The Montclarion staff poses for a photo in celebration of their nine awards from the NJPF College Newspaper Contest.

Ben Caplan | The Montclarion

University College

Let Students ‘Crash-a-Class’

Emely Alba
Staff Writer

Montclair State University students now have the opportunity to sit in a classroom of their choice for a day thanks to a program created by University College called Crash-a-Class.

Academic Program Coordinator Amanda Cosenza who thinks that Crash-a-Class is a great opportunity for pre-majors as well.

“The professors] opened up their sections of classes to allow for our pre-major students to sit in a lecture where they normally wouldn’t have that opportunity,” Cosenza said. “We have sections in the School of Education, biology and even opportunity,” Cosenza said. “We have sections in the School of Education, biology and even

The Montclarion Jumps for Joy with 6 First Place Wins

Haley Wells
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February saw the Grammys and the Oscars, but March is reserved for the New Jersey Press Foundation (NJPF)’s NJ College Newspaper Contest.

New Jersey college newspapers select their best articles and news stories during a one-year time period. Anything published between March 1, 2018 and Feb. 28 was eligible for nomination. Winners were announced on March 18.

The Montclarion saw numerous awards in this contest, landing six first place awards, one second place award and two third place awards. First place awards were given to The Montclarion in the news writing and feature writing categories with “Cold Consequences: The Aftermath of Montclair State’s Snowy Nightmare” and “Talking of Hijabi Women: How a Scarf Can Impact Everyday Life” respectfully. The Arts and Entertainment/Critical Writing and Web Project categories also won gold for The Montclarion with “Orson Welles’ ‘The Other Side of the Wind’: A Great End to His Cinematic Career” and “Juul: The Flavored Flash Drive Frenzy” respectfully. “Student Artist Profile: Joe Baez” also won a second place win for Online Video. “Coca-Cola’s Blind Tasting Event” won first place in Photography and Online Video categories also saw first place wins. “From Belmar to Team USA” won first place for Online Video. “Coca-Cola’s Blind Tasting Event” won first place in Photography and Online Video categories also saw first place wins. “From Belmar to Team USA” won first place for Online Video.

Staff members that nabbed awards include Editor-in-Chief Haley Wells, Assistant Entertainment Editor Sharif Hasan, Video Editor Mackenzie Robertson and video team member Adrian Maldonado. Contributors to these awards include News Editor Heather Berzak, former Opinion Editor Sunah Choudhry, former Entertainment Editor Robert O’Connor, Opinion Editor Rebecca Serviss and more.

The Montclarion would like to thank every member of their staff for contributing and working toward publishing stories for the multiplatform news organization. Special thanks also go out to Faculty Adviser Tara George for always believing in The Montclarion and pushing its contributors to do their best.

Staff members will attend the NJ Collegiate Press Spring Awards Luncheon on Saturday, April 13, where plaques will be given to the winners of the contest. Visit themontclarion.org to watch a video on the award recognition.

Crash continued on Page 2

Montclair State University students now have the opportunity to sit in a classroom of their choice for a day thanks to a program created by University College called Crash-a-Class.

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Crash continued on Page 2
Crash: Existing students wish the program was available earlier than this academic year

Continued from page 1

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Thursday, March 7

Fraud: Patrol officers responded to Sinatra Hall in regards to a report of fraudulent activity. A male student reported unauthorized charges on his bank account from Match.com. Upon contacting the company, he was instructed to make several suspicious purchases in order to receive a refund. This incident is under investigation.

Thursday, March 7

Email: The director of procurement services for Montclair State University notified police of a suspicious purchase order for 15 MacBook Pro laptops received from a fake Montclair State University email address. This incident is under investigation.

Wednesday, March 7

Gibson Hall: Student resident Jalen Glenn was arrested for the possession of marijuana over 50 grams, the possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute and for the possession of drug paraphernalia. Glenn was processed at police headquarters and released pending a follow-up court date in the Passaic County Superior Court.

Thursday, March 7

Student Recreation Center: Patrol officers responded in regards to a report of an assault in the past. A male student worker reported that he was injured and did not wish to press charges at this time. Nothing further to report.

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Fraud: A male party came into police headquarters to report that he was the subject of fraudulent activity. The male reported a loss of $10,000 after providing his banking information to an automated call service. This incident is under investigation.

Red Hawk Rap Sheet

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Anyone who has information regarding these incidents is urged to call the police station at T-I-P-S (8477).

All calls are strictly confidential.

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 Montclarion has a commitment to accuracy and clarity and will print corrections or clarifications if information is found to be incorrect. To report an error of fact or a Letter to the Editor, email the Editor-in-Chief at montclarionchief@gmail.com.

Information reported in the Red Hawk Rap Sheet comes directly from the MSU Police Department. We do not print retractions to the rap sheet unless information directly from the police report is incorrect. We can print an update to the events only if the newspaper is given access to relevant documents to corroborate the information.

We do not print articles from anonymous contributors.

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

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Students Take Advantage of Free HIV Testing at University Health Center

Blanton Hall hosts annual opportunity for students to check themselves for the disease

Rosaria Lo Presti Staff Writer

Montclair State University students will have the opportunity to go to the University Health Center for free HIV testing in Blanton Hall.

The health center encourages students to attend the event and check their current health status. Students who attend the event are also given a free gift card and condoms at the end of the testing.

Curtis Ocampo, a freshman linguistics major who attended the event, believes that it’s important for students to get tested for HIV and that people shouldn’t be ashamed to do it.

“No matter if you are sexually active or not, it’s important to get tested because you can get HIV through anything,” Ocampo said. “I believe that people shouldn’t feel ashamed to come in here because there is no reason to neglect your health. HIV testing is important for health, relationships and future purposes. An article by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care, and that those at high risk should get tested once a year.

Christian Suarez, a graduate student running this event, is a prep counselor for La Casa de Don Pedro, the agency offering this event. She believes testing is useful for all health purposes.

“HIV testing is important because we work to promote health in general,” Suarez said. “We had the opportunity to run this event both this week and next Wednesday, March 27.” The article by CDC also states that about 1.1 million people in the United States have HIV, and one in seven of them don’t know it.

Steven Chen, a senior business analytics major who attended the event, believes that HIV testing is very effective since most people who have HIV aren’t aware of it.

“I think it’s a really good privilege for Montclair State to offer free HIV testing because it’s important to be aware of the health of both yourself and your partners,” Chen said. “Most people don’t even know if they have it, and these tests are very effective.”

HIV is a preventable disease, so testing can reduce risks and lead to early treatments, which offers better outcomes.

Students wait in the University Health Center waiting area before going in to their testing rooms.

Rosaria Lo Presti | The Montclarion

Blanton Hall installs new kitchen for residents to use in addition to dining services

Jeremy Wall Staff Writer

Blanton Hall residents no longer have to exit the building to cook. In January, the hall officially opened a new community kitchen where students can cook, bake, eat and meet new people.

Blanton Hall Community Director Thea Dyer believes the new kitchen is a big contribution to enhancing the building.

“The community kitchen is a great addition to Blanton Hall,” Dyer said. “We look forward to utilizing this space with the residence life staff and campus partners to provide educational and community building programming that will benefit residents of the building.”

Students waited a significant amount of time for the community kitchen. It was proposed by a previous Blanton Hall council executive board and was designed to assist residents during break times when limited dining options are available.

Funds to complete the kitchen were approved for the 2018-2019 academic year. Now, Blanton Hall is the fifth residence hall on campus to have one. It joins Bohn Hall, Russ Hall, Dinallo Heights and Machuga Heights.

The kitchen has updated appliances including a magnetic stove, only allowing magnetic pots and pans to be used. However, students are given the flexibility to borrow the building’s cooking utensils or to bring their own.

Junior film major Charlie Wiggins believes the new kitchen is a good amenity but can have its downsides.

“It’s nice to have as an option here, but I don’t think it’s very practical to use that often,” Wiggins said. “Checking out equipment is a bit of a hassle, and there’s no time slots to use it. It’s like first-come, first-serve.”

Unlike the other residence hall kitchens, Blanton Hall has stricter security measures. In order to borrow the cookware, residents must give their student identification card to a service assistant on duty. An assistant then walks with them to the kitchen, and they unlock the cabinets containing the type of cookware the student needs.

One of the kitchen’s strongest benefits is that it’s open 24/7, giving residents the opportunity to cook whenever they want, and not just during breaks.

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Students wait in the University Health Center waiting area before going in to their testing rooms.

Rosaria Lo Presti | The Montclarion

Freshman film major Devon Snider and family science and human development major Kirenia Reyes hang out in Blanton Hall’s new community kitchen.
Montclair State Students ‘Flex too Hard’ with Flex Dollars

Emma Richter
Contributing Writer

It’s that time in the semester where classes are getting difficult and affording food on campus is getting even harder. A swipe here, a swipe there and before students know it, they’re only halfway through the semester with a few dollars left in their Flex account.

Balancing out Flex Dollar spending seems to be a constant struggle for a multitude of students on Montclair State’s campus. Many of them find themselves spending a majority of their Flex Dollars within the first few months of the school year. By the time they realize they’ve run out, they either consider adding more money to their accounts or find ways to save money on campus.

As freshman journalism major Sydnie Hoelz bought lunch with her scarce amount of Flex Dollars, she discussed the frequency of her spending.

“I use my Flex Dollars practically six out of seven days of the week,” Hoelz said.

In comparison to her first semester at Montclair State, she tried her best to make a strategic plan for her spending in her second semester.

