Award-Winning Journalist Judy Woodruff Hosts 2019 Graduate Commencement

Woodruff inspires the crowd with words of wisdom and encouragement

Award-winning journalist Judy Woodruff addresses the crowd at the 2019 graduate commencement.

Photo courtesy of Mike Peters

Tiffany Baskerville
Staff Writer

Montclair State University awarded 668 doctoral and master’s degrees in science and mathematics, humanities and social sciences, business, the arts, and education in this year’s graduate commencement ceremony.

The university bid a farewell to students who fulfilled their degree requirements this past August and January on Saturday, Jan. 19 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, New Jersey.

This year’s commencement address was delivered by award-winning broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff, who received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Montclair State President Susan A. Cole, who officiated over the commencement ceremony.

Woodruff, who is the active anchor and managing editor of “PBS NewsHour,” has an honored career covering politics and other news in a career bridging more than four decades.

Woodruff is a seasoned journalist for steering television networks, like NBC, CNN and PBS, helping pioneer the current state of broadcast journalism. She and the late Gwen Ifill are recognized as the first women to co-anchor a national news broadcast.

Woodruff shared her words of encouragement with The Montclarion prior to addressing the crowd of graduates with the same message.

“I’m here today with one main message: to tell you that we need you,” Woodruff said.

“We need your brains. We need your talent, willingness to work hard, values, and we need each one of you to dedicate yourself to making your part of the world a better place.”

The resonating themes that Woodruff tried to bring across to the graduate students were that they need to dream big and make a difference and to take on the role of making the world a better place.

One graduate, Rhonda Robinson, received a master’s degree in inclusive education after already having a master’s in broadcast.

“Graduate continued on Page 2

Keeping Up With the SGA in 2019

Sam Carliner
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) e-board has spent most of winter break on campus, working to get a head start on the spring semester.

Much of the time was spent preparing for big end of spring events such as senior week and the senior trip as well as setting up the election, which will happen toward the end of the semester.

With all four members of the current SGA planning to graduate soon, they hope to see many students running for the executive positions. They are also encouraging legislators to shadow the positions in order learn what it takes to run the SGA.

“We have [organizations] come and go, and there’s one representative that we really have a base with, and we know their name,” said Vice President Emma Rush. “We’re trying to find a process where everyone can access the information.”

Rush credited Treasurer Vincent Osei with much of the effort to strengthen communication among the organizations.

Osei explained the benefit of being direct and transparent when communicating with organizations.

“It was more so being more forward with organizations, being more honest, being more open,” Osei said. “I think that’s one thing that they saw.”

Secretary Jillian Royal has been continuing to find ways to strengthen communication between the SGA and the larger student body, such as a publicity team.

“I’m excited to have that and to leave a legacy of some sort for the upcoming secretaries, so that they have a format to follow," Royal said.

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Graduate: Students take a moment to reflect on their time at Montclair State

Continued from page 1

A degree in education, Robinson was overwhelmed with excitement after hearing the final words of confirmation that she has finally completed her long journey.

“The best choice I made was coming here to a community that really helped me grow and cultivate my gifts and talents,” Robinson said. “Graduating here, I made the right choice. I will truly miss Montclair State.”

With the inevitable departures of former classmates and professors, graduate students give their final farewells to their college experience as they look to the future.

D’Amani Wooten, graduating with a master’s in marketing, is reflective on her college experience at Montclair State.

“If I remember anything, this experience has taught me is to just stay focused,” Wooten said. “Remember where your end goal is and trust in the faculty of professors who are always there to guide you.”

The commemoration marked is the first of two commencement ceremonies for students of the graduate school in 2019.
Campus Cat Finds Fur-Ever Home

Misty escapes frigid winter and moves into warm hearts of newly adoptive family

It was a bittersweet moment for students when they found out that their furry peer, Misty, left campus and found a new home in November 2018.

Misty and Stormy, as well as numerous other cats and kittens who lived on campus, had their needs met by caretakers who worked 365 days a year to care for the cats.

One of Misty’s many fans, sophomore music therapy major Dane Wagner, will miss making the trek to interact with Misty on campus.

“Misty was such a wonderful addition to the campus at Montclair State University,” Wagner said. “It was worth the 60-step climb to see her.”

The cats who lived on campus are a part of a registered colony of community cats, who have lived outdoors and have been neutered, vaccinated and returned to the wild by people of the community.

While the cats who inhabited the campus were in good hands, students were also involved in caring for Misty who is the last known community cat on Montclair State’s grounds.

Freshman accounting major Victor Funes as well as junior animation major Sloane Proenza were Misty’s student caretakers and ran the Instagram account, @misfores_msu.

“As a cat lover and someone who has taken care of a few cats over the years, I wanted to make sure she was okay but obviously without making her uncomfortable by getting her food and toys she may not like,” Funes said. “Instead, I just gave her some water and made sure any trash around her was thrown away.”

While it seemed that Misty was in good hands, Proenza recalled challenges that were faced.

“Summer was hot and if she didn’t get enough water, she could have gotten dehydrated and if she drank from puddles that possibly have oil from cars, she could have gotten sick,” Proenza said. “In the winter it was clear that her little house didn’t provide enough heat for her. I had seen her in the shed nearby. It was probably stressful for her to remain comfortable.”

Proenza had known Misty since 2016 and cared for her as well as countless others until her recent adoption in late November 2018.

While it is clear that Misty was loved by students and staff, Funes and Proenza believe her adoption was the best choice for her well-being.

“[Misty’s new owner] didn’t want her to suffer when the snow starts to hit and after that snow storm last month, it’s a good idea even if it meant parting with [Misty],” Funes said.

To keep updated on Misty, visit @mistymontclair on Instagram for the latest news and pictures.

“I like to think [Misty] is happy,” Proenza said. “I have asked @mistymontclair to post updates on [Misty’s] well-being.

As the spring semester rolls around, a new year calls for new goals for Montclair State University. One of those goals include becoming a smoke-free campus by September 2020.

The university sent out a campus-wide email informing students and faculty on the newly banned smoking areas in effect as of Jan. 2.

The locations now smoke-free are the following:

- Russ Hall between Russ Hall and Chapin Hall near the loading dock for Chapin Hall
- Blanton Hall in between Webster Hall and Bohn Hall
- Junior psychology major Dana Mellon does not believe the smoke-free mission is going to do anything about students smoking on campus.

“Banning designated smoking areas is a waste of time because students will smoke wherever and whenever they want on campus,” Mellon said. “Banning the areas may even result in more widespread smoking rather than in a designated area.”

The campus-wide email also gave a timeline of other locations set to become smoke-free in the following year and a half.

Junior criminal justice major Orlando Flores is skeptical of Montclair State pulling off its goal of a smoke-free campus by 2020.

“Honestly, I doubt [they will accomplish their goal] because there’s so many different things used to smoke, such as juuls, vape pens [and] there’s weed,” Flores said. “I think there’s too many different smoking devices that are going to be almost impossible to stop by 2020. But eventually, I think there will be a time where they’ll be able to achieve [their goal].”

By September 2019, the amphitheater in between Sprague Library and Kasser Theater along University Promenade, and Hawk Crossings between Falco Hall and Accipiter Hall will also be removed as smoking areas.
Students register for courses using advice from Rate My Professors

The beginning of a new semester means the start of a new schedule. Ask any student about how they picked their courses, and they’re likely to mention Rate My Professors. Students at Montclair State University still think it’s important to complete course evaluations, but consider the use of Rate My Professors (at ratemyprofessors.com) in hopes of being able to help other students for the upcoming semester.

Course evaluations are offered for each class that a student takes and are made up of a group of open-ended and multiple choice questions about the class and the professor. The survey is submitted anonymously and never disclosed to future students.

Lismarie Quiles, a sophomore majoring in communication studies, thinks course evaluations are important but feels that filling them out has no guarantee that professors will tweak their teaching methods.

Quiles explained that she chooses to use Rate My Professors at the end of the semester as a heads up for other students.

