education.

Bascandziev puts the research he's done to good use and applies it to various different domains, especially education.

Extremely passionate about his work, Bascandziev said he could never imagine doing anything else.

He said, "I'm just being myself and getting paid for that," which makes his job and his life all the more enjoyable. He finds his work both fascinating and rewarding and truly enjoys what he does.

The aspects of psychology that interest Bascandziev the most are cognitive and developmental psychology.

"When you combine the two, you come to questions such as, 'What are the origins of knowledge in general?'" he said. These are the types of questions that originally got him interested in psychology when he was younger.

"It's just rewarding to be given the opportunity to answer them," he said.

For Bascandziev, almost everything about Lycoming is new. He said the psychology department is very different from what he's experienced at Harvard, mostly due to the difference in size, but he really likes it thus far and "so far, so good."

Bascandziev first heard about Lycoming College while searching through job postings. He was applying to both big research schools and smaller liberal arts colleges. When he came across Lycoming College, it seemed like a good fit for him and he liked the opportunity it offered him.

This semester, Bascandziev is teaching an introductory psychology class and a lifespan development class. He's excited about both of these classes, each for different reasons. Bascandziev described teaching as an "interesting challenge." He tries to teach students how to think through questions to reach conclusions which is in a way, teaching students how to think.

He is looking forward to Lycoming College as an exciting chapter in his story and to share his passion, enthusiasm and his knowledge with eager students.

## Thayer composes; choir sings 'Prayer for Lycoming'



By **Aliza Davner**

*Editor in Chief/ Lycourier*

In celebration of Lycoming College's bicentennial, a number of new traditions have been developed and put into effect this year. One such tradition will make its debut as part of the 2011 Family Weekend festivities — the choir will perform the "Prayer for Lycoming," a new piece composed by Dr. Fred Thayer of the music department, with text by Lycoming alumnus Bryan Partner.

The idea for the piece was conceived by Lycoming College President Dr. James Douthat, who drew his inspiration from his daughter's alma mater. Douthat first saw a standard college prayer "at Princeton's baccalaureate service ... and then I realized during the graduation ceremony that they used the same prayer," he said.

From this, Douthat developed the idea of bringing the tradition of a standard prayer to be used at formal ceremonies to Lycoming. The intention is that "by the time students graduate, they will have heard the prayer at various occasions on campus ... it will be a common experience for students, regardless of graduating class," Douthat said.

Douthat approached Thayer about composing the piece in Spring 2011 and they worked together to find a suitable author for the text. Thayer approached Partner, a member of the Class of 2009 and a current creative writing graduate student. Partner previously has arranged pieces for the Lycoming College Choir and the Lycoming College Chamber Choir, and Thayer noted that he has "the musical abilities to work with words."

The piece is truly a collaborative effort, as Partner and Thayer worked together to craft a text which is "universally accepting ... a community statement," Thayer said.

Ultimately the piece went through five drafts, several of which were sent to Douthat, who downplayed his role in the process as that of "only a reader." Partner and Thayer wanted the text to address different groups which make up the Lycoming College community — students, faculty, staff, administration, alumni, among others. Additionally, Partner paid particular attention to the tone of the text. Thayer noted that the text does not rhyme because Partner felt it would not be serious enough.



**DR. FRED THAYER**

Thayer emphasized that the overall desire of all involved was that the piece not only be singable, but "retainable," as opposed to pieces such as the Alma Mater, which features instances of "antiquated language," Thayer said.

Both Thayer and Douthat said that the text also functions as a prayer when not set to music, allowing for expanded usage across campus.

While "A Prayer for Lycoming" officially will be performed for the first time during the Family Weekend Service on Sunday morning in Clarke Chapel, Douthat was treated to a special preview performance during a choir rehearsal in August.

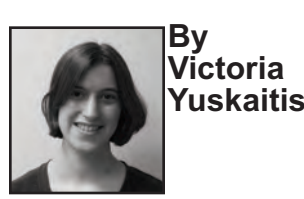
The piece "is short enough that it is easy to incorporate into major ceremonies without it being another hymn ... (it is) not only beautiful, but appropriate as a prayer," he said.

Family Weekend will not be the only time members of the Lycoming College Choir performs this piece. In keeping with Douthat's wishes that the campus community become familiar with the prayer through exposure, the Lycoming College Tour Choir is to incorporate the piece into its repertoire for the upcoming season.

