Montclair State graduates celebrate their accomplishments at the 2018 commencement ceremony.

Rosaria Lo Presti  
Staff Writer

Montclair State University students are counting down the days until commencement while preparing to ace their final exams. While their college experience has been filled with hard work and stress, it has also been filled with lots of memories and fun times.

Even though the seniors are moving on from their time as an undergraduate student, most are going the extra mile to achieve their Master’s degree at Montclair State.

Graduating senior Lucas Biel is an exercise science major who believes that Montclair State is one of the most underrated schools in the area. “I believe that people can receive a great education here, especially if you make a connection with the professors,” Biel said. “I also just had an interview here for the Master’s program to continue studying exercise science.”

Several seniors praise their professors as well as university staff for a successful career at Montclair State. They have helped many students receive a proper education and achieve the grades needed to succeed.

Graduating senior and nutrition major, Amanda DeCandia, has described each individual year of college as “unique” and different. She also agrees that her professors have directed her to follow the right path in order to achieve her goals. “I’ve been here for three years, and it’s been very different each year. I’ve developed close relationships with my professors and they’ve helped me figure out which direction I want to go in,” DeCandia said. “Montclair State has been a bit of a roller coaster, but I don’t regret it at all and I’m excited to graduate.”

Montclair State offers many programs that encourage students to experience different work categories of their chosen major.

Graduating senior Anna Kwiatek is also a nutrition major and she believes that Montclair State has offered her “life-changing experiences.” “I took every opportunity I could to get here. Whether it was participating in clubs or working at them with the fitness programs, I’ve used nutrition and health in all aspects. This has helped me develop the connections I need in the future,” Kwiatek said. “I’m super excited to graduate. I’m definitely going to be emotional but it will be the greatest thing ever.”

The undergraduate seniors at Montclair State have had a great college experience, and they are excited to graduate on May 24 at Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.

Crossword puzzle & more on p. 15
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. All submissions to the newspaper become property of The Montclarion. We do not print articles from anonymous contributors.

Writers and Contributors
Sierra Craig, Sarah Choudhry, Dominique Evans, Anthony Gabbiarulli, Chapalia Germain, Zoe Glenasos, Thomas McNulty, Fiorella Medina, Kristen Milburn, Saraya Mittra, Robert O’Connor, Javier Reyes, Brian Rooney, Olivia Paz, Priscilla De La Rosa, John Slahor, Tiffany Baskerville, Haley Wells

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 Wins 6 First Place Awards in NJPF College Newspaper Contest

Haley Wells
Former Editor-in-Chief

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 "Tales of Hijabi Women: How a Scarf Can Impact Everyday Life" respectively. 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 third place for Web Project. A second place win was given to "Moldy Montclair State Makes Mighty Mistake" for Editorial Writing.

The awards did not stop at just writing for The Montclarion. The Photography and Online Video categories also saw first place wins. "From Belmar to Team USA" won first place for Photography and "A Mother’s Loss" grabbed the first place spot for Online Video. "Coca-Cola’s Blind Tasting Event Offered the Classic Refreshment with a Fresh New Twist" took third place for Online Video.

Staff members that nabbed wins 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 attended the NJ Collegiate Press Spring Awards Luncheon on Saturday, April 13, where plaques were given to the winners of the contest.
Former Montclair State Employee Pleads Guilty to Distributing Child Pornography

Adrianna Caraballo
News Editor

Samuel LaSala, a former Montclair State University Information Technology (IT) department member, is set to be sentenced in January of 2019 for child pornography.

According to the United States Attorney’s office, LaSala had a laptop that contained videos of child sexual abuse. He shared these videos with others over the internet, making the videos available to download using an online peer-to-peer file sharing network.

LaSala admitted that he had over 100 videos on his laptop depicting child sex acts, and he was in possession of those videos between May 2017 and January 2018.

Pleading guilty to the distribution of these videos guarantees LaSala a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison or a minimum five years as well as a fine of $250,000.

On Aug. 23, Montclair State was informed by LaSala that he was being investigated by the United States Department of Homeland Security for distribution of child pornography.

“The university suspended Mr. LaSala, cooperated fully with the Department of Homeland Security investigation, and simultaneously commenced its own parallel forensic investigation of university equipment to which Mr. LaSala had access,” said Director of Media Relations, Communications and Marketing Erika Bleiberg.

No pornographic imagery was found on the campus computers, since LaSala used his own laptop to store and share the videos he collected.

“We feel it’s important to clarify that the images were found on Mr. LaSala’s personal computer, not on any equipment belonging to the university,” Bleiberg said.

According to Montclair State’s University Police Capt. Kieran Barrett, there was administrative action taken to ensure that the computers were clean, but the main investigation on LaSala was handled by the federal government.

“Because this matter is still ongoing and my client has not yet been sentenced, I can not comment on the matter,” Rotella said.

On-Campus Vigil Brings Tears, Songs and Hope for Change

Haley Wells
Former Editor-in-Chief

A vigil on campus allowed students to talk and have a moment of silence for recent tragedies and the lives lost within them.

On a cold Tuesday night, students, faculty and Montclair State University employees shivered and gathered together for a vigil. Everyone formed a vast circle of about 50 people in front of the Student Center and united to commemorate lives lost in recent tragedies in the news.

Tragedies have been scattered across the latest headlines, most prominently, Saturday’s shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, which resulted in 11 deaths and multiple injuries. Just last week, two African-Americans in a Kentucky grocery store parking lot were killed, and a dozen packaged explosives were sent to political officials including former presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton.

Undeclared freshman Corinne Podolski believes that highlighting these tragedies and urging people to vote in the upcoming election are the most important steps that we can take to allow our community to see anger.

“I believe it’s important to come together in this moment to allow our community to see that we are here for each other and everyone,” Rusticus said.

“We need to provide support and make sure we start making positive changes by working together,” Podolski said.

Papers with the names of people who died in the Pittsburgh shooting were distributed. Volunteers went around in a circle to read off each name while proving a moment of silence for each victim announced.

An open forum also occurred, enabling students to share their thoughts if they wanted to.

“Hate cannot drive out darkness,” Strayhorn sang during his speech. “Only light can do that.”

Patrolwoman Amanda Rusticus of the University Police Department thinks unifying on campus is a good way to show support for the community.

“I believe it’s important to come together in this moment to allow our community to see that we are here for each other and everyone,” Rusticus said.

“We need to provide support and make sure we start making positive changes by working together. We are here to keep all the families in our prayers,” Assistant Director of Residence Life Hamal Strayhorn gave a speech about “the light” being the force of change for allies – something he said people should seek.

“I think it’s important for all of us to realize that we are part of humanity and that we’re all interconnected,” Strayhorn said.

Canter Meredith Greenberg sang songs and played slow melodies on her guitar to fit the tone of the vigil. The crowd sang along with her and learned the meaning behind her songs.
Video Goes Viral on First Day of Classes

A screenshot from the video shot by Jaffer Mehdi depicts Montclair State police arriving at the scene of a fight and making multiple arrests.

Heather Berzak
Editor-in-Chief

As the first day of classes began bright and early, Montclair State University found itself in the midst of a controversy by the afternoon after a video circulated Twitter of an arrest made by Montclair State police officers.

A fight broke out near the NJ Transit lot at Cleve Road and Village Road around 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Multiple University Police Department vehicles showed up, guns were drawn by officers and two men who mutually entered the fight were arrested.

Senior history major Jaffer Mehdi recorded the scene while inside of the NJ Transit parking garage once the police arrived. His video soon went viral.

The video shows the first officer yelling at the young men to put their hands up as a second cop car, an officer questioning the complainant and officers removing the handcuffs from the other vehicle occupants, questioning them as well.

Some people took to social media to say the officers were properly doing their job. Others think it was an example of police abusing their power.

Junior finance major Melissa Cepera believed that people think it was an example of police abusing their power.

The video ends with police taking the resistor to a second cop car, an officer questioning the complainant and officers removing the handcuffs from the other vehicle occupants, questioning them as well.

The opts in the video may be unclear, the reality is that the officers acted according to New Jersey Attorney General guidelines and the process worked.

Mehdi said before he started filming, he heard a verbal dispute that lead to physical contact, but he did not know the nature of the dispute.

“As the first responding officer arrived on scene, the men stopped fighting, unlike Montclair [State says] in their statement,” Mehdi said. “From that point on is on the video.”

While Mehdi thought the police department's stop procedure was appropriate, he believes they still used excessive force beyond the initial stop.

“The stop was procedure, but to have three guns pointed at these men is not right,” Mehdi said. "There were ten plus police and three out of four men complied and still had guns pointed at them. A police officer instructed the passenger to get out of the vehicle and the man complied with his hands up, but yet he was thrown from the car and had a gun pointed at him."

According to a statement from the Director of Media Relations at Montclair State Erika Bleiberg, nonstudent Bruce Allen was arrested for simple assault. The two other students in the car were later released.

Joe Biden and Mikkie Sherrill made an appearance on campus that day as well to promote Sherrill’s campaign run for New Jersey Congress. However, police were playing more roles than just security and escorts for the event at University Hall.

Mehdi said he's been told to take down the video by friends of the officers and students satisfied with how the police handled the situation. He even has received messages suggesting the video changed prospective students' decisions to apply to the university.

Montclair State PD Under Fire After Campus Arrest

The officers then removed two remaining men from the vehicle and took them to the ground with another gun drawn, handcuffing them as well. The video ends with police taking the resistor to a second cop car, an officer questioning the complainant and officers removing the handcuffs from the other vehicle occupants, questioning them as well.

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Cold Consequences: The Aftermath of Montclair State’s Snowy Nightmare

Haley Wells
Former Editor-in-Chief

Students and faculty were stuck in traffic for several hours following the surprising snowfall on Thursday night. Jaclyn Hartwig gathered with her friends in Machuga Heights Thursday night. The crew lounged around and chatted with each other about how bad the snowstorm was outside.

However, the reality of the storm set in when she received an email notifying her that her building’s heat was not working.

“I went to [my friend’s] vent and it was coming out cold, said the junior family science and human development major. “I went to my dorm, and it was still coming out cold. That is when I knew everyone lost heat.”

Hartwig mentioned that going to a warm hotel was not an option because Uber rides were charging over $100 and the roads were stalled.

“The heat thing I’m just annoyed with,” Hartwig said. “I don’t want to stand in a cold dorm, but where else are we going to go?”

Lack of heat was just one consequence of the terrible snowstorm that hit New Jersey on Thursday night. Roads were backed up for several hours and students/faculty were stuck in traffic for long periods of time. Weather reports forecast 2 to 4 inches of snow but increased their predictions to 6 to 8 inches as the night went on.

University public relations detailed in an emailed statement how police and facilities personnel regularly observe weather reports on a hyperlocal level, with expert consultants at WeatherWorks as well as the Essex County Office of Emergency Management. “Yesterday, however, our meteorologists and their colleagues across the region got it very wrong,” said university public relations in the email. “We suddenly found ourselves dealing with a storm that came quickly and dumped considerably more snow than expected. The precipitation didn’t turn to rain, but rather accumulated on the ground and roadways as snow and ice.”

Montclair State’s University Police Department helped direct cars in the stalled traffic. Campus roads were not able to be plowed because of the heavy traffic. Salt was not sprinkled on the roads either. Police Capt. Kieran Barrett explained the reason behind the traffic jams.

“This was an unprecedented statewide impact snowstorm that also greatly affected our traffic here at MSU,” Barrett said in an email. “As a hub connected to artery highways that were also at a complete standstill, traffic was backed up on campus because cars couldn’t get to and on the highways.”

Barrett also mentioned a fire in Montclair that created more traffic for people leaving campus.

“In addition, Montclair town traffic was disrupted by a house fire that diverted traffic to roads close to the campus. Cars couldn’t get off campus because everything around us was stopped,” Barrett said in the email. “Officers also responded to numerous motor vehicle accidents and emergencies. Our recommendation to any person stranded was to move their car to a safe location off the road and find warm shelter on campus, as there was no remedy to solve the chaotic off-campus traffic that left us locked here on campus.”

The university sent out emails and text message blasts during Thursday to update students about road conditions and class schedules. The shuttle services were suspended around 5:30 p.m., and classes starting at 5:30 p.m. and beyond were later canceled as well. The university encouraged students to remain inside until the roads cleared up.

Most dining places on campus closed early at 7 p.m. on Thursday night, but Freeman Hall closed at 8:30 p.m., Red Hawk Diner at 9 p.m., Sam’s Place at 9:30 p.m. and Bantlon Plaza at 10 p.m.

The Student Center stayed open all night and gave out free ham and cheese sandwiches to hungry students stuck on campus.

Natascha Komarnicki, a senior double majoring in Spanish and German, was one of the students who stopped in the Student Center to find food. “It was a really nice gesture,” Komarnicki said. “We were all actually really excited to get food because everything else was closed.”

Commuter students, like freshman fashion studies major Fatou Amar, were stuck on campus because roads were backed up. Amar was hanging out on campus after a fashion show rehearsal for the Native African Student Organization. She was supposed to take a NJ Transit bus home, but the bus did not come and Uber rides were around $100.