With no anticipation to spend her Flex Dollars as fast as she did, Hoelz is hitting that mid-semester bump in the road where she and other students alike realize just how much they’re really spending.

Freshman psychology major Jessa Cook admitted that she also spent her Flex Dollars too frequently because the food’s quality has made a plan to just save money on campus.

Cook said.

“I think I was more aware of my Flex Dollar balance last semester, and now I just eat with my Flex Dollars all the time,” Cook said.

Food options including Au Bon Pain, Dunkin’ Donuts, Chili’s, Which Wich, the Red Hawk Diner, Bistro, 2Mato, Chopped and the Student Center Cafe all accept Flex Dollars. The two dining halls, Sam’s Place and Freeman Hall, are the only options that don’t accept this form of currency.

Manager of dining services James Robinson provided specific insight on Flex Dollar spending while overlooking dining activities on campus.

“Typically, we find customers will use Flex Dollars for food purchases below seven dollars, or for a vending machine purchase, or for that [Dunkin’ Donuts] cup of coffee and donuts as examples,” Robinson said.

Being that Flex Dollars are a popularly used currency on campus, it provides convenience for students to purchase necessities such as books, clothes and even toiletries. All spending options aside, food purchases still continue to be the main reason for the rise of sudden droughts in students accounts.

Sophomore jazz studies major Vito Cakaroglu weighed in on his own Flex Dollar spending patterns, with dining hall hours seemingly playing a factor.

“I would say I use Flex Dollars a decent amount, especially considering that I dorm at Montclair [State],” Cakaroglu said. “The dining halls aren’t open at more reasonable times, so you end up using your Flex Dollars more often.”

Like other students, Cakaroglu has made a plan to just spend more aware of how much he’s spending and where he’s spending it.

Junior health and physical education major Kyle Phipps (left) and sophomore paralegal studies major Donato Casolaro wrap up their meal at Sam’s Place, they share their thoughts on Flex Dollars.

Phipps keeps track of his Flex Dollar balance simply because he has no choice.

“Yes, I’m aware of my balance, because I’m running out of Flex Dollars right now,” Phipps said. “I’m at $5 right now, and I’m struggling.”

Casolaro shared his own advice for deciding when and where to spend Flex Dollars.

“I would just not use all of your Flex [Dollars] at the beginning of the semester,” Casolaro said.

Spending Flex Dollars is fun and enjoyable until they become scarce and limited. The best thing to keep in mind is that no one is “flexing too hard” on their own; it’s a campuswide epidemic.

Flex Dollar allotment can vary based on a student’s preferred meal plan. Amounts can range from $250 all the way up to $500 Flex Dollars for the year to spend as wanted.

As junior health and physical education major Kyle Phipps and sophomore paralegal studies major Donato Casolaro wrap up their meal at Sam’s Place, they share their thoughts on Flex Dollars.

Freshman journalism major Sydnie Hoelz grabs a fountain drink at the Student Center.
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Montclair State University Students Win Big at the 39th College Television Awards

Emely Alba
Staff Writer

Montclair State University students are the 2019 recipients of the Seymour Bricker humanitarian award and the news category award at the 39th College Television Awards.

Last year, during spring break most students were on vacation, but the students from Montclair News Lab were in Puerto Rico reporting on the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

This is the first time Montclair State students have received these types of awards for their work. According to a statistic provided by the Television Academy Foundation, 25 nominees are selected from over 600 productions submitted by 174 colleges.

The award ceremony was held in North Hollywood, California on Saturday, March 16. Each winning project received a $3,000 cash prize with their award according to the Television Academy Foundation.

Since Montclair State students also won the Seymour Bricker humanitarian award, they will receive an additional $4,000 cash prize with their award.

Junior journalism major and Montclarion staff writer Genesis Obando participated in the trip to Puerto Rico and was able to utilize the reporting skills she’s learned at Montclair State. Obando feels like the nomination is one of the best things that has ever happened to her. “Just knowing that all of the hard work that I put into this project and also my team’s hard work is being recognized at such a prestigious level, I feel like I could do so much more now that I’m being recognized this way, but it’s also amazing for the university as well,” Obando said.

Obando believes the trip changed her perspective on journalism. Being in Puerto Rico and getting the hang of reporting was impactful for her. “Actually doing something makes me appreciate [journalism] a lot more and it just shows how important it is and how meaningful sharing other people’s stories can be for them,” Obando said. “[Puerto Rico’s] also getting the attention that they didn’t even get before and it’s great.”

Another student honored for her reporting done in Puerto Rico is alumna Babee Garcia, the former entertainment editor at The Montclarion and now a freelance journalist. Garcia shared that this trip connected her more to her roots and her peers. “I’ve never been to Puerto Rico and my father’s side of the family is Puerto Rican. Learning about the music connected me with my culture,” Garcia said. “Exploring the island for the first time and to be with student journalists and professors within the same career as I would like to pursue made it more memorable.”

Learning of the nomination, Garcia is reassured of her career as a journalist. She originally declared journalism to become a writer, but the trip to the island changed everything for her. “To hear that I was nominated for a national collegiate award, it’s incredible,” Garcia said. “It reassures me that I made the right decision in choosing journalism and makes me feel proud that I have grown into a versatile journalist with so many skills.”

Professor Steve McCarthy, who is part of the professional staff and a producer at Mont-
This shot is from an organic farm in Lajas. The story was produced by Madjiguene Traore about the Puerto Rican Resiliency Fund, which coordinates relief efforts. A small group of volunteers helped a farmer whose crops were damaged there.

Students who reported in Puerto Rico attend the 39th College Television Awards.

Students from Montclair News Lab accept their award in North Hollywood, California at the 39th College Television Awards.

“It’s unbelievable. Just getting nominated is winning, and they don’t have to win. It’s a validation of all the hard work they put into it.”

- Professor Steve McCarthy

McCarthy is very proud of his students and wants his students to know that just being nominated for this award is already a win.

“It’s unbelievable. Just getting nominated is winning, and they don’t have to win. It’s a validation of all the hard work they put into it,” McCarthy said. “It also validates the school as a place where we’re going to produce content that is recognized nationally.”

This shot is from an organic farm in Lajas. The story was produced by Madjiguene Traore about the Puerto Rican Resiliency Fund, which coordinates relief efforts. A small group of volunteers helped a farmer whose crops were damaged there.

clair State, was able to join the group of students that included Obando and Garcia in Puerto Rico.

The goal that McCarthy wanted to achieve for the trip to Puerto Rico was to get students into the field and have them understand what it’s like to produce content in an unfamiliar landscape.

“We are trying to get [students] into the field to understand what it’s like to produce content where it’s happening in a foreign place, sometimes with a different language,” McCarthy said. “Also, to get the equipment down and the story to get all the things that it takes to produce content.”
The painted mirrors were displayed in an exhibit, bringing students together to share their perspectives and talk about body acceptance.

Annabel Reyes | The Montclarion

During the busy week leading up to spring break, while many college students rushed to pack their swimsuits and escape to a sunny beach for a few days, Montclair State University’s Office of Health Promotion caused students to stop and think.

From Monday, Feb. 24 to Friday, March 1, the Office of Health Promotion hosted Body Acceptance Week, a series of events from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. located in Student Center Ballrooms B and C.

Students participated in and admired the contents of the Mirror Project, an art exhibit where students painted on mirrors their answer to the question, “What do you see when you look in the mirror?” The responses ranged from humorous to self-deprecating and were displayed on tables for all students to see.

Elena Lymbouras, a graduate coordinator for the Office of Health Promotion, served as a driving force in the event’s success. Along with distributing free T-shirts with the body positive phrase, “Lookin’ Sharp,” Lymbouras shared the Office of Health Promotion’s purpose for making the Mirror Project an integral part of Body Acceptance Week at Montclair State.

“We just wanted to challenge students to think about how they perceive themselves,” Lymbouras said. “Since many students struggle with mental health, the Mirror Project is a way for them to see that they’re not alone.”

The Mirror Project showcased the mirror art of dozens of students from different majors, ethnicities and backgrounds.

Aneta Ostasz, a junior majoring in communication and media arts, was impressed by the Office of Health Promotion’s efforts to spread mental health awareness.

“I think this art exhibit pushes people to recognize the good in themselves and what they like about their bodies because once you start thinking positively, the mental health benefits will start piling up,” Ostasz said.

Many students who painted answers like “self-love” and “happiness” on their mirrors brought to light the way people see themselves in a mirror affects their mental health.

Television and digital media major Gary Brown commented on his initial shock when seeing the diverse answers painted on the mirrors.

“I saw that some people painted the words ‘fat’ and ‘not good enough,’” Brown said. “That was difficult for me to see, but it shows that a lot of people are dealing with self-inflicted body issues and yet here at Montclair State, we are all accepted.”

The Office of Health Promotion has been hosting Body Acceptance Week, including the Mirror Project since 2008. This organization offers a variety of services open to all students as a way of establishing a mentally healthy community.

Their mission is to eliminate the common misconceptions associated with mental health among the student population, increase the amount of culturally aware health services on campus, promote the best practices of health promotion and disease prevention, teach the importance of fostering healthy relationships that lead to academic success and support mental health awareness with theoretical research.
Montclair State’s Petey Greene Program Hosts Project PRIDE

Alexa Spear
Feature Editor

Four presenters sit at the front of the room, acknowledging an eager audience while wearing fluorescent orange jump suits. The speakers are escorted by two police officers who look on as they tell the story of their incarceration.

The last names of currently incarcerated individuals were omitted to protect their privacy. The first speaker was Nicole, a young woman whose mother had struggled with alcoholism. At just 12 years old, Nicole’s mother passed away and she began self-medicating with drugs.

