

Opinion: Video games more helpful than harmful?



Movie Review: 'Mission Impossible 4: Ghost Protocol'



Senior Spotlight: Erin Connaghan

(See Page 6)

(See Page 7)

(See Page 8)



The Lycourier

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Lycoming dining services kicks off spring semester with changes



By Aliza Davner

Editor in Chief/Lycourier

The new year is a time for revision and reflection, a process which Parkhurst and the Lycoming College dining services is undergoing.

Many changes are in store for the new year, including expanded hours in the dining hall.

"The hours are based off what was done in the past and are very consistent from year to year from what I've been told by dining staff," said Nick Zolak, Dining Services General Manager.

"As a new contractor you have to rely on staff that has been here," Zolak said about the schedule changes.

"Resident Life has been a big help with establishing these types of things," he added.

However, some changes to hours were made in order to better accommodate students' schedules.

For example, "before lunch ended at 1 p.m. with food being kept out until 1:15 p.m.," the manager said.

"Now food is kept out until 1:30 p.m. at the Parkside line (main line), which gives everyone a bit more time to be able to grab a hot lunch."

Another dining change includes the ability of students and faculty to view weekly meal menus online via the Lycoming website.

Zolak added that dining services took student input and comments into consideration when creating the online menu option.

"The menu page on the website has evolved over a period of time from comments to the dining committee and comments and emails received by dining services," he said.

Students and faculty can access the online menu by clicking on the menu tab of the main page of the dining services web page. The menus also can be found at the following web address: <https://lycomingdining.cater-trax.com>

Additional dining services changes include the discon-

tinuation of the "take five" program offered at Jack's Corner.

Zolak said, "Take out" meals are offered at lunch and dinner" and are offered in place of the previous "take five" program as part of Parkhurst's contract negotiations.

After the introduction of the "take out" meals in the dining hall, "there was a steady decline in the number of people using the take five program, 10 to 12 a day to be exact, it just didn't make good business sense to continue the program," he said.

However, Zolak felt very strongly that something was needed in its place.

Dining services worked to create an additional, alternative take-out lunch option for students which replaces take-five and works in tandem with the take-out option available in the dining hall.

Now "a bag lunch can be ordered either in person or online and the lunch is now put together for you all you, have to do is pick up the meal in the dining hall," Zolak said.

Food offerings extend beyond the Wertz Center eateries, however, with changes also occurring at Café 1812.

Much like the online dining hall menu, the changes at Café 1812 "grew out of comments to the dining committee," specifically "a need for more common economically priced products."

Zolak said there are additional menu changes coming to Café 1812, saying "we like to look at the menus as always evolving."

However, Zolak acknowledged that the new menus still might not satisfy everyone.

"Although we can't offer everything everyone wants, we hope to be able to satisfy the largest number of the campus community as possible," he said.



Students selected for Intercollegiate Band

Five Lycoming College students are among 100 throughout the state who will participate in the 65th annual Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Band Festival, scheduled for March 9 through 12 at California University of Pennsylvania.

Bill Blachly, Andrea Burleigh, Kelly Ciesla, Sara Petokas and Lucas Reckling will join students from 20 public and private colleges and universities in Pennsylvania to perform a concert under the direction of Frank Wickes, who recently retired as director of bands from Louisiana State University.

Blachly, who plays bassoon, is a senior archaeology/culture of the ancient Near East and religion major; Burleigh, who plays trombone, is a freshman English literature major seeking education certification.

Ciesla, who plays bass clarinet, is a junior art major; Petokas, who plays French horn, is a freshman general studies major and Reckling, who plays clarinet, is a junior archaeology/culture of the ancient Near East and religion major.

"I'm proud of our students and look forward to seeing them perform with their peers from around the state," Dr. William Ciabatteri, band director said.

Wickes received the National Band Association's highest honor, the Academy of Wind and Percussion Arts Award for excellence and exceptional service to the band profession.

He also was inducted into the Louisiana Music Educators Hall of Fame and the National Band Association's Hall of Fame of Distinguished Band Conductors.

Wickes served as director of bands at Louisiana State University since 1980. He received degrees from the University of Delaware, Newark, and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Prior to his college teaching career, Wickes taught in the public school systems in Delaware and Virginia for 14 years.

According to information from LSU, Wickes is in constant demand as a clinician having served in that capacity throughout the United States, as well as in England, South America, Mexico, and Canada. He has conducted more than 40 All-State bands and has appeared several times at the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Mich.



Photo Provided by Lucas Reckling

Five Lycoming students were selected to participate in the 65th annual Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Band Festival March 9-12 at California University of Pennsylvania. The students, from left, are Bill Blachly, Andrea Burleigh, Sara Petokas, Kelly Ciesla and Lucas Reckling.

Students plan free acoustic set at bookstore



By Aliza Davner

Editor in Chief/ Lyncourier

Looking for a way to celebrate the successful start of a new semester? Look no further than the second "Back-to-School Extravaganza 2," featuring Lycoming students Chris Bernstorf, Tyler Wuerthner, Michael Ludwig and Courtney Young.

The show is scheduled for Saturday, January 21 at 4pm at the Christian Light Bookstore on Washington Boulevard in Williamsport.

Bernstorf, a Senior creative writing and history major, began writing and performing original poetry in high school, and has quickly become known on campus for his enthusiastic live performances and heartfelt lines. He credits his many high school teachers who encouraged his creative talent, particularly "Mrs. Collis who told me I not just could be a writer, but was a writer."

Bernstorf describes his personal poetic style as "spoken word ... with unbridled energy, heart, and passion. And occasionally some minor gymnastics."

He credits spoken word performers such as Bradley Hathaway and Levi the Poet as having influenced his on-stage delivery, "Bradley and Levi are by the far the biggest [influences] in terms of my performance, specifically for my vocal delivery and general encouragement for the themes I try to tackle and how I attempt to tackle them."

Among his other influences, Bernstorf lists names familiar to Lycoming including creative writing professor Dr. Sascha Feinstein and Lyco alum Zachary Cioffi.

Bernstorf never wastes an opportunity to perform, with several shows scheduled in the Virginia-Maryland area over the spring semester. The Back to School Extravaganza, however, is his next engagement. This will be his fourth time at the Christian Light Bookstore, his most recent appearance there being last semester.

It's "the chilliest place ever," Bernstorf said, "the bookstore loves having us, and it's always a good time!"

Bernstorf was the primary force behind organizing next weekend's performance, pulling in performers Ludwig, Wuerthner and Young.

"It's getting to be almost like a hometown show kind of thing, which is a really great feeling! And it's a great way to see everyone, catch up with old friends, and make some new ones," he said.

