Roundtable with Booker and Menendez

Students Steal Spotlight at Education Convocation Ceremonies Eliminated for Graduating Class of 2017

Montclair State University has done away with school-based convocations and will now be holding three separate commencement ceremonies according to graduation term — prompting strong reactions from students.

“When news of the scheduling change was announced to students via email, some students were not pleased with the change, fearing that the length of the ceremony would be too time-consuming,” Martinez said. “I knew that [Montclair State] shouldn’t take away from the experience just because they want to save money by combining all the ceremonies,” said Emiliana Meneses, a senior general humanities and sociology major.

Alondra Martinez, a senior psychology major, wondered aloud if it caused a safety issue. “First of all, it’s dangerous to have that many people crammed in a building, not to mention the traffic it’s going to cause if commencement is held in Newark like it was last year. The university is only thinking about the cost.” The new arrangement offers students a ceremony on Jan. 25, with a mixture of undergraduates and graduates.

In the spring, undergraduates and graduates will have two separate ceremonies that are only days apart — on May 22 for graduate students and May 25 for undergraduates. In each ceremony, all of the students’ names will be called to receive their diploma on stage while family and friends watch from the audience. The ceremonies will be held indoors, and all students and their families will only have to go to one event.

“I don’t think there is anything to be disapprobed about,” said Karen Pennington, vice president for Student Development and Campus Life. “They will still have the chance to celebrate their graduation. They also don’t have to worry about melting in the heat or getting rained on. They won’t have to be anxious about whether or not the event will be cancelled. If you graduate much before May, you won’t have to wait forever to have a chance to celebrate your success.”

Pennington explained why the university decided to make such a huge change, saying it was made “after facing years of unprofitable weather, which caused discontinuation of past convocations due to downpours and unbearable heat.”

Graduation continued on Page 2
The Montclarion is a publication of Montelican Publishing, Inc. published weekly, except during examinations, summer and winter sessions. The Montclarion is funded by student fees distributed by Montclair State University and incoming advertising revenue. The views expressed in the Opinion section, with the exception of the Main Editorial, do not necessarily reflect the views of The Montclarion.

The first issue of The Montclarion, then named The Pelican, was published on Nov. 28, 1928.

Kicking Off Homecoming with Grammer and DeGraw

"I already loved Gavin Degraw and knew some of Andy Grammer’s songs, but after that concert, I’m in love with them all. [Wrabel included]."

- Ashleigh Burrichter

Commencement: Student Responses Question University’s Motive

She said the administration wanted to provide students with what they wanted. By using annual surveys and suggestions from previous graduating classes, the decision on the matter became clear, Pennington said. According to Pennington, the content of the ceremonies will fit the needs of the individuals who are graduating in the moment, and there will not be a separate convocation. As well, she mentioned that the ceremony will be longer, however students will have the option of choosing one that is most convenient for them. Some students said they felt the new arrangement was more convenient for them, knowing that they only had to go to the ceremony that they desired to go. Sasha, a senior who preferred her last name not to be printed, expressed her thoughts on waiting and said, “I don’t think it’s a bad idea. Waiting might be the only bad part.”

The length of the ceremony seems to be the key problem, according to student reactions, as they must wait for everyone to be called up on stage to receive their diploma.

Pennington said, “The ceremony will be longer, but will be adjusted so that it will not be a marathon-long event.”

Antonietto, a senior who preferred her last name not to be printed, expressed her thoughts on waiting and said, “If you can wait a whole four years, you can wait a couple of more hours for your diploma.”

Pelican Police Report

Anyone who has information regarding these incidents is urged to call the police station at 973-655-8477.

All calls are strictly confidential.

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Kicking Off Homecoming with Grammer and DeGraw

The concert was hosted by SLAM and took place at Yogi Berra Stadium.

Bear Garcia | The Montclarion

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One of the citizens as well as those interested in joining can register at any time. (Image courtesy of The Montclarion)
Students React to NJ Legislation to Raise the Tax on Gasoline

"World Mental Health Day is celebrated every year on Oct. 10, and for the past two years we have incorporated that day into our Mental Health Awareness Week at Montclair State University. The goal for the week is to raise awareness. We have planned a number of events for the week that we hope are able to support a community that is smart about mental health. As a clinical psychologist, I am biased and believe that: There is no health without mental health."