Amar and her three friends walked back to their friend Amanda Idiong’s apartment in Hawk Crossings, as they were stuck on campus and needed a place to sleep. “I have back pain [from sleeping on the floor],” Amar said. “But it wasn’t that bad though.”

Other commuter students left campus to try and beat the storm. Senior journalism major Tiffany Baskerville left during her class at 4 p.m. to head home early. Unfortunately, she ended up waiting for 2 hours at the Montclair Heights train station for a train to show up.

“The commute to the city was 2+ hours and accidents everywhere,” Lazarus said in an email. “Our CEO [of the foundation] never even made it. It’s our biggest fundraiser of the year.”

The university opened at 11 a.m. on Friday morning. Classes at 11:30 a.m. and later were held on schedule. Residence Life also emailed students about when dining options and shuttle services would be available throughout the day.

“This storm, as is often the case with weather, was not in anyone’s control,” said university public relations in the emailed statement. “We ask that the university community recognize the administration’s primary concerns are always driven by the well-being of our community. In this case, we were all victims of the fickleness of nature. Last night, we did our best to make the best decisions possible, given the information we had.”

“The walkway between Cafe Diem and the School of Communication and Media is now plowed and clear of any snow.

Anthony Gabbarroni | The Montclarion

- Montclair State University Police

Captain Kieran Barrett
Congratulations Study Abroad Alumni and Graduates!

“Wherever you go, Go with all your heart.”

Confucius
Daniela Vega, a 22-year-old Montclair State student, holds an LGBTQ flag in her hands as she poses for a photo on Monday, Feb. 18.

Chanila German | The Montclarion

#GirlsWhoLikeGirls: Montclair State Student Reveals the Struggles of the LGBTQ+ Community in Peru

Chanila German
Staff Writer

When 17-year-old Daniela Vega decided to uproot her life in Peru and move to the United States, she did it for three reasons. First, college was an unlikely possibility for her since she lacked financial support in her native country. Second, she believed an American degree could open doors for her both domestically and internationally. Third, the idea of being allowed to love who she wanted and be herself intrigued her.

Vega, now a 22-year-old Montclair State University student, discovered she liked girls while attending a private Catholic school in Lima, Peru. Her school, according to Vega, was conservative and tried to “keep the heteronormativity” among students. Vega explained how her only formal introduction to same-sex relationships was through media, which portrayed more gay men than lesbians.

Vega explained how her only formal introduction to same-sex relationships was through media, which portrayed more gay men than lesbians. “I was young, but still capable of understanding that women can be with anybody they want, not only men,” Vega said. “I was told before that men have freedom. Men can have sex and enjoy it, and they can go out and be free. But women have to be virgins and stay virgins until marriage.”

To date, civil unions and same-sex marriage are not legally allowed in Peru. According to the most recent report by the U.S. Department of State, 85 percent of Peruvians identified their religion as Catholic. Vega believes religion was part of the reason the LGBTQ+ community was not able to gain proper recognition in Peru.

“We are all individuals, like we do with non-LGBTQ+ people” to make “them feel included and not especially different,” Arias said. “I study political science and we try to impose public policies that consider them,” Arias said. “I also like to think about them as individuals that have the terrible problem of being ignored by the state, and we need to fight against that, of course.”

According to Peru’s constitution, all citizens have the right to be treated equally under the law. “No person shall be discriminated on the basis of origin, race, gender, language, religion, opinion, economic situation or any other reason,” it said.

While sexual orientation and gender identity are not specifically mentioned, legislation was passed in 2012 to prevent hate crimes against the LGBTQ+ community. However, according to a study conducted by the Center for the Promotion and
Defense of Sexual and Reproductive Rights (PROMSEX), hate crimes have only gotten worse.

A graduate coordinator for the Multicultural Center at Montclair State, Charles Simonson, explained that the LGBTQ+ community faces a lot of discrimination and hate crimes.

“I do think that we face a lot of bashing, especially if you are not passing as a cis-gender or masculine person,” Simonson said. “If you are someone that identifies as a woman, and you are not passing as a feminine woman, then you are more accessible to become a target to people. We do live in a world [where there are] hateful people that don’t understand us or who we are. They take that and they act upon it, so we do face a lot of discrimination, bashing and even physical [violence].”

Vega explained that she enjoys living in the United States because she can wear her “loose jeans and flannel shirts” and not be stared down or called a “dyke” like in Peru. Still, she admitted she loves her country and hopes to live there again regardless of whether or not same-sex marriage becomes legalized.

“I am ready to kind of deal with it and be like, ‘Yes, I am gay, I’m Peruvian, I’m living in Lima, and I am going to be myself.’”

-Daniela Vega
The average woman spends around six years of her life.total shedding the lining of her uterus. It sounds as uncomfortable as it often feels. Many women deal with acne breakouts, menstrual cramps, back pain, mood swings and other inconvenient monthly complications.

We use Midol, chocolate and feminine hygiene products to ease the continuation of our fixed routines. Depending on the individual, periods last between four and ten days and 70 percent of American women use tampons to remain active, according to CNN.

This means most women buy an average of 11,000 to 16,000 tampons within their life time. However, not all women have equal access to feminine hygiene products and access is only half the battle.

Women at Montclair State University make up 61 percent of the undergraduate student body and 71 percent of graduate students, according to Montclair State’s website.

This is not reflected by the limited stock and nonexistent variety at the on-campus locations where pads and tampons are available. For a female population of over 13,000 students, there is little to no thought about the products that our sisters, mothers, daughters and friends use at least 11,000 of in their lifetime.

According to a Montclarion article from January of this year, the Red Hawk Pantry’s most popular items include feminine hygiene products. Campus restrooms often have tampon and pad dispensers. Some dispensers charge a quarter a tampon and some are free. This sporadically varies building to building; additionally some of the machines on campus are empty, jammed or broken. These containers and campus stores are stocked with Tampax tampons, Always pads and Maxithins pads.

The University Health Center has free Maxithins pads, which are the same as those in the free bathroom dispensers. Feminine hygiene products can also be found at the bookstore, the Blanton Outtakes Market and in one vending machine on the bottom floor of the Student Center.

At nearly double the retail price, all period products on campus are costly. However, we live in one of 12 U.S. states that doesn’t tax tampons and pads.

Senior communication and media arts major Kristin Perretti is disappointed that more than half the country continues to tax products that should be considered a basic necessity.

“It’s frustrating and really makes no sense,” Perretti said. “Our country treats periods as this inconvenience. I mean, even the president has joked about that once. It gets old.”

Perretti expressed further frustration about stigmas of going through periods.

“It’s a naturally occurring thing that all women have to go through, and the stigma is obnoxious,” Perretti. “The fact that capitalism takes advantage of the stigma is even more frustrating.”

Most tampons today are composed of rayon and fluff pulp and hardly any cotton is used in modern mass produced tampons. Rayon is associated with the increased likelihood of toxic shock syndrome; the fibers are bleached for appearance and can end up stuck to the vaginal wall.

The organization, Women’s Voices for Earth (WVE), works to remove harmful chemical exposure from American households. WVE tested a variety of Tampax, Always and U Kotex pads and tampons, and found the products contained varying levels of carbon disulfide.

According to the study performed by Krzysztof Sieja, Jarosław von Mach-Szczypiłski, their results “detected carbon disulfide emissions from all four tampons that contain rayon, but it was not detected in either of the all-cotton tampons.”

The two brands most widely distributed on Montclair State’s campus are full of chemicals that can cause hormonal disruption, early menopause and chemical imbalances in young women.

Senior business administration major Elaina Dzirko appreciates that Montclair State provides access to low-cost feminine hygiene products, but is also concerned about the potential health risks of their ingredients.

“I’m flabbergasted,” Dzirko said. “I’m glad that there are free products provided on campus because you might not be able to afford it or may forget to bring your own, but I’m going to have to do more research on what I was exposing my body to.”

The quality of feminine hygiene products makes a world of difference. Companies like Cora, Lola and Natracare sell feminine hygiene products made from pesticide-free organic cotton. These brands are built on a holistic-
Erin Webb Will Stab You With a Needle and Be Happy About it

Kristen Milburn
Staff Writer

Russ Hall opened in 1915 as the first residence hall at Montclair State University. It housed students studying to be teachers, was used briefly as an administrative building and now serves as the makeshift tattoo parlor for Erin Webb, whose brightly colored hair and heavily tattooed arms might differ slightly from the appearance of Russ’ first residents.

Webb, a senior English major who prefers the pronouns “they” and “their,” lives on the renovated fourth floor of the building where the angled walls and exposed water pipes make it hard to forget that their room was once an attic. Nestled between the pipes and Polaroids of their adored nephew, Killian, Webb created a makeshift tattoo parlor for Erin Webb, whose brightly colored hair and heavily tattooed arms might differ slightly from the appearance of Russ’ first residents.

Webb first gave themselves a tattoo when they were 13 after watching “Foxfire,” in which Angelina Jolie’s character gives herself a chest tattoo. Webb grabbed a ballpoint pen and a sewing needle and gave themselves a tattoo of an asterisk without doing any additional research about proper tattoo methods. Jolie must have been a good first teacher because it didn’t get infected. However, Webb has used better tools ever since, especially when tattooing others, a now common occurrence.

Their soft-spoken nature and excellent tattoo skills have made them a go-to for other students looking to get tattoos. Webb has given over 20 people tattoos in one evening. People gathered to talk and listen to music as Webb sat on their desk chair and gave people permanent tattoos as calmly as if they were drawing on their friends with a Sharpie marker. Clare Miller, a junior dance major, received her first tattoo that evening.

Miller was nervous and gripped her friend’s hand to distract her from the pain. Webb told her jokes and asked her questions about her interests while etching a puzzle piece on the back of Miller’s neck. Miller winced with each stab of the needle, but Webb’s calm and friendly demeanor helped her remember she was in good hands.

Not many bosses would trust their employees to give them a tattoo, but that’s exactly what Rebecca Mungiole, Webb’s service assistant coordinator, did. Mungiole has a number of professional tattoos, but went to Webb for a tattoo of the “Harry Potter” glasses and lightning bolt.

Mungiole said that her experience getting a tattoo from Webb was unlike any of her professional experiences because Webb was friendly and made it a fun experience.

Webb refuses to accept payment for tattoos, insisting that they started giving themselves more tattoos when they couldn’t afford to get them professionally done, so they want to keep it cheap for other people as well.

“I don’t like asking people to pay me, because what if they don’t like it?” Webb said. “I have a weird barter system if people really want to give me something. I have been paid in pizza, vanilla Coke and Jager. I will also accept herbal refreshments.”

One of Webb’s coworkers, Kaitlyn Kirgan, emphasized Webb’s unexpected kindness.

“[Webb is like] Baymax, but with tattoos and hair they dye a new color every other week,” Kirgan said. “People look at them and think that they might be mean or scary, but they’re the sweetest person I’ve ever met.”

It is clear from Webb’s freely-given hugs and smiles that they genuinely care about the well-being of others and do their best to be a positive impact on other people.

Webb takes the assumptions other people make about them in stride.

“People have told me that they judge people who have tattoos or piercings, and they should work on that,” Webb said. “Some of the nicest and friendliest people I know have a lot of tattoos. Having tattoos doesn’t mean anything other than what you wanted to get a tattoo.”

With their changing hair colors, piercings and affinity for tattoos, Webb might not be what the Montclair administration envisioned a typical resident would look like when they built Russ Hall. However, Webb embodies the generosity, kindness and creativity institutions of higher education strive to instill in all of their students.

“Don’t forget to mention that I’m gay,” Webb said. “Otherwise, I’d be pretty boring.”
Montclair State University students waited in line as their taste buds screamed with excitement to try out the new Diet Coke flavors. Montclair State Coca-Cola Campus Ambassador Nicole Fidalgo held a blind tasting event in the lobby of the Student Center. Students had to put a blindfold on to taste and guess five of the new Diet Coke flavors.

Two of the flavors – strawberry guava and blueberry acai – were recently announced in January while the other three – ginger lime, twisted mango and feisty cherry – were announced back in January 2018. At first, many students were hesitant to try out the flavors since a lot of them don’t drink diet soda. However, their minds were changed as soon as their taste buds had the first sip.

Michelle Ramires, a senior majoring in marketing, assisted Fidalgo with the event and shared that she was surprised by how much she enjoyed Coca-Cola’s new flavors considering they are all diet options.

“I was never really a Coca-Cola lover until I tried out the new flavors,” Ramires said. “They are all so refreshing, and you can’t even tell that it is diet soda.”

The Coca-Cola team spoke to over 10,000 people from all over the world for new flavor ideas. From the feedback they got back from their fans, Coca-Cola and their research and development team made and tested over 30 new flavors. However, they only launched the ones that received the most positive response from their consumers.

Amy Sheridan, a freshman majoring in nutrition and food science, was impressed by the branding of Coca-Cola’s new flavors as well as their taste.

“The twisted mango and the feisty cherry were my favorite ones,” Sheridan said. “The flavors were so smooth, and I really like the cool, unique and original names they gave their new flavors.”

After 35 years, Coca-Cola redesigned their packaging to a sleek new look in 2018 to appeal to their new thirsty audience and for their old fans. It’s still the same bold flavor they love just with an updated modern look.