Bernstorf's poetry is available for free download from his facebook page, www.facebook.com/chrisbernstorf. Show dates, booking and contact information and other resources can also be found on the page. Several performances and poems are also available on YouTube.

The Back to School show will be Junior Tyler Wuerthner's third performance at Christian Light, having previously performed there last semester and last spring.

Majoring in music and business, which he describes as



Victoria Irwin/ Lyncourier

Senior Christopher Bernstorf will be performing spoken word poetry at the Christian Light Bookstore on Friday January 20. Juniors Michael Ludwig and Tyler Wuerthner will also perform and joining them will be Junior Courtney Young.

"a very exciting mixture," Wuerthner has been a member of various choirs and singing groups since high school, but is a relative newcomer to instrumentation.

"I learned guitar just last November, and actually Mike[Ludwig] is my teacher! I just always wanted to learn and Mike was always willing to help," Wuerthner said.

Wuerthner characterizes his music as "alternative pop with a personal Tyler flair." And though he is new to the scene, he has clearly been bitten by the performing bug, saying "I love performing and would love to perform more throughout the year, even if that means open mic nights."

Wuerthner's music is also available online for free download through his facebook bandpage, Tyler Wuerthner Covers + Originals, "people can look my facebook page up online and hit the like button. After hitting it all my songs are up for free download, feel free to pass them around and say 'I know that guy!'"

A Junior biology major, Michael Ludwig learned to play guitar when he was 16, "I had gotten my first guitar from my uncle and I proceeded to teach myself how to play. I started off just learning some pretty easy rock songs. But as time progressed I began to experiment and

put my own unique spin on the song."

Calling his personal style "a mix of different genres," including "Texas blues, southern rock, classic rock, hard rock, and even a little bit of metal," Ludwig first began performing in high school.

"I began performing as a guitarist with my high school choir my senior year. We did a rendition of a contemporary Christian praise song ... it was my first real gig," he said.

Ludwig made his first appearance at the Christian Light Bookstore at last semester's Back to School event and is returning for the sequel, "it was so much fun doing the first Back to School Extravaganza last at the beginning of last semester, that it only seemed natural to do another one again this semester," he said, adding "I would to have do more performances in the year."

Some of Ludwig's past performances are available on his facebook page, Mike Ludwig Solo Blues Guitarist. There are also videos available on YouTube.

Making her Back to School debut this semester is Courtney Young, a Sophomore English Literature major who Chris Bernstorf described as being "ridiculously, absurdly good at guitar."

Young got her start learning to play guitar in high school from a local music teacher in her hometown of Waldorf, MD. While she no longer continues with lessons, Young has continued to grow as a player, developing her self-described "percussive acoustic" style.

Young is also no stranger to performing, having played "a played in a few small shows back home and played piano and guitar for a wedding a couple years ago." However, this is her first gig in Williamsport, having been approached about the show by organized Chris Bernstorf, "Chris heard me play and asked if I wanted to do a show with him."

Young says she "would like to perform more during the year, on and off campus," should the opportunity arise.

While she does not have an official site dedicated to her music, Young does post videos of herself performing cover songs on her personal facebook page.

According to Bernstorf, the event promises to be a lively start to the semester, "there's probably not a better way to start off the semester than with good friends and good music."

BACK TO SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA 2!

Saturday, January 21st 4 pm

Featuring:



Mike Ludwig
(Blues Acoustic)



Mr. Tyler Wuerthner
(Pop Acoustic)



Ms. Courtney Young
(Awesome Acoustic)



Mr. Chris Bernstorf
(Poetry / Spoken Word)

FREE SHOW

Christian Light Bookstore
1009 Washington Blvd.
Williamsport, PA



Member- Associated Collegiate Press

Former student dies in tragic car accident

A Lycoming College student who died in a deadly crash Sunday night in Columbia County will be greatly missed, an administrator said.

Colton Eyer, 20, of Orangeville, was killed after his car overturned on Millville Road in Bloomsburg and slammed into a parked car, pushing it into a building, according to published police reports.

According to the report, speed and passing in a no-passing zone were factors in the crash.

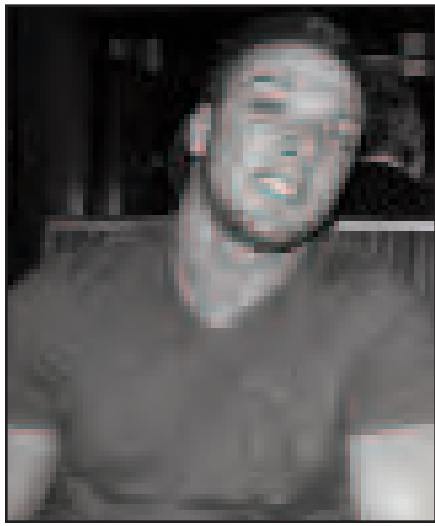
Daniel P. Miller, dean of student affairs, said Eyer was a member of the college's wrestling team. His brother, Royce Eyer, who graduated in 2001, is an assistant coach.

Miller said the news of Colton Eyer's passing has deeply saddened the college community.

"He will be remembered as a well-mannered and fun person who once on a wrestling mat became a determined and focused competitor," Miller said.

"Although only two years at Lycoming, he will be remembered for his contributions to the wrestling team and for the genuine relationships he developed with friends, faculty and staff. He and his family are in my thoughts and prayers," he said.

Miller added that he agreed whole-



COLTON EYER

heartedly with a blog written by Mitch Rupert, a sports writer for the Williamsport Sun-Gazette. "From my interactions with Colton, I couldn't agree more with Rupert and his characterization of Colton."

The blog can be found at: <http://www.sungazette.com/page/blogs.detail/display/900/Remembering-Colton-Eyer,-a-wrestler-and-friend.html#.TwtrUyOSx-Y.email>

Admissions staff plays Santa with Toys for Tots charity drive

Lycoming College donated a record 730 items to the Lycoming County Toys for Tots campaign. For the 12th consecutive year, the College's Office of Admissions and Financial Aid coordinated the event with the support of faculty, staff and students.

When the office began collecting donations in 1999, they received a total of 33 toys. This year, the campaign brought in 100 more items than any previous year.

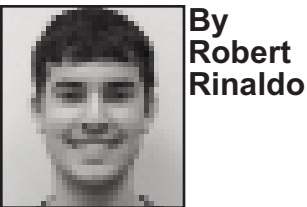


Liz Rhoads, Web Content Coordinator and Kati Shaner, Admissions Counselor, pose with the toys collected by the Lycoming College Admissions staff during their annual Christmas Toys for Tots toy drive.