- Dr. Jude Uy, CAPS Staff Psychologist

‘Mental Illness is Not a Choice, But Recovery Is’

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Photo courtesy of Dr. Sudha Wadhawni

Amanda Peterson (left) and Maryem Abudurra (right) are disillusioned with the proposed gas tax increase.

Victoria Testa | Staff Writer

The proposed 23-cent increase in the New Jersey gas tax is "going to make every-thing way more complicated," said Maryem Abudurra, a junior biology major at Montclair State University. "I feel that there should be other ways to go about [raising the money]."

The increase in taxes is to help fund the Transportation Trust Fund, but students at Montclair State are generally unimpressed with the proposed plan.

"I feel that the money should come from a different source," said Amanda Petersen, a junior biology major. "If it keeps increasing, I’ll have to fill up three times as opposed to two times a week, and honestly I can barely afford two times."

"Just think it’s a bad idea," said Abudurra. "It’s just too much. New Jersey lawmakers..."-

Michael Petersen (left) and Maryem Abudurra (right) are disillusioned with the proposed gas tax increase.

Victoria Testa | The Montclarion

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Peak Performances
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Alexander Kasser Theater
Convenient Parking in the Red Hawk Deck
The faculty and students behind Montclair State Parking Services are infamously known for parking citations and are even blamed for the lack of parking on campus. Staff members are constantly fending for themselves while working with furious students and dealing with constant threats. They say parking services is by far one of the most hostile departments on campus.

"For the most part we’re like that crazy, mean, evil hand that’s looming over the university, giving tickets, taking people’s money, and I understand. I was a broke college student too—I still am," said Mariella Diaz, the professional service specialist at Montclair State. Staff in the parking services department said no one realizes that they are actually real people, sometimes even students just doing their job, and have absolutely no control over the amount of space there is.

"Last year I was accumulating tickets and it was pretty serious. I had about 13 tickets," said Rebecca Innocent, a senior sociology major. "I came here, and Mariella was really helpful. She helped me get a parking pass so I could stop getting tickets, and that’s how I ended up getting this job to help pay off these tickets."

The appeals process gives anyone who’s received a citation the chance to defend themselves and get their point across. "People are angry when they get tickets. That’s why the appeals process is good because we hear them out and help them out," said Raul Igartua, campus events coordinator and former ticket administrator. The administrators and staff of parking services stressed the importance of communication and that the way students can communicate is through the appeals process. They even admit that the first time someone appeals a ticket, the person is given a little leeway. "I’ve gotten tickets, and I have to appeal just like everyone else. I don’t get special treatment just because I work here," said Laurie Osias, a senior accounting major, who was also having issues with getting constant parking tickets. "Students can always appeal tickets," she continued. "That’s the number one thing I recommend."

There is also a free app that can help anyone on campus find a parking space. "I strongly encourage students to download The Parker App, which can help students find parking spaces even before they get to campus," said Diaz. "It’s updated every hour, and I’m surprised that no one’s using it."

To learn more about parking and view the regulations, visit montclair.edu/parking.
Raymond's

Mmm, tastes like privilege.

Growing up in the suburbs of Montclair, there was always one street that carried an affluent prestige to its environment. That street was, and still is, Church Street. Boasting a city-like street littered with mid-to-luxury cars and restaurants not made for Julius Rock from the show “Everybody Hates Chris,” Church Street was always a place that kids wouldn’t revisit to after school unless their parents hooked them up with allowance money or they just wanted to see an elegant setting they could not yet exploit.

Now I’m 23 years old and I exploit the heck out of this street. I can buy whatever I want because I have the money to do so, and I walk around with my hefty camera bothering all of the people that think they are too good to get flicks snapped of them. I am the kid they didn’t want growing up and realizing $30 is not too bad for a great meal on a Saturday night. Their uptown class of an Italian-American crossover doesn’t scare me. New York City has enough of that. OK, rant over.

With the aroma of prestige the street aggrandizes comes a great level of expectation from each and every restaurant and store that calls Church Street home. Today, it was Raymond’s turn to prove that bravado to me. Mind you, it’s not easy doing so when New Jersey is trying to drop the hottest climate tape of the year and it’s 1 o’clock, but if your doors are open for business, then it’s time for me to eat!