In addition, Linnea Morris, Lycoming alumna and a music major, was asked to arrange the piece for orchestration, which will allow the Lycoming College Concert Band to perform it. In fact, it is planned for the band and choir to perform the piece jointly during the Baccalaureate service in the spring.

Much like with the daily playing of the Alma Mater on the Clarke Chapel carillon, the intention is to make "A Prayer for Lycoming" a new campus tradition that will continue on past the bicentennial celebration.

## Campus Activities Board to host 'Snake's Alive!'



By **Victoria Yuskaitis**

*Lycourier Staff*

"Snakes Alive!" was presented for the first time on Monday evening at Lycoming College in Burchfield Lounge.

Lacey Gustafson, the Campus Activities Board's special events chairman, invited Tom Kessenich to perform his show.

The program focuses on 12 tanks of reptiles and amphibians, such as snakes and alligators.

Kessenich explains their role in nature and how to take care of them in captivity, emphasizing educating students about the animals.

"It makes the whole idea seem less scary," Gustafson said, adding that she held an alligator and had a "giant boa constrictor around my neck."

"I'm hoping people see it on their way to JP's because it's in a centralized location," Gustafson said.

Since the program is so interactive, the furniture in Burchfield Lounge was moved to make room for the tables of tanks and for the presentation.

Kessenich, a herpetologist (reptile and amphibian specialist), worked as the head zookeeper at the Serpent Safari Reptile Zoo in Wisconsin from 1996 to 1998.

Throughout his more than 40 years of experience, Kessenich has done shows for everything from birthday parties to library programs.

He also has presented biology lectures and lectures for parks and recreation centers. "Snakes Alive!" has many different programs that can accommodate any age from young children in day care to college students on campus.

The official website ([www.snakesalive.info](http://www.snakesalive.info)) emphasizes the interactivity of the show, presenting many pictures of audience members touching and holding alligators, snakes, and turtles.

gators, snakes, and turtles.

Gustafson attended a National Association for Campus Activities conference last summer in Ohio that was attended by people from across the country. The conference, Gustafson explained, was specifically targeted to college campus activities boards. It showcased events that each board had invited to its campus, giving ideas and opportunities to get contact information to the other board representatives who attended.

"It was really simple to put together," Gustafson said. She gave Kessenich her information, and he soon sent her an e-mail containing the schedule of his performances for the year.

"It's a national tour," Gustafson said. She chose a time based on when the show was already in Pennsylvania, securing a good price in the process. Larry Mannolini, the adviser for CAB, finished the paperwork while Gustafson booked Burchfield Lounge. It was all finished in the summer before Gustafson returned to Lycoming College.

NACA also hosts other seminars and events for students involved in CAB. There is a National Convention in February, seven Regional Conferences, a Mid-Atlantic Festival, summer institutes, and webinars. As stated on NACA's official website ([www.naca.org](http://www.naca.org)), it "advances campus activities in higher education through a business and learning partnership, creating educational and business opportunities for its school and professional members." The website further states that its many goals include "program planning, risk management, multicultural education, concert management, student and professional leadership development, student government, and more."

As Special Events chairman, Gustafson is planning other events for the year. The Murder Mystery Dinner in October and Casino Night in November are two that are coming up. Other personnel in CAB, Gustafson said, are forming ideas for events to bring to campus throughout the year.

As for the snake show, Gustafson, She grinned and said, "I hope they don't get loose or anything!"

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## Lycoming Greeks celebrate fall bid return



Photo Provided by Alpha Rho Omega

The sisters of Alpha Rho Omega prepare to welcome Kelly Higgins and Ashlynn Beacker into the sisterhood on bid day.



Photo Provided by Alpha Sigma Tau

Brooke Dillman, Shannon Lesner, Alex Celi, Danica Sweeting, Andrea Eagle, and Stevie Spishock(not pictured), the newest pledge class of Alpha Sigma Tau.



Photo Provided by Lambda Chi Alpha

The brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha pose with their newest members. From left, in front of the stairs are Andrew McGreevy, Kyle Shakespere, and Vinny Totaro.

## New Member Count

- Alpha Rho Omega: 2
- Alpha Sigma Tau: 6
- Alpha Xi Delta: 1
- Gamma Delta Sigma: 7
- Kappa Delta Rho: 5
- Lambda Chi Alpha: 3
- Phi Kappa Psi: 2
- Tau Kappa Epsilon: 3

## Club spotlight: Colleges Against Cancer



By Erin Meehan

Lycourier Staff

During its seven-year tenure at Lycoming College, Colleges Against Cancer has raised thousands of dollars and involved numerous students in its fight.