“I write reviews, even if I don’t like them,” Quiles said. “I’m like ‘If you think you’re going to this class and you’re going to get taught, that’s not what is going to happen.’”

Rate My Professors is a website that provides a free platform to rate professors at college campuses across the country. Students are able to create their own ratings based on a professor’s level of difficulty and write comments on whatever they feel is important for other students to know. Unlike course evaluations, these ratings are public and open to everyone.

Vernard Gantt, a professor in the School of Communication and Media, believes that Rate My Professors is a great thing for students to use as a resource to pick their professors, but it shouldn’t be the only thing that students turn to.

“I wish the students could see the evaluations that the other students wrote for the same professors to go along with Rate My Professors,” Gantt said. “This would give them the ultimate source.”

However, because Rate My Professors is so easily accessible, this leads to concerns over regulation. Gantt compared Rate My Professors ratings to Amazon ratings. He believes most people only write them when they have something really good or really bad to say. There usually aren’t many in-between ratings. Although Gantt thinks that Rate My Professors is a good resource for students, he said it should not be the only way a student measures the quality of a professor.

Gantt explained that course evaluations are also a way to actually get professors to be aware of what things worked and what things didn’t in order to enhance their classes.

“It helps to hone in to what [students] think is important,” Gantt said.

For AJ Nichols, a junior film major, course evaluations aren’t on his priority list. He’s done them before, but feels like professors don’t take them into consideration.

“I typically don’t [fill out course evaluations],” Nichols said. “After taking the same class twice and after everyone gave [the professor] the same exact feedback, he didn’t change anything.”

For this reason, Nichols prefers the use of Rate My Professors over course evaluations.

Bond Benton, a public relations professor, believes course evaluations are very important because student feedback can help improve the quality of teaching. Benton explained that course evaluations also ensure that good teachers are recognized for their hard work.

“You could be doing amazing stuff, but unless the students let the world know about it, nobody else will ever know about it,” Benton said.

From left to right: AJ Nichols, Lismarie Quiles, Ashley Getchell and Sunah Choudhry submit evaluations on the last day of their communication theory class.
Dinner at Kai Yang

Authentic and affordable Thai comfort food

Kai Yang’s Tom Kha combines scallions for richness and onions for bursts of spice.

When you open the door to Kai Yang, you are greeted by colorful patterns and vivid decor. The small Thai rotisserie restaurant, located at 345 Bloomfield Ave. in Montclair, New Jersey, instantly manages to create a cozy yet upbeat ambiance. The floral patterned tables and bright yellow seats are arranged closely together, establishing an intimate dining experience. The Thai restaurant adds touches of flair by using small Mason jars as cups and adorning the walls with unique tapestries.

Kai Yang opened four months ago but owner and chef Sheree Sarabhaya is no stranger to the food industry. Sarabhaya also owned Spice II, which closed in August for rebranding and expansion to Kai Yang.

Sarabhaya explained her intentions were to give customers a more authentic experience while remaining close to her culture. “The reason we moved was because we needed to rebrand the name and do something authentic,” Sarabhaya said. “People tell us they’ve never had meals like this before.”

When I first arrived, I ordered a Thai iced tea and Tom Kha soup. The soup contained coconut milk, lemongrass, mushroom, red onions, scallions and chicken.

The scallions added a very rich taste while the onions provided a burst of spice to the creamy consistency. The Thai iced tea was sweet and creamy but still very refreshing.

Next, I moved on to entrees. I ordered the half chicken, which is marinated 24 hours prior and rotated evenly for customers to see.

The half chicken was accompanied by a papaya salad, which is comprised of green papaya, string bean, tomato, carrot and peanut with lime dressing.

The entree provided a choice of meat along with the rotisserie chicken and sticky rice. I chose the Nua Yang, a sliced grilled beef. The chicken was perfectly cooked and moist while the beef was grilled to perfection.

My friend who accompanied me ordered the Pad Thai with shrimp, which consisted of rice noodle, an egg wrap, scallion, bean sprout and crushed peanuts. The addition of crushed peanuts to the Pad Thai added some diversity to the noodles and shrimp.

Sarabhaya was kind enough to offer Kra-Prow, which contains string bean, green pepper, chicken, onion and basil. It comes with jasmine rice, a fried egg and soup. It will be offered as their new special for $11.

I ended my dinner with fried mango ice cream which they offer in multiple flavors.

While the entrees are averagely priced, customers definitely get a bang for their buck with beautifully arranged plates and large portions. Despite not delivering to Montclair State, they are willing to offer students a 10 percent discount on all dine-in visits with a valid student ID. This offer can be redeemed during lunch and dinner hours.

If you are looking to try something new, Sarabhaya’s inclusion of family recipes provides you with the opportunity to try authentic Thai comfort food. With affordable prices, alluring decorations and friendly staff, you can’t go wrong in making a visit to Kai Yang.
Ditch New Year’s Resolution Day is an annual celebration of giving up. That is to say, giving up on unrealistic and stress-inducing goals. The new holiday was undoubtedly celebrated by many on Jan. 17, as reality started to set in for idealists everywhere.

Despite its connotation, Ditch New Year’s Resolution Day has an ironically positive message. Setting huge, unreachable goals can sometimes do more damage than good. New Year’s resolutions can be really overwhelming and cause self-esteem to plummet when success is not easily achieved. Instead, the day hopes to encourage us to take a step back and start planning more thoughtfully. By taking small steps and not placing a strict deadline on progress, working on lasting change can be done at a healthy pace.

Montclair State University students have mixed opinions about New Year’s resolutions but agreed that self-reflection is a valuable marker of growth.

Daniela Meneses, a senior majoring in computer science, feels the action of setting goals is sometimes more important than the goals themselves.

“Even if you don’t follow through to the rest of the year, at least it’s still a positive attempt at change,” Meneses said.

This year, Meneses hopes to start the Whole30 diet and improve her overall health.

Senior communication studies major Lindsay Slaff thinks that New Year’s resolutions aren’t hinged to a specific date and should instead be considered open-ended goals.

“It may not start on the first, and the same resolution may be repeated each year, but at some point it’s at least attempted,” Staff said. “People forget that still matters.”

Slaff is planning to read more books, be consistent with her vitamins and immerse herself in nature on a monthly basis.

Last year, sophomore television and digital media major Nicholas Cherrey spoke with The Montclarion about his goals to start going to the gym and getting a job.

“It did take me a while, but in the fall semester I started going to the gym and working out about 2-3 times a week,” Cherrey said.

Cherrey was also able to secure an internship at POSH Entertainment. Now that he’s accomplished his resolutions for 2018, he opted to take a break this year. Sometimes it’s better to approach goals with patience or revisit them with a better plan and more clarity. The American Psychological Association suggests starting small, changing one behavior at a time, talking about it and not beating yourself up if you need to readjust your expectations.
Help Wanted

Looking for Mary Poppins
Current elementary education student or recent graduate, or retired elementary school teacher, would be ideal. Needed to drive boys age 4 & 7 to school and back, help with homework, prepare evening meals and stay until parents return home from work. 5 days a week. Will consider live in or out. Email: russelleisebi@gmail.com

$20 Per Hour / SOCCER COACH / MONTCLAIR
Kiddie Soccer conducts soccer programs for preschool age children. Our programs are fun, non-competitive and instructional. We are currently hiring coaches for our upcoming Winter and Spring programs. This is a part-time position. Coaches are assigned to programs that both fit into their schedule and make sense from a geographic perspective. We hire primarily college students. We look for people that have a background in soccer (or other organized sports) are energetic, personable, responsible, reliable and most importantly, GREAT at working with children. If interested, please check us out at www.kiddiesoccer.com and send us an email at jobs@kiddiesoccer.com.