Today, grapefruit juice, a salmon burger and scrumptious apple pie with chocolate ice cream were privileged to enter my sacred bowels. The grapefruit was pressed, yet it still maintained its bittersweet taste. But remember, the world isn’t perfect and boy did it show today. As my front teeth unleashed a force of dominance on the salmon burger, there was no force to push them back. Instead of flavor, all I felt was bread. Dry Olive Garden bread, disguised as a Raymond’s burger bun. Naturally, the sriracha tartar sauce on the salmon would have to kick in to save the day (and the flavor), but there were no legs for it to kick. The sriracha was missing its violent, mouth watering, tear-causing flare. There was no indication of spice from the sauce, which was a letdown at its best. You know the veggie slaw and the tomato had nothing to say about this. In this case, they are the kids that have to tell mom that big brother broke the vase while she wasn’t home. Scared and quiet but expected. The behavior from the sauce? Unprepared. Oh, and the worst part? The server didn’t even check on us, so water was scarce. I had to have my meal with the bittersweet grapefruit. Marry grapefruit and dry bread together. What do you get? Divorce!

So, what could save this marriage if divorce was not the only option? Only the apple pie with chocolate ice cream. I didn’t apply the ice cream on the apple pie directly because I still wanted to keep it cold. The sun was beaming on my skin, releasing waves of sunrays summoned to burn me to a chocolate crisp, and I didn’t want the ice cream to suffer the same fate. Nonetheless, it was marvelous. The apple pie connected on layers of greatness, starting with the soft, yet crumbly cinnamon crust, followed by the gushy apple layers that brought more tart than the actual tartar sauce from the burger. The chocolate ice cream only made it better, a combination that was erotic to me. Raymond’s, you’ve escaped this time, with a bead of sweat on your nervous face. Next time we meet, you better flaunt that Church Street badge on your chest a little more.
Combatting the Common Cold

1. Eat more fruits and vegetables
   It is no secret that fruits and vegetables contain a large number of vitamins and minerals. But, the most important thing to know is which ones help prevent the common cold and where they can be found. Vitamin C is the most common vitamin to lower a person’s chances of getting the common cold. Fruits and vegetables that contain Vitamin C are citrus fruits (oranges, lemons and limes), strawberries and honeydew melon. A few vegetables that contain Vitamin C are broccoli and dark leafy greens.

2. Drink a cup of green tea with lemon daily
   Hot beverages have the tendency to thin out mucus, and adding a slice of lemon to it is a bonus because lemon has the same effect. Another benefit of drinking a cup of green tea with lemon is that it lowers the risk of certain diseases such as cardiovascular disease.

3. Wipe down mats and machines at the gym
   It is an awesome feeling to sweat it out at the gym, relieve stress and make the body feel good. It is very important to stretch before jumping on that elliptical, but want to know something even more important? Wiping down that mat and elliptical before beginning your exercise. Not wiping down equipment is one of the easiest ways to spread germs when trying to be active at the gym. Almost all gyms provide sanitizing spray, towels or wipes for patrons to use. Take a few seconds before and after your workout to sanitize your equipment or workout space.

4. Wash or sanitize your hands
   Germs travel through many ways — in the air, from object to object, and by the most notorious culprit: our hands. You may think there is no way around this because your hands are stuck with you everywhere you go, but we do have a solution. Washing your hands with warm soap and water can often help wash away germs that could potentially be on your hands and prevent you from spreading them to others. Can’t get to a restroom? Purchase a travel-size hand sanitizer and use it when needed.

5. Stay in your own personal bubble
   Ok, you can still talk to people because it will be impossible to completely isolate yourself from everyone on Montclair State University’s campus, but what you can do is try to keep a little space between people in crowded areas. The main hot spots that are always crowded are the shuttles. If you’re waiting for a shuttle and you notice that it is packed and your only option would be to sit on another person’s lap, wait for the next one because it will most likely come in about 5 minutes. When you get on a close-to-empty shuttle, aim to get a window seat. That way you only have to worry about one other person potentially sitting next to you.