The on-campus organization has steady ties to the Lycoming College community and began in 2005. Officers are Ashley Newcomb, president, and Kayleigh Misner, vice president, both Juniors. According to Misner, "The mission of Colleges Against Cancer is to help eliminate cancer through programs and initiatives through the American Cancer Society. There are four main focuses: Advocacy, Cancer Education, Relay For Life, and Survivorship."

Colleges Against Cancer is a nationwide organization but each school's Colleges Against Cancer committee works with their local chapter of the American Cancer Society.

The CAC of Lycoming College works with its Williamsport chapter. The American Cancer Society is not limited to the United States; it is an international profit organization with branches in countries like China and Ireland.

Colleges Against Cancer is most commonly linked with the event, Relay For Life. Relay an event in which teams consistently have someone walking a track for either a 12- or 24- hour period in order to raise awareness for cancer, as well as pay respect to the people who have been diagnosed with the terrible disease.

Lycoming College hosts a relay event every spring for a 12-hour time span.

Around 350 people are usually in attendance, which is a great number for a school as small as Lycoming. This number includes faculty, staff, students, and survivors.

"Colleges Against Cancer is the education side that handles the fundraising for Relay. The Colleges Against Cancer committee members are the Relay committee members. Colleges Against Cancer and Relay For Life go hand in hand, you can't have one without the other," Misner said.

Newcomb added, "Colleges Against Cancer is the baseboard for Relay. It's how we raise money through fundraisers."

From August through December CAC is geared toward educating its members about cancer and then from January until March, the prepares for Relay.

The theme for this year's Relay For Life event is board games. Each team will pick a board game that it would like to represent, Misner said. A week before Relay happens, each team will make a poster of its board game. "This is a way to get decorations and for teams to get excited,"

Misner said.

Last semester the goal for Lycoming College's Relay For Life was \$18,500. Set by the American Cancer Society the goal varies depending on the school and how it has done in past years.

The total amount raised last semester was \$28,200, which is an unbelievable feat. Lycoming surpassed the goal set by the American Cancer society by \$9,700.

Since the American Cancer Society has not yet set a goal for Lycoming College for this year, the officers have a personal goal of raising \$30,000. "What's another 200?" Misner said.

"I don't see a reason why we can't raise \$30,000 at Lycoming College."

With Newcomb and Misner so optimistic about the fundraising, it is a strong possibility that the Lycoming College community will surpass its fund-raising goal once again.

Some common events that occur at Relay are hair donations, human Bingo, games that are like the popular television show "Minute to Win It," and Mr. and Mrs. Relay are crowned.

Out of all of those events, men and women donating their hair was easily one of the more popular at last semester's Relay For Life. Fifty-three people donated their hair: 50 women and three men. Their hair was donated to the Pantene Pro-V Beautiful Lengths Campaign, which provides wigs to cancer patients at no cost.

Both Newcomb and Misner have had life-changing experiences from joining Colleges Against Cancer. Newcomb said, "For me personally, I've found new friends through it. And I had never done Relay so it's opened my eyes to it. It's something I want to do forever."

Misner said, "I've been presented with many experiences through the American Cancer Society. It's not just an event, it's a lifestyle."

Newcomb said her favorite aspect of working with Colleges Against Cancer is "actually being at the Relay after all of the planning and seeing everyone come together."

Misner added that she appreciates "seeing students at Relay who are coming together for a common interest. It's rewarding after putting so much work in to it. There is such a good percentage of students who come."

She added that seeing the students so excited and raising money enriches her experiences.

Both agree that they will continue participating in Relay For Life and working with the American Cancer Society after they graduate.

New members are always welcome to attend the Colleges Against Cancer meetings, at 8:30 PM B-207 in the Academic Center. Even if members cannot attend Relay For Life in the spring of 2012, there are still plenty of tasks that everyone can help with such as generating ideas for the club, making posters, and fundraising.

## CAB is Broadway bound to see show, NY City



By Victoria Irwin

Lycourier Staff

Lycoming students will head to the Big Apple on Oct. 8 to see Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe headline in the revival of the Broadway show "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying."