All of the toys from the College have been sent to the local Salvation Army, which will distribute them to more than 1,000 less fortunate children in the Williamsport area.

Now in its 64th year, Toys for Tots is a program of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and collects new, unwrapped toys in October, November and December each year, according to the Toys for Tots website. The gifts are then distributed as holiday gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

New winter weather schedule introduced



By Robert Rinaldo

Entertainment Editor/ Lycourier

Lycoming College is implementing a new compressed schedule during inclement weather to decrease the need to close the institution and cancel classes.

According to the college, the campus is expected to operate as normally scheduled on a regular basis regardless of weather conditions. In cases where the weather may become more severe, certain procedures are implemented which range from the cancellations of certain classes to the closing of the campus.

While residential students are within walking distance of their classes, it becomes increasingly difficult for commuters to reach the campus safely depending on the weather conditions.

In the event of a delayed opening due to inclement weather, the college will operate classes on a compressed schedule, or a two-hour delayed opening, starting at 10 a.m. Class time will be shortened so all classes can be held, according to the college's homepage.

The compressed schedule was created after many complaints from students and faculty about whether or not classes should be canceled depending on the degree of bad weather. In most cases, classes before a certain time are called off while the rest operate at their usual time schedule. This poses a problem to professors



who teach earlier classes because they are the most likely to lose days and fall behind.

The campus community will be notified of a delayed start via email, the college's homepage, and the emergency text messaging system. Even with the compressed schedule option, students are encouraged to check the Individual Course Cancellation page as weather conditions may still prevent individual faculty from traveling to campus.

The compressed schedule is meant to allow any accumulation of ice or rain to dissipate. This gives Building and Grounds the ability to effectively salt the sidewalks and parking lots, making it safer for students to travel to and from classes. At the same time, professors will still be able to teach at least part of the planned material for the day.

"It is more important for the professors to be able to teach the students the material they have planned out," Daniel P. Miller dean of Student Affairs, said. "It is ultimately better for the students to learn 30 percent of the material in a shorter time frame rather than none at all."

Classes will be shortened by about 20 minutes in the event of a compressed schedule. For example, a class on that normally runs 7:45 to 8:50/8:00 to 8:50 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays will instead be held from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. Any classes or activities scheduled at 4:30 p.m. and later on these days will not be affected by the compressed schedule.

A class that normally runs 7:45 to 9:35 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays will instead be held from 10 to 11:20 a.m. Any classes or activities scheduled at 4:05 p.m. and later on these days will not be affected by the compressed schedule.

All of the new times under the compressed schedule can be found on the webpage for Inclement Weather procedures. The compressed schedule policy is now in effect.



Snowden Asks... What did you read over the semester break?



Carissa Sampsell
Sophomore

Textbooks on how to speak Japanese



Aaron Rubin
Junior

Islam: The Short History and Islam and the Jews



Laura Anderson
Junior

Started reading the Bible



Samantha Silverberg
Senior

Peter Pan and some non-fiction books

BSU to host Black History Month speaker



V. Chapman Smith

The 2010 recipient of the U.S. Archivist Award for Promoting Civic Understanding in a Diverse Society, V. Chapman Smith, is scheduled as the speaker for the seventh annual Black History month dinner hosted by the Lycoming College Black Student Union on Feb. 4.

Chapman Smith, the regional liaison for the National Archives and Records Administration at Philadelphia, graduated from Lycoming College with honors in 1972. In 2008, Chapman Smith received the Outstanding History Educator Award for her work in support of National History Day.

As National Archives liaison, she oversees the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia. She assumed this position in January 2002.

Chapman Smith has more than 20 years of executive leadership experience in records management and history public programming. She worked 11 years in the private sector as Corporate Records Officer of a large Philadelphia-based institution and she has led two of the largest records programs at the state and local levels in the United States.

She has received several leadership awards for her work, including the prestigious Public Service Award from Nelson Rockefeller College, the New York State Governor's Award for Outstanding State Leadership and the City of Philadelphia's Distinguished Service Award for her four-year service as City Records Commissioner.

She was assistant education commissioner/state archivist of New York, a position in which she oversaw one of the largest state archival and records management operations in the nation.

Upon her departure from New York, the state created the "V. Chapman Smith Education Technology Scholarship" to encourage and support projects that use technology and archival collections in creative ways to deliver history centered education and programs. The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation endowed this scholarship.

Chapman Smith also studied a year in Goettingen, Germany. She earned her doctorate in history at Temple University, Philadelphia, with specialties in late 19th Century American History, African-American studies, and European History, as a Ford Foundation Doctoral Fellow.

She is married to Robert Smith, who graduated in 1973. The couple has two children, Robert Chapman Smith and Veronica Chapman Smith.

The event begins at 6 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres in Burchfield Lounge followed by dinner in the Jane Schultz Room in the Wertz Student Center. Cost is \$20 per person. Reservations may be made by contacting (570) 321-4376.

Science Column: Detecting Dark Matter

By
Suzanne
Smith

Lycourier Staff

In March 2009 NASA launched the Kepler satellite. While orbiting the sun, Kepler's objective was to search for Earth-like planets in a portion of the Milky Way galaxy. Recently a team of physicists proposed that Kepler also might be used to detect or rule out the presence of primordial black holes within a certain mass range. The mass range is a category of PBHs that are primarily made up of dark matter.

Scientists from the University of California, San Diego, University of Pennsylvania, and Academia Sinica (Taipei, Taiwan) have published the study on using the Kepler satellite to detect the PBH dark matter in Physical Review Letters.

Dark matter is one of the biggest unsolved mysteries of science and "an answer would be extraordinary," Kim Griest, UC-San Diego, said to PhysOrg.com. The two possible outcomes to this study: discovering PBHs are primarily dark matter or nothing is found.

According to Griest, the first option would be "totally fascinating," while the latter would "eliminate ... a major contender, but it is not as exciting."

Since the 1970s PBHs have been believed to be a candidate for dark matter.

The PBHs are believed to have formed during the early universe from density changes that resulted from a variety of sources, such as phase transitions and inflation. There is not one single theory for how PBHs formed, so it is unsure how

massive they would be.

However, previous work in both theoretical and experimental has eliminated most masses, including almost all masses in the range from 10-18 to 10¹⁶ solar masses (1.99x10¹² kg – 1.99x10⁴⁶ kg). The only exception is the mass range between 10-13 and 10-7 solar masses. Scientists call these five orders of magnitude the "PBH dark matter window."