Dos and don’ts for staying healthy:

1. Drink water and stay hydrated
2. Eat fruits and vegetables
3. Get plenty of sleep
4. Avoid people who have colds
5. Wash hands frequently
6. Use hand sanitizer
7. Cover your mouth when sneezing or coughing
8. Clean and sanitize regularly
9. Maintain a healthy diet
10. Get regular exercise

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Help Wanted

AFTERNOON SITTER, GLEN RIDGE
After school sitter needed starting mid-Sept for our 10 year-old daughter. We have a bright, beautiful extra bedroom in our home while I am there. We would need someone 2-3 days a week, Monday through Thursday, approximately 2:45-7:00 pm. We would need someone to pick them up from school. Looking for someone very reliable. Email: alisonmingione@gmail.com.

AFTER-SCHOOL BABYSITTER NEEDED, MONTCLAIR
Looking for a smart, reliable, fun after-school sitter for our two adorable boys, ages 5, 7, and 9, a few days a week after school ($15/hr). Please Email: Marci at Kokalas1121@yahoo.com.

DATE NIGHT/AFTER-SCHOOL SITTER NEEDED, UPPER MONTCLAIR
We are looking for a part-time babysitter for our two girls (10 & 11), 2:40-4:30 pm. Responsibilities include: School pick up (and drop off), take to after school activities in nearby towns, do basic clean up & laundry for kids, prepare meal (including snacks) and clean up afterwards, driving to afternoon activities & events. Must be “dog friendly”. Two kids, 8 & 6 years old. Email: lynnieg30@gmail.com.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY!!! P/T HELP FOR BUSY EXECUTIVE
Looking for a dedicated and detail oriented assistant to help with an education/real estate investor. Duties include: office management, event coordination, social media, and general office support. Must be reliable and able to work independently. Hours are flexible. Send resume to: Greta.veledevilla@gmail.com.

NANNY/SENIOR NANNY, MONTCLAIR
Needed as after school sitter starting 9/15. 3 kids and three children ages 12, 10, 7. Dolphins, books, cooking, crafting, puzzles, yard work, etc. Email: gretaguyton@gmail.com.

P/T SITTER/HOMEWORK HELP FOR TEENS, AFTER SCHOOL, MONTCLAIR
Looking for someone to help our 13 year-old son with his homework and help with household chores between the hours of 3:15 pm and 6 or 7 pm depending on the day. Email: ceng01@gmail.com

P/T SITTER/HOMEWORK HELP FOR TEENS, MONTCLAIR
The Montclair Dispatch is looking for an on call babysitter. The job would begin immediately and would entail watching her 8 year-old daughter. We are home, and potential for other occasional days & nights. Email: Greta.veledevilla@gmail.com.

ROOMMATE WANTED: MONTCLAIR
Seeking energetic & reliable person with a flexible schedule to help care for our small girl daughter. The position will include preparing meals, running errands, helping with laundry, and running errands. Must have experience and references. New Jersey residents preferred. Email: julie222008@yahoo.com.

SCHOOL VILLAGE
Practically every month, there is a chance to enhance The Montclair Dispatch’s editorial team. This position will include writing articles on a weekly basis to support The Montclair Dispatch. The Dispatch is perfect for individuals, especially college students, who are interested in working in a newsroom. The Dispatch is professional, engaging, and fun and a fantastic opportunity to gain experience while being published in a weekly print and digital newspaper.

WANTED: GLEN RIDGE
Looking for a responsible, energetic sitter who can help with basic household chores (including carpools), help w/ homework & prepare dinner for the family. Email: gretaguyton@gmail.com.

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At Middlesex, students receive the best value available for a quality education with low tuition and fees, scholarships and financial aid programs. Day, evening, weekend and on-line courses are offered for full-time or part-time students. In addition to the main campus, there are centers in New Brunswick and Perth Amboy.

2600 Woodbridge Avenue, Edison, New Jersey
Obliteration of our Graduation

Montclair State has recently reconceived graduation—eliminating school-based convocations for the 2016–17 school year and separating the graduation celebrations of undergraduate and graduate students.

For previous Montclair State graduates, convocation, which was held on campus, was a time to celebrate with their respective schools and to receive their diplomas. Then, at a later date, commencement served as an opportunity for all graduates to have “an exciting and satisfying experience in which our achievements are personally recognized.”