$600-$700 / GORGEOUS ROOMS FOR RENT / 7 MINS FROM CAMPUS
Gorgeous rooms for rent in large, clean, recently remodeled home. 7 minutes drive from campus and near the restaurants, cafes, bars, bookstores etc in Montclair. Must have source of income, be respectful, taking care of your own belongings, securing property and communication with other roommates. Responsibilities include picking up at school, transporting to and from after school activities in Montclair, light housework, laundry, keeping house tidy, preparing dinner. Our 16 year old has high functioning autism and has therapy 3x a week at home. We have two non shedding hypoallergenic dogs and a fenced-in yard. Regular hours are 2:30-5:30 Monday through Friday, but we are flexible as more works at home. Prior experience with children is preferred, use of own reliable vehicle required. If interested, please email: katiokupferschmid@icloud.com.

Help Wanted

Looking for an after school homework helper. Interested in either current student, graduate or teacher to ideally come to our home Mon-Thurs for 1 1/2 - 2 hours (flexible in days/hours). Ideal candidate would be someone with education experience or experience working on study skills/executive functioning at the high school level. Looking for someone organized and who has patience! Payment flexible depending on workload/experience. If interested, please text or call Marcy at 973-699-0485 or email marcymercer@verizon.net.

$200-$350 weekly / DOG WALKER NEEDED/MONTCLAIR, GLEN RIDGE, BLOOMFIELD AREA
Local dog walking/pet care business in need of new business! Seeking to place 2-3 dog-loving people in steady, responsible positions, immediately. Responsibilities include picking up at school, transporting to and from after school activities in Montclair, light housework, laundry, keeping house tidy, preparing dinner. Our 16 year old has high functioning autism and has therapy 3x a week at home. We have two non shedding hypoallergenic dogs and a fenced-in yard. Regular hours are 2:30-5:30 Monday through Friday, but we are flexible as more works at home. Prior experience with children is preferred, use of own reliable vehicle required. If interested, please email: katiokupferschmid@icloud.com.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

$15/ Excel Proficient College Student
– To assist with teaching and assisting with excel work.
Looking for a college student that is proficient in excel to conduct as needed excel macros, pivot tables, analysis. The position will require you to do the work from the comfort of your own home and in as needed basis once or twice a month. Excellent opportunity to make extra cash!
Please send you resume to rita.moyano@yahoo.com.

$20 Per Hour / SOCCER COACH / MONTCLAIR
Kiddie Soccer conducts soccer programs for preschool age children. Our programs are fun, non-competitive and instructional. We are currently hiring coaches for our upcoming Winter and Spring programs. This is a part-time position. Coaches are assigned to programs that both fit into their schedule and make sense from a geographic perspective. We hire primarily college students. We look for people that have a background in soccer (or other organized sports) are energetic, personable, responsible, reliable and most importantly, GREAT at working with children. If interested, please check us out at www.kiddiesoccer.com and send us an email at jobs@kiddiesoccer.com.

$20 Per Hour / Homework Helper / Livingston
Looking for an after school homework helper. Interested in either current student, graduate or teacher to ideally come to our home Mon-Thurs for 1 1/2 - 2 hours (flexible in days/hours). Ideal candidate would be someone with education experience or experience working on study skills/executive functioning at the high school level. Looking for someone organized and who has patience! Payment flexible depending on workload/experience. If interested, please text or call Marcy at 973-699-0485 or email marcymercer@verizon.net.

$18 / Part-time childcare mid-January / Montclair
Responsibilities include picking up at school, transporting kids to activities, helping with homework, playing, and setting up for dinner. Kids are 7 and 12. Regular hours are 3pm-7pm, M-F with an opportunity for a few more hours a week. Please have a clean driving record, patience and positive energy. Previous childcare experience a plus. If interested, contact nanettelerner@gmail.com.

$50 / Need help moving boxes, Montclair - Edison
I moved to Montclair several months ago with a POD. It is in storage in Edison and I need help moving some things around so I can get the things I need. There is no heavy lifting just sliding some boxes and furniture so I have access to them. I’ll pay someone $50 for the job. It should not take long. I would think travel time to Edison and back is about an hour.
If interested please email me at picklidy63@yahoo.com.

$250 weekly / HOUSE CLEANER / MONTCLAIR
WOULD BE A PLUS!
Remote cleaning assistant for a mother of 3. Needed to assist with cleaning, setting up for dinner. Kids are 7 and 12. Regular hours are 3pm-7pm, M-F with an opportunity for a few more hours a week. Please have a clean driving record, patience and positive energy. Previous childcare experience a plus. If interested, contact nanettelerner@gmail.com.

Caregiver / Montclair
Looking for part time help for these girls (ages 16, 14, and 12) starting ASAP! Responsibilities include picking up at school, transporting to and from after school activities in Montclair, light housework, laundry, keeping house tidy, preparing dinner. Our 16 year old has high functioning autism and has therapy 3x a week at home. We have two non shedding hypoallergenic dogs and a fenced-in yard. Regular hours are 2:30-5:30 Monday through Friday, but we are flexible as more works at home. Prior experience with children is preferred, use of own reliable vehicle required. If interested, please email: katiokupferschmid@icloud.com.

OTHER

ARE YOU IN CRISIS OR STRUGGLING? HEALING, HOPE AND HELP CAN HAPPEN!
Please CALL the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255) at any time to speak to a counselor and get support. You can also connect to the Crisis Text Line by texting “HELLO” to 741-741 to be connected to a counselor. All services are free, confidential and available 24/7 for anyone in crisis.

JOBS AND CLASSIFIEDS

$10/hour Sales Development Associate, WatchFANTOM.
WatchFANTOM is a startup, HQ’ed in Dallas. We are looking for an individual who is marketable and who has a clean driving record, who is looking to connect with potential customers, and who is interested in joining a fast-paced startup, WatchFANTOM. We are HQ’ed in Dallas, Denver, and Kansas City. In this role you’ll work closely with the founder to develop sales materials, implement a sales strategy. At the moment we are looking for someone that is proficient in excel to conduct as needed excel macros, pivot tables, analysis. The position will require you to do the work from the comfort of your own home and in as needed basis once or twice a month. Excellent opportunity to make extra cash!
Please send you resume to rita.moyano@yahoo.com.

$20 Per Hour / House Cleaning / MONTCLAIR
WOULD BE A PLUS!
Remote cleaning assistant for a mother of 3. Needed to assist with cleaning, setting up for dinner. Kids are 7 and 12. Regular hours are 3pm-7pm, M-F with an opportunity for a few more hours a week. Please have a clean driving record, patience and positive energy. Previous childcare experience a plus. If interested, contact nanettelerner@gmail.com.

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The Montclarion • January 24, 2019 • PAGE 7
O n the first day of October in 2018, thousands of college students around the country began scrambling and searching through their financial documents in order to fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). In New Jersey, many students at Montclair State University have already completed their applications in the fall, but there are some who choose wait to complete it during winter break instead of balancing the stress of managing finances and midterms at the same time.

In most cases, waiting a few months is not too detrimental to the amount of aid a student gets, but this year, those who decided put their applications on the back burner will have to question their plans with the delay before the New Jersey priority deadline on Feb. 1. In some cases, students now have to question their plans for the upcoming semesters and possibly postpone their graduation dates.

Just like the thousands of workers who were furloughed, college students have become a new pawn paralyzed in Washington D.C.'s game. The shutdown commenced after Congress failed to reach a compromise about funding President Donald Trump's promised southern border wall. As a result, many FAFSA applications still waiting to be approved will be delayed until the government reopens, something that is frustrating and unjust to the thousands of college students who rely heavily on financial aid to pay for tuition.

Not all college students are affected by this issue, but those who are impacted are worried about how long they will have to wait for financial aid and the repercussions that come with the delay before the New Jersey priority deadline on Feb. 1. In some cases, students now have to question their plans for the upcoming semesters and possibly postpone their graduation dates.

The main fear is that the later these applications are approved, the less likely students receive the full estimated amount of aid they need because of the increasing number of outstanding applications on the stamping pile.

While the U.S. Department of Education's budget was already in place before the shutdown, there is still not an unlimited amount of funding that goes toward federal financial aid for students. One factor that determines how much aid students receive is when they submit their applications. FAFSA runs on a first-come, first-served basis, therefore those who submit their applications when they are first available receive the best benefits.