Nicole also experienced bullying throughout high school, which exacerbated her struggle with substance abuse. She shared that she had aspirations to attend an Ivy League university and become a lawyer. Unfortunately, her life changed one night when a verbal altercation turned fatal.

"It was just one bad choice after another," Nicole said. "I didn’t realize what I was doing at the time. People were trying to pull me back up, but I thought it was no big deal. I couldn’t see what was ahead."

Montclair State University’s Petey Greene Program (MSUPGP) hosted four minimum custody inmates through Project Promoting Responsibility in Drug Education (PRIDE) to support their mission of increasing access to education and learning resources within jails, prisons, and detention centers.

Another inmate, Lizette, grew up with parents that were struggling with substance abuse. She was a straight A student, with dreams of becoming a counselor and helping kids like her. By high school she was juggling school on top of gang activity and exposed him to alcohol at an early age. In order to provide support to his children, he dropped out of high school and started working.

His story took a dark turn the night that he proposed to his fiance. What was expected to be a celebratory evening turned deadly due to a drunk driving accident.

Edwin was behind the driver’s seat and sustained life-threatening injuries. The entire room held back tears as he informed the audience that his fiance didn’t make it.

Going forward, Edwin hopes to honor her memory by continuing to make the right choices and spread awareness through Project PRIDE.

"I think of her the moment that my eyes open in the morning, and she’s the last thing I think about before I fall asleep every night," Edwin said. "This could happen to anyone that’s intoxicated behind the wheel."

Nawal Farah, a junior psychology major, shared the emotional impact the presentation had on her.

"All your stories have me crying," Farah said. "I’m bowling my eyes out and I’m not sure how you’re able to do this."

MSUPGP hopes this event will encourage the Montclair State community to consider the importance of education and recognize the importance of increasing access to all members of the community. The MSUPGP chapter tutors inmates in Northern State Prison in Newark, New Jersey by preparing them for the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC), an exam that tests for proficiency consistently with graduating high school seniors. President of MSUPGP Koledi Shakir shared the positive outcomes of volunteering time as a tutor.

"Through this mutually beneficial opportunity, incarcerated students receive educational assistance, which will ultimately assist them in contributing positively in society post-release," Shakir said. "Tutors acquire skills that can help re-imagine the criminal justice system and further them in their careers upon graduation."

Shakir is also a first-grade student teacher at Oakwood Avenue Community School in Orange, which has given her more insight into the value of education.

"I have witnessed first-hand the kind of opportunity education can provide and I want to share that experience with students in my classroom," Shakir said. "I believe knowledge is power, and people can take away materialistic belongings from you, such as your phone, your favorite pair of shoes or even your house, but no one can take away your education."

Students interested in supporting MSUPGP's mission of increasing access to education can attend their many events throughout the semester. An information session on becoming a tutor will be offered April 2 in the Center for Environmental and Life Sciences in room 207.
Long Time No Sea: Montclair State University Students Struggle With Financing the Ideal Spring Break

Amanda Alicea
Staff Writer

Students at Montclair State University are looking forward to a bit of relaxation after a stressful first couple of weeks. Following record-dropping temperatures and new professors, some students are ready for a long awaited spring break. Despite expectations and excitement buzzing throughout campus, students are finding that financing the vacation may be harder than they thought.

Even though people often associate the college vacation with partying and wild getaways, many students are leaving the idea of islands and warmer weather behind as they prepare for midterms and student invoices. Trying not to put too much of a dent in their pockets, students are finding different ways to stay productive during the break while returning home.

When asked about the expectations to plan something big and wild for spring break, freshman biology major Zoelee Hancock shared that she has more realistic intentions. "There is definitely a lot of pressure to party and go away during spring break, but it’s more practical to go home and work since most students are broke," Hancock said.

While some consider working to maintain paying for their tuition during break, junior art major Devin Nunez looked forward to laying low and relaxing for the week. "I usually do go away for breaks, but I’m going to be staying home with my girlfriend," Nunez said. "I think that since we do not have too many breaks from school, everyone tries to cram as much as possible into their break if they can."

Freshman nursing major Jenazmin Baez also shared budget-friendly plans for the break. "I plan on working and chilling in my dorm and taking a break mentally from school, and I also plan on working out more during spring break and eating healthier," Baez said. "People create this pressure like a vacation is necessary but sometimes you just need a break from social pressure."

While she does want to remain busy, Baez said working on herself and mental health is a way to be productive and healthy without spending a large amount of money on partying and getaways. Along with finding ways to stay busy and productive, students are also preparing methods to have a safe and fun vacation during the break, especially being in university. Many horror stories and accidents are associated with vacations because of the partying and wild behavior surrounding it.

Hancock discussed ways to stay safe while having fun. "It's always important to know your limits and have one responsible friend and driver if you are going to drink or party," Hancock said. "I also think it's important to think about your mother and what she would want you to do."

Although it is a vacation, most students are planned on remaining busy with work in order to manage their financial debts and tuition. Despite the university playing a key role in the struggle to go away and have the ideal vacation, students have come up with efficient ways to enjoy their spring break without going over budget and overworking themselves.

It may not be the ideal vacation or luxurious getaway people fantasize about, but a lack of money is not stopping Montclair State students from having fun they can manage and enjoy.

Freshman biology major Zoelee Hancock poses in the Student Center.

Amanda Alicea | The Montclarion
IT’S TIME TO INSPIRE.  
BECOME A TEACHER.

Attend a Teacher Education Information Session and learn everything you need to know about Montclair State’s nationally recognized Teacher Education Program and how to apply.

JOIN US

Friday, February 22  |  2:30 – 4 p.m.  |  Webinar (Sign Up: bit.ly/2zSeWZL)
Wednesday, March 20  |  2:30 – 4 p.m.  |  ADP Center 1143
Wednesday, April 24  |  2:30 – 4 p.m.  |  ADP Center 1143

The application deadline for fall 2019 is September 15.

Can’t attend? Call the Teacher Education Admission Office at 973-655-7696, email us at teadmissions@montclair.edu, or visit us in University Hall, Suite 1180.
Help Wanted

JOBS AND CLASSIFIEDS

Female sitter for one girl (age 7) start date flexible, $15/hr. in Upper Montclair
Flexible schedule: 1-2 days a week after school (pick up at school at 2:30), and time flexible / can vary by week. (I can work with your schedule). Responsibilities include picking up at school, transporting to and from after school activities in Montclair, helping with homework, preparing dinner & bath. More hours available if desired on an as needed basis. Ideally someone who can do an occasional morning as well (8am-8:30am) and / or someone who would be interested in an occasional overnight private bedroom / bathroom etc (2nd floor). Also ideal if someone is looking to pick up additional hours over the sum- mer (eg 30-30 hours a week). Could also discuss providing housing over the summer if you are looking to stay in town for reduced fees. Prior experience with children, strong references and own reliable vehicle are required. CPR certified preferred. Must be comfortable with a cat and in a pool. If interested, please email: peg2796@hotmail.com

$25/Childcare, UPPER MONTCLAIR
Seeking childcare for two teens (Girls 14 & boy, 16). Responsibilities include some shuttling to / from after-school activities (pool car or your's), dog walking, light shopping; & dinner preparation. Children are easy-going & independent (eg, will do laundry & kitchen chores, including pet care). Hours are Thursdays, Fridays, and alternate Saturday. Regular hours are 11am to 8pm. More hours available if desired on an as-needed / flexible basis. Perfect for a part-time position. The working environment is enjoyable, creative, positive, and perfectly suited for someone with education experience or experience working on study-skills / executive functioning at the high school level. Need is from 9am-8pm, Monday through Thursdays. Ideal candidate would be someone with education experience or experience working on study-skills / executive functioning at the high school level. Need is from 9am-8pm, Monday through Thursdays. Ideal candidate would be someone who is comfortable with high schoolers (age 14-16), and who is organized and responsible. Payment flexible depending on workload / experience. If interested, please text or call Marcy at 973-699-0045 or email: marcymercer@verizon.net.

$20-25 per hour / Homework Helper / Livingston
Looking for an after school homework helper. Interested in either current students, graduate or teacher to ideally come to our home Mon-Thurs for 1.5-2 hours (flexible on days/hours). Ideal candidate would be someone with education experience or experience working on study-skills / executive functioning at the high school level. Need is from 4pm-7pm, Monday through Thursdays. Ideal candidate would be someone who is comfortable with teenagers (age 14-16), and who is organized and responsible. Payment flexible depending on workload / experience. If interested, please text or call Marcy at 973-699-0045 or email: marcymercer@verizon.net.

$20-$30 per hour / Dog Walker Needed / MONTCLAIR
Local dog-walking / pet care business EXPLODING, with new business!! Seeking to place 2-3 dog-loving people in steady, responsible positions, immediately. Responsibilities include a neighborhood walk, for 20-30 minutes, possible feeding, securing property and communication with pet owners. Regular hours are approximately 11am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. More hours available on weekends and on an as-needed basis, as well as pet-sitting opportunities. Prior experience with pet care, a plus. Honest, reliable individual, a must. Use of own reliable vehicle is required. If interested, please email Liz, at: picklelily6330@yahoo.com or call: 973-839-9893

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: russellflint@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 have primarily college students. We look for people that have a background in soccer (or other organized sports) are energetic, personable, responsible, reliable and most import- antly, GREAT at working with children. If interested, please check us out at www.kiddiesoccer.com and send us an email at jobs@kiddiesoccer.com.