Unfortunately, few graduating students of the Class of 2017 will feel as if their achievements are personally recognized because during the one ceremony, all graduates will have their names called as they cross the stage to receive their diplomas. There is nothing personal or celebratory about a final call for the Class of 2017. If anything, it furthers students’ beliefs that they are a nameless face in a crowd of students at Montclair State.

In May 2015, 1,137 graduate students received their master’s degrees and 3,446 undergraduates received their bachelor’s degrees. These numbers will only continue to increase as more students come to Montclair State. Students have spent four long years at Montclair State and they should not have to wait another four years just to wait to hear every single name called at graduation. Not to mention, the sentimentality of the event is jeopardized with the possibility of having a student’s name botched in front of thousands of people. With a record number of students graduating from Montclair State each year, each class will have a longer ceremony than the year before them.

However, in May 2015, 591 students graduated from College of Education and Human Services and attended the College of Education and Human Services Convocation. Clearly, watching 581 graduates walk across a stage is far more palatable than watching 3,446 individuals get their name called.

What makes convocations so personal is that graduates are able to celebrate with their family and friends and professors at home on Sprague Field. These ceremonies highlight what it is like to be a part of a specific school at Montclair State. It is where students can share their relief, joy and happiness not only with their family, but also with the professors they studied under for four years, and the classmates who helped them through every step. It is a special moment, and graduates will be losing out on that intimacy at commencement.

Even just being at home on Sprague Field offers a sentimental feeling as student close a chapter of their life. Graduating anywhere but Montclair State just does not feel right. After spending such crucial years on Montclair State’s campus, it would be nice to celebrate there. These changes seem to take into account the feelings of the university officials who must attend the events rather than the students they celebrate. Officials will have fewer speeches to give, less planning to do and one ceremony to attend.

Montclair State is searching for solutions to a non-existent problem. Graduations have never been a problem for students. Instead of fixing non-existent problems, Montclair State needs to focus on the problems that plague everyday life on campus.

These changes look like a step in the right direction, but they only seem to hurt those who matter the most, graduating students. While it is too late for the Class of 2017, hopefully, future graduating classes will be able to celebrate properly.

Thumbs Up
Coming Out Week
New sidewalk along Pittser Field
Presidential debate lip reading

Thumbs Down
Willowbrook Mall bomb threat
Increasing N.J. gas tax
Donald Trump and Billy Bush

“On one hand, it’s good that the events, things we have to wait until May to wait and I can just get it over with. However, it’s going to be less personal and it’s going to be a little bit of a hassle.”

-Alessia Pellicane Biology, Freshman

“I think everyone who made your college experience, either your friends or just classmates.”

-Dan Evans | The Montclarion

Dan Evans | The Montclarion

OPINION
The Montclarion • October 13, 2016 • PAGE 11

Thumbs Up
New sidewalk along Pittser Field
Presidential debate lip reading

Thumbs Down
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Donald Trump and Billy Bush

“I think it’s really cool. When I graduate, I want to walk as soon as possible, because that just makes sense. You want to get out as soon as you can.”

-Latara Roth-Miller Journalism, Junior

“I would like to walk with my friends and go home. I would not want to graduate without them. So that would be pretty disappointing.”

-Bradley Satchel Acting, Freshman

“I think everyone who made your college experience, either your friends or just classmates.”

-Alessia Pellicane Biology, Freshman

“On one hand, it’s good that the events, things we have to wait until May to wait and I can just get it over with. However, it’s going to be less personal and it’s going to be a little bit of a hassle.”

-Brandon Simanski Television and Digital Media, Senior

CAMPUS VOICES:
How do you feel about Montclair’s new graduation plan?

Montclair State
Virginty: A Lackluster Powerhouse

How complex and damaging can the concept of virginity really be?

It sounds simple on paper, I think, that people—sex workers, sex-

-Nicholas Da Silva, a journalism major, is at his third year as a columnist for
The Montclarion.