Griest and his colleagues think that Kepler data could potentially rule out a significant portion of this window. Currently, one of Kepler's instruments, the photometer, is measuring the light intensity of stars.

The photometer has the ability to measure 150,000 stars every 30 minutes. When analyzing the data, scientists look for specific fluctuations in star light, or stellar flux, since a decrease could signal an Earth-sized planet transiting in front of the star.

Kepler's photometer



has been shown to also detect small amounts of gravitational lensing, also known as microlensing, which is the bending of star light as it travels through nearby space. According to general relativity, the bending is due to the gravity of an invisible mass that acts as a lens and lies between the light source and the observer, in this case the distant star and the Kepler satellite.

This lens could be a PBH or another type of massive compact halo object (MACHO) as well as mini halos, all of which are dark matter candidates.

According to calculations done by scientists, Kepler is able to detect microlensing events caused by masses in the range between 5x10⁻¹⁰ and 10⁻⁴ solar masses, which means it could rule out 40 percent of the mass window stated above if it doesn't detect anything.

But if microlensing is detected the implications would be much more exciting; PBH could be dark matter.

Griest and his co-authors have begun looking at the vast amount of data.

Analyzing the data is not an easy task, it requires an understanding of the complex light curve data, understanding what constitutes a false positive and background events, and using strict selection criteria.

For more information look to Kim Griest, et al. "Microlensing of Kepler Stars as a Method of Detecting Primordial Black Hole Dark Matter." Physical Review Letters 107, 231101 (2011).

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Experts share tips for getting the most college aid possible

With rising tuition costs and low economic conditions, many students seek financial aid to help fund their education.

In order to maximize the amount of aid for such students, experts from Student Financial Aid Services, Inc. have compiled a list of tips.

Accuracy and speed are the winning combination for students wanting to secure their share of the \$227 billion in aid to help pay for college as the new aid season begins.

Facing as many as 140 income, asset and dependency questions on the required federal student aid application (FAFSA), high school seniors and their parents and other first-timers often find the experience a time-consuming challenge.

“Often FAFSAs are subject to verification, so it is extremely important that questions are answered honestly and carefully double checked for accuracy.

Otherwise, students risk rejection and losing their place in the virtual line for aid,” said Aaron Detwiler, vice president of Student Financial Aid Services, Inc., the nation’s largest, fee-based aid advisory and preparation service.

On average students received \$12,455 in aid for the last academic year from the more than 8,000 federal, state and institutional need-based and merit aid programs and tax credits.

“Millions miss out on student aid because they don’t realize nearly everyone, regardless of income, are eligible for some financial assistance,” Detwiler said.

Just like with income taxes, the federal government allows students options when preparing a FAFSA – either doing it themselves on the U.S. Department of Education’s Web site for free or getting help from a fee-based FAFSA preparation service for expert assistance and advice about how to complete the form quickly and accurately.

Additionally, here are some other tips:

First and foremost, **accuracy counts.**

Federal aid applications are rejected by the federal government for errors from miscalculating adjusted gross income to not signing the form.

Calculation mistakes can reduce an aid award even if an aid application isn’t rejected. For example, taxable income isn’t adjusted gross income. If parents have tapped into retirement funds, it should be added to either untaxed income or adjusted gross income, not both, or the Expected Family Contribution will increase, and aid eligibility will decrease.

Secondly, aid is given on a **first-come, first-served basis.** Those who file as close to Jan. 1 as possible are in the best position to get all the aid they are eligible to receive.



Using income estimates is allowed – even encouraged – and a student won’t lose their place in the virtual line by later updating the application with final income amounts.

Next, applicants should beat the deadlines. Most colleges and states have their own deadlines.

The earliest deadline for the 2012-13 FAFSA is in three weeks – Feb 1. The longer students wait, the more students get ahead of them.

Also keep in mind that not all assets count. A primary residence, retirement plans, small family-owned businesses, and the cash value of life insurance don’t count as assets on the FAFSA. Some of the most common and costly mistakes are made by incorrectly reporting assets.

Another thing to be on the lookout for is dependency surprises. Just because students financially supports themselves, doesn’t mean they are independent under FAFSA rules.

Many students are considered dependent until age 24 requiring parents’ income on their FAFSA. However, for children of divorced parents only the income of the parent with whom the child lived with the most during the past 12 months is counted.

Students benefit from job loss relief. If a member of a household has had a job eliminated, a student may be eligible for more aid. Look for the “dislocated worker” question and see if the family meets one of the four criteria. Dislocated workers’ assets are counted differently than

others – typically helping reduce an expected family contribution, which increases aid eligibility.

Upon completion of applications, students should make sure to double check them.

Transposing numbers and mistyping are very common mistakes. Double check everything. There are hundreds of ways to make a mistake on a FAFSA.

Having a professional check the answers can help ensure a student gets the most aid possible. Answer the FAFSA truthfully, accurately and completely.

If having problems, students should seek professional help.

While most high school counselors don’t have time or in-depth FAFSA knowledge to assist students, some communities host FAFSA-preparation events each winter. College financial aid officials may provide guidance to their students.

Help from fee-based FAFSA preparation services is allowed, too. Some experts, such as Student Financial Aid Services, provide free or discounted services to low-income students and provide assistance in multiple languages.

While waiting for official award letters, students can use the web to predict early estimates of how much aid they will receive.

Waiting for the spring arrival of aid award letters to learn a student’s aid eligibility and a college’s affordability is agony.

Why wait? Check colleges’ Net Price Calculators for an estimate of a full-time, first-time student’s aid eligibility and net price. Advanced net price calculators also estimate out-of-pocket cost and the total cost of a degree. The most reliable NPCs ask 30 to 40 questions, which takes about 10 minutes to answer. That’s insight into aid eligibility in the time it takes to make a sandwich. But remember, answering NPC questions, will not get a student aid, preparing a FAFSA is required. If students have any more questions, they can contact an agency such as Student Financial Aid Services, Inc.

Student Financial Aid Services, Inc. is a fee-based preparation and aid advisory company dedicated to helping America’s families secure the most student aid possible to pursue their college dreams.

Established in 1991 by a former university director of student aid, Student Financial Aid Services of Sacramento, Calif., is the oldest and largest student aid preparation service in the U.S. Families seeking aid advice may call toll-free 1-877-323-7224 or visit <http://www.fafsa.com>.

Contributed by The College & University Pressroom

Uptown Music Collective begins enrollment for new semester



The Uptown Music Collective, the area’s premier nonprofit school of music, will hold its annual Winter Open House from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at their facilities at 848 W. Fourth St.