"Succeed" tells the story of a window washer J. Pierrepont Finch (Radcliffe) who uses a self-help business book to climb up the corporate ladder at the World Wide Wicket Co., surpassing his rival and catching the attention of a pretty secretary. Soon, however, his plans begin to unravel and Finch must scramble through hilarious mishaps to try to retain his perfect life.

The trip, sponsored by the Campus Activities Board, was planned by Alex Towle, Lycoming junior and Chairman of the CAB Travel and Leisure Committee.

"It's one of the only committees that takes students from Lycoming and takes them somewhere else.... like New York or Washington D.C. Then we find something fun to do in those cities like going to Broadway shows or going to museums and we spend the day there. It's kind of a fun committee but there are kind of a lot of responsibilities," Towle said.

The 2011 revival production was nominated for eight Tony Awards and 5 Drama Desk Awards, and actor John Larroquette nabbed on of each for his portrayal of World Wide Wicket boss J.B. Biggley.

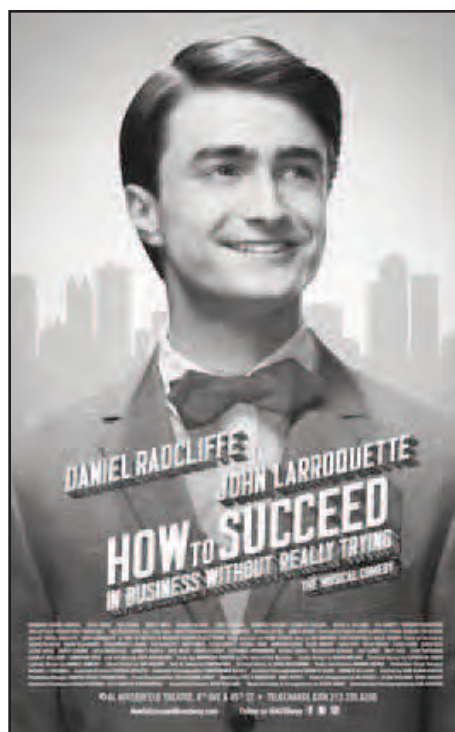
"Succeed's" acclaim was an important factor when Towle decided what show to see this fall.

"I... went down the list and looked at awards and what was popular and I settled on this one," Towle said. "I picked it because I thought Daniel Radcliffe, who is kind of a symbol for our generation, would sell a lot of tickets but also because it's a really good show."

Once Towle settled on a show, the next step was to find a ticket-seller to provide discount tickets to large student groups.

"I deal with a sales representative at a sales site called 'Best of Broadway' given to me by the previous head of the committee. They are excellent and you can get terrific discounts for students on this website and you deal with them through e-mail and then they ship the ticket to the college. It's very convenient," Towle said.

The New York destination promises a full day for students planning to attend. The bus will arrive in the city mid-morn-



Daniel Radcliffe headlines the show.

ing, and students will have until 2 p.m. when the show starts to do whatever they care to in the city. After the show, students have until the evening when the bus departs to do whatever they please.

Towle's decision to pick "Succeed" and forgo a Broadway classic in the fall is part of his larger plan for the rest of the school year. He wants to involve the rest of the student body in the decision-making process for spring semester.

"I got tickets that were relatively cheap for the fall so in the spring we could do something much more classic," Towle said.

"One of the ideas I have is narrowing it down to something like 'Wicked,' 'The Lion King,' 'Chicago,' or 'Phantom of the Opera,' creating a survey for it and putting it out to the students. I thought that would be a really cool way to get people involved."

Other plans for the rest of the year may include a change in the normal CAB itinerary.

Towle said, "As far as the committee goes, we also do a trip to see Medieval Times in the spring. That is subject to change, I haven't really made up my mind yet about whether or not I want to do that again because it's the same show every single time, and the same winner. Other thing I'm looking into are a trip to an amusement park like Hershey."

The Travel and Leisure Committee meets every other Tuesday during CAB meetings.



## Question of the Week: *What is the strangest occurrence that you have encountered as an RA?*



Kayleigh Misner  
-Junior

-“A broken pickle jar at 1 a.m.”



Terrance Lynn  
-Junior

-“I watched a resident on the third floor of Skeath get duct taped to the wall while I was on rounds.”



Rene Pucilowski  
-Senior

-“One time I was on rounds and a squirrel tried to attack me.”



Andrew Yetzer  
-Sophomore

-“I once heard a freshman barking like a dog.”