$600-8700 / GORGEOUS ROOMS FOR RENT / 5 MIN 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, whether it’s student aid, work, parents etc. 1st month + 1 month security to move in. Please feel free to text / call me - (201) 204-0592 or email: nanettelerner@gmail.com.

$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 & bath. More hours available if desired on an as-needed / flexible basis. Ideal candidate is someone who is organized and who has patience! Payment flexible depending on workload / experience. If interested, please text or email: jobs@kiddiesoccer.com.

Classifieds

Help Wanted

EDUCATION, PSYCH, & SOC.
MAJORS / SUMMER CAMPS / BERGEN COUNTY, NJ
Ramapo Country Day Camp is looking for college counselors to make a difference with elementary campers. All positions open until June 1. Dates are: July 6-18, August 23. M-F 9-4pm, Monday through Friday. More hours available if desired on an as-needed / flexible basis. Regular hours are approximately 11am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. More hours available on weekends and on an as-needed basis, as well as pet-sitting opportunities. Prior experience with pet care, a plus. Honest, responsible, reliable individual, a must. Use of own reliable vehicle is required. If interested, please email Liz, at: picklelily6330@yahoo.com or call: 973-839-9893

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Classifieds

Other

ARE YOU IN CRISIS OR STRUGGLING? HEALING, HOPE AND HELP CAN HAPPEN!
Please CALL the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) 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.

Persons

Love to Draw?
Submit your comics/cartoons to The Montclairian at MONTCLARIONPRODUCTION@GMAIL.COM

Love to Write?
Submit your essays to The Montclairian at MONTCLARIONPRODUCTION@GMAIL.COM

Personality

IS EVERYTHING IN ART AND WRITING
The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

St. Patrick’s Day Edition

Across
2. If you find a four-leaf clover, then you will be ____
3. The month St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated in
4. A traditional Irish dance
6. A popular elf-like creature that loves gold coins
7. After it rains, this forms in the sky

Down
1. What can be found at the end of a rainbow
2. The best cereal to have on St. Patrick’s Day
5. The most popular color on St. Patrick’s Day

Spring Word Search

Sudoku

*For answers to the puzzles, please check The Montclarion Facebook page every Thursday.*
It's All Under Construction, but Not All is Being Fixed

One of the first sights a future Red Hawk gets on a campus tour of Montclair State University is the seamless uniformity of some of the surrounding buildings. Many of them follow the same exterior pattern of white buildings and red roofs.

Another aspect of these buildings that will catch their eyes is the fact that many of them are relatively new to the campus community, including the Center for Environmental and Life Sciences created in 2015, the School of Nursing created in spring 2017, the School of Communication and Media which opened its doors in the fall of 2017 and the Center for Computing and Information Science in 2018. All of these new additions to Montclair State put it at the top of college lists for many incoming students, but there is one concerning aspect people spot during a tour that might put their commitment on hold as they question, “What about the other buildings?”

New buildings are continuously being built, but at the same time, many notice that others are being neglected. Just this semester, there have been two major building problems that occurred that could have been prevented if more thought was put into maintaining them. On the first day of classes back in January, students were alerted about a flood that occurred in Bohn Hall, causing many classes that were scheduled to be held there to relocate.

A few weeks later, there was a sewage leak in Life Hall that flooded the area with contaminated water, which University Facilities deemed unsafe and caused thousands of dollars in damages. With major problems like these instances occurring around campus, there are other minor touch-ups that students believe are necessary for their safety. One example can be seen on the ceilings in many of the classrooms in Dickson Hall. As students take a glance at the ceiling tiles, many of them notice that some are either missing or look loose. While this may not cause a lot of damage to the building, if one of those tiles were to fall on someone, it could cause injuries, including concussions.

These small problems go unnoticed which can lead to future incidents, possible injuries and costly repairs. Many students believe these repairs should be made before future projects are scheduled.

One important thing students want to be getting out of these construction projects is safety improvements. After all of the major and minor incidents that have occurred in the past few months, they hope it is being thought of when these decisions are made.

However, there are also still current construction projects in Richardson Hall, Calcia Hall, Russ Hall, Bohn Hall, College Hall and another on the way for University Hall. Last month, The Montclarion News Editor Heather Berzak reported that $4.5 million is set to be approved to repair the exterior of University Hall. While the university believes these repairs are necessary because the building is deteriorating, students believe otherwise.

Many students agree the 110-year-old College Hall deserves a well-needed rejuvenation, but others question the fact that their tuition for the next school term is going toward fixing the exterior of a 15-year-old one. They might feel their money could go toward better things, like improvements that benefit them and minor interior touch-ups that make the buildings safer.

Students aren’t completely against the idea of continuing to expand and renovate the university, but they feel like they’re not getting a lot out of what is currently on the future project list.

The campus community is encouraged to speak out about their concerns when it comes to these projects, especially at the yearly tuition hearings. For those who want to know where their money is going next semester, they should listen in at this year’s hearing on April 10.
Students React to New Zealand Shooting

Don’t Hate Me Because I’m Jewish

As the opinion editor for The Montclarion, I encourage everyone to have a voice on any topics or issues that they feel passionate about. If someone says, “I hate this person,” they have their First Amendment right to do so, but when that voice takes an opinion based on a generalization, that’s when I begin to question it a little more.

Not in New Zealand, however. This island has a population of about 4.8 million people and about 1.2 million firearms and has not had a mass shooting since 1997, until this past Friday.

This is because the country has intense background checks, and in order to obtain a gun license, applicants must pass it to be approved. This shooter obtained his guns legally, but Trump was found with homemade explosive devices in nearby cars, which proves the theory that the attacker was not the only criminal, guns or not. It seems clearer than ever that the true issue is extremism, on all sides.

New Zealand shooter published a manifesto online. In it he attacked conservatives and liberals alike. He called himself an “eco-fascist” and warned of white supremacy, among other things.

He wanted to stop the immigrants from “infiltrating” Western society and he wanted to create a race war. He knew that this shooting would cause a heated debate between the left and right in America, which he wanted. He named political commentator and founder of the Breitbart movement Candace Owens as an inspiration, which is contradictory on its face as Owens is an African-American woman, the complete opposite person a true white nationalist would support.

The shooter also mentioned President Donald Trump in his manifesto, basically saying that he admired him as a symbol of white purity. He identified him as a political leader. The shooter knew that by mentioning these people, the media would pick it up and it would create the exact divide he was looking for.

The media fell for his trap and did exactly what he wanted. They ran story after story about Trump and Trump’s reaction to this incident. That is exactly what this piece of human debris was trying to accomplish. That is precisely why he chose to attack a mosque on March 15 in the form of a rare mass shooting.

Friday. This sort of hate gunned down mosques andimes in the form of such massacres, the latest attack is nothing new, and neither is its relation to President Donald Trump.

On the evening of Sep. 17, 2015, Donald Trump answered questions and listened to concerns at a town hall meeting in Rochester, New Hampshire. “We have a problem in this country, it’s called Muslims,” one supporter said.

As Trump nodded along, the supporter asked, “When can we get rid of em’?”

Rather than telling the man that he had nothing to fear, Trump said, “We need this question,” and assured his supporters that “We’re gonna be look- ing at that and a lot of those people are looking at us. I am not solely blaming Trump for this attack because the terrorist made his own decision to kill 50 people. However, Trump needs to be aware that his outspoken beliefs and constant vilification of Islam and immigrants have an impact on both his supporters and white supremacists around the world.

When Trump tweets lies about American Muslims celebrating the 9/11 attack, or when he pushes for the surveil-lance of mosques and Muslims, or when he makes comment after comment and the need for a Muslim ban, there are people out there listening and thinking to themselves and then the next thing I know, and I’ll take matters into my own hands.”

Three and a half years later, a terrorist entered two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand and decided to look into the problem that Trump described by taking the lives of 50 innocent Muslims.

The shooter released an online manifesto moments before the attack, filled with anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant language. The terrorist describes his hatred for Muslims and those who con-verto the religion, and even defines his attack as “revenge” against Islam.

The manifesto describes how, “we must protect our land back from the enemy in our lands and the invaders that seek to enter our lands.” Overall, the shooter wants us to know that he committed this attack for “[his] people, [his] cul-ture, [his] RACE.” The shooter even made sure to put “race” in all caps, just in case we didn’t grasp the idea that he was racist.

This type of rhetoric in the manifesto seems to resemble words from Trump. In February 2016, Trump recounced a false story to a group of his support- ers about U.S. Census data and then questioned how he executed 49 Muslims with bul-lets dipped in pig’s blood and Muslims and exhibited from the front” with an “African face,” Trump said that this solved the terrorism problem for 25 years and that, “we better start getting tough, or we’re not gonna have a country any longer.”

The shooter mentions in his manifes-to how he praises Trump as “a symbol of renewed white identity and common purpose.” Trump has a position as the leader of our nation to condemn white nationalist behavior and show them their racist beliefs are not welcome. If Trump refuses to take responsibility, then these people will continue to think that their minds are acceptable because they share it with their countrymen.

In response to the attack, Trump gave his “warmest sympathy and best wish-es” out to the people of New Zealand. “He played it safe with this reaction, but ‘warm sympathies’ and ‘best wish-es’ just don’t do cut it. When asked if he saw white na-tionalism as a mounting global threat, Trump replied with, “I don’t really. I think it’s a small group of people that have very, very serious problems.” This was the perfect opportunity as well for Trump to condemn these terrorists, but Trump decided to quickly move past the subject.