Prospective students will be able to tour the facilities, meet with teachers and register for lessons, classes and workshops.

Established in April 2000, the Uptown Music Collective (a non-profit school of music) has developed a reputation as the premier source of music education in the area, with an enrollment of over 120 students.

Offering private lessons at all levels on guitar, bass, drums, keyboards and vocals, as well as classes and workshops in music theory, songwriting, and styles such as the Blues, Jazz, Classical and Rock.

The primary age range of the Collective is 10 to 18 years old, but is open to all ages and levels.

Along with private lessons, the UMC offers a myriad of programs including its flagship Performance Program. This program educates students about the ins and outs of major and minor performances, including direction, production, preparation and technical aspects of the performances.

The program brings outstanding student run performances to the area, including most recently 42nd and Broadway, a collaboration between the Collective and the Community Theater League

During the open house prospective students will be able to enroll for the school’s 16-week winter semester, which will run from Monday through May 5.

There are openings this fall for students of all levels who are looking for private instruction on the guitar, bass, drums, keyboards/piano and voice.

The Uptown Music Collective will be offering its popular workshop series which includes Jazz, Rock, Blues, Drum Technique and the popular Tech Monkey workshop. Classes will be in full swing as well, including Music Theory 1 through 3, Harmony and more!

Of course the Winter Semester is jam packed with student performances starting on...

Feb. 11 –The Purple Heart Project: A Benefit for the Wounded Warriors Project at the Community Arts Center
April 1 – Winter Student Recital

April 26 and 27 – “Killer Queen: A Tribute to Queen” at the Community Arts Center

The Collective will hit the road this semester. On Feb. 1 the Uptown Music Collective “Young Blood” Blues Band will travel to Memphis, Tenn., to represent the Billtown Blues Association in the International Blues Challenge Youth Showcase.

The IBC Youth Showcase is a showcase for young people under the age of 21 which gives them the opportunity to showcase their talents for concert promoters, record companies and other industry insiders, as well as the fans. The Young Bloods are currently in the process of raising the money for this once in a life time trip. For more information or to donate please visit uptownmusic.org/ibc.

Additional information is available online at www.uptownmusic.org, on Facebook or by calling 570-329-0888.

Lycy boasts high graduation rate; In one of the nation’s safest cities

The Washington Monthly recently underscored Lycoming College’s high graduation rate by ranking it fourth out of 249 national liberal arts colleges in a study to determine which colleges most increase the likelihood of the graduation of its entering students.

The study also ranked the 249 colleges on three broad criteria:

Support of social mobility as shown by the admission and high graduation rates of students regardless of family income, commitment to community service and contributions to research, including both “cutting edge” scholarly activity and the percentage

of students who go on to earn their doctorate. On those three criteria, Lycoming ranked 112th nationally.

Other institutions whose ranks clustered around Lycoming include Drew University in New Jersey, Ohio Wesleyan University, Scripps College in California and Sewanee, The University of the South in Tennessee.

Lycoming also is recognized as a Tier 1 institution by U.S. News & World Report in its 2012 edition of “America’s Best Colleges.”

Additionally, Lycoming College is located in one of the nation’s safest cities. CQ Press, an independent

publishing company that releases a yearly report on city crime rankings, listed Williamsport as the 21st safest metropolitan area in the nation out of 354 metropolitan areas.

The city fared better than other Pennsylvania metropolitan areas including Johnstown, Lebanon, Lancaster, York and Scranton-Wilkes-Barre.

In Pennsylvania, only State College ranked higher on the list.

The statistics compiled by the company are based on the number of crimes, including homicides, sexual assault, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries and motor vehicle thefts, reported to the FBI in 2008.



Photography exhibit to be held Tulu Bayar: Playground Series

The Lycoming College Art Department will host photographer Tulu Bayar’s “Playground Series” in the college’s art gallery in Snowden Library next Thursday through Feb. 19. A free, public reception and artist talk will be held Jan. 19 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Bayar’s exhibit explores the human fascination with recording instances of people and places in some of the world’s most visited environments.

The artist traveled to major tourist attractions across the globe to capture images of people taking pictures.

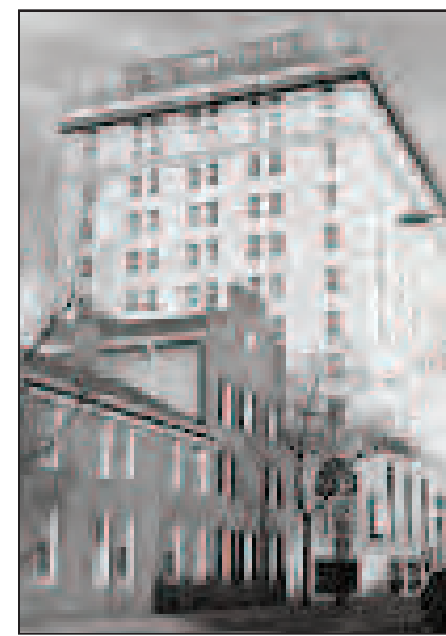
“My intention,” says Bayar, “is to reveal how human interaction with the cameras, places and others while shooting in public places can become both a public and a private act.”

Turkish-born Bayar earned a bachelor’s in communication from the University of Ankara and moved to the U.S. in 1997, earning an M.F.A. in photography from the University of Cincinnati.

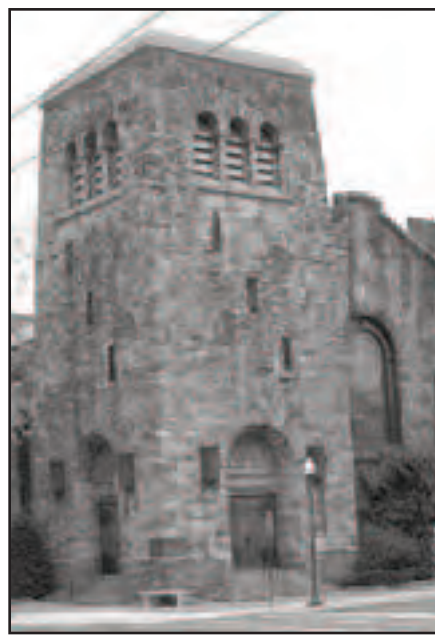
Bayar has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions at venues in the United States and Europe, and has received artist-in-residency

grants and fellowship which include the William Sackett Fellowship from Virginia Center for Creative Arts, the Camac Centre d’art artist-in-residency grant funded by Tenot Foundation in France, and the Center for Photography at Woodstock artist-in-residency grant funded by the Andy Warhol Foundation. Bayar is an associate professor of art and art history at Bucknell University.