Danger Off The Sports Field

NHL game proves drastic changes are needed

Back in July, a female fan was hit in the head by a foul ball during a game between the Cleveland Indians and the Minnesota Twins. Nationally, such incidents have been reported more than 1,400 times in the last 10 years, with two of them resulting in death. In the case of the July incident, the fan was hit in the head by a foul ball and later died from her injuries.

Since then, teams have taken various steps to improve safety measures on the field. Some of these steps include using protective netting on the backstop to prevent foul balls from traveling into the stands, installing protective netting along the first and third base lines, and adding protective netting behind the home plate.

Although it may not seem like it, there are still instances where fans are injured or killed by foul balls. It is important to continue to improve safety measures and ensure that fans are protected at all times.
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This year’s homecoming concert at Yogi Berra Stadium on Friday was a non-stop incredible experience. The concert, hosted by Student Life at Montclair (SLAM), had everything from DJ Trill’s eclectic playlist exciting the audience, to Wrabel’s soothing vocals with piano accompaniment, to Andy Grammer’s auto-tuned silliness, and finally, Gavin DeGraw closed the show with “I Don’t Wanna Be.”

George Koutsouradis, the Student Government Association (SGA) vice president said that putting together the concert was a 3 to 4 month process. “Kraemer Clayton is the Live Entertainment Chair who communicates with musical artists and brings such homecoming concert to life,” Koutsouradis said. “Tonight, there are between 1300 and 1400 people in the crowd.”

Montclair State students surrounded the stage and danced to DJ Trill’s variety of music. His songs included throwbacks from Montell Jordan’s “This is How We Do It,” to Fergie’s “London Bridge,” and Bowling for Soup’s “1985.”

Wrabel performed about seven songs. He performed his new song “11 Blocks,” inspired by his grandmother. Spectators waved their hands during Wrabel’s slower ballads and anxiously waited to dance to Grammer’s upbeat style. Grammer opened up with “Gotta Keep Your Head Up,” and the crowd went ballistic. Grammer wooed the screaming crowd, did a Jackson 5 inspired dance and sang from two microphones while using auto-tune.

“Oh my God he is so hot,” shouted senior Bridget Bayer. “I want to marry him.”

Andy Grammer satisfied the audience with his talented vocals and instrumental performance. Gavin DeGraw kicked off the remaining hour of the concert with “Chariot.” Green and yellow lights illuminated the stage as he played the piano, and DeGraw was the final act of the entertaining night.

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**Top Ten Songs of the Week**

1. Heathens—Twenty One Pilots
2. Spin the Dial—Beach Slang
3. Masters—Local Natives
4. The Currents—Bastille
5. Punks in a Disco Bar—Beach Slang
6. Keep You On My Side—CHVRCHES
7. Ship of Fools—Elephant Stone
8. Big Mess—Grouplove
9. Getaway—Blossoms
10. Awkward—Hunger
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Karlee SanGiovanni has always known she was meant to be a performer. She has been singing since before she could speak and knew performing was in her blood when she first stepped on stage at the age of 7. SanGiovanni participated in theater all throughout her high school career. When she was applying to colleges, she knew she wanted to keep performing in her life, but she was torn on what type of performing to pursue.

“I had gone through life thinking I wanted to do musical theater but when it came down to actually applying to colleges, I split it up a lot,” said SanGiovanni. “I applied to a few schools for musical theater, a few schools for vocal performance and one for communications.”

SanGiovanni chose to continue her journey of being a performer at Montclair State where she was accepted as a music major. When it came time for SanGiovanni to choose a concentration, she realized the importance of being a jazz musician. She played the saxophone and loved jazz music so much. “My grandfather was a musician and see what I’m really made of as a performer,” she said. “He played the saxophone and loved jazz music so much. I feel that I connect with my grandfather on a much bigger level after realizing my love for jazz. The decision to go to school for jazz just fell in my lap. It was as if God was giving me a sign. I know now that he was, because jazz is perfect for me,” said SanGiovanni. “I have always been an old soul and have always had an appreciation for jazz music and the types of music that push musical boundaries, which is what keeps jazz alive.”

As one of four jazz vocal majors in the entire university, SanGiovanni is always working to make her mark on the jazz community, particularly through her performances here at Montclair State. “Montclair has provided me with performance opportunities and the ability to connect with other musicians,” stated SanGiovanni.

