As another Valentine’s Day comes and goes, love is not only in the air for Montclair State University students but for faculty as well, especially for partners who both work at the university. Despite working in different departments, the university brings these Red Hawk couples closer together. This is the case for journalism and documentary professor Steven McCarthy and his wife Kathleen Reddington who is the associate dean at the College of the Arts. McCarthy was introduced to Reddington by her sister at a university campus in New York City, on Valentine’s Day weekend, 42 years ago. Reddington first began working at the university part-time in 1997 and McCarthy followed suit after starting up his own production company. McCarthy became a part of the Red Hawk family before the School of Communication and Media was established after working on some projects with Dean Emeritus Geoffrey W. Newman. Even though Reddington is an administrator and McCarthy teaches, working at the university has brought them closer together in some ways. “I had been traveling non-stop for 30 years before [teaching] so it was nice to settle down a little bit and be home more,” McCarthy said.

Montclair State Freshman Filmmakers: Before They’re Famous

Montclair State University has excellent filmmaking and media programs where many thrive after graduation. From “Hustlers” director Lorene Scafaria to “Saw” actor Tobin Bell, Montclair State has offered the resources and facilities to help those succeed in their industry. Most of the time, you will notice the same students starring in and acting as the crew in each other’s movies. With such talented filmmakers and an amazing student community came the creation of the Instagram account @msu.studentfilms. Founded by filmmaking freshman Peter Di Prospero, the account highlights some of the greatest and newest talents at our university.

Avery Nixon
Assistant Opinion Editor

Montclair State Freshman Filmmakers: Before They’re Famous

Faculty Who Work Together, Stay Together

Amanda Alicea
Staff Writer

As another Valentine’s Day comes and goes, love is not only in the air for Montclair State University students but for faculty as well, especially for partners who both work at the university. Despite working in different departments, the university brings these Red Hawk couples closer together. This is the case for journalism and documentary professor Steven McCarthy and his wife Kathleen Reddington who is the associate dean at the College of the Arts. McCarthy was introduced to Reddington by her sister at a university campus in New York City, on Valentine’s Day weekend, 42 years ago. Reddington first began working at the university part-time in 1997 and McCarthy followed suit after starting up his own production company. McCarthy became a part of the Red Hawk family before the School of Communication and Media was established after working on some projects with Dean Emeritus Geoffrey W. Newman. Even though Reddington is an administrator and McCarthy teaches, working at the university has brought them closer together in some ways. “I had been traveling non-stop for 30 years before [teaching] so it was nice to settle down a little bit and be home more,” McCarthy said.
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The Office of Commuter Life hosted a Valentine’s Day Stuff-A-Plush event on Feb. 1 in the Student Center Ballrooms to help fill students’ week with love.

The event involved making plushies along with Valentine’s Day cards to help commuter students feel at ease before leaving campus for the day.

The Office of Commuter Life hosts events involving artistic and creative activities for commuters to participate in. They also plan Commuter Life Appreciation Week (CLAW) each semester to provide fun activities for commuters outside of classes on campus.

For this event, students gathered at tables set with the necessary supplies to make plushies and Valentine’s Day cards for their significant others, friends and loved ones.

Zoe Suwanprutsachati, a freshman communication and media studies major, came to the event to make a gift for her boyfriend.

“I was drawn to the Valentine’s Day event because of the adorable bear image in the email I was sent from Commuter News,” Suwanprutsachati said. “I had originally planned to give a bear to my boyfriend, but a heart works just as well.”

Brianna Badolato, a freshman film and television major, shared what she enjoyed about the event.

“The Stuff-A-Plush commuter event was really fun, cute and creative,” Badolato said. “It was really easy to create stuff, and you got to leave with an adorable pillow that looked like the sweetheart candy. It was nice that they had so many different options and cute colors.”

For Alejandra Arevalo, a freshman psychology major, events like this make her feel more involved.

“I always feel involved even though I do not live on campus,” Arevalo said. “I appreciate that Montclair State always finds ways to include commuters and make them feel at home by having fun on campus. The Montclair State commuter experience has been great, and I am looking forward to the next couple of years.”

Kaitlyn Marques, a freshman psychology major, shared a similar sentiment.

“As a commuter, you never feel as if you’ll get the full college experience,” Marques said. “But, with an amazing group of graduates and undergrads at Montclair State, they make commuter life more special and fun for commuters with all these activities.”

ReshDasrat, a junior public health major, said Commuter Life events make her day better.