Junior psychology major Daniel Brea felt that the new packaging made the flavors stand out.

“I definitely like the cans a lot better, Brea said. “The different colors makes them pop out more and I’m sure that if those were seen on shelves customers would want to grab them right away. I know I would.”

This very successful event couldn’t have been possible without Fidalgo, a senior majoring in marketing who landed an internship during the summer of 2018 to be a campus ambassador for Coca-Cola.

Fidalgo got the job thanks to one of her marketing professors at Montclair State, who would give her internships to apply to every week. Eventually, she was interviewed and got this internship.

Coca-Cola flew her out, all expenses paid, to the Coca-Cola headquarters located in Atlanta. There she trained for a week, got to meet other campus ambassadors from different universities and top leaders from the company, including the president of Coca-Cola of North America.

Her internship consists of partnering with Montclair State Dining Service Marketing Manager Lindsey Anderson to set up different sampling events throughout the semester to promote Coca-Cola and receive students’ feedback and their insights on the products.

Fidalgo has held many different events on campus. She had a Fanta event in October 2018 where students got to try out Fanta’s newest flavor, green apple, and watch the popular spooky movie “Hocus Pocus.” She also did a Christmas event where students had the chance to win prizes and take pictures with Santa Claus. In 2019, she kicked off the year with the Diet Coke blind tasting event to introduce the new flavors to the campus.

“I’ve been so lucky to be given this opportunity to work with such an amazing company,” Fidalgo said. “I really look forward to keep on sharing my experience with [Montclair State] and hoping students and faculty get excited for future events that are being planned.”

Fidalgo hopes to be a creative director and continue working with social media or online marketing one day. She sees herself as a team leader in a management position or, hopefully, as her own boss.

Visit themontclarion.org to view a video of student reactions.
The Mirror Project: A Reflection of Mental Health

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.

Visit themontclarion.org to view a video of student reactions.
### Help Wanted

#### JOBS AND CLASSIFIEDS

Seeking Babysitter Week of 4/29. Rate per hour: $14 - $17
Mon., Thurs. and Friday Afternoon 3 – 6 pm. Experienced babysitter for 11 year old son in Nutley for after school hours next week. Monday, Thursday and Friday from 3 – 6 pm, some local driving needed. Occasional sitting in future. Please contact Linda at 973-508-8868, leave message on voice-mail.

10-15/hour / NANNY NEEDED, LITTLE FALLS
Looking for a nanny for two high school age kids (age 15, boy & girl) starting ASAP. Responsibilities include picking up at Paramus Catholic High School, transporting to and from after school activities and nearby towns, helping with homework until dad gets home. Two to four days during the week. Some weekend hours. Regular hours are 3pm-6/630pm Monday through Friday. Prior experience with children is preferred, but not necessary; use of own reliable vehicle is required. If interested, please call Lee: (201) 396-1499

Do You Want a Car? 2001 Hyundai Accent For Sale “AS IS” for $900 United States Dollars; currently, mileage is around 120,000. Please don’t delay, you are welcome to call 862-576-2882 between 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM in April, 2019, May, 2019 and/or June, 2019.

#### LEARN TO DRIVE!

Before/After School Sitter Needed for two Montclair Preschoolers. Our much loved, long-time sitter is graduating and we’re looking for a responsible, creative, energetic go-getter to help care for our almost 3 and almost 5 year old son and daughter in Montclair. Approximately 30 hour/week: Monday – Thurs. 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 – 8:00 p.m. Perfect for a college student as we have some flexibility with the hours and opportunity for occasional date night/weekend hours, but applicants must have early morning and early evening availability. Responsibilities will include school drop off and pickup, transportation/supervision for after school activities, light meal prep for breakfast and dinner, packing lunches, getting kids ready for bed, kids laundry, etc. We are a casual, fun-loving family and are looking for someone who is imaginative, caring and truly loves young children. Must have clean driving record, at least 2 references and prior experience with toddlers and elementary schoolers (preferably in a nursery school, camp or other academic environment). Please contact Devin at Montclairfam@gmail.com

Female sitter for one girl (age 7) start date flexible, $15/hr. in Upper Montclair. Responsibilities include picking up at school (pick up at school at 2:30), end 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 (6:30am-8:15am) and /or someone who would be interested in an occasional overnight (private bedroom & bathroom on 3rd floor). Also ideal if someone is looking to pick up additional hours over the summer (avg 20-30 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: rsvp2786@hotmail.com

S2Y/ Childcare, UPPER MONTCAIL求 Full-time childcare for two teens (girl, age 14, & boy, age 16). Responsibilities include some shuttling to & from after-school activities (our car or yours), dog walking, light shopping, & dinner preparation. Children are easy-going & independent (eg, will help with dinner prep, clean-up, & their own chores, including pet care). Hours are Thursdays – Saturday, 5-10 pm, with some variability. Prior experience preferred, references please. If interested, please email: davidamarel@yahoo.com.

### Classifieds

#### JOBS AND CLASSIFIEDS

**Help Wanted**

**JOBS / MAJORS / SUMMER CAMP**

Ramapo Country Day Camp is looking for college counselors to make a difference with elementary campers. Camp Dates: July 1 to August 23. M-F 9-4. The working environment is enjoyable, creative, positive, and perfect for the summer. A huge resume booster for teachers. You’ll gain valuable “classroom” experience with a specific age group. We are looking for people who see camp as something they “get to do”, not “have to do”. Email: brian@ramapocamp.com

**OTHER ARE YOU IN CRISIS OR STRUGGLING? HEALING, HOPE AND HELP CAN HAPPEN!**

Please CALL the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (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.

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**LOVE TO DRAW?**

Submit your comics/cartoons to The Montclarion at montclarionproduction@gmail.com

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**RAMPAGE COMICS**

**PERSONALITY IS EVERYTHING IN ART AND WRITING**

**LOVE TO DRAW?**

Submit your comics/cartoons to The Montclarion at montclarionproduction@gmail.com
The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

Summer Edition

Across
2. A common summer activity involving grilled food.
4. A state that basically has summer year-round.
5. The month summer starts in.
6. What a lot of people go on over summer break.
7. What you always have to remember to put on in the summer.

Down
1. What month we celebrate Independence Day in.
2. A popular place to go in the summer.
3. What the seniors attend before they leave Montclair State.

Word Search

Sudoku

*For answers to the puzzles, please check The Montclarion Facebook page every Thursday.*
Moldy Montclair Makes Mighty Mistake

Every student becomes excited to depart from their parents’ arms and to finally call their dorm room home. Let’s not forget to remind ourselves about how much money parents and students have to fork over to live on university campuses. But what happens when you start getting sick from mold that you did not even know was there and the university shrugs it off?

As students reside in residence halls, it becomes a second home for them. Students invite their friends over, do homework and overall just live there while school is in session. With mold growing in certain dorms here at Montclair State University, the student on-campus living experience becomes a health risk.

When falling upon the University Facilities website, Montclair State University has an entire section dedicated to mold, which is somewhat concerning. The guidelines are provided by the State of New Jersey’s Department of Health, which also makes people worrisome. It makes one wonder if this is a common problem in colleges around the state.

For those who are not familiar with University Facilities, the newly built facility sits in Lot 60. This facility is grouped with a bunch of other services offered at Montclair State, which include the shuttle and postal services, maintenance and engineering along with many other departments. Regarding the mold situation, the sector of University Facilities that students would deal with is Environmental Health & Safety.

On the website, it lists what mold is, the description of the fungi and where and why mold can occur. As there are health risks listed too, Montclair State uses the excuse that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not have any guidelines or limits for this type of issue and that they can not determine if the mold is necessary for testing. This also falls on the EPA for not protecting students from mold by not regulating any standards for colleges.

If a student were to find mold in their dorm, Montclair State recommends that they report any mold issues to Resident Assistants via email. If I were to find mold in my dorm room, I would not just wait for someone to email me back. I would pick up the phone and complain as every student should with the amount of money we are paying.

Once the student files a complaint, the next step is for an inspection, then cleaning the area and sanitation of the area. When looking at the resources provided by Montclair State, there are a few links listed. One of them is provided by the EPA and the other is supposed to be a website about if there are regulations for universities, but the website does not match the link.

Once you click the second link, it automatically directs you toward the official Microsoft website. Since there are old resources online, that shows that the university has not updated their website in quite some time. This leads people to believe that the website is no longer updated with the correct information and may cause an issue for students and parents when following procedure.

As this is a process, imagine how much time the entire list of things to do will take by the Resident Assistants and the university. The amount of time the student has to reside in the dorm while the mold is still present is unsettling because this also affects your health in big ways, such as wheezing, difficulty breathing and maybe even hives.

Mold is also airborne, which means you might not even know that mold is in your living space. Imagine how much mold is not found in dorm rooms on campus because students are unaware of it. Are they suffering without even knowing mold may reside in their dorm rooms?

Montclair State students have even complained on social media regarding the mold. Other news stations have reported on Montclair State and even William Paterson University for having mold in dorm rooms. As this seems to be a problem with New Jersey universities, it makes one wonder when the EPA and other universities will push the change to make regulations for mold.

With the ongoing problem, it puts students who dorm at risk. Regulations need to change before it is too late.
Hale to the Chief

By DOMINIQUE EVANS
FORMER MANAGING EDITOR

My three years at The Montclarion feel impossible to sum up in one of the toughest articles I’ve had to write, and everyone knows that day I knew I have people who look up to me. Our accomplishments this year almost outweigh our fond memories. We created a video team, brought back crossword puzzles, invented special editions, won nine awards and overcame every obstacles we ran into along the way.

We even participated in the #FocusMigration project, where we posted on our social media accounts, hashtagged our own stories, wrote/edit articles and laid out a 32-page newspaper all in one day. Not to mention, most of those newspapers were completely cleared out by the next week.

I want to give a special shoutout to Dominique Evans, the former Managing Editor. I can’t believe it was a year ago when we were dreaming about running The Montclarion and thinking of all the changes we would make. We really did it. You were my rock this year, the true Yin to my Yang and the perfect balance to my personality. We did an amazing job recruiting and communicating with members of our staff.

I also want to thank Fiorella Medina, the former Chief Copy Editor. Without you and your bubbly happiness, I don’t know if I would have stayed on this staff all these years. You were the first person who talked to me at The Montclarion and we immediately clicked, sharing our “Harry Potter” houses and favorite Disney princesses. You are always there to brighten my day, and I will forever appreciate that.

I also want to shoutout professor Tara George, The Montclarion’s faculty advisor. You have seen my best and worst moods and have always been there to give me advice. You helped me become a better writer and a better leader. You were always here to encourage great writing in a world that feels like no one cares about that anymore.

I wish I could make a special thank you to every staff member, but alas, this word count. However, each person on this staff has touched my very tiny heart in some way, despite the heartless reputation I have tried to build. All of you are creative, innovative, hilarious and most importantly, faithful, and I will remember you all forever.

I leave the SCM with two things. First, please find more times to schedule colloquiums. The Montclarion has general body meetings at 2:30 p.m. and production day on Wednesdays. Second, writing is the foundation of good journalism. No future in journalism is a prospect one without superb writing/editing skills. Editing should be a required class and it should be the prerequisite to all other writing classes (which there should be more of).

Print might be on the global decline, but based on those trusty distributor sheets such as myself are proof of that. When Susan Cole, the president of the university, told me she has been able to give her red pen a break with the 2018-2019 editorial board, I felt a sense of pride in my work that is indescribable. My only hope for the future staff is that they can maintain this.

The understanding we have at the beginning of a story should not be the same as what we walk away with. The same can be said for the experiences we have in our lives. I know that what I am walking away with at the end of my time at The Montclarion is so much more than what I started with. This publication has made my college experience.

From changing positions and starting a video team all the way to winning several awards, these achievements are all a part of what has made my senior year unforgettable.

I am a better learner, thinker and teacher thanks to this publication. I’ve never felt prouder to be a part of a team and I am lucky to say I’ve spent the last three years working with so many of my best friends.

Dominique Evans, an English major, has been with the Montclarion for three years and will be graduating with the class of 2019.

Somehow, I Managed

By HALEY WELLS
FORMER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I have been with The Montclarion since I was a freshman. This organization has made me blossom into an outgoing and upbeat individual compared to the shy and anxious person I was four years ago. The memories and friendships I have created here are ones I will never forget.

From making up late night raps in the copyediting corner while The Center Annex wall was leaking all over our Kermit poster, to not turning the lights on until 7 p.m. in our beautiful, yet cramped, copyediting corner while the Student Center Annex was lit by the student-run multimedia news organization without taking a single journalism course. While I wish my degree left room for me to contribute to it. Two years later, we found ourselves in the bathroom of the newly built School of Communication and Media (SCM) that was lit by the New York City skyline, the traditions and comfortable routines between are ones I will always be grateful. Most of great people it has brought into my life.

The Montclarion and thinking of all the key people I knew and respected me. I will miss this entire experience so much.

Haley Wells, a communication and media arts major, has been with The Montclarion for three years and will be graduating with the class of 2019.