Matt Ruth  
-Sophomore

-I heard: “I made a really good choice. So that I wouldn’t drink and drive, I locked my keys in my car.”

# Falling Behind?



By  
Cody  
Marshall

Opinion Editor/ Lycourier

The United States recently ranked 14th, 17th and 23rd in reading, science and math, correspondingly, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. There are 34 countries which participate within the OECD. These statistics were administered through the International Student Assessment exam.

This is not something the United States should be proud of. The administrators of the Education system, along with the government officials of this country, need to change the way education is run in America.

For years the system has been continuing to go down-

hill, but why? The problem can be blamed both on officials and students alike.

Myles Biggs, a senior cooperate communication major here at Lycoming College says: “students are apathetic toward their education. They only think about the short term effects of their decisions and not the long term.”

Biggs is right, students just don’t care as much as they used to about their education. Education has turned into more of a social gathering than an institution of knowledge.

What’s important to students in today’s society are the public aspects that come with their education.

The current trend in social life has driven students away from the past perspective on education, which would have never been taken for granted some decades ago.

Students are constantly bombarded with media incentives to care more about the social aspect of their life and not worry as much about others, like education.

This needs to change.

If anyone is going to turn this around and start thinking long term about the results of education, it has to be the students. Students are the ones in charge of their lives and its up to them to make the right decisions.

Other countries are going to continue to pass up the United States in educational ranking as this trend of not caring enough about education continues.

If the United States keeps spiraling downward, in regards to education, this country might not be the same as it is today some years down the road as other countries pass us up in educational results.

The United States is said to be at the top of the charts in almost every category, all except education.

More effort needs to be put in on the students end with their work and they need to realize that the tools are there for them to succeed.

Attitudes need to change if the United States wants to reclaim its old standing as one of the leading countries for education.

# Overheard at Lyco

“Passing classes and smacking asses.” - East Hall

“You mean a pot roast?” - JPs

“I didn’t recognize her arms.” - Cafe

“I guess the weather didn’t know it was bid day.”  
-Forest Hall

“I don’t think Jesus was teaching you physics.”  
- Williams Hall

“It’s good the ferret wasn’t lost, because I can’t stand ferrets.”  
-Asbury Hall



# Squirrels



By Krystalynn Anderson

Have an Opinion?! Contact Cody Marshall at [marcody@lycoming.edu](mailto:marcody@lycoming.edu) for details



# 'Gears of War 3' is epic ending to epic trilogy



By  
Robert  
Rinaldo

Entertainment Editor/ Lycourier

"Gears of War 3" is a third-person shooter video game developed by Epic Games and published by Microsoft Studios exclusively for the Xbox 360. Originally due for release in April, the game was delayed and eventually released last week.

"Gears of War 3" made more than 1 million pre-orders and was one of the most anticipated games of 2011. It is the third installment of the "Gears of War" series and the final game in the current story arc.

Epic Games had large shoes to fill after the commercial success of the game's predecessors. After two games that sold over 11 million copies collectively, fans wondered whether the third installment would meet the same critical reaction. Fortunately, "Gears of War 3" more than lives up to the hype and delivers the best game in the franchise.

The game takes place two years after the event of the second game and is set on the planet Sera. The Coalition of Ordered Government armed forces soldiers have disbanded and are spread out to keep the survivors of the sinking of Jacinto safe from the Locust as well as an even deadlier enemy, the Lambent. Marcus Fenix, the current head of Delta Squad, receives information that his supposedly dead father, Professor Adam Fenix, is still alive and he sets out to find him.

For newcomers to the franchise, the game offers a "Previously in Gears of War" clip show that recounts the events of the first two games, bringing players who have not played the previous games up to speed. The plot of the game is easy to follow while containing great suspense and pacing throughout.



The gameplay is exactly the same as its predecessors, which is not a bad thing. The cover system is fine-tuned and the action is fast-paced, making every firefight more frantic than before. You really feel like you are fighting against impossible odds as hordes of enemies relentlessly attack with nothing more than your death on their mind, providing a challenging experience that is even more rewarding when completed.

The use of the Unreal Engine 3.5 makes "Gears of War 3" one of the most graphically breathtaking around. Not only are the details clean and crisp, but some of the sets are so incredible that you may almost lose track of what you are doing. From a desert wasteland to a destroyed city with people turned to ash statues that disintegrate on impact, it really shows how much effort was put into making the game look amazing.