Those who submitted their applications later and have not yet been approved are stuck waiting while more applications continue to pour in from across the country. From the students' perspective, they have the same disadvantage as the government workers who have not received a paycheck since before Christmas.

There are ways that universities are helping to ease the stress of those who are in need of financial assistance, including Montclair State. At Montclair State, the only issue present is that due to the shutdown, students and parents were unable to obtain their IRS transcripts used for verification. According to the Office of Financial Aid, the U.S. Department of Education is now allowing them to submit copies of federal tax returns as an alternative to those who do not have access to their other documents.

The campus community is very grateful for the assistance of both the Office of Financial Aid and the U.S. Department of Education for guiding them through this difficult process, but there are problems that need to be resolved in Congress to end the national financial crisis as a whole.

Many students believe that it is time for Washington D.C. to take responsibility for the days and money lost throughout these five weeks of unpaid arguing and put an end to the longest government shutdown in American history.

Innocent citizens, including college students who have been struggling to get access to federal financial aid, should never be used as pawns in anyone's political chess game.

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**FAFSA Shutout by the Shutdown**

*Where's my check, Mate?*

*Rebecca Serviss | The Montclarion*

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**Campus Voices:**

*Did you know that some students are having trouble getting their FAFSA loans because of the government shutdown? What are your thoughts?*

*By Rebecca Serviss and Carly Henriquez*

- *Armando Medina*  
  Visual Arts  
  Senior

- *Jaesoon Jung*  
  Physical Education  
  Senior

- *Nick Vassilakos*  
  Undeclared  
  Senior

- *Arnaldo Medina*  
  Visual Arts  
  Senior

- *Nicholas Verschleiser*  
  Accounting  
  Sophomore

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"I think that this is something that [the government] probably should’ve thought of before deciding to go forth with the shutdown. There are a lot of people missing out on these benefits that the government offers. By having the shutdown, it really takes away from people that are just going out there and living their lives."

-Nick Vassilakos  
Undeclared  
Senior

"Honestly, I didn’t know a lot about it. I know one of my friends couldn’t receive any financial aid. I don’t know why but I think it’s because of the government shutdown. It’s crazy that so many people are affected. Hopefully the president will do something about it. Trump said he’s going to make America greater, but I don’t know how he’s going to do that."

-Jaesoon Jung  
Physical Education  
Senior

"I didn’t really know about [the government shutdown] at first. It’s kind of weird that people are having trouble with these loans all because of the government. And those people who are sitting at [Congress] aren’t doing anything about it. Don’t they have the power to rule out what the president has to say? [Students] shouldn’t be having all of these problems because of the shutdown."

-Arnaldo Medina  
Visual Arts  
Senior

"I think that the government needs to step up a little bit and at least get the students where they need to be going so that we can continue our education and get into the workforce. They need to work on at least getting the students [taken care of] because they are the future for America."

-Nicholas Verschleiser  
Accounting  
Sophomore
The New Gillette Ad Doesn’t Quite Cut It

Gillette’s newest advertisement sparks controversy

Kristen Milburn, an English major, is in her first year as a contributing writer for The Montclarion.

The ideology of acceptance

American Conservatives

For far too long, conservatives have had to deal with rampant attacks from the left and the media, claiming they are sexists, racists and bigots. These types of attacks are morally repulsive over-generalizations that are vastly untrue. Simply put, it is impossible to be bigoted and truly conservative.

There are Republicans who are bigoted, just like there are Democrats and Independents who are. But if you are racist, sexist or bigoted in any way, then you do not believe in true conservative values and are thus unqualified to be called ‘conservative.’

The fact of the matter is, in the United States of America, those on the conservative side of the aisle believe in conserving the founding documents of the U.S. Documents with such statements were written in the U.S. Constitution and you do not believe in the ideals that were espoused by the American conservative right.

Contrary and a bigot.

Conservatives believe that every citizen should be afforded the same opportunities for success. Provided they are willing to work hard and push forward against inevitable adversity, they believe that every American citizen can achieve it.

Conservatives in the U.S. believe that every citizen should be afforded the same opportunities for success. Provided they are willing to work hard and push forward against inevitable adversity, they believe that every American citizen can achieve it.

The myth that conservatives are bigoted has time and time again been disproven by studies and anecdotal examples. In a study by the Yale School of Management, it was concluded white liberals actually present themselves as less competent when they are speaking to people of color.

The study showed conservatives talk to everyone the same way. Meanwhile, white liberals were more likely to speak to minorities using less “competent” words in an attempt to “match” what they expect their audience might want to hear. This is clear bigotry, something former President George W. Bush speechwriter, Michael Gerson, calls the “soft bigotry of low expectations.”

A famous example happened only a few years ago when twice-failed presidential candidate Hillary Clinton spoke in an interview on a black radio station and said one thing she carries with her all the time is “hot sauce,” to the bewilderment of the hosts.

In another speech in front of minority potential voters, Clinton quoted Reverend James Cleveland, saying, in a poorly attempted black accent, “I don’t feel no ways tired.” This type of pandering is something that is not seen when conservatives are speaking with minorities. The idea that a person of color is not as smart as a white person is subconscious more present by those on the left than those on the right and is a clear indicator there is less bigotry in the minds of those on the conservative right.

On an anecdotal perspective, take a look at YouTube talk show host Dave Rubin. Rubin is a gay, pro-choice, pro-marijuana former leftist who walked away from the left. He classifies as a classical liberal and often talks about how much more accepting the right is the left.

If conservatives are so homophobic, why would they accept Rubin with open arms? It seems clear to me that provided one believes in the basic creeds of our country, that all men are created equal and hard work and determination will get you further in life, then one will be accepted by the American conservative right.

There are some bigoted people in America, on both sides of the political aisle and between, but at the end of the day it is impossible to be a true conservative and a bigot.

If you believe in the ideals that were written in the U.S. Constitution and you want to conserve the core tenets that the U.S. was built on, then you are well-comed by the conservative movement regardless of your race, sex or creed.

AJ Melillo, a journalism major, is in his second year as an assistant opinion editor for The Montclarion.

Concerning Editorials and Columns

Main editorials appear on the first page of the Opinion section. They are unsigned articles that represent the opinion of the editorial board on a particular issue. Columns are written by individuals and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Montclarion staff.
I Don’t Want to Hold This Beetle’s Hand!

A satirical take on a not so scrumptious situation

Before winter break, a beetle was found in a student’s broccoli at Sam’s Place. At first, I feared for the effect this incident would have on the already skewed reputation of broccoli. I do not understand why broccoli has such a bad image. I find broccoli to be quite enjoyable, whether it be steamed with melted butter, freshly squeezed lemon, by itself or what have you.

Montclair State University Residence Life sent out a campus-wide email regarding the Sam’s Place-invader. “Food safety is of paramount importance to us. Insects occur naturally as part of the farm to table process of harvesting produce,” the email stated. “We uphold high standards of food handling practices when washing and inspecting fruits and vegetables prior to cooking and serving to ensure quality assurance. Montclair State Dining is proud to serve a campus community of over 24,000 people on a daily basis. Montclair State Dining Services will continue to be vigilant about our sanitation practices.”

Now I do not think it takes a Jimmy Neutron to realize this message is simply a giant crocodile of horse manure. If food safety was of paramount importance and they really upheld high standards of food handling when inspecting, this incident never would have occurred.

“Montclair State Dining Services will continue to be vigilant about our sanitation practices,” the statement said. If this is them being vigilant, that means those stray hairs I always find in my mac and cheese are up to protocol.

I am no George Washington Carver, but do they actually expect us to believe that Sam’s Place gets their produce farm-to-table every day? If that were the case, I do not think the bananas would look like green giraffes. If insects are part of the farm-to-table process, count me out of “SacTown VegFest 2019” in McClellan Park, California. Not that I was even planning to go, but the mere possibility of my attendance has now been shattered.