Farewell The Montclarion

Graduating editorial staff share their favorite memories and say their last goodbyes

In this moment, there will always be a moment that I will remember forever. I will remember everything that has happened and will happen from this moment on. This moment will be the end of the editing process and a moment of celebration.

To my successor Mackenzie Robertson, the managing editor job is what I knew I was meeting someone who know I was meeting someone who

The Montclarion and thinking of all the people who talked to me at The Montclarion and I immediately clicked, sharing our “Harry Potter” houses and favorite Disney princesses. You are always there to brighten my day, and I will forever appreciate that.

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Dominique Evans, an English major, has been with the Montclarion for three years and will be graduating with the class of 2019.
My Bottom of the Ninth

If you told me after my first semester of school that I would be working with some of my best friends at a newspaper, I wouldn’t have believed you. If you told me that I also would’ve been doing what I love each and every week in my very own section of that newspaper, I probably wouldn’t have believed you either. Now, I can’t believe it’s all over and I didn’t start earlier.

My freshman year was the complete opposite of where I am now. I was a commuter student who didn’t really know exactly what I wanted to do as a career. I liked sports and I liked writing, so maybe my future was in sports journalism. I learned about The Montclarion and knew that commuting from Wayne, New Jersey wasn’t how I was going to grow and become the writer and reporter I am today. I moved into Sinatra Hall the next September and joined the newspaper. That was the best decision I have ever made.

Interesting story: I was never a staff writer for The Montclarion. I wrote two articles before the former Sports Editor, Emma Cimo, asked me to be her assistant. I immediately told her “yes” and the rest was history.

In my junior year, I became the Sports Editor of The Montclarion and a dream of mine came true. When that year’s staff took over, we were still in the basement of the Student Center, leaving the office at midnight with sore eyes and aching backs to catch up on others.

It wasn’t until an email – which I considered my miracle – from the English department that said that the university’s newspaper was looking for new people. I took a journalism class in high school so I figured it was some experience, but I was wrong in the best way.

I walked into the little annex in the Student Center and was sure this was the first and last time I would enter that room. I was asked what I wanted to do, and as a scared little freshman, I said “anything.”

I now look back with gratitude because that’s how I ended up as a copy editor for four years.

I had no idea what I was doing my first day, but I faked it till I finally made it to senior year, learning on the way.

After getting involved in The Montclarion, I never felt like college was such a terrible thing. I became a part of something more than a newspaper – I became the little family for the first time, I didn’t hate college.

Wednesdays became my busiest yet favorite day. I got to do a job I loved, and hang out with people I grew to love. My favorite part was getting to read all of the stories before anyone else got their hands on it.

Even though there were changes along the way, whether it be the editing process or moving into a new building, the passion put into the newspaper was the same.

The Montclarion not only gave me a better college experience, but also gave me growth and opportunity. I went to new states, and became closer with the staff, which made our working environment open and friendly. I became a journalist shortly after joining, and took a different path than what I imagined I would do as an English major.

If I never became a journalism minor I would have hid behind editing and never would have written. I’m so glad I was pushed by many people, such as our adviser Tara George. Thank you, Tara, for believing in the newspaper staff when we didn’t believe in ourselves.

Thank you to The Montclarion newspaper for watching me grow into a better writer and editor. My 18-year-old self would have never imagined that this newspaper was going to change me for the better. I’ve had many obstacles in college, but the newspaper was always my safe haven.

I’ve watched many assistants, editors and writers come and go since my freshman year. I always had to meet a new staff, but the two that will always hold a special place in my heart are former Editor-in-Chief Haley Wells and former Managing Editor Dominique Evans. Ladies, thank you for starting your journey as copy babies when I needed help the most, and blossoming into your own positions. Thanks for always sticking around, you’ll both do great things.

I’d also like to thank my assistants, Jen Losos, Brielle Wyka, Priscilla Cartagena and Olivia Paz, who I never wanted to like my assistants, but my equals. Thank you ladies for making Wednesdays better and trusting me in my AP Stylebook. It’s nothing, but the best for you all and your endeavors.

Thank you to the AP Stylebook for saving me numerous times when I didn’t know what I was doing, and for being a backbone for late night edits. Thank you for teaching me better grammar.

Last but not least, thank you to the whole Montclarion staff for always being my family and for helping me grow. I will miss you all and I know you’ll do phenomenal.

Please remember the oxford comma isn’t allowed in a simple series.

#copyout

Fiorella Medina, an English major, has been part of the Montclarion for four years and is graduating with the class of 2019.

I’m more than excited to see what each of you do in the future. There’s a spot in my heart for the four of you and I’ll never go away.

For the future of the sports section, I really don’t think there are better hands to give the section off to. Samantha, you are so truly talented and I can’t wait to see what you work on next year. I know you’ll be a better Sports Editor than me and I knew that as soon as we met for your first training session as my assistant.

Corey, it baffles me that you’re only a freshman and are this skilled of a writer. Your immigration profile was one of the best articles I’ve ever read while working for The Montclarion and I can’t wait to see you grow.

I also wouldn’t be here without my friends at the Video Production Club. I promised you all that I would shout them out in The Montclarion at some point in my time here, so this is it. Thank you for making me an honorary television and digital media major and being my best friends. The production will always be the best part of my college career. Who else could say that every Wednesday they work with their best friends and wrote about what they loved?

My time is done here, and I will never forget all the memories I made. I’m ready to start the next chapter in my life, and I know wherever I go, it was with the help of The Montclarion.

Anthony Gabbianelli, a journalism major, has been with the Montclarion for three years and will be graduating with the class of 2019.

#CopyOut

Becoming a part of The Montclarion changed how Fiorella felt about college. She feels that the team is like her family.

Ben Caplan | The Montclarion

(From left to right) Assistant Sports Editor Corey Annan, graduating Sports Editor Anthony Gabbianelli, new Sports Editor Samantha Impaglia and Staff Writer Adam Grassani pose for a picture.

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Although my time with The Montclarion was brief, it was filled with fun memories that I will not soon forget. Every meeting, I would learn something new, surrounded by some incredible people who would make that experience immensely enjoyable.

When we began to say our goodbyes, I did not think that this feeling of sadness would affect me the way that it has. But, I have built a connection with those brilliant people at The Montclarion and I wish it didn’t have to end so soon.

The most impactful part of this experience for me was when my awe-some replacement, Adrian Maldonado, became ready to take my position as Web Editor. I knew he will do a good job. I taught him well. Also, he might secretly be Thanos, so everyone should watch out for that.

I’ll carry the memories I made at The Montclarion for the rest of my life. It’s been an incredible experience and although it’s hard to say goodbye, I know that we will never lose touch.

Though it’s hard to say goodbye, I know that we will never lose touch. For everyone else, I wish you all goodbyes, I did not think that this feeling of sadness would affect me the way that it has. Thank you so much for everything.

I’m excited for whatever comes next. I’ll carry the memories that I made at The Montclarion with me for the rest of my life. It’s been an incredible experience, and although it’s hard to say goodbye, I know that we will never lose touch.

—John Slahor, Former Web Editor

Wait, how did I get here?

This is a genuine question, because the last two years have flown by at such a suspiciously fast rate, that I am almost certain there has been some sort of divine mistake.

Until I submitted my pitch to write this article, it had not completely dawned on me that this was it; I am a senior. I am leaving. This is, indeed, the end.

Perhaps this passage of time is a testament to just how impactful The Montclarion has been on my life. Two years ago, before Babee Gar- cia — the Entertainment Editor at the time — had stirred my interest in the paper, I wasn’t exactly in the right state of mind. Sure, I liked to write a bunch of words in my spare time, so joining a newspaper only made sense, but things were weird back then.

At the time, I was alone, and even more pressingly, I was fairly depressed. I was quite good at keeping everything bottled up inside without a real care in the world about what was actually happening to me. I wasn’t sure if I was de- serving of even being on this little planet we call Earth.

Then I started to meet people.

I became a small part of a team that was brimming with talented and passionate people. I’m not going to pretend that joining The Montclarion magically flipped a switch in my head that instantaneously “cured me” of the mental funk I was in, but it definitely helped. When I became the assistant to former Entertainment Editor Robert O’Connor, I felt that it was a real turning point in my life. I was officially part of something. It turns out that might’ve been what I had needed for so long.

“I’ll carry the memories that I made at The Montclarion for the rest of my life. It’s been an incredible experience, and although it’s hard to say goodbye, I know that we will never lose touch.”

—John Slahor, Former Web Editor

Always, 3000

I got to do some awesome work while I was here, too. My first article was a review on the video game “Cuphead,” and that was especially fun because I was able to honestly tell my mom that I was playing a video game for work-related rea- sons. I wrote about Montclair Uni- versity Gamers, the on-campus stu- dent group dedicated to, well, video games.

Sports Editor Anthony Gabbi- anelli allowed me to rant about my disdain for the Warriors. Former Opinion Editor Sunah Choudhry somehow allowed me to write about “Mario Party.” Current Opinion Edi- tor Rebecca Serviss, who is definitely thrilled by how long it has taken me to submit this goodbye piece, al- lowed me to write about what the Oscars could learn from The Video Game Awards. Entertainment Edi- tor Thomas Neira let me write about Nintendo.

While I am certainly proud of all the work that I have accomplished, it means nothing compared to how proud I am that I got to meet such incredible people along the way. I mean that more than anything, and my only regret is that I didn’t get to spend more time with The Montclarion in my final semester. Hope- fully, nobody takes that as a sign that I didn’t care, because it was the exact opposite. I can just be one of those seriously dumb kids who have trouble expressing how much they care about people sometimes, what can I say?

So to all the people at The Montclarion, all the people that are think- ing of joining (you obviously should, duh), and to anyone who has even once enjoyed being in my company: I love all of you, 3000.
Terrorist motivation by white nationalism has gunned down peaceful Muslim worshipers last Friday. This sort of white supremacist attack is nothing new, and neither is its relation to President Donald Trump.

On the evening of Sep. 17, 2015, Donald Trump appeared on CNN 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 different things.” I am not spécifique about 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 vitriol of Islam and immigrants have an effect 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 surveillance of mosques and Muslims, or when he reiterates, time and time again the need for a Muslim ban, there are people out there listening and thinking to themselves, “I agree with this, 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 described himself and his Ideology as the “leader” for Muslims and those who convert to the religion, and even defines his attack as “revenge” against Islam.

The manifesto describes how, “we must deal with both the invaders within 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] culture, [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 racism.

This type of rhetoric in the manifesto seems to resemble words from Trump. In February 2016, Trump recounted a false story to a group of his supporters about U.S. Gen. John Pershing and how he executed 49 Muslims with bullets dipped in pig’s blood and Muslims are prohibited from consuming swine. Trump said that this solved the terrorism problem for 25 years and “...we’ll start being tough, or we’re not gonna have a country.”

The shooter mentions in his manifesto 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 but his words for Muslims are not welcome. If Trump refuses to take responsibility, then these people will continue to think their minds are acceptable because they share it with their president.

In response to the attack, Trump gave his “warmest sympathy and best wishes to the people of New Zealand.” He played it safe with this response, but he could have said “warmest.” He could have said “best wishes” just to do it cut.

When asked if he saw white nationalism 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 a leader to condemn these terrorists, but Trump decided to quickly move past the subject.

Trump needs to open his eyes and acknowledge the rise of white supremacy. As president of the United States, Trump has a responsibility to look at the Charleston church shooting, the Charlottesville attack, the Pittsburgh synagogue 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.

Shari Hassan, a communication and media arts major, is in her first year as an assistant entertainment editor for The Montclarion.
Immigration Hardships: The First-Generation Latin American

The United States of America thrives on its success from the many backs of immigrants who were forced into migration and the millions of people who wanted to pursue the American dream in hopes for a better future for their forthcoming generations.

My parents, both from El Salvador, knew nothing about the American dream when they were younger, but they were inevitably obliged to pursue it in order to survive.

Between 1980 and 1992, El Salvador was in a devastating civil war that robbed millions of their stability, broke apart cities and financially destroyed the economy of the entire nation.

My father, Benjamin Henriquez, at the age of 24, left the country after reasoning there was no employment that could sustain him and his 11 siblings. Since he was one of the oldest siblings, it was his responsibility to take over the position as the head of the family.

However, at the age of 18, he lost his neighborhood, his house and his miscellaneous items due to the mass raids from the soldiers. During this time he needed to take his family on a 3-hour quest, barefoot into a safe city, spending the little amount of money he saved up only to survive a couple of nights.

The civil war truly left a scarring mark to the civilians of the country. My mother, Sonia Henriquez, grew up having to cautiously walk to school because there were hidden land mines everywhere placed by the soldiers.

She grew up in extreme poverty and primarily in the countryside with several of her farm animals. My mother was always an outcast by society and treated poorly because the attire she wore was always borrowed clothing, and she only had one pair of shoes for the entire school year.

When growing up she, too, realized there was no sustainable future for her since her family was unable to afford to take her to high school, which devastated her. At 21 years old, she decided to migrate over into the United States in order to find better living and working conditions to maintain herself.

Typically when people think of immigrants, society associates them with either trespassers or illegals trying to take jobs from hardworking Americans, or people trying to freeload on the benefits the system has to offer.

