

THE REVOLT

Penn State Wilkes-Barre's Student Run Newspaper

44 University Drive, Dallas, PA, 18612 | Issue 25

An Open Letter to Penn State Wilkes Barre

by Kaci Grabowski

I transferred to PSUWB the spring 2019 semester. I knew nobody and nothing. But it's here that I learned everything.

I learned that all nighters were not my friend and how to reach out when I need something. I learned that good professors exist and they are angels in disguise. I learned that nobody actually knows what they're doing (and that it's okay.) I learned what it means to be part of a community, both big and small.

When you think about what it means to be a graduate, you'll reflect on attending years of classes, sleepless nights, and doing whatever it takes to make your due dates. The class of 2021 re-defined what it means to be a graduate. To us, it means surviving a pandemic. It means adjusting to the rapidly changing environment that we have known for the last several years. It's wondering what future employers are going to think of our "virtual" education.

But it's also being extra proud of ourselves. It's doing whatever it took to make the grade that you wanted to earn despite the situation being less than ideal. It meant making changes to work and class schedules to accommodate the challenges that life threw at us. It's being proud of the fact that we are still graduating. It's tackling an unprecedented situation that we did not sign up for. It's advocating for things that would better suit our needs, such as alternative grading.

I feared that we would not have an in-person graduation. I overcame too many challenges to miss out on an in-person celebration that would commemorate the accomplishment that comes with earning a degree. Being a college student during a pandemic while also working is the hardest thing I've done.

As I reflect on my undergrad career coming to a close, I want to say thank you. Thank you. Thank you for everything these past five semesters. Thank you for giving me the best friends on the planet. Thank you to everyone who made The Revolt happen. Thank you for giving me a home. A family. I would be nothing without you.

Graduating is no small feat. Graduating during a pandemic is a huge accomplishment. You should be proud of yourself.

Kaci Grabowski, Editor of the Revolt

Introducing PS-WB Head Baseball Coach Joe Grato

by Scott Schival

Welcome to Penn State Wilkes Barre, Joe Grato! Grato has begun his first season with the Penn State University Wilkes Barre Baseball program for the 2021-22 season.

In 2017 and 2018, Coach Grato served as the Graduate Assistant for the Wilkes University baseball team where he worked primarily with hitters and outfielders. He was named the primary hitting coach where he oversaw the team's statistics improve from 7th in the Middle Athletic Conference, to 2nd, as well as 22nd overall nationally by the conclusion of the 2017 season. In 2018, the Wilkes University baseball team secured its first conference tournament playoff appearance in nearly a decade with a foundation of incoming freshman recruited by Coach Grato and other coaching staff members.



In 2017, Grato served as the Assistant Coach for the Strasburg Express in the Valley Baseball league where he worked primarily with hitters as well as being the third base coach. The Express went on to boast the league's #1 offense and won the Northern Division Championship.

For the 2020-21 season, Grato served as the Director of Player Development for the North Carolina Central University baseball team in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. He oversaw the offensive development for the hitters on the team by utilizing resources such as Synergy to develop scouting reports, analyzed opponent game film, assisted with executing practice plans, Blast Motion to aid in improving analytical components for offensive development, and conducted daily class checks to ensure positive academic production in the classroom.

Grato was a four-year starter at Eastern University from 2013 to 2016, where he was the team's first baseman. He was a 3-time All-MAC Freedom Conference Team selection as well as being selected to the First Team All Mid-Atlantic Regional Team. Most notably, Grato capped a 15-run comeback with a walk-off grand slam against Lebanon Valley College in 2014. He concluded his senior season hitting .418 and finishing in the top 5 of career program numbers including hits, home runs, and runs batted in.