Bayar’s work, including selections from “Playground Series,” can be viewed at www.tulubayar.com



Ross Club and Genetti Hotel



First Baptist Church

Question of the Week: *How is the world going to end this year?*



Zachary John

"I'm going to end it."



Cody Marshall

"I'm Zach Johns accomplice"



John Hardy

"People are stupid. It's not going to end."



Eryn Dodd

"When gingers attack."



Chloe Hess

"Cats."

Video games: More than meets the eye



By
Cody
Marshall

Lycourier Staff
Opinion Editor

It is an activity participated in by almost every child, teenager and most adults and has had many innovations and improvements throughout the past years. This activity is playing video games.

Step into the home of any American home and you are likely to find a game console of some sort within the household. This can range from handheld games like the Nintendo DS to the most popular consoles like Microsoft's Xbox and Sony's PlayStation.

Many of the popular games for these consoles are known throughout the world and generate millions of dollars for the companies that create these remarkable games.

As the years go on, one can only expect the quality of video games to keep improving to meet the ever-growing demands of the uncountable customers finding entertain-

ment in the games that they play.

There is also something in this realm that many people fail to see. People who are enjoying these games are able to gain and uphold skills that can be applied throughout their lives as a result of playing.

What is going to be the next big play that you are going to call in order to defeat your opponent and take the win for yourself? What is the next piece to the puzzle that needs solved? Are you going to outsmart the person or computer you are playing against?

All of these questions test the mind of players to the point where they usually end up having to think deeply about their next big move. Video games do undoubtedly teach players useful skills that can keep the mind in tune and ready to make decisions on a seconds notice.

Consider the last time you had to think of a way to outsmart your opponents. Even if it wasn't successful, you still made an attempt to defeat them using your mind. Maybe the next time you play against them you'll learn not to make the same mistake again and choose a more wise decision.

Video games provide players with an escape from reality. They can play multiple roles ranging from a sports superstar to a military combat agent.

These games serve a well needed purpose in today's busy world. They release stress which can certainly be demonstrated by one of the most popular game franchises

to ever hit the market." Call of Duty." What better way to relieve stress than by shooting assault rifles at your opponents and in non-lethal way.

Game Consoles today, such as the Wii made by Nintendo, provide alternatives to working out if one does not feel like venturing to the gym. Many games for this console are made for the purpose of creating physical activity and entertainment within the family household, and is proven to work. Whether you feel like running, biking, doing aerobics, or playing tennis, it all can be done on the Wii and you do not have to leave your house.

As can now be seen, there are many benefits from taking part in the modern trend of playing video games. There are health benefits if used wisely, decision-making skill improvement, and even stress relief.

The next time you see people playing video games, do not criticize them. Take a step back and consider all the thinking and concentrating they are doing in order to play that game. They may be doing themselves some good.

For those of us who have not ventured into this realm, maybe it's time to rethink your decision if you can see some of the benefits that come with playing video games.

This activity is not going to recede from existence anytime soon and is more than likely going to keep growing in popularity throughout the world as more improvements are made in the world of video games.



Overheard at Lyco

"Poop there it is!"
-East Hall

"Yay! The Steelers lost!"
- East Hall

"She needs something in her mouth."
-Caf

"You're always peeing when I come visit."
- Williams Hall

Have an Opinion?! Contact Cody Marshall at
marcody@lycoming.edu for details

Video game controversies: a retrospect



By
Robert
Rinaldo

Entertainment Editor

Since the early days of pinball, someone somewhere has been determined to ban video games, our visceral companions and instigators of identity-driven fun.

Video game debates often center on topics such as video game graphic violence, sex and sexism, violent and gory scenes, partial or full nudity, portrayal of criminal behavior, racism, and other provocative and objectionable material.

Video games have been studied for links to addiction and aggression using the common argument that games cause players to emulate the violent behavior in real life situations.

There are many video games that are targeted for these categories including "Grand Theft Auto," "Mortal Kombat" and "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2." Whether or not games deserve the targeting they receive from government agencies and angry parents cannot be looked at in black and white because there are so many variables.

This is a look at five of the most notorious games and what in particular caused them to become the center of such strong controversy.

"Night Trap": "Night Trap" is infamous because of its part in the 1990s Congressional hearings on offensive video game material. The SEGA CD version of the game was removed from store shelves at Toys "R" Us and F.A.O. Schwarz locations in the United States in direct response to a Dec. 9, 1993, joint Senate Judiciary and Government Affairs Committee hearing on video game violence.

"Night Trap" was cited as shameful, ultra-violent, sick and disgusting, encouraging an effort to trap and kill women, despite the fact that players try to save the women from harm.

In particular, a game over scene in which a character is wearing a nightgown while captured by vampires attempting to drain her blood was found to be very offensive, given the circumstances in which she is attacked (scantily clad in a private bathroom).

Additionally, the box art was criticized by interest groups for what many believed



"Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2" features a mission title "No Russian," where the player is able to shoot and kill hundreds of innocent civilians in an airport.

to be a sexist depiction. "Night Trap" was eventually ported in 1994, and all versions contained a new cover depicting a tame screenshot of the main character with decorative artwork in the background.

"Mortal Kombat": Considered one of the most violent video games in history, "Mortal Kombat" is the game that caused the American government to take a stand against the video game industry.

Released in 1992, the game featured intense blood and violent deaths including decapitating and blowing up opponents. Hearings on video game violence and the corruption of society, headed by Senators Joseph Lieberman and Herb Kohl were held in late 1992 to 1993. The result of the hearings was that the entertainment software industry was given one year to form a working rating system or the federal government would intervene and create its own system.

Eventually, the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) was conceived, requiring all video games to be rated and for these ratings to be placed on the games' packaging. The level of violence continued throughout the franchise's history, reaching its highest degree in the latest installment "Mortal Kombat (2011)" or "Mortal Kombat 9." The game's high level of violence caused the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service to list it as a prohibited item.

"Doom": Released a year after "Mortal Kombat," "Doom" was notorious for its high levels of violence, gore and satanic imagery, which have generated much controversy from a broad range of groups. It has been criticized numerous times by religious organizations for its diabolic undertones and was dubbed a "mass murder simulator" by critic and Killology Research Group founder David Grossman.

The game again sparked controversy throughout a period of school shootings in the United States when it was found that Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, who committed the Columbine High School massacre in 1999, were avid players of the game. While planning for the massacre, Harris said that the killing would be "like 'Doom,'" and that his shotgun was "straight out of the game."