While SanGiovanni is an immensely talented vocalist, not every performance opportunity she has experienced has been a good one. SanGiovanni knows this is part of the craft and uses her failures as lessons for the future. “Not only did they take me seriously,” expressed SanGiovanni. “Not only did they take me seriously, they supported me 100 percent in my dreams. They believed in me when I couldn’t believe in myself.”

“My boyfriend is also a musician and he really believes in me, because jazz is perfect for me,” said SanGiovanni. “I have always been an old soul and have always had an appreciation for jazz music and the types of music that push musical boundaries, which is what keeps jazz alive.”

Not only does SanGiovanni find confidence in herself, she also finds confidence in her large support system of family and friends. “Going into music, I was a bit nervous of others reactions and if my family and friends would take me seriously,” expressed SanGiovanni. “Not only did they take me seriously, they supported me 100 percent in my dreams. They believed in me when I couldn’t believe in myself.”

“My boyfriend is also a huge support for me. He’s a musician as well at Belmont University and never fails to make me feel like I am moving in the right direction. It’s great to be able to talk to someone who understands what it’s like to be a music major, and he really gets it.”

Having someone by her side who understands her struggles is extremely important to SanGiovanni. “Not only does SanGiovanni find confidence in herself, she also finds confidence in her large support system of family and friends.”

SanGiovanni knows her future is bright and is excited to continue her work as a performer and a jazz musician. “After a summer of creating videos for ‘Dissonant,’ a vocal ensemble I am part of, I am diving back into the jazz world,” she said. “This year, my goal is to push my boundaries as a jazz musician and see what I’m really made of as a performer.”

Karlee SanGiovanni performing at the Vocamotion Singers and Red Hawk Jazz Band performance in the Jed Leshowitz Recital Hall on Montclair State’s campus during the spring 2016 semester. Photo courtesy of Rodney Leinberger.
**Film Reviews**

**The Birth of a Nation**

Bryan Sudfield  
Contributing Writer

If there’s one film that has had its fair share of controversy throughout its history, it is D. W. Griffith’s 1915 masterpiece, *The Birth of a Nation*. Set against the backdrop of the Reconstruction period, the film explores the themes of race, identity, and the American Dream. Directed by Nate Parker, the film is a modern retelling of this iconic tale, focusing on the life of Nat Turner, a slave who led a successful rebellion in 1831.

**The Birth of a Nation** is not without its flaws. The film suffers from a rushed narrative, which fails to develop certain characters, particularly Nat Turner himself. However, this is compensated by a strong performance by Nate Parker as Turner, who brings vitality to the role, making it hard to watch. The cinematography and score are also noteworthy, adding to the film's epic feel.

The first two acts were fantastic and paced extremely well. I was never bored and I wasn’t checking my watch, which is always a delight and a surprise considering the kind of the film this is. However, the third act was extremely rushed. All the buildup to the epic, rebellion battle, which was shot and choreographed excellently, felt wasted and non-existent. Nat’s transition went too quickly and I was questioning why it was edited that way. But regardless, the last scene left me in tears as I was leaving the theater, and it’s one of the year’s best endings. I really liked “The Birth of a Nation,” but I don’t think it’s the masterpiece everyone claimed it to be. It’s an important film, so do yourself a favor and check it out.

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**Girl on the Train**

Noah Orent  
Staff Writer

With the fall season in full swing, the time has come for major movie studios to release their more coveted films and prepare for the battle royale that is the 2016-17 Academy Awards. In most cases, the films that are released during the Oscar season either provide movie-goers with an unforgettable viewing experience or miss the mark and fail to live up to expectations. “The Girl on the Train,” a poorly-made adaptation of a popular paperback, falls under the latter category.

Based on the 2015 best-selling debut novel of the same name written by Paula Hawkins, the film stars Emily Blunt as Rachel Watson, an unemployed divorcee who rides the train to and from Manhattan, despite the fact that her debilitating alcoholism brought the train to a halt. When she learns that the wife of a man she had a crush on, D.C., is missing, she becomes fond of the empty, blissful life in her old commute, she becomes engrossed in an investigation that promises to forever alter the lives of everyone involved.