For me, that person was my great-grandfather Irving Kulberg, who was the last person in my family to immigrate to the United States from Poland in the early 1900s. Unfortunately, I never got to meet him because he passed away in 1976 when my mother was only 8 years old.

I thank Grandpa Irving for two big things that make me who I am today. The first is the fact that he and his family came to the U.S. at what I consider a good time. In all honesty, it was never a good time to be an Ashkenazi Jewish immigrant in the 20th century, but they left before Adolf Hitler came.

Many people believe that anti-Semitism originally surfaced through Hitler’s beliefs of racial superiority, but it actually existed long before he came to power. We weren’t welcomed anywhere, just take a look at stories behind many of the holidays we celebrate, thanking God that we’re still alive today.

Taking a look back at history allows people to make connections to the reasons their distant relatives immigrated. I can’t make assumptions about what my family’s life was like in Eastern Europe and their journey to the U.S. through Ellis Island, but after learning the history of Jewish people in America in the early 1900s, life wasn’t much better for them than it was where they came from.

Living and working conditions were terrible. Not just for Jews, but for anyone who immigrated to the U.S. with little to no money. They were living in small apartments with their entire families and working in unsafe and crowded conditions that led to major tragedies, like the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire in 1911, which occurred not long after my family arrived.

If I had to make an assumption for the reason my family, like so many others, decided to come here, it was to start the groundwork so that future generations can live their lives and not have to endure the pain and suffering they did back in Eastern Europe.

My story may seem old and outdated, but it doesn’t lessen the importance of telling it. I believe that everyone, if they dig deep enough, can find a connection to the immigrant world. I think that once people establish that connection, they start to empathize with those who today would do anything to be a part of this country, even if it means risking their lives.

#Focu1migration has given all of us a chance to reconnect with our roots, no matter how deep they may stem.

For me, it is a reminder that I am forever grateful for the decision my family made in 1908. If they didn’t immigrate when they did, they could have possibly perished in the Holocaust and I wouldn’t be here today to retell their story.

I forgot to mention the second thing I thank my great-grandfather for. He passed down a gene that most people recognize me for and one that I cannot picture myself without. Irving was a ginder, who ironically married a woman named Virginia, who their grandchildren called Grandma Ginger.

Neither of my parents were ever handed a job with any health benefits, salary compensation or any financial stability. They created their own work opportunities and through their own means, they were able to prosper.

I am a proud child of two hardworking immigrants who were placed at an awful disadvantage in life, but they relentlessly pushed for a better outcome for themselves and now they continue to push for a better outcome for their children.

My parents are the reason why I constantly strive to do my best academically because they were never given the opportunity to do so themselves.

As a Latina U.S.-born citizen, I will represent my heritage and continue to proudly embrace my roots through my academic work as well. There is a lack of representation of Latin minorities in the journalism and communication-related field, according to an article written by The Atlantic called, “Where Are All the Minority Journalists?”

There continue to be several hundreds of thousands of other Latino stories that resemble my parents’ struggles that get swept under the rug both in the media and in society. However, telling my parent’s story can inform a larger audience that there are people who only want to survive.

The ‘So Called’ All American Girl

Students dig deep into their families’ history to find connections to immigration

I grew up in what I consider the average American family. My mother is from Long Island, New York, and my dad grew up in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. All of their parents are also natural-born American citizens, and the majority of their parents were, too, except for one.

My ties to the immigrant world were already loose because no one in my immediate family was one. I remember all of the projects I was required to do in school where I would have to write a biographical sketch of a family member who immigrated to the United States. I always struggled to get that first-person perspective.

For me, that person was my great-grandfather Irving Kulberg, who was the last person in my family to immigrate to the United States from Poland in the early 1900s. Unfortunately, I never got to meet him because he passed away in 1976 when my mother was only 8 years old.

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Most students prepare for the cold as anyone would. Winter coats, jeans, bigger socks and even hats and gloves to boot, if it was absolutely necessary. What is not necessary is "what I have been witnessing on this campus for the last four years, and it’s completely unacceptable. Shorts."

There are people out here wearing shorts during the coldest part of the semester. I’m in utter shock whenever I see one of these heathens walking around campus like it is a warm spring day. It’s barbaric, and it needs to be recognized as an actual problem.

Considering the last week we had weather-wise, there is no possible logical explanation as to why these people wear basketball shorts when the high of the day is 9 degrees. We also go to school on top of a mountain that is in a wind tunnel, so it feels even colder than that. I can barely text on my phone without my fingers feeling like they’re going to snap off, let alone leave my calves exposed.

I’ll be the first to admit that I have worn shorts this winter. I’m not proud of my actions, but there are easy answers to this. Firstly, I wear shorts sometimes when I’m inside with the heat going off. That’s not an issue, and I’m not going to bash anyone for what they do in the comfort of their dorm.

I have worn shorts when I go to yoga, but I immediately put on jeans when I’m done with that class. I go to a stall and swap pants and go about my day from there. So, unless everyone on this campus is doing exactly what I’m doing, which I highly doubt, then that’s fine and I’m willing to deal with it. Seriously though, it’s very cold this winter and there are more disadvantages than advantages when you’re not dressed for the weather.

The Shorts Epidemic

How is he not cold?

I sweat very easily.

Rebecca Serviss | The Montclarion

Anthony Gabbianelli, a journalism major, has been with The Montclarion for three years and will be graduating with the class of 2019.

I Don’t Want to Hold This Beetle’s Hand!

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

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

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

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

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

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

In fact, the only information I found when I Googled produce beetle was that Volkswagen will be discontinuing production of the iconic car model in 2019. I guess I will have to come up with another excuse to suckle punch my Uber drivers. I understand mistakes like these are made in food service and I am sure the Sam’s Place staff is working to improve their process to help minimize accidents like this from happening in the future. However, instead of sending out a public relations stunt to cover their rear-ends, I would much prefer that the university responds by telling it like it is, which is follows:

Since 2006, Montclair State tuition has increased by over $4,000. This increase may not seem like much considering the nearly 29 percent state funding cut that has occurred over the same time period. However, we have now realized the effect that lack of funding could have on an aspect of student life as important as healthy and safe dining. So where exactly is that $4,000 increase in tuition going toward? Well, at least $445,000 contributes to President Susan A. Cole’s 2.7 percent salary increase she was given in 2018. That is not including the $86,000 she received as a performance bonus.

The last article I wrote included a joke about how Sam’s Place would prove their process to help minimize accidents like this from happening in the future. Now we know why.

Brian Rooney, a communication and media arts major, is in his first year as a comedy writer for The Montclarion.
COME HELP US OUT

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Oliveia Paez is a senior studying journalism at Montclair State University. She is the creator of “Stories for Coffe, a book and lifestyle blog. In addition to her blog, Paez also runs a successful YouTube page, where she reviews different books and talks about life. Additionally, her Instagram, @storiesforcoffee, has over 11,6k followers. Entertainment Editor Robert O’Connor sat down with Paez to talk about gaining a following, running a successful blog and book recommendations.

Q: What made you want to become a book blogger?
A: I’ve always been in love with reading and getting lost in a fictional world, but I didn’t have many people to discuss that interest with. In high school, I had the idea of creating a blog with my best friend. Originally this blog was a website to share short stories that we’ve written, but then we began to share our book reviews and it grew from there. I’d say that my undying love for stories and my need to share it with the world was what really pushed me to create a blog. I wanted to find a community of book lovers to share my thoughts and feelings with.

Q: How have you managed to get such a big following?
A: Over the course of the years I’ve been blogging, I’ve been lucky enough to make a lot of friends and connections with other bloggers around the world. We have bonded over our shared love for novels and commented on each other’s photos in order to support one another. Occasionally these friends would also shout me out on their Instagram stories or photo captions which has helped me grow my following throughout the years. I am so grateful for their support. I also think that I grew a large following over time by constantly changing up what I was photographing. I have many interests that I’ve incorporated into my photography and captions, and I think people enjoy that.

I’m still surprised that I have over 10,000 followers on Instagram. I keep thinking to myself, “11,000 people care about my photos, my thoughts and me,” and that brightens my day. It’s so surreal to have so many people enjoying my content, and I’ll always be grateful for their support.Day. I just want to change people’s perspectives on art.

Q: What’s been the most influential book you’ve ever read? In what ways did it influence you?
A: I just read this book a few months ago, actually, and it is called “Next Year in Havana” by Chanel Cleeton. I won this book in a giveaway on a well-known site for book lovers, but I put myself out there and am happy with my accomplishments. My blogging life and it has pushed me to try out new opportunities that I maybe wouldn’t have strived toward before.

As for challenges, I never expected the expectations that would be set upon my shoulders, thanks to blogging. I never expected to be glued to my phone, posting photos on Instagram in order to gain followers. I never expected to spend hours trying to shoot photos for my page. I don’t think people realize how time consuming being a blogger is. Even if it isn’t a full-time job, it feels like one. Bloggers spend hours taking photos, filming and editing videos, writing posts, and I don’t think people truly appreciate the work and effort that goes into creating, essentially, free content for others to consume.

Q: I know you also have a pretty successful YouTube channel. Any tips for someone thinking about starting a YouTube channel?
A: Lighting. Lighting. Lighting. All I can really stress is having good lighting in a video. Sit yourself in front of a window and just start filming. You can film a book review, a photo tag or a book tag. Just put yourself out there. I think it’s also important to keep in mind that you can start filming videos on your phone. You don’t need a fancy camera in order to make videos. That’s how I began my channel, and I always think it’s important to stress that you can make great content on your phone. Don’t feel discouraged if you don’t have fancy equipment. Not everyone needs it.

Q: Does attending Montclair State help you with your blog?
A: Attending Montclair State helped me learn so much more about blogging than I realized. Being a student in Montclair State’s journalism program has also taught me to put myself out there, even in my blogging life and it has pushed me to try out new opportunities that I maybe wouldn’t have strived toward before.

For example, thanks to Montclair State and my professors who have preached that all experiences are good experiences, I became a contributing writer for Book Riot, a website centered around all things books. I never expected to have my work published on a well-known site for book lovers, but I put myself out there and am happy with my accomplishments.

Q: Do you have any recommendations for other readers who are thinking about starting a blog?
A: If you want to start blogging about books, just do it. It may feel intimidating at first but putting yourself out there and experimenting in different mediums like Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, WordPress, etc. is the best way to get a feel for what you want to do. Connect with other bloggers by commenting on their content and join in on read-a-thons that many people host throughout the year. It’s all about pushing yourself to start blogging — that’s the hardest to do, but once you do it, it’s such a fun journey to be on.
Paolo Punay is a senior at Montclair State University and is a BFA studio major with a concentration in painting. Through his exploration of his own culture, Punay grasps for what it means to be Filipino and uses fashion as a social statement. He spoke with The Montclarion contributing writer Soniya Mitra about his exploration of his own country’s heritage.

Q: Can you tell me a little bit about your thesis project entitled, ‘Balikbayan’?
A: It has to do with the effects of colonization on native Filipino populations because I feel like that history still has to be tapped into. There is a lot of potential in that subject matter because a lot of countries around the world have similar problems, so it’s something of a universal idea that can be utilized for potential projects. That’s the reason why I chose it, I guess. That and it’s something that I want to learn more about because I don’t know too much about my own country.

Q: What is your personal connection to the Philippines?
A: I was born there and I lived there until I was 7 years old, because that’s when my mom immigrated to this country to become a nurse. She was already a nurse but she wanted to get a better job for her family. This thesis is a way for me to learn more about my history that I missed because once I left, I didn’t know anything about Filipino history, so this is like a chance for me to revisit that.

Q: What is the symbolism behind the objects in your work and their placement?
A: I’m still trying to figure that out, to be honest. That’s why it’s still a work in progress, but I want to try to use regular-looking objects and have some kind of narrative about them that relates to the history of the Philippines. I have this idea of having this straw hat that rice planters wear, and have bags of rice hanging from it and then it’s like you could wear it and it has something to do with how the first president ‘of the Philippines’ sold out the Philippines for 400,000 pesos. I wanted to replace the pesos with rice because you can feel the weight of that when you wear the object, so I want to try to use regular objects and re-imagine them into art pieces.

Q: What are your thoughts on cultural appropriation?
A: I have this idea of appropriation because I find appropriation a funny subject. Where it’s like, only one culture can do this kind of thing, only you can do this kind of thing because you are that culture, so I want to play with this idea of, ‘Well, it’s human culture, so why can’t we share it all for us?’ If it’s already there, it’s already there. It’s already almost perfect, you just have to make it perfect. That’s the reason why I like conservation I guess that’s a reason why I chose that title because I have been going back and forth about the title, but I guess it works for what I want it to be.

Q: What are your plans for the future?
A: I chose to use ‘Balikbayan’ because that’s what I want to do with this work, is try to go back to my country and see what I can learn from it, what I can share people, that makes the Philippines unique. I guess that’s a reason why I chose that title because I have been going back and forth about the title, but I guess it works for what I want it to be.

Q: What brought you to the Montclair State Art Department?
A: What brought me here was my teacher. My English teacher senior year of high school recommended this place because his sister went here, and he said it has a good program. So, I was like, ‘Alright, sounds like a good place to go, so I’ll go.’ And it’s not William Paterson, so I went here.