A rumor spread afterward that Harris had designed "Doom" levels that looked like the halls of the high school, populated with representations of Harris's classmates and teachers, and that Harris practiced for his role in the shootings by playing these levels over and over. Although Harris did customize and design "Doom" levels, they were not simulations of Columbine High School.

"Grand Theft Auto" franchise: The "Grand Theft Auto" franchise was controversial from the very first incarnation of the series, in spite of its cartoonish graph-

ics. "Grand Theft Auto" was condemned in Britain, Germany and France due to its extreme violence, and Brazil banned it outright. The controversies flared up again with "Grand Theft Auto III," since the 3-D graphics made the violence more realistic, and the player could pay the services of prostitutes to recover their health before killing them.

There is also criticism from the focus on illegal activities in comparison with traditional "heroic" roles that other games offer. "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" was criticized initially due to its "gangster" elements, which include drugs, prostitution, and murder; but later due to the discovery of disabled interactive sex scenes, nicknamed Hot Coffee, which was a sexual mini game that was cut from the game, but remained in the game code. The list goes on and on, reaffirming "Grand Theft Auto" as the most controversial franchise in history.

"Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2": While "Modern Warfare 2" was a critically acclaimed best-seller, the game has garnered much controversy from one mission in particular.

An optional level early in the game titled "No Russian" has the player assume control of a deep-cover CIA agent joining a group of Russian ultranationalist terrorists enacting an airport massacre. The player's character is told not to speak any Russian and the mission plays out as the group slaughters hundreds of civilians.

The inclusion of the mission sparked tremendous backlash and condemnation from government agencies and opponents of violent video games. The mission was removed from international versions of the game and was criticized for forcing the player to kill civilians while not being able to retaliate against the terrorists.

In defense of the game, the player is given the option to skip the mission with no penalty to the game's completion. The player is not required to kill any civilians to complete the mission and no score is accumulated for the number killed.

The five games mentioned are only a fraction of the most controversial games in history. The debate of whether or not video games deserve the backlash they receive continues to grow as more companies release more provocative games.

It will be interesting to see in the future how far video game publishers can stretch the limit of what is considered appropriate and what is outlandish.

'Ghost Protocol' delivers intense and exciting action



By
Robert
Rinaldo

Entertainment Editor

"Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol" is a 2011 action spy film produced by Paramount Pictures and Skydance Productions.

Starring Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg and Paula Patton, "Ghost Protocol" is the fourth installment in the "Mission: Impossible" series which is based on the 1966 television series.

Directed by Brad Bird and produced by Cruise, J. J. Abrams and Byan Burk, the film is the first in the series to be partially filmed using IMAX cameras.

As a fan of the previous films, I had high hopes going into "Ghost Protocol," and the emphasis on filming with IMAX cameras only boosted my expectations even higher. Fortunately, my expectations were well met. Not only is "Ghost Protocol" the best film in the series, it is one of the best action films of 2011 and a definite see in IMAX.

The plot focuses on Agent Ethan Hunt and his new team after the Impossible Mission Force, or IMF, is disavowed after being implicated in a bombing of the Kremlin. Hunt and his team go rogue to search for the team responsible for the bombing and stop its plans to start a nuclear war with Russia. The plot is easy to follow while providing enough suspense and ex-



Tom Cruise as Agent Ethan Hunt scales the side of the Burj Khalifa in "Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol." Cruise was held in place at all times by multiple cables on the side of the building. The cables were digitally removed during post-production

citement to keep the viewer engaged.

After a mediocly received performance in "Knight and Day," Cruise shines as he returns to his acclaimed role as Agent Hunt. Fortunately, Cruise does not overshadow the rest of the cast. Pegg brings his natural comedic wit to an otherwise serious situation, Patton fits the action lady image perfectly and Renner portrays a

guilty stricken agent with ease.

"Ghost Protocol" features some of the best action scenes in an action film. The film is large on scale with Cruise scaling the Burj Khalifa in Dubai as well as embarking on a car chase in the middle of a gigantic sand storm. Credit must be given to Cruise for performing all of his own stunts, showing that he still has what it

takes to be a dynamic action star.

What I found most interesting about "Ghost Protocol" is the overall theme of the malfunction of technology. Everything seems to fail at one point in the film. Apart from the IMF being shut down, the gadgets fail throughout the film. An agent is gunned down within the first five minutes of the film before his smartphone can reveal the identity of the assassin. Hunt's specialized sticky gloves used to scale the Burj Khalifa fail at 130 stories. The device used to create masks short circuits forcing the team to pose as enemy minions without disguises.

"Ghost Protocol" is definitely worth the extra admission fee to view in IMAX. Everything from the music and sound to the settings are amplified to the best quality. The scaling of the Burj Khalifa gives a greater sense of vertigo in the IMAX format, and watching the sand storm swallow up Dubai is even more frightening. This is an example of a film done well in IMAX, and I hope future action films take the film as inspiration.

"Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol" is one of the best action films of 2011, exceeding all expectations I had. It is a definite must see for fans of the previous films and action films in general. The cast all shine in their respective roles with no single actor taking the spotlight over the other. The action and stunts are intense, especially in IMAX, and the theme of imperfect technology provides a nice spin to generate more suspense and excitement.

"Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol" is in theaters and IMAX.