Though it manages to hit all the fundamental mandates of psychological thrillers, “The Girl on the Train” unfortunately falls short of its full potential. This is primarily due to the fact that screenwriter Erin Cressida Wilson and director Tate Taylor make it extremely difficult to become fully engaged. Wilson spends the first half-hour either setting the scene or introducing the central characters and, as a result, makes the film feel sluggish in areas where it should have been suspenseful. Consequently, several characters fail to leave the same lasting impression that Hawkins left when the book was first published.

Taylor, meanwhile, creates a suitable Hitchcockian atmosphere, but fails to create a coherent narrative because he chooses to constantly skip around the timeline. This over-reliance on flashbacks makes it even harder for the audience to understand the characters’ respective situations and perspectives.

Even after all of these criticisms, the movie still functions as a chilling, yet captivating tale of psychological thrillers, “The Girl on the Train” unfortunate-ly falls short of its full potential. This is primarily due to the fact that screenwriter Erin Cressida Wilson and director Tate Taylor make it extremely difficult to become fully engaged. Wilson spends the first half-hour either setting the scene or introducing the central characters and, as a result, makes the film feel sluggish in areas where it should have been suspenseful. Consequently, several characters fail to leave the same lasting impression that Hawkins left when the book was first published.

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Deanna Rosa
Editor-in-Chief

"Field hockey is the kind of sport—it's kind of like riding a bike—you don’t really forget how to do it," said Koedi Shakir, a junior English major who tries her hand at the game. "You don’t really forget, but we’re also friends," Davey said. "We do so much together, whether it’s soccer related or school related, we have always created a comfortable environment where friendships are constantly made." It doesn’t matter whether a player is new to the team or returning, because everyone looks out for one another and has grown to consider their teammates as part of their family. "The team tries to have as many team bonding activities so everyone can learn more about each other on a personal basis and not just soccer-related," junior Rachel Belsky said. "The objective is to spend time together and grow as a unit so everyone can learn more about each other and all have the same motivation to reach their full potential and be the best team around.

"The team looks like they're hoping to accomplish. Together they have supported one another and all have the same motivation to make their goals a reality. "The team has shown unity, heart and a passion to put in all effort into practices in addition to games," LeVan said. "All the practices have been professional and fun because the girls enjoy each other’s company but also have the desire to learn and grow."

The next home club soccer game will be a mid-week robin held on Saturday, Oct. 15 in a match-up against Seton Hall University and Adelphi University.

The club soccer team will face off again on Oct. 15 at home.

The team is also to learn each other's strengths and weaknesses on the field so everyone can understand another player’s style. Together, this team has developed each week to become a talented cohesive unit. "The team continues to grow and throughout the season all of us are noticing the improvements being executed," Belsky said. "Our true potential will be shown each game."

Each game has either been a blowout win or an incredibly close game, which is why the team has proven to be a strong competitor this year. Each day, someone rises above the rest, which motivates others to increase their level of play. The team established many goals before the season, which they're hoping to accomplish. Together they have supported one another and all have the same motivation to reach their full potential and be the best team around.

"Our goal since my freshman year has been making nationals, but it's a long journey ahead," junior Randy LeVan said. "The women's club team has never made it before, and we're hoping to be the first one this year with a breakout season."

All the girls have been extremely motivated this season. This year, they have the determination to make their goals a reality.

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Red Hawks Look to Stay on Course This Fall

By Anthony Paradiso, Contributing Writer

The beloved sportscaster is ESPN Anchor Sports MSU Hockey Jersey on Air.

Montclair State Skyarter Sports

ESPN Anchor Sports MSU Hockey Jersey on Air

We made it on Sportscenter thanks to @Buccigross

Montclair State Shuts Out Southern Virginia 17-0

The Red Hawks improve their record to 3-2 on the season.

Southern Virginia was stepped in their tracks by a dominating Red Hawks defense, led by Senior Joe Falato. Falato picked up eight tackles on the night, followed close behind by Junior Vincent Corbo and Linebacker Joshua Bette. The final three points of the game came off the cleat of sophomore Ryan DeLeon after he landed a 36-yard field goal in the 3rd quarter.

The Red Hawks will head on the road this Saturday, Oct. 15 to take on Christopher Newport in Newport News, Va. Kickoff is at 1 p.m.