Earlier in the email, Residence Life identified the culprit as a produce beetle. After doing some research, I found there is no such thing as a produce beetle. However, I did learn that there are many different types of beetles, such as the Japanese beetle, the striped cucumber beetle, the Colorado potato beetle, the golden tortoise beetle, the Hercules beetle, the Eastern Hercules beetle, the American carrion beetle, the Asian-long horned beetle, the green June beetle, the Eastern-eyed click beetle, the spined soldier beetle, the grapevine beetle, the elm leaf beetle, the varied carpet beetle and of course Cryptolaemus montrouzieri.

In fact, the only information I found when I Googled produce beetle was that Volkswagen will be discontinuing production of the iconic car model in 2019. I guess I will have to come up with another excuse to sucker punch my Uber drivers.

I understand mistakes like these are made in food service and I am sure the Sam’s Place staff is working to improve their process to help minimize accidents like this from happening in the future. However, instead of sending out a public relations stunt to cover their rear-ends, I would much prefer that the university responds by telling it like it is, which is follows:

Since 2006, Montclair State tuition has increased by over $4,000. This increase may not seem like much considering the nearly 29 percent state funding cut that has occurred over the same time period. However, we have now realized the effect that lack of funding could have on an aspect of student life as important as healthy and safe dining. So where exactly is that $4,000 increase in tuition going toward? Well, at least $455,000 contributes to President Susan A. Cole’s 2.7 percent salary increase.

**Thumbs Up**

The Red Hawk Diner gets a menu makeover

New York Yankees closer Mariano Rivera was voted unanimously into the Hall of Fame

**Thumbs Down**

Oreo releases a new limited edition ‘Most Stuf’ cookie

Partial government shutdown lasts over a month

Active gunman fires shots off a roof in Salem City, New Jersey Wednesday afternoon

A United flight from Newark to Hong Kong was stranded for over 12 hours in freezing weather in Canada

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**Concerning Editorials and Columns**

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THE NEW RED HAWK DINER MENU IS HERE, AND SO ARE THESE CRAZY SHAKEs!

SWEET TOOTH SHAKE

COOKIES N’ CREAM DREAM SHAKE

NY BERRY CHEESE-SHAKE

BIRTHDAY CAKE SHAKE!

DINEONCAMPUS.COM/MONTCLAIR/RED-HAWK-DINER-NEW-MENU
Kyle Apodaca is a sophomore majoring in television and digital media with a concentration in documentary filmmaking at Montclair State University. He has a passion for videography, photography, filming hip-hop music videos and uploading them to his YouTube channel. He also posts his photo shoots on his Instagram page. He spoke with The Montclarion’s Entertainment Editor Thomas Neira about his art and ventures in the field.

Q: How did you first get interested in photography and making videos?

A: It all started freshman year of high school where I was enrolled in video production one. Once I was taught the basic fundamentals of film I fell in love with creating videos and decided to shoot my own. As for photography, it was because of my interest in fashion that started that hobby. Some friends of mine wanted to post pictures of our outfits on social media and we would constantly take pictures with my father’s old camera.

The more pictures we took, the more I fell in love with the results of the photos and the principle of photography. At first I had no idea how to use a digital single-lens reflex camera, but I eventually taught myself how to do it and understand the basic fundamentals.

Q: What kind of videos do you like to make?

A: I started off creating my own personal videos by shooting b-roll of my surroundings and playing music in the background. As time went on, I learned much more on how to create my craft. Now I create music videos for friends and anyone who asks me to shoot for them.

Q: How do you find people to shoot videos and take photos of?

A: At first some friends asked me to take pictures of them, but if I need new content I ask my photogenic friends and take pictures of them. I eventually created a photography and videography account on Instagram, @__kaato__. There, more people reach out and direct message me about shooting music videos.

Q: Who are your inspirations?

A: Since I’ve been working strictly on music videos, I look up to a lot of YouTubers, such as Cole Bennett and Gibson Hazard. I just believe their content is so different and unique, which is what stands out to me.

Q: What is your favorite project that you’ve worked on so far?

A: Honestly, one of my favorite projects I’ve shot was back in high school. The project was called “School of Kent.” My teacher handed out permission slips so we can miss all of our classes for the day in order to record. The pilot was about a character named Kent, who goes to school forgetting his coffee and is haunted by it for the rest of the day. During his quest to find a cup of coffee, the audience is introduced to his classmates with unique personalities. More importantly, what I made it my favorite was the experience. I was able to record with friends, miss class, eat pizza, have a fun time and create great memories.

Q: What are some future projects that you have coming up?

A: Fortunately, I have friends who are very passionate about pursuing careers in music. I have plans of recording more music videos and posting them on my YouTube channel, K.Aato. I have about five videos up so far and the most views I have is about 1,000. I also met with some people in New Brunswick and they asked me to create a promo video for their clothing brand.

Q: How has Montclair State helped you hone your craft? How do you apply your skills on campus?

A: Montclair State has really helped me prepare for reality when it comes to shooting videos. Anything can happen, and you should always be prepared. Montclair State has also improved my understanding of the importance of preproduction. Without preproduction, there is no plan, guideline and organization of a video. Without organization, there’s no story to your video.

Q: Who do you dream of working with in the future?

A: I dream of working with my favorite rapper, Joey Bada$$, and recording one of his music videos. I would want to work with him because of his personality. Based on all the interviews I’ve watched with Joey Bada$$, he’s very humble, sets a positive attitude and his music is different from other rappers which makes him unique. I would want [to] help execute his music visually the best I can so more people listen to him and look up to him.

Q: What other passions and interests do you have?

A: I have a passion for fashion, specifically vintage clothing. I resell vintages by shopping at thrift stores and selling it for more money on an app called Depop.

Q: What are your career plans after you graduate?

A: After college, I still plan to continue to record music videos for YouTube, but as a career I just want to be an editor or a videographer. However, I do plan on applying for the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program before I graduate and hopefully will be accepted. If I’m accepted, I’ll fly out to Japan and live there for a year, and I’ll have the job of teaching young elementary Japanese students the English language.
‘Glass’ is a Satisfying Conclusion to a Trilogy We Never Expected

Diego Coya
Staff Writer

Being a huge fan of both “Unbreakable” and “Split,” I was highly anticipating “Glass.” The sequel to a film that came out 19 years ago had a lot to live up to. Despite the bad reviews “Glass” has gotten, I found myself liking the film a lot. It’s not perfect; however, the positives easily outweighed the negatives.

I ultimately found “Glass” to be a very solid conclusion to this superhero trilogy. “Glass” is written and directed by M. Night Shyamalan. It stars Bruce Willis, Samuel L. Jackson, James McAvoy and Sarah Paulson. “Glass” is the third movie in Shyamalan’s superhero trilogy, a sequel to both “Unbreakable” and “Split.”

“Glass” follows Kevin, who has 24 different personalities, who is kidnapping and murdering young women. David Dunn, a security guard with supernatural abilities, tries to track him down. After one encounter, both are sent to a mental institution where a psychiatrist tries to convince them that their beliefs of having supernatural abilities are delusions. Meanwhile, Mr. Glass, who is in the same mental institution, may be planning something sinister.

“Glass” is in the superhero genre, but it does not follow the superhero formula at all. While there are fight scenes and characters with supernatural abilities, the viewer is able to see how these characters are developed and understands how these people have a viewpoint of what they believe in.

There are also conversations in the film that touch upon one’s mental health or how one feels as an individual, and it sparks some engaging scenes that I was invested in. A factor that helped interest me in these scenes is the performances. With an A-list cast, it should come to no surprise that the performances from everyone was nothing short of fantastic. Willis gives his best performance in years as David Dunn. He is a character who knows what he wants but feels conflicted about things in his personal life. The amount of emotion that he conveys is believable.

Jackson as the titular character was also terrific. This film solidifies the fact that Mr. Glass is one of the best movie villains of all time. He is a genius who is always a step ahead of everyone and seeing Jackson give his all is entertaining to watch.

The standout, however, is McAvoy. He was absolutely incredible in “Split,” but in this film he is even better. The viewer learns more about his character and his past. Not only does this offer a better understanding of the character, but it makes his performance that much more sympathetic. The way McAvoy is able to switch different personalities in seconds is something one has to see to believe. I truly do believe he is worthy of an Oscar nomination for his role.