Along with the campaign, "Gears of War 3" includes a robust multiplayer experi-

ence. The inclusion of dedicated servers shows great improvement over the lag issues from the previous game, and the matchmaking system makes finding games faster and easier than ever before.

Multiplayer in "Gears of War 3" features the popular modes from the previous games as well as some new modes. Warzone and Execution (each player has only one life per round) return along with the addition of Team Deathmatch (first team to 20 kills wins). Capture the Leader and King of the Hill are both combined and tweaked versions of previous game modes, and Wingman returns for teams of two to duke it out.

Horde mode, named Horde 2.0, remains to be the most impressive aspect of the multiplayer, in which players defend themselves from wave after wave of enemies, each one becoming increasingly more difficult. Instead of being a simple "find a spot and hold out" game as in "Gears of War 2," Horde 2.0 adds a tower defense

aspect where players set up turrets, laser walls and other defense systems to add more strategy.

What's even more impressive is the variation of Horde called Beast Mode. Players are able to play as one of various Locust enemies with the objective of killing COG soldiers in a format similar to Horde. Getting the chance to play as Locust enemies other than that of standard multiplayer is a welcome treat for fans of the franchise.

Add in two-player local and four-player Xbox Live co-op capabilities for the campaign, and you have one of the most diverse "Gears of War 3" is everything fans hoped for and more. The campaign is deep and immersive while the multiplayer is refined and addicting. For \$60, this is one of the best retail values of the year. Fans of the previous games will instantly fall in love with this game, and fans of shooters and games in general will find it is one of the best games ever made.

# 'Pirates 4' is flawed yet still good frolic



By  
Hillary  
Hubbard

Lycourier Staff

"Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides" is the fourth installment of the popular movie series from Disney.

Though there has been a change in cast, it still holds true to its imaginative brothers, and brings many of the same elements onto the screen. The change in director to Rob Marshall ("Nine" and "Chicago") is only slightly obvious. But Marshall does a good job in keeping up with the comedy of the other films. However, it does seem to drag at some points, and as it is 136 minutes (2 hours and 16 minutes), it needs a bit more substance to keep everyone's interest.

Johnny Depp returns as Capt. Jack Sparrow and is as hilariously captivating as always. The inclusion of Penelope Cruz as the sassy pirate, Angelica, is a refreshing addition to the cast. Regardless of the complete write out of Orlando Bloom's character of Will Turner, and Keira Knightley's Elizabeth Swann, Cruz's character is the perfect foil to Depp's Sparrow, which fills the gap the other two characters left behind.

The plot however, differs a lot from the other three films: especially after the previous two films, "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" and "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End," which were directly related.

The movie takes Sparrow on a search for the Fountain of Youth, battling foes, and teaming up, some unwillingly, to try to get to what he seeks. It seems that Marshall focuses more on the past romance between Jack and Angelica, who claims to be



Johnny Depp, left, and Geoffrey Rush star as Capt. Jack Sparrow and Hector Barbossa in "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides."

Blackbeard's daughter, in many scenes. The film often falls back on their chemistry and rigidly choreographed fight scenes.

The plot of "On Stranger Tides," despite being unique to the other three films, is all

over the place. It is sort of thrown at the viewer in a way that is harder to follow compared to the other films. This is probably due to the numerous subplots that are mixed in, no doubt as an attempt at adding depth.

Aside from the disjointed and confusing plot, the movie is well acted and has a very high entertainment value. Compared to the other films this one is a lot lighter, which for some people is a good thing. The overall plot and most of the subplots are mildly predictable, which results in an extremely boring movie to watch. However the good acting and good-looking sets help to make it enjoyable despite the trite plot line.

The series, though some people may think is going too long, is revived a bit by some of the new magical elements, including mermaids, the appearance of the legendary pirate Blackbeard, played by Ian McShane, and his fantastical ship the Queen Anne's Revenge.

The fantasy parts of the movie, though somewhat dark, are not nearly as macabre as in the other three movies. Aside from the fact that the majority of the movie takes place at night, the sets are beautiful, so the darkness of the film does not take away from the aesthetic appeal.

The few special effects included in the movie really work well. The mermaids look creepy and beautiful and the CGI on the Queen Anne's Revenge is absolutely sinister.

While this movie may not have the mystery of the first, or the closely related and intense plot of the second and third, it is definitely worth seeing. It might not be the best "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie made, but that does not stop it from having the same charm and lure as the others. Though this movie has its faults, and could probably have been done better if the plot was not so scattered, it is a good movie and a great laugh.