“When I’m having a stressful day and see Commuter Life is hosting an event, I look forward to it,” Dasrat said. “It makes you happy and changes your mood.”

Kaylee Prieto, a junior accounting major, shared why she goes to Commuter Life events.

“It’s nice to spend some time away from academics for a little and focus on doing fun activities,” Prieto said. “I like these events.”

Yamile Perez, the graduate coordinator for Commuter Life, also gave his input on what the organization means to him.

“I think it’s important being visible to commuters and acknowledging that we see them, [that] we see their responsibilities for coming here every day,” Perez said. “Since we’ve started rebranding, more commuters are coming to our events and feel welcomed.”

Antonio Talamo, the head coordinator for Commuter Life, also gave his input on what the organization means to him.

“I think it’s important being visible to commuters and acknowledging that we see them, [that] we see their responsibilities for coming here every day,” Perez said. “Since we’ve started rebranding, more commuters are coming to our events and feel welcomed.”

The Spring-A-Plush event was really fun, cute and creative,” Badolato said. “It was really easy to create stuff, and you got to leave with an adorable pillow that looked like the sweetheart candy. It was nice that they had so many different options and cute colors.”

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Yamile Perez, the graduate coordinator for Commuter Life, explained the organization’s mission.

“We serve commuters, making the Montclair State campus their home,” Perez said.

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Suspicious Package At Feliciano Revealed to be Gym Equipment

Emma Caughlan
Managing Editor

The Feliciano School of Business was evacuated on the afternoon of Feb. 3 due to a report of a suspicious package found in the building. University Police cleared the building and the Montclair State University community was notified almost instantaneously via RAVE alerts. The package was later identified as a harmless gym bag.

Jash Patel, a junior business administration major with a concentration in marketing, was in the lobby when the alarms went off.

"There was a voice [over a loudspeaker] saying, 'There's an emergency in the building, please evacuate,'" Patel said. "I was confused at first because I didn't see any evidence of a fire, but the fire alarm was going off." Mario Gatica, a junior hospitality, sports, events and tourism major, was in the building when the evacuation was ordered but he said he never felt unsafe.

"This is a safe school, and the police do a good job of making sure that it's safe," Gatica said.

"So, I wasn't that worried." Emsley Dorce, a junior business administration major with a concentration in business analytics, was in class when the alarms went off and said he was feeling something other than just fear.

"The fire alarm rang and [I was in a boring class]," Dorce said. "I was kind of happy but scared at the same time."

A similar incident occurred during the fall 2021 semester when panic spread around campus over a rumor that someone carrying a gun went into the Feliciano School of Business. The "gun" was eventually identified as camera equipment.

Deputy Chief of University Police, Kieran Barrett, commend-
ed the people who reported the bag and encouraged others to do the same when they see something suspicious.

"I should mention that people did the right thing here," Barrett said. "If you don't know the person [or] don't know what it is — then it is OK to call us. We will find out."
Montclair State Announces 2022 Graduation Plans

Sam Nungesser
Editor-in-Chief

Commencement and convocation plans for Montclair State University’s graduating class of 2022 have officially been announced.

This year’s graduation will take place on May 20 at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Home to the New York Giants and the New York Jets, separate college and school convocation ceremonies will be held on campus from June 1 to June 5 on Sprague Field. Students are able to participate in both.

This marks the first year back to a full-scale ceremony since 2019, which was held at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey. Because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the last two commencement ceremonies have taken place over the course of several days on Sprague Field.

Last semester, Montclair State President Jonathan Koppell said making at least one big graduation ceremony was a priority of his. "You’ve had this picture [of graduating] in your head for a long time and you want to experience it for real, and I honor that and take that seriously," Koppell said.

Louis Biondolillo, a senior television and digital media major, is excited about the opportunity to attend two ceremonies. "I’m glad we are back to both ceremonies because the larger one will give you the sense of the community Montclair State has overall, and the smaller ceremonies will be more intimate, with other students we have gotten to know over our four years here," Biondolillo said.

He further spoke on how he feels about having the opportunity to attend two ceremonies. "I am really excited that Montclair State is having the first big graduation ceremony since COVID-19 — and to be at MetLife Stadium? I’m really excited to be on the field to graduate," Biondolillo said.

"I am really excited that Montclair State is going to have the commencement at MetLife Stadium," Ezzi said. "I believe the university choosing MetLife would be the best fit to adhere to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] guidelines." According to Andrew Mees, the university’s spokesperson, COVID-19 protocol is exactly why Montclair State chose MetLife Stadium.