From a technical standpoint, the movie shines as well. The cinematography and direction are nothing short of top-notch. There are a couple of long take sequences that stand out, though it is hard to talk about them without spoiling it.

The cinematography also benefits the action scenes as well, since they are very well filmed. For a film that is 130 minutes long, it has a pretty solid pace. I never found myself to be bored.

In terms of flaws, I was disappointed in the lack of a story arc for Willis’ character. While they set him up very well in the first 15 to 20 minutes, he is unfortunately left as a side character throughout the rest of the film as he was not given much to do.

There are some story elements the film decides to focus on more, and I wish they would have focused more on Willis’ character instead. And some of the pacing was a little jarring. The pacing from both “Unbreakable” and “Split” didn’t always blend together that well.

Overall, “Glass” is a very solid conclusion to a trilogy that I never knew I wanted. Not everyone will agree, but that is the beauty of film: it’s subjective. I would say for those who are wanting to see this film, go see it anyway. You may enjoy it as much as I did.
“Holmes & Watson” is the newest buddy comedy from the dynamic duo of Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly. It is directed by Etan Cohen, who has previously only directed one film but has a long history of writing comedies, such as the television shows “Beavis and Butt-Head” and “King of the Hill” and movies like “Tropic Thunder.”

This wealth of experience, both in front of the camera and behind it, does little to enrich the film and instead only serves to make “Holmes & Watson” that much more disappointing. While I personally enjoyed many parts of the film, it all comes across as very lazy and wastes the talents of its two leads.

The last full collaboration between Ferrell and Reilly, Adam McKay’s “Stepbrothers,” was already a decade ago. As a huge fan of that movie I was very excited to see the pair return, especially to take on the roles of legendary duo Sherlock Holmes and John Watson. Thankfully, Ferrell and Reilly still have great chemistry, and most of the film’s successful attempts at comedy come from the natural interactions between the two. They complement each other’s styles very well as each has his own brand of buffoonery that the other must play off of before the roles are reversed.

The setting of “Holmes & Watson” is also surprisingly well-done. I was impressed by the sets and period-appropriate costumes, which appeared to be pretty accurate to the time period. This goes a long way in making the movie seem legitimate, as other aspects come across as cheap.

Despite the quality of sets and costumes, for example, the attempt at period accuracy is broken by Ferrell and Reilly’s comically poor English accents. This is a comedy, so whether their accents are intentionally bad as an attempt at comedy is unclear, but to me it was distracting.

The most important aspect of any comedy film is the writing, of course, because that’s what makes a comedy funny. Unfortunately, most of the jokes in this movie are very lazy, fitting into one of two categories, which are both low-hanging fruit in the world of comedy. There are gross-out “toilet humor” jokes, such as when Watson breaks two bottles filled with Holmes’s urine.

Then there are jokes which focus on the time period of the film, such as attempting to take a selfie with the Queen of England using an old tripod camera. Both types of jokes are easy to write: You either write something gross or point out how different the late 1800s were from the modern day, and they are a waste of Ferrell and Reilly’s considerable talents.

Outside of the setting, the plot of “Holmes & Watson” is incredibly standard as far as comedies go. Holmes and Watson meet as children and immediately become best friends, which feels like a scene ripped straight out of “Stepbrothers,” except it isn’t funny. Watson feels unappreciated by the far more successful Holmes and their friendship falls apart. Then, by the film’s end, a sentimental lesson is learned and all parties involved gain a newfound appreciation for their relationship.

It’s a by-the-book, paint-by-number comedy plot that has been recycled by Sandler, Ben Stiller and Ferrell himself numerous times. Despite a unique setting and masterful pair of leads, the plot is incredibly mundane.

Overall, I did not dislike “Holmes & Watson” as much as other critics seemed to. There were some funny moments, one line in particular really struck a bullseye with me, and they are all thanks to Ferrell and Reilly’s chemistry.

However, as a follow-up to “Stepbrothers,” the film is incredibly disappointing. It reeks of laziness, troubled production and a lack of care.
The animosity established among Aquaman, Orm and Black Manta is similar to other films. Orm is similar to both Scar from “The Lion King” and Killmonger from “Black Panther,” as they all believe in superiority over an entire civilization and refuse to tolerate any weakness.

Black Manta is similar to Killmonger, as he views Aquaman as a murderer rather than a king and is driven by the thirst of vengeance to succeed. Both Orm and Black Manta proved to be menacing villains with interesting motives.

A great thing about the film is female characters challenged certain gender stereotypes. For example, Mera, a captivating princess, defies the stereotypical role of being a love interest by challenging the men around her, exhibiting martial arts proficiency against threats and saving Aquaman and herself from peril many times.

Queen Atlanta, played by Nicole Kidman, defies gender norms by choosing Arthur’s father over an arranged marriage, protecting herself from Atlantean soldiers that came to apprehend her and believing Arthur could unite both worlds, regardless of the views of her second son, Orm.

Much of the film’s comedy comes from Aquaman’s alcoholic, impulsive and masculine behavior. Given this outlook on life, he also fulfills the reluctant hero archetype as he shows to prefer happy hour over saving lives. However, he ultimately lets this go so he could safeguard his people both on and off land.

Willem Dafoe’s portrayal of Aquaman’s trainer Nuidis Vulko is a superb step away from his previous role as Green Goblin many years ago. In addition to all of the above, another great aspect of the film is the score by Rupert Gregson-Williams, the costumes, the bright oceanic scenery and the original music created for the film, such as the song “Everything I Need” by Skylar Grey.

“Aquaman” is a thrilling journey led by performances from Momoa and Heard. Through jokes, action and messages about overcoming bigotry, the film proves to be fun for comic book fans and regular audiences alike. If you are looking for adventure, be sure to watch this blockbuster.

Nextflix’s ‘Dumplin’’ Challenges Views of Beauty

While some may think the plot follows a familiar pattern seen in Hollywood coming-of-age stories revolving around self-discovery, Netflix’s “Dumplin’” is a breath of fresh air. On its surface, “Dumplin’” is a soft, delightful comedy about beauty pageants and learning to be yourself in the face of society and its views on beauty.

The film starts off by laying a foundation of self-confidence as the central theme of the plot. Early on, we are introduced to Ellen Dryver, a motivating character that becomes Willowdean’s friend through introductions by her aunt Lucy.

In the first two minutes of the film, we see Willowdean Dickson, dubbed Dumplin’, teased by children in her town over her weight. Will spends a large portion of her youth raised and taught by her aunt Lucy, who encourages a love of Dolly Parton, self-confidence and pushes Will to love herself.

The turning point of the film comes when Will’s aunt Lucy passes away six months before she and her friend Ellen began their last year of high school.

The film takes a rather interesting turn on Will and Ellen’s first day of school, when Will is suspended after protecting another overweight girl, Millie, from a school bully. Following this, Will blames her mother Rosie, played by Jennifer Aniston, for being ashamed of her appearance and is disappointed when her mother implies her aunt would still be alive if she took better care of her health.

Will’s war with her mom moves to new heights when she stumbles upon some of her late aunt’s things, including a half-filled entry form for a beauty pageant back in 1993, when her aunt was a teen.

Understanding that her confident, brave aunt could have possibly never submitted her application due to her own insecurities about her image prompts Will to fill out an application left by her aunt.

This incites a public frenzy among the students and townsfolk in Texas — or more importantly, the tense relationship between Will and her mother. The film is a continuous test for the main character as she struggles with acceptance from her classmates and acceptance from her mother.

At many points, the film can be uncomfortable and even cringe-worthy as we witness many harsh subjects, such as societal beauty standards and the need to be thin. From the hairspay to body-hugging dresses and picture-perfect posture, Will’s mother Rosie constantly pushes to the audience what the standard to be considered “beautiful” is, which is especially cringe-worthy. Audiences witness through the gaze of Aniston a rather complex expectation of what women are taught that beauty is supposed to mean.

Moreover, I love how even though Will is pressured to conform by her mother’s and peers’ beauty standards, she rebels with her best friend Ellen, who unintentionally start a movement of self-confidence for all women of all body types. This film pushes its audience to rethink different standards of beauty.