A native of Hoboken, New Jersey, Grato holds a Bachelor of Arts in Interpersonal Com-

Autism Awareness Month

by Jen Sgroi

Every April, seas of blue and puzzle pieces flood social media in support and recognition of Autism Awareness month. The numbers of those affected are staggering. According to the most recent studies done by the CDC, about 1 and 54 children have been diagnosed with Autism spectrum disorder, or ASD. 1 out of every 54 children. Chances are, you know someone or had an interaction with someone with ASD. There might even be a greater chance that you were not able to tell that the person you interacted with lives with the disorder.

Everyone with ASD is affected in different ways. They might struggle with eye contact during conversation. Some get nervous around crowds and others enjoy the spotlight. Also, a few may not tolerate loud noises or music while others are overstimulated by bright lights. The way they learn and process information widely varies, from extremely skilled to severely challenged.

Regardless of how Autism Spectrum Disorder affects them, these individuals are amazing and want to be included with everyone else. Luckily, the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus has a multitude of resources for an individual with ASD as well as outstanding and kind classmates who come together as one huge Penn State family, regardless of your background. The biggest takeaway is to just be kind. Even if someone might seem a little bit different than you, they have feelings and want nothing more than to be included. Someone with Autism spectrum disorder could be one of the biggest blessings in your life. I know one has been for me.

Sources: CDC, Autism Speaks

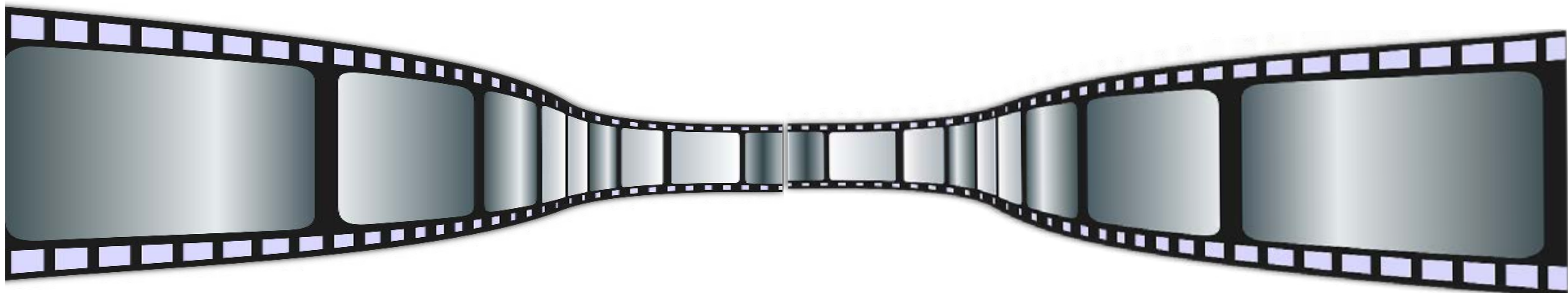


LGBTQ+ Pride Themed Films

At Penn State, April is Pride month. For a young LGBTQ+ individual, visibility in the media is very important. If you are looking for some good queer-themed films to watch, these are a handful of important, and often underrated, ones.

1. **Paris Is Burning (1990)** – Paris Is Burning is an essential piece of queer cinema. Directed by Jennie Livingston, this documentary covers the black and Latin American gay and trans drag ball scene of the mid-to-late 80s. It is a fascinating look into the LGBT culture of 80s New York and holds even further relevance as almost all of the cast has passed away since its filming—it immortalizes their lives and their work in the drag scene.
2. **Pride (2014)** – Based on the true story in which a group of gay activists helped to raise money for British miners striking in the 1980s, Pride is a touching comedy-drama film directed by Matthew Warchus. The film follows the group of activists and their lives as they form the Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners alliance as they deal with homophobia and the AIDS crisis.
3. **Milk (2008)** – Milk, directed by Gus Van Sant, tells the story of Harvey Milk, the first LGBT person elected to office in California. Before being assassinated in 1978, Harvey Milk sponsored a bill which banned discrimination based on sexual orientation.
4. **Tongues Untied (1989)** – Tongues Untied is another classic documentary which is directed by Marlon T. Riggs. The documentary is very experimental, and Riggs discusses the intersection of being black and gay, often utilizing poetry as well.
5. **But I'm a Cheerleader (1999)** – This film takes on the theme of conversion therapy by turning it into a comedy. Normally, this would definitely be insensitive, but director Jamie Babbit pulls it off by mixing the campy comedy with genuine insight into growing up gay.