Top 10 highest grossing films of 2011

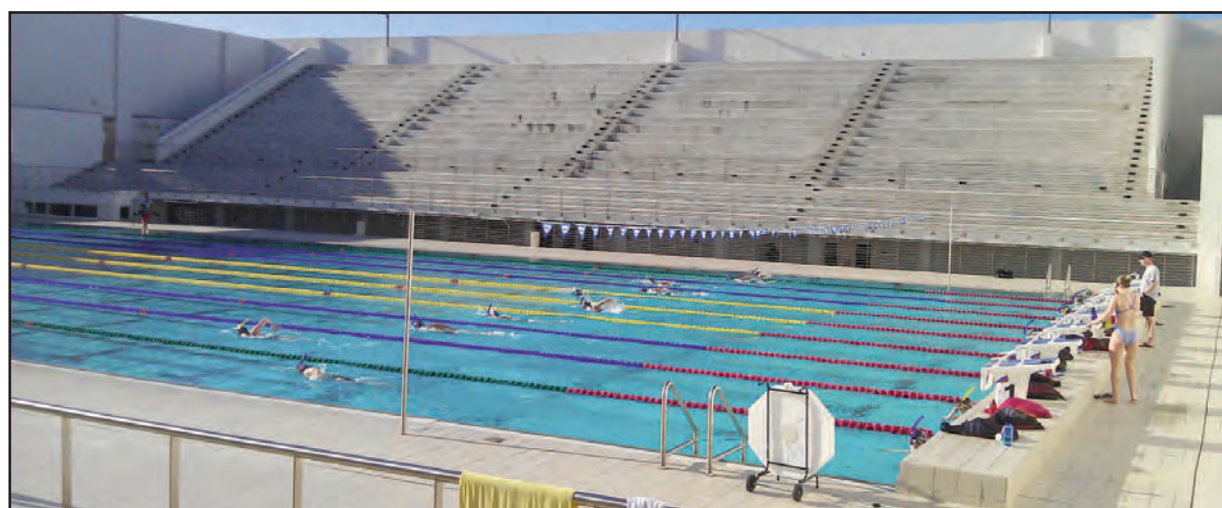


1. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2" - \$381,011,219
2. "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" - \$352,390,543
3. "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 1" - \$278,415,733
4. "The Hangover, Part II" - \$254,464,305
5. "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides" - \$241,071,802
6. "Fast Five" - \$209,837,675
7. "Cars 2" - \$191,452,396
8. "Thor" - \$181,030,624
9. "Rise of the Planet of the Apes" - \$176,760,185
10. "Captain America: The First Avenger" - \$176,654,505

Swimmers soak up the sun in Puerto Rico



Above: The Lycoming College swim team poses by the pool. Below: The R.U.M. Natatorium



Jehiel Boner and Peter Fields walk onto Cabo Rojo beach on New Year's Day.

Warrior wrestling begins new season



By
Rebecca
Bizon

Lycourier Staff

Lycoming College Hall of Fame coach Roger Crebs has seen an array of talent pass through in his 19 years as head coach of the wrestling program. Despite having one of the youngest teams in the 55-year history of the program, he is excited and enthusiastic for this season. Crebs knows his young team is going to have to quickly adjust to the accelerated level of wrestling at the collegiate level, but said, "Our goal is to outwork everybody in every period, especially early in the year."

In the lightweight category, senior captain Stephen Hinton, a National Wrestling Coaches Association Scholar All-American in 2010-2011, is expected to do big things for the team. Last year he posted a 19-12 record and is hoping to improve these statistics in the upcoming year. Others to mention in this category include Cody Barbiche, Edward Exler and Zack Finn.

The Warriors have some depth in talent in nearly every weight class, which provides them with many options for potential lineups. While the middle weight and heavy weight classes contain numerous possible assets the team, none have the credentials backing them like Hinton.

In the middleweights, Brian Watkins has moved up from reaching the quarterfinals of the PIAA Class AA Championships at 145 last year, and will wrestle at 157 pounds this year for the Warriors.

At 165 pounds, Gregory Wetzel is expected to see significant time in this new weight class after a freshman year of wrestling at 149 and 157.

Rounding up the middleweights will be the three-year reserve, Josh Gochnauer. "Although he only has seven wins under his belt, his experience amongst a young team could prove to be extremely beneficial," Crebs said.

Leading the upperweights is senior Russ Korbul, the



Senior upperweight Russ Korbul participates in a wrestling match

only other returning starter for the Warriors. This year Korbul will be securing the 197 weight class, which he finished second in the ECWC Championships in 2010-11.

"Numerous other numbers are also capable of stepping into the upper level weight classes if needed throughout the season," Crebs said.

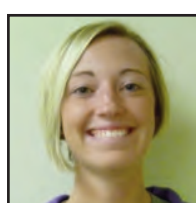
The Warriors have been scheduled a difficult meet schedule, with at least six dual meets against teams that finished within the top 35 at the NCAA Division III

Championships. With a treacherous schedule and young team the Warriors have a lot to prove this season. Thus far this season their record stands at 1-2.

The Budd Whitehill National Duals will be held at the Lamade Gym on Friday and Saturday. Beginning at 9 a.m., numerous schools will be attending this prestigious match, allowing the Warriors to test their skills on some of the best in the nation.

This annual competition is a weekend comprised of eventful, enthusiastic and cultivated wrestling.

Senior Spotlight: Erin Connaghan



By
Kelly
Prendergast

Lycourier Sports Editor

The 2011/2012 Lycoming College women's basketball season looks promising for senior guard and forward Erin Connaghan.

Connaghan, No. 32, has been a key contributor on the team since her freshman year and has embraced a strong leadership role in her final season as a Warrior.

Connaghan's love for basketball began when she played third grade "Bitty Ball."

Throughout the years her practice and dedication to the sport has allowed her to develop her skills as a player.

"My parents have been very influential throughout my basketball career. My mom has been to every single one of my games and I can honestly say that I can't play without her in the gym. Her constant support is what fostered my growth as a player.

"Meanwhile my dad has helped me develop and increase my basketball IQ. His constant tips, advice and encouragement have not only made me a better athlete, but also made me a better leader.

"In addition, my Aunt Patti played an integral role in my development as a player. My aunt instilled my competitive edge within me and that has allowed me to develop into the college basketball player I am today."

Connaghan attended Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg and had an impressive career.

During her time in high school she was named Team Captain her senior year and received the District III



Senior Erin Connaghan pulls up for a jumper

Howard-Fackler Sportsmanship Award.

Connaghan continued her notable career in college. As a freshman she played in all 24 games, shot 36 percent from the floor, recorded 60 rebounds, gave 19 assists as well as recorded 15 steals.

During her sophomore year she played in 22 games and scored 37 points.

In addition she totaled 57 rebounds, 16 assists, four blocks and seven steals.

As a junior Connaghan appeared in 25 games and started nine. She averaged 4.8 points a game totaling 119 points for the season. In addition she grabbed 88 rebounds, averaging 3.5 a game; picked up 30 steals and added 35 assists. Now in her senior season, the Warriors continue to look for her solid presence off the glass.

"Playing on this team has significantly influenced my time here at Lycoming. Being a student athlete is difficult because it requires juggling academics and athletics, so it's definitely taught me time management. More so, being on a team has taught me commitment, loyalty and true friendship. Some of these girls have become my very best friends and roommates that when the seasons are over and I've moved on from Lycoming College the friendships will still remain," Connaghan said.

In addition to her striking athletic career, Connaghan is a hardworking student and works at the Lycoming College Recreation Center.

Connaghan that plans to graduate this May with a BA in History with Secondary Social Studies Teacher Certification.

"After I graduate I hope to become a college basketball coach. After playing for 14 years, it's been a major part of my life and I want to continue it from the sidelines," she said.

Connaghan is looking forward to the rest of her senior season in the hopes that it will be one of his best.

"My advice for incoming college athletes would be to take risks, work hard, and have fun along the way."