After some melancholic Dolly Parton songs and an authentic understanding of the hardships of female teen friendships and images of beauty, “Dumplin’” is an everlasting story that moves from conventional teen-film cliche genre to a new place that not only produces laughs but encourages all women to love themselves no matter what size they are.
‘If Beale Street Could Talk’ is a Beautiful Testament of Love in a World Filled with Hate

Sharif Hasan
Assistant Entertainment Editor

Barry Jenkins follows his Oscar-winning film “Moonlight” with “If Beale Street Could Talk,” based on James Baldwin’s 1974 novel. The film centers around a young African-American couple attempting to keep their love alive after being forced apart by racial injustice and wrongful incarceration.

Having won the best picture award at the Oscars, “Moonlight” was a tough act for Jenkins to follow. Much like the 2016 film, “If Beale Street Could Talk” is a powerful and intimate depiction of African-American lives in an unfriendly world.

The film begins with 19-year-old Tish, played by KiKi Layne, sharing the news that she is pregnant with her 22-year-old boyfriend Fonny, played by Stephan James. “Beale Street” then cuts back and forth in time to show the two as childhood friends, soon falling in love in Harlem, New York. The film mainly focuses on Tish and her family during the present attempting to free Fonny from prison after he is falsely accused of rape.

“If Beale Street Could Talk” is a film that manages to highlight the beauty that is emitted from both Tish and Fonny’s love and from strong family bonds while at the same time displaying the ugliness of the environment around them. “Beale Street” can definitely be seen as a love story, and the fact that there’s a sense of realism and tragedy embedded within it doesn’t make it any less romantic.

The audience is exposed to an array of relationships that persevere in an unkind environment. Tish and Fonny fight for their love when Fonny is sent to prison, Tish is embraced rather than berated by her family when they discover that she is carrying a child, and there are even a few characters in the film that demonstrate minor acts of compassion that prove to be significant to the main characters.

Although “Beale Street” presents these relationships in a time of hardship and hostility, they still prevail, emphasizing the importance of love when surrounded by hate.

There are scenes in the film where Jenkins uses color and music, along with the lack of dialogue to portray characters in a way that’s melodic and hypnotizing. One scene in particular shows Fonny working on an art sculpture while a cloud of gray cigarette smoke slowly escapes his mouth. As the camera circles around Fonny, light is cast on him while Nicholas Britell’s alluring yet haunting score is played. Jenkins depicts Fonny in an almost angelic way, full of innocence and love. This is the same innocence and love that Tish sees when she looks at Fonny, and what Jenkins wants the audience to see when he crafted this mesmerizing scene.

“If Beale Street Could Talk” is filled with powerful performances, especially from Regina King and Brian Tyree Henry. King plays Sharon Rivers, Tish’s mother, who refuses to sit back as the father of her grandchild is wrongfully imprisoned. King delivers so much emotion throughout the film, even in one scene in particular where she has no lines at all. Sharon is shown staring at herself in a mirror, wig and scarf in hand, preparing to perform a crucial task for her family. This scene is delivered with so much unspoken passion from King, urging the audience to dig deeper into the character’s mind.

Henry plays Daniel Carty, a friend of Fonny’s, who was recently released from prison. Daniel sits with Fonny, engaging in friendly conversation and catching up on things. This loving demeanor is soon replaced by a more somber bearing as Daniel describes his time in prison after being framed by the police. The camera holds on Henry as he gives a truly eerie performance, illustrating the devastating story of racial injustice in America.

“If Beale Street Could Talk” is a gorgeous, yet painfully real love story. Jenkins’ film demonstrates how relationships and trusting love can combat hatred and systematic racism but can many times never gain the privilege of having a happy ending.
James Blake continues to break the barriers of genre and discover new sound with his latest album “Assume Form,” which could potentially become Blake’s long-awaited big break into the mainstream.

Blake is an English singer-songwriter who’s most well-known for his experimental blends of soul and electronic music. Blake has previously released three albums, his self-titled debut in 2011, “Overgrown” in 2013 and “The Colour in Anything” in 2016, all of which received critical acclaim.

“Assume Form” marks Blake’s fourth studio album and his first project in over two and a half years. Since his last project, Blake has collaborated with a number of popular hip-hop and R&B artists. In 2016, he was featured on Beyonce’s album “Lemonade,” Travis Scott’s “Birds in the Trap Sing McKnight” and Frank Ocean’s visual album “Endless.”

In 2017, he was featured on Jay-Z’s album “4:44.” In 2018, he was featured on Travis Scott’s “Astroworld” and the “Black Panther” soundtrack, appearing on the track “King’s Dead” alongside rappers Kendrick Lamar, Jay Rock and Future.

The first aspect of Blake’s music that normally draws listeners in is his unique production. Blake tends to blend elements of electronic production with gentle, beautiful instrumentation, leading to quite the pleasing listening experience. “Assume Form” is no different. This is apparent right from the start with the opening track of the same name.

“Assume Form” begins with a flourish piano riff, joined by an electronic drum beat and a series of strange blips and beeps. As if the pairing of sounds couldn’t get any stranger, orchestral strings are brought into the mix, followed by electronically altered voices that function as backup vocals. The blend is strange and would normally fail if done by any other artist, but Blake manages to pull it off with beautiful results throughout the entire album.

Blake notably attempts to appeal to contemporary pop music listeners by recruiting hip-hop producer Metro Boomin, who is credited on the tracks “Mile High” and “Tell Them.” It’s obvious that Blake is trying to step out of his comfort zone while also staying true to himself, which pays off very well, especially on the fast driving “Tell Them.” Those familiar with both Blake’s and Metro’s work can easily identify the influences from each artist, coming together to form an astounding musical product.

Blake’s production is always supported by his strong vocals, as is the case on this album as well. The track “Into the Red” begins with a violin melody backing Blake’s somber vocals, followed by auto-tune. As the song progressively intensifies, Blake’s main vocals are joined by other renditions of his voice. One is shrieking a high note while another shouts in the background, sounding like a full chorus of multiple Blakes, each with their own individuality. He repeats this effect on the track “Power On,” altering it to a much friendlier and gentler tone.

Blake displays emotional vocal talent on the electronic ballad “Are You in Love?” Here, Blake shows tremendous passion and puts his range to the test, ultimately resulting in one of the saddest tracks on the album. He also showcases the haunting vocals that he is most well-known for, especially on the album’s eerie concluding track, “Lullaby for My Insomniac.”

“Assume Form” features a number of guest artists, something that is rather unusual for a Blake record. “Mile High” features vocals from Travis Scott, while the following track “Tell Them” features vocals from soul-singer Moses Sumney.

“Where’s the Catch?” is highlighted by a surprising rap verse from the legendary Andre 3000.

The track “Barefoot in the Park” features vocals from Spanish singer Rosalia, who sings in her native language. The variety of artists featured on the project will surely help Blake reach to new audiences and demographics, potentially leading to an increase in his popularity.

The album’s standout track, however, is the single “Don’t Miss It.” This soft piano ballad is by far the most emotional, thought-provoking track on the entire album. Simple piano chords and haunting background vocals back up Blake’s lyrics on how much easier life would be if you could turn off your emotions and detach yourself from society but how empty your life would be.

These feelings of sadness, anger and frustration are what remind us that we are still human. Although it may feel unfair how difficult life can get, these hardships are what make us stronger and prepared for the next obstacle.

Blake continues to find his footing on new ground on his appropriately named
This Week In Red Hawk Sports

**THU 1/24**
No Games

**FRI 1/25**
Men’s Ice Hockey vs. Sacred Heart University
8:50 p.m.

**SAT 1/26**
Men’s Swimming at William Paterson University
1 p.m.
WSWIM at William Paterson University
TBA
MITRACK at Pioneer Open
TBA
WITRACK at Pioneer Open
TBA

**MON 1/28**
WBB vs. The College of New Jersey
6 p.m.
MBB vs. The College of New Jersey
8 p.m.

**TUE 1/29**
No Games

**WED 1/30**
WBB at New Jersey City University
6 p.m.
MBB at New Jersey City University
6 p.m.

Men’s Basketball Turning Heads in the NJAC

12-5 Red Hawks sit in second place in conference standings

Sophomore guard Irving Callender IV scored 11 points against Stockton University in a game over winter break.