I will open my eyes and acknowledge the rise of white su-premacy. As president of the United States, Trump has a responsibility to lead at the Charleston church shoot-ing, the Charlottesville attack, the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting and the New Zealand mosque shooting and condemn these terrorists. He needs to put an end to his xenophobic rhetoric that acts as fuel to white nationalist beliefs and take action to help stop them from happening again.

Sharif Hasan, a communication and media arts maj or, is in his first year as an assistant entertainment editor for The Montclarion.

As the opinion editor for The Montclarion, I encourage everyone to have a voice on any topics or issues that they feel passionate about. If someone says, “I hate this person,” they have their First Amendment right to do so, but when that voice takes an opinion based on a generalization, that’s when I begin to question it a little more.

For those who do not agree with me, you have your First Amendment right to do so, but I urge those who do not agree with me to consider the receiving end of the same argument. This one reporter uses that stance to express an opinion, but it does not mean I don’t have one.

I have reported on many topics and issues here at Montclair State University, but there is one that I try to stay away from because I feel that I cannot be unbiased: Anti-Semitism, the hatred of the Jewish people. I’m not really involved in the Jewish community, but I still am a Jew. I wear my Hebrew name necklace around my neck with pride and as a symbol of Jewish identity. But unfortunately, there are people out there who hate me for the same reasons I wear my Rivka necklace.

Therefore, when Trump said, the campus Hillel was targeted with anti-Israel comments for a series of cultural events. This is not true. These comments really put a downer on someone that sets Montclair State apart from other college levels: the students who support Israel. These comments really put a downer on something that sets Montclair State apart from other college levels: the students who support Israel.

Whenever I hear about these com-ments made around campus, I take it very personally and it breaks my heart. I ask myself, “Did I do something wrong?” Comments are, I don’t disagree with the culture, but I do not think the chickpea spread is any more delicious than the chicken and rice.

All of us hold different beliefs and ideas, but that doesn’t make us ter-rible human beings. We all wish for the same thing: shalom, peace.
Connecting the World Through the Power of Social Media

OLIVIA PAEZ
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

I never understood why older generations consistently wrote opinion articles proclaiming that social media is making us more antisocial. We have been bombarded with photos of younger generations with their always-on phones, which people claim isolates them from one another.

I’ve never resonated with this opinion. For me, social media has allowed me to make more connections and friendships than I could have in real life or offline.

Back in high school, I felt utterly alone. I didn’t connect with students around me who were into cheerleading, football, music and other things I was into, but people I knew online or in real life or offline.

Through social media I found my niche, as others can too. There is an endless array of communities that you can join to share your thoughts and ideas with others who are interested in the same things.

I never saw social media as a place where shadowy strangers can contact you, but over the years, I learned to embrace its potential. While it allows people to isolate themselves from conversations with others around them in a waiting room or in classes, it also gives others the chance to make connections they may not have been able to make with those in their neighborhood.

Social media provides us with communities and friendships that have the potential to change our lives for the better. I’m not embarrassed to say that I love social media. It has allowed me to make more friends than I ever imagined, and I am forever grateful for that.

Olivia Paez, a journalism major, is in her first year as an assistant copy editor for The Montclarion.

The Biggest College Admissions Scandal of All Time Is Less Surprising than a ‘Transformers’ Movie Sucking

BRIAN ROONEY
COMEDY WRITER

Earlier this month, dozens of wealthy actors, business people and other high society figures were charged with counts of fraud for bribing college admissions officials to accept their least qualified children.

Among the corrupt parents are Lori Loughlin of “Full House” and Felicity Huffman of “Desperate Housewives,” who has apparently had a hard time letting go of her role. The culprits bribed their children’s way into some of the country’s most elite universities, including Yale University, Stanford University, Wake Forest University and many others. Some bribes reached amounts close to $6.5 million.

I would like to take this opportunity to confess that my own admission into Montclair State University was actually a huge comedy fan, so I will not be surprised.

These children who are too privileged to work toward their goals prove my long-running theory. If you grow up with money, there is a 99 percent chance you will turn out to be a piece of human garbage, and the extra smelly kind at that. The kind whose stench is so foul and pungent that you have to take it to the outside bin before the bag is even full. A premature twist tie, if you will.

I have already planned out how to dispense my fortune to my children in case I somehow end up as a wealthy person. They will receive even portions of whatever money remains after I have the most expensive funeral in the history of death.

Every guest will be served caviar with champagne infused with water from the fountain of youth. I will have a platinum casket with my name written in diamonds on it and my social security number because I am dead now and forever.

My corpse will be in the casket wearing trunks and the Nike McFly’s from “The Godfather,” Rocky Balboa’s boxing trunks and the Nike McFly’s from “Back to the Future.” I will also be holding Indiana Jones’s whip in one hand and Darth Vader’s lightsaber in the other.

After the opening prayer, the minister will say, “Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome, Jay-Z and Kanye West.” Jay-Z and Kanye do the entire “Watch the Throne” show, pyrotechnics included.

Next, Jay-Z will say, “There is only one person who can celebrate Brian’s life with us properly, please welcome, the Pope.” Pope Francis walks in and preaches about how incredibly bitter I lived my life. Then he will say, “Brian was always a huge comedy fan, so please welcome, the cast of Seinfeld.”

My children will get about $80 each.

We should all remember this scandal the next time a celebrity tries to tell us how we should feel about whatever the hot political issue of the time. Maybe we should start formulating our opinions and not rely on these. Obviously, money and power-driven sociopaths do it for us.

Another thing to remember is that the only thing these semi-talented narcissists care about is raking in millions upon millions of dollars from actual working people so they can buy another foreign summer home, fuel their next vanity project and continue to give their work-shy, empty-headed, hoity-toity piece of poop children whatever they want. “Full House” was a hack anyway, and Kimmy Gibbler was even more annoying than her name is to pronounce.

Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman are charged with bribery in a college admissions scandal ‘Jeopardy!’ host Alex Trebek announces he has pancreatic cancer
Join us in conversation

with Bobbi Brown, cosmetic and wellness guru and author, and speaker Jillian Pransky

Followed by an expo attended by companies showcasing their products and services

Taste, smell, touch and move as you explore the ever-growing health and wellness industry through this interactive and fun event.

For more information, questions and to register, please visit montclair.edu/nutrition-and-food-studies/health-wellness-expo/

HEALTH & WELLNESS EXPO

March 25 | 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. | The Conference Center at University Hall

This event is sponsored by the Department of Nutrition and Food Studies and the Montclair State Dietetics Organization (MSDO).
Peak Performances brought the classic musical “Guys and Dolls,” directed by Gary John La Rosa to Montclair State University’s Alexander Kasser Theater between March 2 and March 8.

Originally written by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows, this musical from Broadway’s golden age follows gambler Nathan Detroit as he makes a bet with Sky Masterson that he cannot get the devoted missionary Sarah Brown to go with him to Havana, while Nathan’s fiance, Adelaide, tries to finally tie the knot with him after 14 years.

This was the first time that I had ever seen the show, and I am stunned at how well the cast and crew did. The lighting was amazing, as well as the costumes and choreography. It quickly became one of my favorite musicals.

Every musical number was full of life, such as the number “Guys and Dolls,” led by Nicely-Nicely Johnson played by Thomas Beebe, and Benny Southstreet played by Patrick Sharpe.

It was an entertaining number, visually and vocally. Then there was the number “I’ll Know” performed by Jackson Glenn playing the role of Sky Masterson, and Brigitte Francis as Sarah Brown. This was a back and forth piece that showed the two different dynamics of the characters. A humorous but heartfelt number dedicated to finding love, I was impressed at the feeling that these performers put into their characters.

Toward the end of the aforementioned song, as Sarah Brown slapped Sky across the face for kissing her unexpectedly, members of the audience audibly gasped. The surprise of it, mixed with the overall silence and witty remark from Sky, was enough to feel the slight animosity between the two.

That was not the only time the show brought up a reaction from the crowd. Being mainly a comedy, the comedic timing of the show was fantastic. Some of my favorite scenes had no lines at all. The silence and body expressions were enough to get the audience laughing, which occurred countless times throughout the performance.

Another number I felt was a highlight of the show was “Sit Down You’re Rocking the Boat,” performed by Thomas Beebe and the rest of the cast. With just about the entire cast there on stage, it felt lively.

Musical numbers were not the only part of the show that blew me away. The costume design was beautiful. They fitted each character well and were colorful, but subtle enough to draw the focus of the eye while also not being the complete center of attention.

Since love is also the backdrop of this show, there were times throughout where, even though subtly humorous, the desperation to find it was still there. Sky risks thousands of dollars in his last effort to uphold his end of the bargain to Sarah. I felt for him and the way he would put all of his wealth on the line for her.

Even though the show contains many energetic and emotional lyrical numbers, the choreography does not fall short, such as the fantastic crapshooter’s dance.

For many students, this show was their way to look back at their acting career. Brigitte Francis shared her thoughts as she ends her senior year at Montclair State.

“Playing Sarah Brown in ‘Guys and Dolls’ has been one of the biggest blessings of my entire college career,” Francis said.

“This role brought about so much freedom in my acting that I will carry with me into every audition, every callback, every rehearsal and every performance from this day forward,” Francis said. “I am deeply thankful for every single person involved with this show and will carry this one close to heart.”

The director Gary John La Rosa was enthralled to be working with this cast and crew again, previously having done Aida and Hair. He mentioned that the scale of the musical was challenging, with close to 200 people working on this production.

“I love working with the students,” La Rosa said. “They are a well-trained and talented group.”