Q: Can you define what ‘Balikbayan’ means?
A: ‘Balikbayan’ literally translates to ‘back to your country,’ so the concept, or the idea of balikbayan box, is taking stuff from the United States or any foreign country that the Filipino diaspora spread them out to, and send everything that they have, like clothes, food, toys and stuff, sending it back to the Philippines, so that everybody benefits from it.

Q: Why did you choose to name your work that?
A: I chose to use ‘Balikbayan’ because that’s what I want to do with this work, is try to go back to my country and see what I can learn from it, what I can share, that makes the Philippines unique. I guess that’s a reason why I chose that title because I have been going back and forth about the title, but I guess it works for what I want it to be.

Q: What do you want people to take away from your work when they look at it?
A: I want them to take away some history of who the Filipinos are, what they are about and a deeper understanding of global politics in a way. Because it’s like, this may just be one country, but this topic applies to loads of other countries that have suffered from colonization and imperialism, so I want them to learn that this situation isn’t entirely unique to one place and it’s something that can be applied everywhere.

Q: Dealing with all the issues with immigration in America right now, is your art work making a statement toward those kinds of issues?
A: I don’t think so. I’m more focused on education rather than trying to say a specific message, in a way, because I don’t want to berate people with like, ‘This is my political philosophy, blah, blah, blah.’ It’s more like, ‘This is what I learned from this and I hope you guys learned from it, too.’ So, I guess it’s the educator in me.
Stan Lee: Remembering an Icon

Stan Lee posing with his creation, Spider-Man.

Thomas McNulty
Staff Writer

Stan Lee, famous Marvel Comics writer, editor, publisher and figurehead, recently passed away on Nov. 12. Beloved for his outspoken communication with fans, his frequent cameos appearances in Marvel television shows and films, and his hyperactive imagination, Lee was a staple of American pop culture.

Stan Lee rose to prominence in the 1950s, when he led a wave of exciting new characters being created within the pages of Marvel’s comics. His preference was writing flawed, human characters contrasted with the typical concept of superheroes.

This led to the creation of beloved characters such as Iron Man, the Hulk, the X-Men and most famously Spider-Man, who is widely regarded as Lee’s most famous creation and the one whom he held most dear.

Within the pages of Marvel Comics, Lee loved to interact with his fans through his monthly column, “Stan’s Soapbox.” In these columns, Lee would inform readers about upcoming stories, answer fan questions or concerns and often speak out against injustice.

The intimate way in which he communicated with fans, such as giving himself and fellow Marvel workers nicknames, using a heavy amount of alliteration and coinings catchphrases like “Excelsior!” and “‘Nuff Said,” is attributed with greatly increasing the popularity of Marvel’s brand.

The loss of Lee was mourned worldwide, with artists, writers and actors offering their tributes, with street murals quickly popping up in Los Angeles and London.

Marvel Comics’ longtime rival, DC Comics, offered their acknowledgements via Twitter, posting, “He changed the way we look at heroes, and modern comics will always bear his indelible mark. His infectious enthusiasm reminded us why we all fell in love with these stories in the first place: Excelsior, Stan.”

Many Montclair State University students were saddened by the news of Lee’s passing, many of whom have been inspired by Lee’s work within the fields of writing, illustration and communication.

Brian Hernandez, a sophomore animation illustration major, talked about the passion Lee had in his work.

"It’s amazing to be able to see someone devote their entire life to one thing," Hernandez said. “It genuinely convinces me that working toward your passion can make you the happiest you can be.”

Artists around the world have been inspired by the work done by Lee and his partners at Marvel Comics, and Lee always held the belief that the unlikelyst of people could become heroes. His catchphrase, “Excelsior!” exemplified this idea, being a Latin phrase meaning “ever upward.”

While he had retired from Marvel Comics in the ‘90s, Stan Lee remained the face of the company up until his death. He made frequent cameo appearances in Marvel films and television shows, his first appearance being in 1989’s “Trial of the Incredible Hulk,” based on the character who he personally created.

His most recent appearance was in Sony’s “Venom,” which was released just a month before his death.

Sophomore communication studies major and staff writer of The Montclarion Sharif Hasan talked about Lee and his absence from future Marvel films.

“Stan Lee was someone who helped create an entire comic book universe of amazing characters,” Hasan said. “Marvel has always been a part of my life ever since I was young, and it’s great to see Stan’s world constantly expanding. The Marvel movies just won’t be the same without his cameos.”

Lee was often regarded as a major proponent of representation within the comics industry. Within the pages of “Fantastic Four,” Lee and partner Jack Kirby created the character of Black Panther in 1966, who is considered the first black superhero.

“At the time it probably would’ve been much easier to just ignore those issues,” said senior English major Wendy Faria. “Speaking out against bigotry could’ve been very harmful for him and his company, but I guess he felt it was something he really had to do.”

In a video message released two days after his death, Lee says, “I love my fans. I cannot tell you how much I love my fans. Sometimes at night, I am sitting here thinking, ‘What’s it all about?’ And then I get a letter from a fan or I read something or I see something or I remember something. And I realize, it’s so lucky to have fans, fans who really care about you.”

With his passing, Lee leaves behind a massive legacy. The characters he created will continue to thrive within the pages of comics, on the big screen and in the minds of the fans who he cared about so deeply.
Actor Geoffrey Owens Speaks About Actor Life and Using Speech to Invoke Creativity

Tiffany Baskerville  
Staff Writer

On a cold snowy day, walking up the ramp to the Feliciano School of Business, carrying Dante Alighieri’s “The Divine Comedy” in one arm and James Joyce’s “Finnegan’s Wake” in the other, Geoffrey Owens made his way to a class of starry-eyed students to speak about writing, presenting and techniques for delivering speeches.

Owens, a humble man with countless talents, agreed to take time and share his life experiences with the students of Montclair State University’s fundamentals of speech class led by adjunct professor Linda Thomas.

Thomas, after watching Owens’ Screen Actors Guild Award speech, was inspired to write a handwritten letter to Owens. The letter Owens received was inspiring and prompted the actor to accept an invitation to speak to a class of aspiring young orators.

The moment he entered the classroom, happiness and cheerfulness, Owens greeted the starstruck students.

Owens, an actor, playwright, director and teacher, notably known for his work as Elvin Tibideaux on “The Cosby Show,” began the lecture with his narrative on the year-long journey with the media and his experiences in writing, presenting and delivering speeches.

Showing the students his novels, Owens explained that his recent, powerful speech given at the Screen Actors Guild Awards is credited to his mastery in managing time limitations and being able to take dynamic pieces of literature, such as Dante Alighieri’s “The Divine Comedy,” and structure them in a way that can be communicated to an audience.

“Being an actor, you study many literary forms of delivering speeches,” Owens said. “Haiku, which is a poem of 17 syllables, in three lines of five, seven and five is a device I have used to convey effective messages to audiences.”

Owens kept talking about his speech structures and how the methods would help the audience understand better.

“It is in this form of speech delivery that the concept of limitations, which is how much time one has to deliver information in a speech, that is decorative in style is very important to master,” Owens said.

Owens discussed the importance of understanding and having an appreciation for the dynamic nature of communication, expressed to the class of freshmen, sophomore and junior students the value of having substantial experience with speech composition and delivering speeches through a variety of presentations and literary styles.

Students with notebooks wrote down every piece of information given by Owens. They were excited and encouraged to work on their upcoming classroom speeches.

Thomas, who is currently working with students in perfecting their speech writing and presentations, spoke to Owens about the “Cone of Encouragement” she has created for her students.

“In this classroom, we encourage each other,” Thomas said. “The Cone of Encouragement is designed to inspire and provide a relaxed space for students to develop their public speaking skills.”

Thomas, who works with students to establish strong interpersonal relations and cultivate verbal communication skills, was overjoyed at the atmosphere of creativity and inspiration that transpired between Owens and the room of students.

Carlissa Auguste, a junior biology major and student in the fundamentals of speech class, expressed her gratitude for Owens’ words of encouragement and literary methods to help guide the class.

“As a student, we have ongoing struggles and feelings of uncertainty,” Auguste said. “Today I was encouraged to persevere, no matter how hard life gets. Owens’ testimony was a good boost of motivation for all the students today, and his knowledge in speech and communication in which he so graciously shared today was special and for that I am thankful.”

Leaving the students with optimistic views on life, Owens expressed that through it all, he never gave up.

“Not giving up on my responsibilities, not quitting Trader Joe’s and hanging in there was one of the greatest decisions I made,” Owens said. “The best advice I can give anyone is to hang in there and persevere.”

Professor Linda Tiffany Baskerville  
| The Montclarion  
Thomas (left) and actor Geoffrey Owens (right) appear at a lecture on the fundamentals of speech.

Adrian Maldonado  | The Montclarion

Guest speaker Geoffrey Owens speaks to a class in the Feliciano School of Business on Wednesday, Feb. 20.

Adrian Maldonado  | The Montclarion

Actor Geoffrey Owens says a joke during his lecture.

Adrian Maldonado  | The Montclarion
The Sun’s Coming Out, but it’s ‘Hoodie SZN’ at Montclair State

Sierra Craig
Contributing Writer

Students filled the barricades outside Memorial Auditorium last Wednesday night, hours before the highly anticipated spring concert featuring rapper A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie.

Hosted by Student Life at Montclair (SLAM), the spring concert is one of the biggest events of the year. With last year’s failed attempt at a successful spring concert when musical guest T-Pain cancelled at the last minute, SLAM needed a hit.

SLAM built up the anticipation to the concert with a five-day countdown on their Instagram page, eventually revealing that A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie was going to be performing at Montclair State University on April 17.

On the day of the concert, students lined up outside Memorial Auditorium hours in advance. Sophomore student Catalina Gonzales was one of those eager concert-goers.

“We’re just extra, so we planned [to come early] like a week in advance,” Rosario said.

While the crowd was waiting outside in excitement, the road to getting a ticket wasn’t easy.

“I had to leave class just to focus on the ticket,” said sophomore Nahja Joseph. “When I first signed on I got wait-listed, but after a few tries it finally went through. I got my ticket around 10:30 a.m.”

Many students were not even able to get a ticket. Eventbrite immediately started waitlisting hopeful buyers as early as 10:03 a.m. SLAM’s Entertainment Chair Rayane Yamout said they sold out in two minutes, so it seems like only a few late stragglers were successful.

“I woke up late by accident,” sophomore composition and theory major Jahmai Person said. “By the time I got on the site, it said the tickets were sold out.”

SLAM’s Instagram comments quickly filled up with angry students complaining about how they could not secure a ticket and that they should change the location to Lot 60 so it could house more concert-goers.

“Any outdoor venue (i.e. Lot 60) has strict regulations,” SLAM wrote in a post on their Instagram page. “A Boogie would literally not be allowed to curse in his songs, and no one wants to listen to the clean version of ‘Startender.’”

Although they attempted to do damage control, SLAM eventually turned off the comments on that post.

Students in line were friendly with one another. Fan interaction included holding spots for bathroom breaks, sharing food and taking turns charging cell phones.

“I want a lit show,” Gonzales said. “I want it to be rowdy.”

Once it was 6 p.m., students were allowed in the venue and “Hoodie SZN” really began. Since it was general admission, there was no assigned seating. It was a free-for-all.

DJ Bake hit the stage first, playing banger after banger to get the crowd’s energy up to prepare for the main event. A Boogie also had three other rappers open for him, including Booka Banks, Ovee and Trap Manny.

By the time DJ O. Minaya – A Boogie’s official DJ – came out to set up, the crowd was beyond hyped and ready for the “Swervin” singer to take the stage.

The rapper performed songs mostly from his newest album “Hoodie SZN” but threw in some older songs for his “day one fans.” He even hinted to new music dropping soon, but he jokingly said that fans needed to get his debut album “Artist” to platinum first before he releases anything new.

Fans were battling the rapper by trying to scream his lyrics even louder than him. There was not a single quiet person in the room. Everyone was jumping around and recording videos on their phones.

Sophomore Emily Reese enjoyed the show but had a favorite song that A Boogie performed.

“My favorite song he did was ‘Drowning,’” Reese said.

Paulina Subczak, a sophomore nutrition major, also shared her favorite song in his performance.

“I liked his throwbacks, like ‘Jungle,’ a lot,” Subczak said.

Once the concert was over, fans poured out of the auditorium with smiles on their faces while still singing along to their favorite songs. Groups of people had campus police officers taking their pictures with the marquee in the background. Trap Manny even came out and spent some time with those still outside.

“Honestly the whole concert was bomb. I thought he was going to take off his shirt, but I guess not,” said student Mayra Ventura. “I just love A Boogie. I wish the concert was longer.”

A Boogie opens his show in Memorial Auditorium at Montclair State University.

Fans go wild in the audience. Sierr Craig | The Montclarion

From left to right: Montclair State students Emily Reese, Paulina Subczak and Mayra Ventura pose for pictures after the show.

A Boogie thanks fans and says goodbye as he finishes his last song, “No Promises.” Sierra Craig | The Montclarion
Sharif Hasan
Assistant Entertainment Editor

After more than a decade of long self-imposed exile in Europe, legendary filmmaker Orson Welles returned to Hollywood in 1970, ending his hiatus with his brand new film, “The Other Side of the Wind.”