Corey Annan
Assistant Sports Editor

The Montclair State University Red Hawks men’s basketball team came into the season with high expectations after a very successful 2017-2018 campaign and they certainly haven’t disappointed.

After coming up just short of the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Championship a season ago, the Red Hawks have been eager to prove they are the best team in the conference. They currently sit at second place in the conference with a terrific 12-5 record, their best start since the 2010-2011 season.

The hot start to the season was highlighted by a signature blowout win over Ramapo College, 95-75. This was a game that nobody thought Montclair State had a chance of winning, considering Ramapo had come off a Final Four appearance and a conference championship a season ago.

The Red Hawks have also recorded impressive victories over conference rivals, such as New Jersey City University, Kean University and Rutgers University-Newark. They currently sit at 7-3 in NJAC games, and with a few more wins under their belt, they could potentially take control of the first seed heading into the postseason.

Defensively, Montclair State has been one of the better teams in the conference. They have only allowed 68.8 points per game this season, which sits them at third in the NJAC in fewest points allowed. More notably, the team allows the lowest opposing field goal percentage at 40 percent from the field.

Players, such as senior forward Jordan Robertson and junior guard Akbar Hoffman, have been some of Montclair State’s best defensive players so far. Robertson leads the team in blocks and is second in the conference in rebounds. Hoffman is currently in the top 15 in steals in the NJAC. Both players have arguably been one of the biggest reasons for Montclair State’s success on the defensive end.

Speaking of Hoffman, his breakout season has taken the offensive load off returning leading scorer, sophomore guard Myles Mitchell-White. They have easily been the best scoring duo in the NJAC, with averages of 16.6 and 15.5 points respectively. Both players are currently in the top 10 in the conference in scoring and will certainly be all-conference selections by the season’s end.

Montclair State will wrap up the season with five of their last eight games at home, including a huge conference matchup against Rowan University on Feb. 22 that could possibly decide the top seed in the conference tournament.

Red Hawks Men’s Basketball: 72
William Paterson University: 63

Red Hawks Women’s Basketball: 62
William Paterson University: 75

Montclair State plays first place Rowan University on Saturday, Feb. 2, in one of the Red Hawks most important games remaining.

Photo courtesy of montclairathletics.com

Red Hawks Men’s Swimming: 143
Ramapo College: 114

Red Hawks Women’s Swimming: 146
Ramapo College: 109

Red Hawks Men’s Ice Hockey: 3
Sienna College: 2

Red Hawks Women’s Ice Hockey: 2
Rowan University: 11
Women’s Basketball Aims to Claim Their Throne Atop the Conference

Third-place Red Hawks are behind TCNJ and Rowan in standings

Parnell Saint Preux
Staff Writer

The Montclair State University Red Hawks women’s basketball team has been off to an impressive start of the 2018-19 season. In the past 17 games they’ve played, the Red Hawks are 11-6.

Some of the impressive wins the Red Hawks had this season were coming off a 15-point deficit against Rutgers University-Newark on Dec. 12, 2018 by the score 56-52 and a 58-52 victory on Nov. 20, 2018 against William Paterson University.

During this season, their record against New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) opponents is 7-3 and they hold an 8-1 record at home. Some of the well-known players from the Red Hawks who have taken more of a role to the team are forwards/team captains Alexa McKinnon and Dominique Wirsing as well as sophomore guard Kim Calloway. In the Red Hawks’ 58-52 against William Paterson, McKinnon had 19 points, 13 rebounds and five assists. Subsequently, she had 21 points and six rebounds in the Red Hawks’ 62-58 victory against their NJAC rival Stevens Institute of Technology.

Wirsing displays her ability to operate and orchestrate on both sides of the court. Wirsing is averaging 7.6 points and 5.9 rebounds per game. Wirsing had an incredible performance on Dec. 14, 2018 as the Red Hawks defeated Brooklyn College with the score 67-50. She finished the game with 17 points, 14 rebounds and four assists. Another great, versatile performance from Wirsing was the Red Hawks’ 73-58 win on the road against Kean University, in which Wirsing had eight points, 10 rebounds, five assists and two steals on Dec. 1, 2018.

Finally, there comes sophomore guard Calloway. Calloway is averaging 9.4 points, along with three rebounds per game. Since Calloway has become more of a focal point to the team, she has brought big contributions of her ability to score the basketball. In the Red Hawks’ 75-60 win against Drew University on Nov. 18, 2018, Calloway had 17 points and nine rebounds. Likewise, against New Jersey City University (NJCU) on Dec. 5, 2018, Calloway ended the game scoring 18 points, going three of four from three-point range. Additionally, Calloway has not only improved on offense but also defense. During the weeks between Nov. 20, 2018 and Dec. 1, 2018 while the Red Hawks were challenging William Paterson, Stevens, Ramapo College and Kean, Calloway averaged 3.6 steals per game.

Some new players that the Red Hawks should pay much attention to are freshman guard Rylee Mulligan, sophomore guards Julia Sutton and Taylor Brown, and sophomore forward Kaylee Bush. During the season, Sutton’s best performance was against Rutgers-Newark, in which Sutton came off the bench and scored a season-high 21 points. Simultaneously, Bush came off the bench as well and had five points, 12 rebounds and three blocks.

Throughout this season, Brown has showcased her ability to not only shoot but score efficiently. Behind McKinnon, Brown is the second leading scorer of the team, averaging 10.3 points per game. Not only that, Brown is second best on the team in three-point percentage, behind freshman guard Trisha Peterson.

Brown has had eight games with 10 points or more this season. Some of her best games were against Hunter College, in which she had 17 points and seven rebounds and against Drew when she had 15 points and 10 rebounds.

The Red Hawks have eight upcoming games left this season, splitting them evenly at home and on the road. Of their four home games this season, they face The College of New Jersey, Kean University, Rowan University and Rutgers University-Camden with their four games on the road being against Ramapo College, NJCU, Rutgers-Newark and Stockton University. Some key matchups will be rematches against Kean and Rutgers-Newark.

The roster is filled with exceptional talent, operated by a tremendous coach in Karin Harvey as well as her staff. Red Hawks fans have a lot of great things to see from their current and upcoming players. As presently constructed, the Red Hawks have aspirations to have another great season and to compete down the road.

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It's time for yet another edition of the rivalry between the Montclair State University Red Hawks and Rowan University Profs, this time on the ice. Both schools' women's ice hockey teams took the ice at Floyd Hall Arena on Saturday night. Unfortunately for the home crowd, Rowan dominated Montclair State by a final score of 11-2.

Rowan started the game strong, scoring two goals in the first period alone. However, Montclair State was able to remain in the game thanks to some great goaltending from Kawanne Ferguson, who made big saves to keep her team in it. Montclair State had multiple key scoring chances but couldn’t capitalize. Early in the first period with the game scoreless, Montclair State generated a scramble in front of the net, but it was covered up by Rowan goaltender Emily Render.

From that point on, it was all Profs, as they would go on to score six more unanswered goals. The Red Hawks put up a good fight early on, eventually they got worn out.

“The honest truth is, they only had six players,” said Rowan head coach Dillan Madara. “We kind of found our groove and they got a little tired, and we kind of jumped on them in the second period.”

Meanwhile, the Red Hawks fell to 1-8-0 on the season and will go on the road to face Loyola University Maryland also on Saturday, Jan. 26. Despite the struggles, Solomon claims his players are as tight as they’ve ever been.

“Honestly, this team is probably having more fun this year than they did last year with an undefeated season,” Solomon said. “It’s a really close group and there’s only seven of them, but they’re really tight.”

Solomon discussed how the team has a close bond.

“Nobody’s calling each other out for anything,” Solomon said. “They’re all very supportive of one another, and it’s really a good group of people.”