“Guys and Dolls” was beautifully done by the students of Montclair State. The show ran from March 2 to March 8, so hopefully, you all got a chance to witness for yourselves just how talented our school’s students are.
And the Award Goes To... RecBoard Grammy Bingo

While Drake, Cardi B and all of Montclair State University’s students’ favorite artists were at the Grammys, students received a special invitation to a Grammy bingo party hosted by RecBoard. The event took place on Feb. 27 in the Student Recreation Center inside the basketball courts.

There were a series of rounds creating different letters, and if students called out “Bingo,” they received an extra raffle ticket in addition to the one they obtained at the door prior.

Students were able to put the raffles tickets into several different prize bags. Prizes varied from a record player with a vinyl record included to a Google Home to Apple Airpods. The grand prize was a pair of tickets to the Governors Ball music festival in New York City.

If students weren’t lucky enough to collect extra tickets, they still had the opportunity to buy additional raffle tickets for $1. Students were also able to purchase extra bingo boards for $1 to up their chances.

RecBoard President Linda Mozdzen explained where the proceeds were being distributed.

“All proceeds are going to Relay For Life and not into my bank account,” said Mozdzen jokingly.

Relay For Life is a movement as well as a fundraiser to help those suffering from cancer.

RecBoard is a student-run organization with the motto “Have Fun, Get Involved, Make a Difference.” RecBoard Vice President Ivy Jane Dimaculangan emphasized making a difference by raising money for Relay For Life.

“We didn’t want any plain old bingo,” Dimaculangan said. “At the rec center, we love to go above and beyond.”

RecBoard stayed true to this statement as it served refreshments and had a DJ playing all the students’ favorite tracks. For this event, the organization thought about how it could incorporate fun as well as fundraising.

“We were sitting in our executive board meeting, and we were thinking one thing that students are really into,” Dimaculangan said. “We realized that students were really into music.”

The Grammy Awards is an iconic night for music so members decided this would be the right theme.

Having done bingo events in the past, RecBoard came up with great prizes with the help of its leadership team: A group of students who show initiative to go the extra mile by sitting in e-board meetings. The most highly requested prize at the end of the night was a pair of tickets to Governors Ball as well as the Airpods and other cool prizes, such as a CD collection of some favorite Grammy stars. All of the tickets put in the black bags were put together to determine the winners for the music festival tickets.

Montclair State students had a great time winning cool prizes and listening to their favorite tracks. Amazon Prime student ambassadors also were a part of the fun event, calling out rounds of bingo and giving away T-shirts. They also gave students codes to save on their next Amazon purchases.

Students’ favorite artists may not have been at this event, but the stars were the students that attended, and they had a great time screaming out, “Bingo!”
Rapper Lil Baby is Bringing ‘The New Generation Tour’ to the Wellmont Theater

Atlanta rapper Lil Baby will be performing at Montclair’s Wellmont Theater on Tuesday, April 9 as part of his “The New Generation Tour.” Lil Baby will be joined by hip-hop duo City Girls and rappers Blueface, Jordan Hollywood, Marlo, Rylo Rodriguez and 42 Dugg.

“The New Generation Tour” kicked off on March 13 in Houston’s Revention Music Center. Its 25 dates include stops in Dallas, Denver, Chicago and New York before culminating in the rapper’s hometown of Atlanta on April 20. The Wellmont Theater will be the 18th stop of the tour.

Lil Baby, whose real name is Dominique Jones, was born in the rap music dominated area of Atlanta, which is known for producing some of hip-hop’s most influential artists. Gucci Mane, Future, 2 Chainz and Young Thug are some of the rappers hailing from the southern state, along with partner-in-crime Gunna, who Lil Baby credits as a major help in the start of his career.

The 24-year-old rapper is currently in the midst of one of the best stretches in his young career, quickly establishing himself as the new breed of trap music.

On May 18, 2018, Lil Baby, a member of the Quality Control label roster — which also counts rappers Migos and Lil Yachty among its ranks — released his debut studio album, “Harder Than Ever,” which included the hit single “Yes Indeed” featuring Drake.

Since then, Lil Baby’s career has taken off to the point where he’s dropped two major projects since, “Drip Harder,” a joint album with Gunna that included another Drake collaboration, “Never Recover” and most recently “Street Gossip,” released on Nov. 30, 2018. The young rapper released a whopping three major projects in 2018 and is now preparing for his second headlining tour, following his 2018 “Harder Than Ever Tour.”

Lil Baby began making noise thanks to his 2017 breakout hit “My Dawg.” A track on his “Harder Than Hard” 2017 project — followed up by more hits like “All Of A Sudden” and “Freestyle” from his “Fine Hard” mixtape released during the same year.

Lil Baby has now gone “Global” — the auspiciously named single from his “Street Gossip” project that he has already performed on multiple late night shows, such as “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon” and “Jimmy Kimmel Live,” along with making multiple music festival lineups.

The way Lil Baby came into the rap game and quickly established a name for himself has even caught the attention of hip-hop veterans like Future. In a recent interview with Los Angeles radio personality Big Boy, the “Mask Off” rapper said that Lil Baby and Gunna are the “GOATs” of trap music.

“I already did what I did. I’m solidified. I’ve been the trap GOAT,” Future said in the interview. “[Lil Baby and Gunna] are right now. They them dudes.”

Having an artist of Future’s stature calling Lil Baby the “GOAT” of trap music certainly has to mean something, but Lil Baby is not letting all the hype get to him.

Prior to the announcement of Lil Baby embarking on his own tour, there was speculation over whether he would join Travis Scott and Sheck Wes on the “Astroworld” tour’s U.S. second leg of which Gunna was part of during the U.S. first leg. However, Lil Baby is headed on his own tour. The same goes for Gunna, who is not part of the “Astroworld” tour’s second leg and instead will be headlining his own tour, the “Drip or Drown 2 Tour,” which will also be coming to The Wellmont Theater on Thursday, April 25.

Catch Lil Baby at The Wellmont Theater on Tuesday, April 9, as “The New Generation Tour” makes a stop in Montclair. Ticket prices are $29.50, $39.50 and $59.50 and can be purchased on The Wellmont Theater’s website or at the box office located at 5 Seymour St. in Montclair. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the show set to start at 8 p.m.
All Killer, No Filler Albums

Is your favorite on the list?
Music is everything to me. It might not be that way for everyone, but I can say with confidence that music is the language we all understand. It colors our wildest nights, gives life to the memories we create with the people we love the most and acts like a friend when we feel alone. I’ve always loved music because it makes me feel whole and provides an opportunity to bond with others. Who doesn’t love music? Haters are hard to come by.

I’m definitely the person that all of my friends and family come to when they need new music to listen to. Since I am constantly listening to playlists, albums and new artists, I have come across many who have changed me indefinitely. It has made for some great conversation with other people along the way.

Recently, I have been making it a mission to listen to albums start to finish – no skips – to fuel my ongoing search for a list of albums that I consider “all killer, no filler.” However, I have found that asking others what their favorite “all killer, no filler” albums are is not only fun but has allowed me to expand upon my own taste and discover new artists and songs that are, well, “killer.”

I decided to send a short survey to students at Montclair State University, asking what their favorite “all killer, no filler” albums of all time are and to let me know what song on that album is their favorite. I gathered your responses and was pleasantly surprised by the variety of genres and artists. Then I started listening, and man, did I come across some really great ones.

I asked. You listened, and so did I. Hopefully, this fun little venture of mine can bring you to a new song, artist or album that you don’t have to worry about skipping through. I also made a playlist on Apple Music with all of the songs that students suggested from their favorite “no skips” album. Enjoy!

Grace Giamo
Contributing Writer

“Swimming” is the 2018 album by Mac Miller. Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Records

The soundtrack from “A Star is Born” Photo courtesy of Interscope Records

features 2019’s best original song, “Shallow.”

Grace Giamo | The Montclarion
Grab Your Sword and Shield and Set Off on Your Next Pokemon Journey

Adrian Maldonado
Staff Writer

Pokemon fans have patiently been waiting for the first look of a new game ever since E3 2017, when the CEO of The Pokemon Company, Tsunekazu Ishihara, announced that the next mainline game in the series was in development for the Nintendo Switch. On Pokemon Day, Feb. 27, Game Freak and Nintendo held a seven-minute direct, introducing the eighth generation of the new Pokemon games, “Pokemon Sword” and “Pokemon Shield.”

The first look at these two new RPGs showcased that these games are set to take place in the beautiful Galar Region where you can explore snow-covered mountains, steampunk cities, vast open fields, gem-filled mines, battle in different stadiums and gyms in order to reach the Pokemon League and become the next champion. The Galar Region seems to be inspired by the United Kingdom because of the structure of the map and similarities.

Montclair State University junior communication and media arts major Kirk Coronacion plays “Pokemon: Let’s Go Pikachu!”

Montclair State University junior communication and media arts major Kirk Coronacion plays “Pokemon: Let’s Go Pikachu!”

New Pokemon logos are created for each game.

New characters are created for Pokemon starters.

The game’s male protagonist throws a Pokeball, ready for battle.

New Pokemon await in this new journey.”

The removal of old mechanics gives these games a chance to introduce new mechanics. This is still the very first look at these games, the footage is not final, as stated in the direct. There are still many new features awaiting you in the Galar Region instead of random wild encounters that were removed for “Pokemon Sword” and “Pokemon Shield.”

With the release of the spinoff games “Pokemon: Let’s Go, Pikachu!” and “Pokemon: Let’s Go, Eevee!” back in November 2018, this showed fans what the Nintendo Switch is capable of. They were so excited to see and finally learn about the new mainline Pokemon game titles.