6. **Saving Face (2004)** – Saving Face, directed by Alice Wu, is a rare example of a romantic comedy specifically about an Asian lesbian couple. Wil is a young surgeon in New York City, and she is out to everyone but her family. However, when she enters in a relationship with Vivian, this may change.
7. **Portrait of a Lady on Fire (2019)** – This film is directed by Céline Sciamma. In 18th century France, Marianne is commissioned to paint a portrait of Héloïse, an unhappy woman set to be married off to a nobleman, at a small island. As Marianne works on the portrait, the two grow closer.
8. **Tangerine (2015)** – Directed by Sean Baker, Tangerine is a comedy drama film about two trans sex workers, Sin-Dee Rella and Alexandra. When Sin-Dee finds out that her boyfriend cheated on her while she was in prison, she sets out on the streets of Hollywood to hunt him down.
9. **My Own Private Idaho (1991)** – A very loose retelling of Henry IV directed by Gus Van Sant, the film is about a narcoleptic sex worker named Mike, and his growing love for his friend Scott. As the two set off across the country to find Mike's mother, they grow closer.
10. **Maurice (1987)** – Maurice is a rare example of a gay period drama with a happy ending. Directed by James Ivory and based off the novel of the same name, Maurice comes to terms with his sexuality in a society where it is illegal. After being rejected by his college lover, he begins to fall in love with a gamekeeper named Scudder.



Get Involved!

by Kaci Grabowski

There has never been a better time to get involved on campus! With the 2020-21 school year coming to a close, there are many open Executive Board positions within clubs and organizations beginning in the Fall 2021 semester, due to students matriculating to University Park and graduates. Despite the hybrid model, activities have still carried on, and the Penn State Wilkes Barre's community involvement has shown incredible dedication amid the pandemic. I encourage returning students to maintain their involvement, join other clubs and organizations, and encourage others to join!



Congratulations to the 2020-2021 Graduates of Penn State Wilkes-Barre

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Aqeel Bacchus | Maxwell Materazzi-Hatala | Jack Van Horn |
| Donald Bara | Jahquan McIntosh | Joseph Vu |
| Logan Baseski | Harry Miles | Crystal Walega |
| Elijah Bennett | Joselyn Mondragon | Michael Walsh |
| Ameer Biddle | David Neilson | Morgan Weaver |
| Jarod Blockus | Matthew Nelson | Corey Weaver |
| Mathew Bogue | Carlos Novelo | Steven Welsh |
| Jacob Bukofski | Samantha Panagakos | Dillon Wilber |
| Rachael Cochran | Corey Podminick | Sean-Paul Williamson |
| Steven Coley | Kyle Poepperling | Karen Winters |
| Alex Conway | Autumn Resaut | Ian Wolfkiel |
| Alexa Davis | Armando Rodriguez | Ayden Yoder |
| Derrick Denman | Kerlyn Rodriguez | Daniel Zacharias |
| Jonathon Derhammer | Sehara Rowles | |
| Bianca DiFebo | Erin Senese | |
| Maggie Dow | Jennifer Sgroi | |
| James Farrell | John Shaver | |
| Kaci Grabowski | Jaike Silverburg | |
| Claire Hamilton | Veronica Smith | |
| Brian Hardiman Jr. | Rafal Strzemecki | |
| Evelyn Hosey | Robert Swida | |
| Noah Howe | Donald Thomas | |
| Aidan Joyce | Matthew Turco | |
| Wendy Leiby | Erich Valania | |