Production for this film spanned from 1970 to 1976, and editing took place during the 1980s. Dealing with the burden of legal and financial issues, Welles was never able to finish the film and passed away soon after.

Forty years later, those who originally worked on the movie, along with other producers and filmmakers who wished to see this picture available to the public, used Welles’ notes and his edited scenes to finally release the film on Netflix.

Welles tells the story of a movie director named Jake Hannaford, played by Academy Award winner John Huston, who returns from his time away in Europe to create a film also called “The Other Side of the Wind.” Although this film is not technically autobiographical, it is without a doubt extremely meta.

The film follows the last day of Jake’s life, which is also his 70th birthday, after he is tragically killed in a car accident. Jake invites producers, actors, press and friends to attend his birthday party and view his semi-completed final film.

The other portion of the film revolves around the movie Jake shows to his party guests. Although the audience is not supposed to entirely understand this film, it was still very interesting to watch. The cinematography and use of colors in this film-within-a-film was gorgeous, and you can really feel Welles’ magic touch on it. Oja Kodar, who is credited as a co-writer, displays an almost hypnotizing performance, both as the character in Jake’s film, and as the actress in the party.

The way the dialogue is used in this film makes it seem as if the audience is witnessing actual events; characters converse and argue in ways similar to what is witnessed in real life. The dialogue also captures the hectic environment of Hollywood during the 1970s in an honest way. However, the dialogue can often times be hard to follow. Viewers need to actively listen and pay attention to what characters are saying to fully grasp the plot.

“The Other Side of the Wind” is not a film for casual moviegoers. It seems more fit for cinema fanatics or those who appreciate Welles and his work. If you are looking for a Netflix movie to enjoy on a Saturday night, I do not really recommend this movie. This also brings me to the point of how I wish this film was not released on Netflix. There is a certain experience movieviewers go through when watching a film. I would hate to speak on behalf of Welles, but I do not think sitting on a couch is how he intended this movie to be enjoyed.

This film is a strange and dazzling piece that has life imitating art imitating life. “The Other Side of the Wind” acts as a mirror to the fascinating life of Welles, and it is a captivating ending to his cinematic career.
more than 25 different costumes with each containing special abilities. There is a constant sense of feeling rewarded when playing "Marvel's Spider-Man," which helps keep gamers entertained no matter the task. Even if they focus exclusively on the story missions, there is still tons to play through with side missions, computer puzzles, discovering famous locales, hidden backpack collectibles and much more. It all helps to culminate a package that will keep players happily busy for more than 20 hours. Eventually, they'll want more.

"Marvel's Spider-Man" is a prime example of why I play video games. It delivers on a massive scale with thrilling, fluid and beautifully animated gameplay that never gets even the slightest bit stale. It tells an idealistic but surprisingly emotional story about what it means to be a hero. It enforces how being courageous enough to try to help others is what constitutes true strength and resolve.

It is easily one of the PlayStation 4's finest exclusives yet, which makes for a true love letter to Spider-Man fans. It will be treasured for many years to come.

**Iridescence** Washers in a New Era for Brockhampton

Brockhampton's Photo courtesy RCA Records

*Iridescence* released on Sept. 21.

Thomas Neira
Entertainment Editor

In a year that brought hardships and negative attention to Brockhampton's newfound fame, "Iridescence" is a much needed breath of fresh air that proves itself to be yet another strong entry in the group's discography.

Brockhampton is a hip-hop collective and is commonly referred to as a boy band. They are based in California, made up of 13 members, comprised of several vocalists that do not just jump in on a manager, graphic designer, photographer and web designer.

Brockhampton began their rise to fame last year, when their three critically acclaimed albums "Saturation I," "Saturation II" and "Saturation III" between June and December of 2017. Much was expected of the self-proclaimed boy band going into the new spring of 2018 and soon after announced that they had hard cancelled the rest of their tour dates and postponed their album.

It went without saying that the group desperately needed something to start their career off the right way. Fortunately, they managed to find it in their latest project "Iridescence," which sees the band continue their great run and signals a substantial change of pace for the collective.

Brockhampton has a history of starting their albums out strong, aggressive songs, such as the tracks "Heat," "Gummy" and "Boogie" that started out each of their "Saturation" albums respectively. "Iridescence" is no different. The album throws the listener straight into "New Orleans" complete with a quick, driving beat, great verses from each member and a surprise jaden Smith feature. This track serves as a great preview of what else is to come.

The album manages to set itself apart from the group's other projects by sounding more intense and melancholy than what fans may be used to. Both traits perfectly complement each other throughout the length of the album. The fast-paced, frantic sound of songs like "Where the Cash At" and "Fabric" balance out with the emotional tracks such as "Tonya" and "San Marcos." Some songs even manage to perfectly blend both characteristics, like the track "Weight" which features slow, personal rap verses from members Kevin Abstract and Dom McLean, separated by a quick and lively instrumental break and verse from Joba.

Vann's departure from Brockhampton was not completely negative for the group, as it gave lesser known members of the group opportunities to step up and take their chance in the spotlight. The epitome of this is "Jouvert," one of the stand-out tracks on the album. Joba, known for his unpredictable ability, continues to experiment with different flows in his verse in this song, which gradually becomes more eclectic and louder as he continues to scream at the listener. Merlyn, known for normally yelling simple yet powerful rap verses in the past, delivers a calmer and more substantial verse this time around. Bearface, a singer who was scarcely included on previous albums, has a much more prominent role on this project, having his own rap verse to close out the track.

Brockhampton noticeably continues to improve their production skills, as each project ends up sounding even better and more mature than the last. "Iridescence" continues this trend, featuring some of Brockhampton's best production work to date. An example of this would be the opening track "New Orleans" and its seamless transition into the following track "Thug Life." It can't even be described with words. You have to listen to it for yourself.

The world seemed to be pitted against Brockhampton just mere months ago. The group had much to prove moving forward with their music and find their sound. They are now beginning to look up again for the collective as they begin their next era. As they say at the close of the project, "It's the best years of our lives."
The Montclarion

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THE WORLD WITHOUT NEWS WOULD BE...

Photo courtesy of wikipedia.org.
Men's Lacrosse
Ben Caplan
Photography Editor

The Montclair State University men's lacrosse team had a great first season in the Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC). Going 5-1 in conference play and an overall 8-6-1 record, the team clinched the second seed in the CSAC tournament by getting a well-fought win over the Keene University Cougars. The Red Hawks had no trouble defeating the Cougars in the first round 20-7, and are looking to win the conference championship.

Montclair State breezed past other CSAC opponents including Rosemont College and Keystone College. The Stockton University Ospreys are the only other CSAC opponent the team has lost to, and is who they will be playing in the finals. The team put 11 players on the CSAC all-conference team this season, with senior attack Matt Haemmerle and junior defender Tim Kirn on the first team. Haemmerle scored 138 goals in his time on the team, including 72 assists. Kirn picked up 17 ground balls and caused turnovers this season.

In addition to Haemmerle, the Red Hawks will graduate nine more seniors. Although they are graduating 10 players, the team seems as if they will have no trouble next season with a strong performance from underclassmen such as freshman attack Jesse James West and freshman midfielder Christian Boyle. West already has 35 goals for the Red Hawks and Boyle already has 18, making the future look bright for the team going forward.

Women's Basketball
Adam Grassini
Staff Writer

While some of Montclair State University's sports programs were playoff contenders, others went through rebuilding years. This was the case for the women's hockey team this season, as they finished with a record of 9-2-1. This comes just a year after the team finished 11-4-1, where they won the 2018 Delaware Valley Collegiate Hockey Conference (DVCHC) championship.

The biggest problem with the team this season was the lack of depth on their roster. Throughout the season, the team would have limited players on their bench in comparison to their opponents. This lack of backup players proved to be costly. While the Red Hawks would put up a good fight in the beginning of games, their starters would eventually wear down, and the opposition would run away with them. At the end of the season, head coach Dave Solomon said that they are talking to different coaches in an attempt to recruit more players to bulk up the roster for next season.

If there was one story to take away from the season, it would be the final season for senior goaltender Kavanne Ferguson. What makes Ferguson's story so special is how she had never played goaltender before. Ferguson never played goalie until she was 17, after a coach asked her to try out for the position two years ago, as the team did not have a goaltender. Ferguson would go on to get better and better at the position over time. Her story of becoming a starting goalie for the Red Hawks women's hockey team with minimal experience was without a doubt a highlight of the season.
2018-19 Sports Recaps

Women’s Basketball

Corey Annan
Assistant Sports Editor

The women’s basketball team had ambitions to win their seventh straight conference championship this season, and were under tremendous pressure to do so, given the graduation losses of stars Katie Sire, Taylor Harmon and Katie Tobie. It appeared that Montclair State was up to the challenge, as they began the season 9-2 and looked to be on their way to another conference title.

Unfortunately, the Red Hawks would go 6-8 in the last 14 games of the season as they struggled against many of their conference opponents during this stretch. On the flip side, Red Hawks would still manage to have the third seed coming into the NJAC tournament.

These struggles would continue in the NJAC tournament as the sixth-seeded Kean Cougars stunned the Montclair State Red Hawks in the first round, beating them 72-67. This would end the Red Hawks’ streak of six consecutive conference championships and national tournament appearances.

Lovisa saalfrank, a major staple of the team has had in the past two seasons. One of those victories was a named to NJAC second team as she averaged 12.7 points per game. Sophomore guard Kim Calloway also had a breakout season averaging 9.5 points per game, and was tabbed to the NJAC Honorable Mention.

Despite the loss of senior captain and forward Dominique Wising, a major staple of the Red Hawks’ last three NJAC championships, the team does return McKinnon and Calloway, who will play major roles next season. Other key returnees include sophomore guard Taylor Brown and freshman guard Julia Sutton.

Men’s Soccer

Olivia Kearns | The Montclarion

This is their second NJAC championship in three years, and 13th conference title overall.

The men’s soccer team would go on to make a pretty deep run in the 2018 NCAA Division III Men’s Soccer Championship, as they hosted the first two rounds at the Montclair State University Soccer Park. They faced Colby College in the first round and trailed 1-0 for the majority of the game, risking elimination.

Sophomore forward Chaz Burnett scored with less than six minutes left to send the game into overtime, where the Red Hawks won in penalty kicks.

Montclair State would end up defeating New York University in the second round in penalty kicks as well, before defeating Ramapo College once again 3-0 in the Sweet 16. Unfortunately, Montclair State lost to Tufts University 4-0 in the Elite Eight, ending what was a very successful season for the team.

The Red Hawks will graduate four seniors, including captain goalkeeper Mike Saalfrank.

Baseball

Priscilla De La Rosa Contributing Writer

The Montclair State University Red Hawks baseball team finished their season on Sunday, April 28, against the William Paterson University Pioneers with a score of 6-4.

During the game, freshman pitcher and infielder Donald Gonnelli hit a solo home run, which helped the Red Hawks’ chances of getting on the scoreboard. The Pioneers quickly responded by putting six runs on the board, leading the Red Hawks to end their season with a record of 12-24.

Undoubtedly, this season was a tough one for the Red Hawks. They had a strong start to the season, but somewhere along the way things went downhill. By midseason, the Red Hawks were on a 14 game losing streak, making it one of the longest losing streaks the team has had in the past two years.

The Red Hawks will graduate two seniors, infielder Nick Martinez and pitcher Max Maarleved. The senior players on the team may not have had the season that they hoped for, but the freshman that make up the majority of the team will have a shot at redeeming themselves next season.

Football

Corey Annan Assistant Sports Editor

For the past three seasons, the Montclair State University football team had been stuck in a state of mediocrity. They were essentially bottom feeders in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC), which had gotten stronger in recent years.

That all changed this season, when Montclair State raised several eyebrows as they finished with an 8-2 record, 7-2 in conference play and finishing third in the NJAC.

Montclair State opened up the season with five straight victories. One of those victories included a huge 17-15 overtime win against Christopher Newport University.

The Red Hawks dreams of winning a conference championship were dashed with two heartbreak losses to Salisbury and the eventual NJAC champions Frostburg State. However, the Red Hawks would end the season with three straight victories, including a 10-9 victory over Wesley College.

The Red Hawks had many standout athletes as they placed nine players on the all-conference team. One player who particularly stood out was NJAC Defensive Player of the Year, senior linebacker Mauro Altamura, who finished the year with a jaw-dropping stat line of 92 tackles as well as four sacks.

Montclair State will have much higher expectations next season as they return several starters such as sophomore quarterback Ja’Quill Burch, junior wide receiver/returner Kason Campbell and junior safety Jaier Garrett to lead the team next season. The team will graduate a class of 11 this year.
The Montclair State University Red Hawks men’s soccer team walked into MSU Soccer Park Friday night as the number one seed in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) tournament to take on the number two seed Ramapo College Roadrunners. After two hours of game action, the Red Hawks routed the Roadrunners by a final score of 5-0 and are the 2018 NJAC men’s soccer champions.