However, many were disappointed to see the new mechanics that were introduced in “Pokemon: Let’s Go,” such as Pokemon following you around and seeing the Pokemon in the over world instead of random wild encounters that were removed for “Pokemon Sword” and “Pokemon Shield.”

As [a] Nintendo fan, but not quite the biggest Pokemon fan out there, I for one, am extremely hyped for ‘Sword and Shield,’” Coronacion said. “I love the new region that seems to be comparable to a post-Brexit U.K. feel, and [the game] looks to be open world. I’m curious to see what kind of new Pokemon await in this new journey.”

This new region features a set of beloved Pokemon from past games, such as Pikachu, Mincino, Flygon and even includes some from “Pokemon Sun” and “Pokemon Moon.” However, with a set of new games comes new characters convinced him to pick up a copy once they are released.

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Derrick Bitner, writer and editor for GameXplain, a very popular YouTube channel with over one million subscribers, shared that he is looking forward to choosing one of the new starters and playing the game with stunning graphics on his television and on the go since it’s the very first mainline Pokemon game with high definition graphics.

“Right now I’m leaning toward Scorbunny, though that might change when the evolutions are revealed,” Bitner said. “I like the graphical jump forward and it’s not huge, but I never expected that from Game Freak. I’m looking forward to seeing more of the new Pokemon and what the new stadiums will offer.”

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As we work on the development of these games, our goal is to create the greatest Pokemon experience yet,” said Director of “Pokemon Sword” and “Pokemon Shield” Shigeru Ohmori. “We’re challenging ourselves to try new things while still treasuring what makes Pokemon special, so we hope you’ll all be looking forward to the adventures awaiting you in the Galar Region.”

“Pokemon Sword” and “Pokemon Shield” are both available for pre-order and are set to be released worldwide in late 2019. More information on the story of the game, new characters and never-before-seen Pokemon, including the legendaries of these games, are expected to be released in the near future.
‘Captain Marvel’ Soars Higher, Further and Faster

Two days before Brie Larson, the star of “Captain Marvel,” surprised audiences at the Clifton Commons theater to serve popcorn and discuss the movie, I sat in the same theater, shoving my face with popcorn, anxiously awaiting Marvel’s first female-led film.

The excitement for the film was palpable as “Captain Marvel” earned $455 million during opening weekend. Captain Marvel’s origin story is inspiring and feminist without being too cavalier in its messages, proving that the Marvel Cinematic Universe is in good, proton-blasting hands.

Larson plays Vers, a warrior on the planet Kree, a humanoid planet in a distant galaxy at war with shapeshifting creatures called Skrulls. Vers lost her memory in an accident that also gave her the ability to shoot proton blasts from her fists. She spends the movie piecing together her past in between fighting Skrulls, falling through the roof of a Blockbuster video store in a well appreciated nod to the film’s ‘90s setting and teaming up with S.H.I.E.L.D agent Nick Fury to protect Earth from Skrull invasion. All in a day’s work.

Viewers expecting the film to mirror the overt themes of love and good-heartedness in “Wonder Woman” may be surprised by Larson’s portrayal of Vers as sarcastic and quick to anger, but her choices ring true as Vers adds humor and dimensionality to the film.

In an early action sequence, a Skrull roars in Vers’ face, and Vers responds with a sarcastic mimicked scream before knocking him over with one solid punch. She can deliver dry jokes just as quickly as she can throw punches, affording her a wit not often seen in female characters.

It is this confidence and underlying sarcasm that make Vers a Marvel hero unlike any other. She does not grapple with the importance of her work or the pressures of saving the world. She feels no hesitation in donning a super suit. She does not question whether she can be great, only how to be great.

As an audience member, it is refreshing to see a superhero you know will ultimately prevail skip the “Do I really have what it takes?” storyline in favor of a more complex character arc: that seeks to reveal how Vers can be great, not if she can be. Vers becomes great through the support of those around her: Samuel L. Jackson’s de-aged Nick Fury offers Vers advice and a witty partner, and Lashana Lynch delivers a standout performance as Maria Rambeau, a friend from Vers’ past. She reminds Vers that she was strong even before she could shoot fire from her fists, which propels the plot forward and adds a touching example of powerful women lifting each other up.

The well-explored friendship between the two women feels natural and serves as a superior alternative to the overdone and often underdeveloped love story in many superhero movies. Their easy relationship roots the film in its feminist values without being too over the top. Rambeau subtly reminds Vers that she is strong not despite of but because of her emotions.

As a human woman, I’m familiar with people telling me my emotions are holding me back, so when one of Vers’ adversaries told her to stop fighting him with her emotions and to fight in a way that he found to be honorable, I almost cried when Vers coolly responded with, “I have nothing to prove to you,” before proton blasting him out of frame. Again, it was a clear and succinct display of female empowerment without being overbearing.

While Vers journey to piece together her past on earth is well-developed, the Skrull war storyline is noticeably weaker. It is never explained why the Kree and Skrulls are at war, which makes it difficult for audience members to become truly invested in the war that is supposed to serve as the catalyst for the story. The lack of audience investment in this arc makes the twists lackluster and unable to fully achieve the reaction they were intended to.

I had high hopes for Marvel’s first female-fronted movie, and I was not disappointed. It might not blow minds like “Avengers: Infinity War,” but “Captain Marvel” soars higher, further and faster with complex characters and a strong feminist foundation. Now all we have to do is wait for “Avengers: End Game” to see just how high Captain Marvel can fly.

Brie Larson gives a powerful performance in “Captain Marvel.” Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

“Captain Marvel” is Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

the Marvel cinematic universe’s first female-led film.

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Coen Brothers Movies

"The Ballad of Buster Scruggs" is an anthology western film written and directed by Joel and Ethan Coen. The six unique stories explore the comedy and tragedy of the American West. This film has an all-star cast that includes James Franco as an outlaw that just can’t seem to be executed properly, Tim Blake Nelson as a singing gunslinger mooing through the Wild West, Liam Neeson as a grim impresario profiting off of a talented quadruple amputee, Tom Waits as a committed prospector, and Javier Bardem as a parolee, who will have you rethinking the way you think about Thanos. Bardem will have you rethinking the way you think about Thanos. You think Thanos is scary? Bardem will have you rethinking the way you think about Thanos.

"The Ballad of Buster Scruggs" is a great movie to stream for those who are fans of the brothers' past work, and those who are looking for gold and more. The Coen brothers’ newest film is both dark and silly, and many times extremely violent. "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs" is a game show for those who are fans of the brothers’ past work, and those who enjoy the Western genre.

Top Picks to Stream

"No Country for Old Men" on Netflix

It was 25 years ago that Weezer first arrived on the rock scene with their self-titled studio debut that has since come to be known as "Blue Album." After a quarter of a decade filled with hits and misses, frontman Rivers Cuomo and his pals show no signs of slowing their roll. After releasing a self-titled cover album, "Teal Album," earlier this year, Weezer has finally released their 13th album, dubbed "Black Album." Despite its ominous title, "Black Album" still sounds very much like Weezer. Its 10-song track list consists of several catchy pop numbers, with a few of them leaning heavy into synthetic sounds. The lyrics are fun with the dark wit and angst that should be expected from Weezer, mixed with some commentary on the band's current place in the world.

The album feels very self-aware, with a number of songs making reference to the band's recent return to the spotlight and many fans' longing for an album more similar to their first couple of releases. Multiple tracks have dark lyrics that are contrasted by their upbeat pop melodies, but this is much less a feature of "Black Album" specifically and more of a staple of Cuomo's writing style. Lyrically, the only thing that makes "Black Album" stand apart from Weezer's previous albums is the explicit language, something that was previously foreign in the band's discography. This fails to make the album feel more mature, but it is an interesting bit of experimentation that gives this album some unique character.

The album's opening track, "Can't Knock The Hustle" is an incredibly catchy tune that blends a fun sound with some incredibly self-deprecating lyrics. The narcissism of social media seems to be the topic of discussion here, as Cuomo invites listeners to, "Leave a five-star review, and I'll leave you one, too."

"Zombie Bastards" is a direct message to a vocal part of Weezer's fan base, who long for a new album similar to the band's earlier releases. With lines like, "If I die it means I lived my life / And that's much better than hiding in a hole;" it's very clear that Cuomo has no interest in just reanimating an old album. He's determined to keep evolving and changing, not shuffling around like a zombie.

"High as a Kite" and "Piece of Cake" are also standouts. They are two very upbeat and poppy songs making reference to the band's recent return to the rock scene with their self-titled studio debut that has since come to be known as "Blue Album." After a quarter of a decade filled with hits and misses, frontman Rivers Cuomo and his pals show no signs of slowing their roll. After releasing a self-titled cover album, "Teal Album," earlier this year, Weezer has finally released their 13th album, dubbed "Black Album." Despite its ominous title, "Black Album" still sounds very much like Weezer. Its 10-song track list consists of several catchy pop numbers, with a few of them leaning heavy into synthetic sounds. The lyrics are fun with the dark wit and angst that should be expected from Weezer, mixed with some commentary on the band's current place in the world.

The album feels very self-aware, with a number of songs making reference to the band’s recent return to the spotlight and many fans’ longing for an album more similar to their first couple of releases. Multiple tracks have dark lyrics that are contrasted by their upbeat pop melodies, but this is much less a feature of "Black Album" specifically and more of a staple of Cuomo's writing style. Lyrically, the only thing that makes "Black Album" stand apart from Weezer’s previous albums is the explicit language, something that was previously foreign in the band’s discography. This fails to make the album feel more mature, but it is an interesting bit of experimentation that gives this album some unique character.