For people looking for something with a bit more substance, this might not be the best movie to see. But for people who love the hi-jinks and comedy of the other three "Pirates of the Caribbean" films, this newest sequel will not disappoint.

# Get ready for the Terror at Bowman Field



By  
Robert  
Rinaldo

Entertainment Editor/ Lycourier

Anyone looking for something fun and scary to do for Halloween are in for a spooky treat. This October, Bowman Field will host its "Terror at Bowman" attraction presented by Williamsport Crosscutters, Williamsport Sun-Gazette, Backyard Broadcasting and in association with Datman Productions.

Starting Friday and running every Friday and Saturday in October from 6 - 10p.m., Historic Bowman Field will become a terrifying, heart-pounding haunted walk for brave souls to venture through. The attraction takes visitors inside and outside the field and to never-before-seen locations.

"Terror at Bowman" features various types of scare areas including Spooky Stalks Cornfield, a cornfield crawling with the souls of scarecrows and farm workers; Bloody Betty's Zombie Daycare, a daycare with zombie children; and Maze of Despair, a maze in pitch-black darkness.

The attraction will include food and beverages, souvenirs and novelties, and

music for those who just want to hang out after going through the attraction.

In an interview with Sun-Gazette, Gabe Sinicropi, vice president of marketing and public relations for the Crosscutters, explained that he heard other minor league teams were doing haunted attractions, so he decided to do it too.

"We had people that came back two or

three times during the month to do it again, Sinicropi said recounting the 2009 season.

This will be the second year the attraction occurs, as the 2010 event was rained out.

The attraction is run by Crosscutters employees as well as with the help of numerous volunteers for the College of Ghouls area.

"We can't do it without a ton of volunteers," Sinicropi said. "That's what makes the wheel go round."

Terror at Bowman opens Friday at Bowman Field, 1700 W. Fourth St. This attraction is not recommended for children under the age of 10.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$9 for children 12 and under.



The logo for Terror at Bowman, left, and the logo for the Williamsport Crosscutters minor league team, right.





Freshman Alex Bottorf



Senior Michelle Hermann



Freshman Rory McAtee

## Cross Country teams race into season



By  
Samantha  
Ferraro

Lycourier Staff

With their seasons already under way, the men's and women's cross country teams are back and working hard to prepare for a successful season.

The teams are running intense workout routines, specialized for each day of the week, with hills and flats that mimic those of the courses they'll be running each Saturday.

As a result, Kevan Guerin, junior and captain of the men's cross country team, said, "The teams are closer than they've ever been before."

Each week of practice starts out with an off with a run at a local course which contains a series of good hills for practice. To some, this run may seem painful and dreaded, but to the cross country teams, it's just another in a week of practice.

After Monday's run, Tuesday brings on the speed with 800 meter sprints and fartlek, which is a type of interval training, to get the team members to improve upon their times and quicken their pace.

Wednesday may come as a relief to some, according to Guerin, who calls it the "easy day" where the run is a nice 30 minutes. Thursday brings back the long distance running with what's referred to as the "LSD" or long and slow distance run. It consists of seven to eight miles of slow jogging or running.

And following the long distance runs, Friday is simply (to the team, of course) a 15- to 20-minute run as another easy day before the most important day of the week for the two teams.

Saturdays are the events the teams wait and practice hard for each week. They are race days, full of courses with moderate hills, gravel, roads, grassy areas; basically any type of terrain is within reach for races.

Upcoming events include the Oct. 8 race against DeSales University in Central Valley, at the location of the



Freshman Alanna Cimerol

NCAA (National Collegiate Athletics Association) course; the Oct. 22 Cabrini Invitational, which is held at Fairmount Park at Belmont Plateau in Philadelphia; and the Oct. 29 championships planned at Messiah College in Grantham. The women will run their usual six-kilometer run, while the men will be running eight and to them, it's just another typical Saturday event.

Alanna Cimerol and Jacob Kuppermann, both freshmen, believe that Messiah is the teams' biggest rival.

Guerin agreed, saying that Messiah College is "very good" which makes them tough to beat in races, but Lycoming teams put forth the effort to win.

As for other noted colleges, Guerin said Cabrini College in Radnor, has a "notorious hill," which doesn't quite fit into the category of moderate hills and boasts a bit more of a challenge for the runners.