This is Montclair State’s seventh NJAC title and 15th conference title overall. It is their second NJAC title in the last three years and their third under head coach Todd Tumelty in his eighth-year tenure with the team. “It’s great and it’s something that we talk about all the time,” Tumelty said, in regards to winning the NJAC. “Obviously win the regular season, and winning the conference championship is a big bonus to drive us into the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament.”

The game began with both teams pretty even, as the ball often remained in midfield. Neither team got a large amount of time in the opponent’s zone, and time spent in each other’s zones were pretty much split down the middle.

However, Montclair State had a slight shot advantage (2-1) 14 minutes into the game. Jake Seaman began the game by getting a prime scoring opportunity right in front of the net, but the shot went wide.

Eventually, the Red Hawks began to generate some serious buzz. It all started when Jose Huerta got off a shot that Ramapo goalkeeper Joshua Schaffer made a beautiful save on, robbing Huerta of what would have been the first goal of the game.

About eight minutes later, Schaffer robbed Huerta again, as the former made a leaping save on a never shot from the latter over the net. Over this stretch, the Red Hawks fired three unanswered shots, three of which were on goal. With all the offense the Red Hawks were generating, the momentum was obviously in their favor.

Finally, all the momentum the soccer Red Hawks were carrying was finally paid off, as junior midfielder Colin Muligan scored his team’s first goal of the game at 29:47. Muligan received a pass from Kevin Semnik and fired a shot from outside the 18-yard box. The shot got through Ramapo’s defense and to the right of the net past Schaffer for his third goal of the season. The Red Hawks ended up taking a 1-0 lead into halftime.

“Now the ball from Kevin and I had a good angle from him to receive the ball,” Muligan said when asked to describe the play. “I took it to my right foot and I saw that I had a little bit of space and I took a shot. It took a little bit of wind out of my sails, I’m happy that it went in and it gave us a 1-0 lead.”

Throughout the entirety of the game, the Red Hawks were faced with the difficult task of stopping Ramapo junior forward Joseph Fala, the leading scorer in not just the NJAC but Division III as a whole. In fact, he is the second leading scorer in the entire NCAA.

However, Montclair State ended up doing just that. All throughout the game, they covered Fala almost perfectly, making sure he did not receive any passes that could lead to scoring opportunities. The best chances he got all game ended up being a couple of free kicks, and the Red Hawks ended up stopping all of them.

“Not only do we have good reserves in the back, but we also have really good guys coming off the bench in the back,” Tumelty said. “I give credit to those three guys who start, but they had a lot of help as well.”

When the Red Hawks managed to stop Fala, they essentially managed to stop the entire Ramapo offense. Fala scored 25 goals this season, half of Ramapo’s 50 goals. By covering Fala the way they did, Ramapo had nowhere else to go. Ramapo did a poor job crashing the net throughout the game, leaving multiple scoring opportunities on the field.

The Red Hawks offense ended up exploding in the second half, scoring four total goals to ultimately put the game away. Huerta got off three shots in the half when he received a pass from Damian Kolodziej and dribbled around a charging Schaffer for the easy empty net goal, his 13th of the season.

Kolodziej kept it going when he received a rebound off a shot from Chaz Burnett and tapped it in for his second of the season. Rafael Terci put the icing on the cake when he fired a perfect shot off a beautiful right-to-left pass from Michael Knapp for his 11th goal of the season.

Last but not least, Burnett put the cherry on top when he scored his 13th of the season off a penalty kick after a yellow card on Schaffer.

While the NJAC championship is nice, Tumelty and the Red Hawks are not all satisfied.

“It’s definitely important to make sure that we get re-seeded, because the NCAA tournament is one of our goals,” Tumelty said. “We can’t just let this be the final thing for us. We want to get far into the NCAA tournament, and that’s our hope.”

As NJAC champions, the Red Hawks receive the league’s automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Men’s Soccer Championship. Montclair State enters the tournament ranked seventh in the nation out of the 62 teams in the tournament.

Montclair State will host the first and second rounds of the tournament at MSU Soccer Park. The Red Hawks will face Colby College on Saturday, Nov. 10, at 5 p.m. in the first round of the tournament. If the Red Hawks win, they will go on to face the winner of Haverford College and New York University in the second round on Sunday, Nov. 11, at 6 p.m. The winner will go on to the Sectional Tournament on Nov. 16 and Nov. 17.
Men’s and Women’s 2019 Track and Field NJAC Championship

On Monday, Feb. 18, the Montclair State University men’s and women’s track and field teams traveled to the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in Staten Island, New York. The teams competed in the 2019 New Jersey Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships. The men’s team placed fourth overall and the women’s team placed sixth.

Freshman Gianna Dassio runs the third leg of the women’s 4x800 relay.

Best of Sports

Student Athlete Profile: Men’s Basketball Peter Obertan

Samantha Impaglia
Sales Editor

Sophomore forward and center for the Montclair State University men’s basketball team Peter Obertan Jr. did not have the start he hoped for in his college basketball career. Coming off a freshman year missed due to injury, Obertan had to work extra hard to get back into the game once he was cleared.

The exercise science major from Iselin, New Jersey, suffered from supraventricular tachycardia in his heart, which caused it to beat too fast while exercising. Due to this, Obertan was not cleared to play once the basketball season rolled around.

Despite his troubles and the entire season he had to take off, Obertan found a way to bounce back and continue his college basketball career for his sophomore season.

“It was extremely tough taking a year off due to injury because I couldn’t be out there getting better with my teammates,” Obertan said. “As a competitor and a lover of the sport, not being able to play basketball for an extended period of time was really hard because I spent [the] majority of my days doing that and it was taken away from me. All I could do is trust the process and get better day by day in the summer.”

Obertan started building his basketball skills early, playing on his first team in the sixth grade. His height and broad appearance gave him the perfect body shape that a basketball player needs.

“He works and plays very hard. He is the definition of a tough player.”

Despite being taken off last season gave Obertan the opportunity to really understand his strengths and weaknesses when it comes to basketball. Being able to pinpoint what you are good at and what needs work is key in becoming a versatile player. He talked about how shooting and rebounding are at top notch right now, while his speed and agility need some work.

Another factor in Obertan’s success when it comes to basketball comes from good morals and being inspired by his parents. Having a good head on your shoulders is especially important for a student-athlete.

With Obertan coming from a family whose parents immigrated from Slovakia as well as being born there, he sees how hard work and persistence help you reach your goals in life.

“My parents inspire me when it comes to basketball because they instill hard work, responsibility and discipline into my daily life,” Obertan said. “That helps me work hard off the court and make sure I’m getting everything done to the best of my ability.”

Overall, Obertan has had a great experience being on the Montclair State men’s basketball team. Team chemistry is key for having a successful team and that aspect is present with this team.

“Being on the basketball team is an amazing experience because of all the great people I met because of it,” Obertan said. “They have truly turned into my family away from home.”

The team is now 8-2 this season and will get the chance to continue their great start during break on Dec. 30 against Williams College and Dec. 31 against Virginia Wesleyan University. Obertan is excited to keep his sophomore season going strong and looks to help the team out as much as he can.

“I’m feeling really good about this season,” Obertan said. “We truly have become a family, and we have great chemistry together on the court because of it. We’ve had a great start to the season and are looking to keep that success going.”

“Basketball is helping me reach my goals because it instills hard work, responsibility and discipline into my daily life,” Obertan said. “That helps me work hard off the court and make sure I’m getting everything done to the best of my ability.”

Standing at 6 foot 8 inches tall, Obertan has a versatility that is key for having a successful student-athlete.

“Being on the basketball court comes from team chemistry,” Obertan said. “They have truly turned into my family away from home.”

Obertan said. “Outside of basketball, my goal is to become a podiatrist or a physical therapist.”

Obertan uses basketball to fulfill his dreams as well as reach his goals. Keeping basketball and school separate is good at times, but there are many aspects of the game that help Obertan to work toward his goals.

“Basketball is helping me reach my goals because it instills hard work, responsibility and discipline into my daily life,” Obertan said. “That helps me work hard off the court and make sure I’m getting everything done to the best of my ability.”

Ben Caplan
Photography Editor

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Freshman Daryl Miller (lane two) and George Alexandris (lane four) cross the finish line in the 60 meter dash. They finished in fourth and fifth place respectively.

Junior Sylwia Zwińtowska runs hard through her leg of the 4x400 meter relay.

Junior Matthew Carmichael breaks out of the pack at the beginning of the men’s distance medley relay.

After winning the 4x400 relay, junior Jack Rosenvaer (left), junior Brandon Bizzo (top), freshman Davitt Leonard (right) and sophomore James Fox (bottom) pose on the podium with their First Team All Conference plaque.

After missing his first season due to an injury, Peter Obertan Jr. builds his way back to his former self in his sophomore year.
Before Lazaro Valdes was breaking records for the Union City High School swim team and a top swimmer for the Montclair State University Red Hawks men’s swimming team, he had to figure out a way to reach the United States.

Growing up in La Havana, Cuba, Valdes’ father left him for Spain when he was just a baby. For most of his time in Cuba, he was raised by his mother, who was a doctor. Despite not having a father figure in his early childhood, Valdes stated that he had a very pleasant childhood growing up.

“Since we didn’t have computers or smartphones like that, for me I always liked to go outside and play baseball at the park and be around my friends,” Valdes said.

Valdes also said the education he received growing up was very advanced, especially in mathematics. It even helped him when he eventually came to the U.S.

Outside of that, life for Valdes in Cuba was hard for their family, as they never enjoyed the same things as they never enjoyed the same things in the U.S. They didn’t have the same technology or the same things that people who are immigrants can understand.

Valdes and his grandparents knew they had to eventually reunite him and his mother. Unfortunately, the Cuban government punished the family by banning him from Cuba to see his mother. The reason why his mother was gone. His grandmother always reinforced that he would eventually see her again.

During those three years, Valdes did not see his mother. He lived with his grandparents in Cuba. Valdes credited his grandparents for raising him during this time and explained the reason why his mother was gone. His grandmother always reinforced that he would eventually see her again.

Valdes and his grandparent knew they had to eventually reunite him and his mother. Unfortunately, the Cuban government punished the family by banning him and his family from leaving the country after finding out about his mother escape.

Valdes’ mother sought out her friend to write “documents” claiming that Valdes was mentally insane and needed to leave Cuba to see his mother. The documents were able to allow Valdes to immigrate to Spain.

Although he was only meant to stay in Spain for a year, as his mother was planning to fly Valdes back to the U.S., Spain was a tough transition for Valdes, who had to learn a complete dialect in his short time there.

“I moved to an area in Spain where they actually spoke Catalan, which was a different dialect,” Valdes said. “I wasn’t even allowed to speak Spanish in school, only the dialect.”

Despite this, Spain gave him the opportunity to reunite not only with his dad but with his sisters in which his dad had taken with him to Spain.

During those three years, Valdes and his mother reunited in the U.S. in 2012 after she settled in Miami. He explained the feeling he had when he had first reunited with his mother at the airport.

“It was one of the happiest days of my life for sure, we cried and hugged for a good five minutes,” Valdes said. “It’s one of those things that people who are immigrants can understand.”

Valdes again had to adjust to a completely new country. His mother eventually would remarry, giving him a more active father figure in his life. He also had to learn English, despite having taken basic English courses in Cuba. He maintained that he really hadn’t been properly taught the language, and it took him a while to become fluent.

The adjustment of learning a new language would also affect his schoolwork. He was even in danger of repeating a grade in middle school but was able to pass with the help of his mother.

Things would turn around in high school as his parents moved from Miami to Union City, New Jersey. During his freshman year, he was asked to join the Union City High School swim team.

“I have always known how to swim, and I was told to swim for Union City High School so I could stay in shape for soccer, which was the sport I was playing at the time,” Valdes said. Although Valdes struggled his freshman year, he continuously dropped time every meet. By the time he was a senior, Lazaro had numerous swim records for Union City and was one of the top swimmers in Essex County.

“It was the best experience of my life [being a swimmer],” Valdes said. I didn’t really have experience with the sport, so it was nice to see the hard work pay off.

Outside of swimming, Valdes was able to grow close bonds with several of his classmates. However, Valdes particularly mentioned his high school best friends, Abraham, Anthony, Alea and Jeanne, for being the ones who really helped him get through any challenges he had.

Valdes would eventually commit to Montclair State, and like how many things have gone for him for most of his life, he had another challenge ahead of him.

“This season was really hard, having two practices a day and also having weight room,” Valdes said. “These were things I never experienced at the high school level.”

Valdes was able to eventually adjust to the rigorous schedule and his times improved tremendously throughout the season and is now seen by many as an up-and-coming swimmer for the Red Hawks next season.

“I wasn’t really confident going into the season, but eventually that confidence grew,” Valdes said. “I was able to have the best meet of the season at the [Metropolitan Championship], in which I dropped times in all of my events.

Senior Mick VanOosten has seen first-hand how quickly Valdes has developed into a quality swimmer for the team.

“He’s a great kid, and whenever he struggles, he always finds a way to push through it,” VanOosten said. “He’s always looking to learn something new.”

Valdes also believes that his composition has helped him get through a lot of the struggles he had in his life.

“I think I have that workhorse mentality with every thing that I do when it comes to swimming, or even school,” Valdes said. “I always want to work hard in whatever I do.”