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"High as a Kite" and "Piece of Cake" are also standouts. They are two very upbeat and poppy songs that tackle dark and serious subject matter. "High as a Kite" deals with the need to escape reality entirely, due to having no sense of self-worth or value, while "Piece of Cake" is based around a failed relationship.

"Living in L.A." is an interesting song. It almost feels like a parody of a Weezer song. The lyrics feel disjointed, as if lines were pulled randomly from a hat and are connected by a very generic chorus. "I'm Just Being Honest" and "Too Many Thoughts In My Head" are probably the closest to actual rock songs that you’ll find on "Black Album." Like many of Weezer’s best songs, they are personal stories about events in Cuomo's life, which are always slightly awkward and dorky but also incredibly endearing. While I really like the majority of the songs on "Black Album," the album as a whole leaves something to be desired. The alternative rock sounds of previous releases seem to have been replaced entirely by a tamer synth-pop sort of sound. While this experimentation is important for a band with such a long history, the lack of driving alt-rock tracks gives "Black Album" a lack of drive or momentum. Past Weezer releases have often had an encompassing message, such as "Pinkerton's" personal tales of frustration and isolation or "Red Album's" cries of longing for the nostalgic past. Instead, "Black Album" is a collection of 10 seemingly unrelated songs, connected only by a common sound and a vague disdain for those who want Weezer to make music a certain way.

"Black Album" portrays itself as dark and rustic, a nod to something that isn't a perfect record, it does show a willingness to experiment with new sounds and the potential for self-reflection. The pieces don’t fit together into anything mind-blowing, but the individual songs themselves are all enjoyable.

It is easy to lament the Oscars for how frequently they fail to recognize quality films in the moment, resulting in many instances in which subpar films are awarded as a sort of recompense for auteurs that were not given their credit initially. The Coen brothers, however, were no such victims of this Oscars trend, as the masterfully executed "No Country for Old Men" won awards for best picture, best director, best supporting actor (Javier Bardem) and best adapted screenplay at the 80th Academy Awards.

The movie is a Western at heart, but the sophistication behind the movie’s message, mostly pertaining to psychological concepts, make it one that works for any kind of viewer. Bardem gives as dynamic a performance you will see in a movie this generation. You think Thanos is scary? Bardem will have you rethinking the way you think about Thanos.

"The Ballad of Buster Scruggs" is an anthology western film written and directed by Joel and Ethan Coen. The six unique stories explore the comedy and tragedy of the American West. This film has an all-star cast that includes James Franco as an outlaw that just can’t seem to be executed properly, Tim Blake Nelson as a singing gunslinger mooing through the Wild West, Liam Neeson as a grim impresario profiting off of a talented quadruple amputee, Tom Waits as a committed prospector, and Javier Bardem as a parolee, who will have you rethinking the way you think about Thanos. Bardem will have you rethinking the way you think about Thanos. You think Thanos is scary? Bardem will have you rethinking the way you think about Thanos.

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Men’s and Women’s Swimming: Season in Review

Swimmers hit new highs as they look forward to next season

From left to right: Seniors Mick VanOosten, Kevin Gibson and Kevin Clauss pose for a photo at a meet.

Photo courtesy of Mick VanOosten

Corey Annan
Assistant Sports Editor

Often overlooked with regards to some of the top athletic programs here at Montclair State University, both the men’s and women’s swim teams have proven this year that they are an emerging threat in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC).

For the men’s squad, a 3-5 record may be frowned upon when you look at just their season. However, the team has had a fairly tough schedule this season, featuring two Division I opponents in Seton Hall and Monmouth University, and the eventual NJAC championship winner Rowan University.

However, Montclair State did have quality conference wins over teams such as Ramapo College and William Paterson University to finish the dual meet season off. Senior captain Mick VanOosten, who specializes in the freestyle and backstroke events, agreed that competing against these strong programs helped motivate them later in the season.

“Swimming in these faster and competitive [dual] meets only motivated us to get better,” VanOosten said. “We wanted to beat those guys at Metropolitan Championship.”

Speaking of Metropolitan Championships, the team did not disappoint, placing sixth out of 14 teams in a very competitive championship meet. It was highlighted by a fifth-place finish from the 400 freestyle relay led by seniors Charles Cobbett and Kevin Henningsen, as well as freshman Greg Karback and senior Hunter Romanowski.

Along with the three seniors, the men’s team will face an additional loss of six seniors to graduation next year, including Kevin Clauss, who holds the record for the 100 backstroke. Many of these seniors have played an integral role to the team this season, and many underclassmen will have to fill the void next season.

VanOosten believes the team is in good hands with the returning swimmers coming back, citing swimmers such as senior Kevin Gibson and freshmen Karback and Lazzaro Valades to help lead the team next season.

Brian McLaughlin, head coach of the men’s and women’s swim programs, believes this is just the start of Montclair State.

As for the women’s program, one of the best female athletes here at Montclair State, was diver Grace Nielsen, on of the best female athletes in the NJAC.

She has had a plethora of accomplishments and awards to her name, including countless Diver of the Week and All-Conference selections. She will be returning to the Division III Northeast Regional Championships in hopes of qualifying for nationals for the second straight year.

However, her most recent accomplishment, winning Diver of the Meet at the Metropolitan Championships, only adds to her amazing legacy here at Montclair State.

Her secret to success? Consistency.

“Staying consistent has always been my key. I’m just always trusting in the training and process,” Nielsen said. “My coaches have been pushing me to do things that they’ve known that I could always do.”

Speaking of the coaching staff, McLaughlin also maintains that her supporting cast has been exceptional.

“We have two diving coaches, Krystlin Swift and Jenny Ullman, who have done a great job with her,” McLaughlin said.

As for the future, the team looks to be in good hands with swimmers such as junior Maddie Franke, sophomore Emily Rothamel and freshman Taylor Waddleton all stepping up big this season for the team. Franke broke the 50 and 100 freestyle records this past season, and her times have dropped tremendously.

Waddleton has credited the coaching staff and the quality training they have provided the team.

“I’ve had problems swimming smarter rather than harder during meets, but the coaches have helped me swim a lot smarter in meets this season,” Waddleton said.

With the loss of only two seniors this year, Franke believes this is just the start of big things to come for the women’s swim program.

Looking into next year, we now have the confidence to beat teams like Ramapo and TCNJ, and [and look forward to] even giving Rowan a run for their money at NJAC title,” Franke said.
"In America, the President reigns for four years, but Journalism governs forever." – Oscar Wilde

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New York Red Bulls II Defeats Swope Park Rangers, 3-1, in Season Opener

The New York Red Bulls (NYRB) II defeated the Swope Park Rangers, 3-1, on Saturday afternoon in their United Soccer League (USL) Championship season opener at MSU Soccer Park. A brace from Tom Barlow and a goal from Marcus Epps secured the three points for NYRB II who started the season in dominating fashion.

NYRB II's first game of the 2019 USL Championship featured a rematch of the 2016 USL Cup Final against Swope Park Rangers – sporting Kansas City's USL affiliate – which resulted in a 5-1 victory for John Wolyniec's men. Saturday's encounter marked just the second time the two sides faced each other.

Early in the first half, NYRB II quickly dictated the pace of the game and presented a constant threat to the Rangers' backline. Within the first 15 minutes, NYRB II had an astonishing five shots on target, with none of them being converted to a goal. The first 15 minutes also featured a NYRB II side that proved too much to handle for the Rangers, with constant counterattacks and dominant ball possession, along with Epps having the backline on their toes with constant runs.

The Rangers struggled to keep the ball when it was in their possession and quickly lost it due to a lack of communication that went from the backline to the midfield. Still, the game remained scoreless with NYRB II failing to put the ball behind the back of the net.

The finishing problems continued in the 25th minute when Florian Valot provided Barlow with a slick through ball, leaving him one-on-one against Rangers goalie Eric Dick inside the box, again resulting in another grand save.

Barlow’s luck changed one minute later when Epps provided a through ball from midfield, with Barlow beating Rangers' backline to the ball, then beating Dick to the ball to Then shoot toward an empty goal when Jerome Mbekeli made his way past a struggling Allen Yanes, delivering a cross from the right flank to Felipe Hernandez who fired a first touch shot from inside the box passed NYRB II's Evan Louro.

The second half featured a NYRB II side that looked to seal the game once and for all, avoiding to start the season letting points slip at home, a problem the team suffered last season due to allowing last minutes goals at MSU Soccer Park.

After an incredible display in the first half in which Epps tallied an assist and created multiple opportunities to score, Epps was rewarded with his first goal of the season and first goal as a NYRB II player in the 55th minute. After a breakthrough from Vincent Bezecourt in which he dribbled past multiple Rangers players, Bezecourt passed to Epps, who, from outside the box, curled in a shot to the top right corner beating Dick.

In the 62nd minute Barlow sealed the game, scoring his second goal of the game. Assisted by Jared Stroud, who entered in the second half for Valot, through ball, Barlow went one-on-one against Dick and this time slipped it past the back of the net. The goal cemented the victory and was Stroud's, who led the team in assists last season (11), first assist of the season.

For the remainder of the game, NYRB II continued to create opportunities but ultimately settled for the 3-1 victory in front of a crowd of 727 spectators at MSU Soccer Park. NYRB II's next game will be on Saturday, March 24th against Nashville SC at MSU Soccer Park with kickoff set for 1 p.m.