The goals for this year are a bit modest and show the closeness of the two teams.

Guerin said that the top runners want to bring their times closer together and be a more united team.

Guerin, quoting teammate R.J. Wiechecki, said the "team element" is very important this year. There is a great group of men and women running for Lycoming so the teams are closer than ever before. Their unified mentality could very well make all the difference this year, as unity and cooperation are key elements in most sports, with cross country being no different, he said.

Coach Lesley Larson has several goals for her two cross country teams and has said that she would "like to see standout Michelle Herman, junior and captain of the women's cross country team, in the top 15 at MAC (Mid-Atlantic Conference) this season."

Larson said Herman finished 34th in MAC last season against some very tough competitors. She added, "The MAC league is very competitive and includes NCAA Championship qualifiers."

As for the men's team, Larson said, "The goal is to have four to five men go sub-30 for the eight kilometer race." Last year, only one runner consistently kept a time of less than 30 minutes for an eight kilometer race.

Running is a challenge for anyone. Most don't have the motivation to be an active, steady runner, so after some inquiry, the truth as to why so many men and women are a part of their respective cross country teams, the answers came in many different respects.

"It's a good way to make friends," Cimerol said.

Plus, long distance running is a very good way to remain in shape and constantly keep active, especially with the workout routine that the teams use.

"It's interesting to note that many collegiate athletes from other sports participate in road races and marathons after completing college. It's the one sport that you can continue to do as an individual," Larson said.

In the end, team members have their own reasons for wanting to run, but what matters the most is that they're having fun.

## Senior Spotlight: Ray Bierbach



By  
Kelly  
Prendergast

Sports Editor/ Lycourier

The 2011 Lycoming College Football season began with a strong start and looks promising for senior safety and punt returner, Ray Bierbach, No. 8. Bierbach has been a key player on this squad since his freshman year and is looking forward to being a solid contributor to the Warriors resilient defense this season.

Bierbach's love for the game started when he began playing organized football at the age of seven, making this his 15th year of playing the sport.

"For me the most influential figure in my football career has been my father. He taught me how to play and was my coach for every team I played on when I was younger. He is always behind me no matter what. I am extremely grateful to have a father who is always there for me and teaching me. His support played a key role in my development as a player," Bierbach said.

Bierbach is from Hunlock Creek, which is a small town outside of Wilkes-Barre. He attended Northwest Area High school where he had a notable career. He was captain of his football team and was named conference MVP for both quarterback and safety. He was chosen to play in the area's all-star game known as the UNICO game. Being an incredible athlete, Bierbach also



Ray Bierbach carries football in game against Westminster College Titans in Sept. 10 game.

was a member of the varsity basketball and baseball teams.

Bierbach continued his impressive athletic career in college. During his freshman year he played in all 11 games, serving as the team's top punt returner and kick returner, averaging 18.7 yards per kickoff return and 10.9 yards on punt returns.

In his sophomore year, Bierbach was the team's top punt returner, averaging 16

yards per return, which was a conference high. He also served as a backup safety, making 37 tackles and four interceptions.

Last season Bierbach received D3Football.com Honorable Mention All-American honors and First Team All-MAC Second team selection. He started all 10 games and recorded extremely impressive stats. He recorded 61 tackles, which placed him at 19th in the confer-

ence; he led the conference with six interceptions, which was ranked 20th nationally. He also led the conference with 14 passes defended and totaled 216- all-purpose yards. Now in his senior and final season Bierbach, was named a pre-season D3Football.com All-American and has contributed significantly in each of the games so far.

"Being a part of the football team at Lycoming College has taught me that teamwork can accomplish more than I had ever deemed possible. I have a great time being with my teammates and during my time here I made a lot of friends that will always support me. It also taught me how to communicate better with people because it is key for a team to be successful," Bierbach said.

"I have also created many memories by playing. Two of my fondest memories were winning the MAC conference championship my freshman year, and being named D3Football.com All-American for safety this past year."

Bierbach is a business finance major and an accounting minor. He plans to graduate in May.

"After I graduate I would like to attend business school at Rochester Institute of Technology to get my MBA," Bierbach said.

Bierbach is looking forward to the rest of his senior season, in hopes that he will continue to be a solid contributor to help his team win.

"If I had to give any advice to incoming athletes, it would be to learn how to manage your time with your classes and your sport. Also to be open to all opportunities and continually work hard because you never know when your number is going to be called," Bierbach said.