"We wanted to be able to gather as an entire university family — undergraduate and graduate students, family and friends and faculty and staff," Mees said. "Holding commencement in MetLife Stadium allows us to do this in as COVID-safe a manner as possible."

Information on tickets will be announced in the forthcoming days and registration for commencement and convocations will begin at the end of February. To keep up with the latest announcements, go to the commencement website.

New Jersey Drops Mask Mandate Starting Next Month

John LaRosa
Photo Editor

In a press conference on Feb. 8, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy announced that starting March 7, school districts across the state will no longer be required to impose mask mandates.

Recently, the state has seen a drop in cases of the omicron variant. Hospitalizations due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) have also been down.

School districts around New Jersey will get to choose whether or not they want to have a mask requirement for students and faculty. Even if a school decides to get rid of its mask policy, individuals can decide whether they still want to wear a mask.

"When I was in high school, I competed in quite a few marching band competitions there, so to be going back for my college graduation is really cool," Gillooley said.

"I think the mask is still important to limit the spread," Waibel said. "I don’t think Montclair State should get rid of their mandate. I don’t mind wearing a mask."

Chris Reissner, a junior film and television major, believes Montclair State will be making a mistake if they get rid of their mask mandate.

"[It’s] probably a bad idea for Montclair [State]," Reissner said. "It seems way too early still. Before when we did that, things just got worse."

"As we have since the start of the pandemic, whenever new scientific evidence or public health guidance comes forward, we consult with our on-campus experts before making any significant changes to our policies," Mees said.
Date Ideas to Love On and Off Campus

Behind the Center for Environmental and Life Sciences (CELS) Building

This may be an obvious one, but if you're a sucker for gawking at a great view with your significant other like I am, this is the perfect spot. It may be a little cold for this on Valentine's Day, but it is looking like the Saturday before it will be on the warmer side of February.

The best thing about this is you can order food to-go from Panera Bread or Jersey Mikes. Then, enjoy your food while looking at one of the best views on campus.

Sprague Library

Since Valentine's Day is on a Monday this year and not even Cupid's arrow can halt this semester, there is a good chance that students may need to study that day. But why not study hard with your partner?

Sprague Library is open to the public, so even partners who are not Red Hawks can join you there. Find a cozy corner and hit the books with your favorite person.

Java Love

This is the perfect first date spot on campus. So, if you're one of the brave souls giving love a go on Valentine's Day, this is the place for you. Grab a cup of coffee, a spot in one of those comfy chairs and good luck to you!

The Red Hawk Diner

I may get some eye rolls for this one, but what's a better way to celebrate love than with one of the Red Hawk Diner's crazy but delicious milkshakes? This would be a great spot for a Galentine's Day gathering because Valentine's Day should be a day when we celebrate all the love in our life. To top it off, the grand reopening of the diner will be on Feb. 14 itself!

Off-Campus

Eagle Rock Reservation (West Orange, New Jersey)

This is another spectacular view and a totally Instagram-able option. This was a date I actually tried earlier this year, and some of my favorite pictures with my boyfriend were taken there. Just make sure to dress warm, as the wind can be incredibly chilly up there.

Java Love (Upper Montclair, New Jersey)

This is an adorable and delicious coffee spot that would be another great first-date idea. The atmosphere is super welcoming and cozy. The drinks and sweet treats are perfect for any valentine.

Mills Reservation (Cedar Grove, New Jersey)

This is for all my nature-loving and/or fitness lovers. Mills Reservation has some beautiful trails and there is even one that leads to a cliffside that has — you guessed it — a beautiful view of New York City.

Willowbrook Mall (Wayne, New Jersey)

For those of you who would rather not make a big deal of the holiday of love, there is always shopping. The Willowbrook Mall has almost any store you can think of, so you can spoil your partner with whatever they desire.

When you are done shopping, you can catch a movie at the new Cinemark theater which is also part of the mall. This is a great place to take yourself as well because self-love is just as important as any other love in your life.

Hopefully, these ideas helped you find something you want to do with the ones you love most. No matter how you choose to celebrate Valentine's Day, take the time to tell the ones you love how much you appreciate them. The little things are really what make love so special. Happy Valentine's Day!
Montclair State Freshman Enters Miss New Jersey USA

Avery Nixon
Assistant Opinion Editor

Montclair State University has many notable alumni ranging from actors to athletes. However, we rarely get to have one of our students in the spotlight while still attending Montclair State.

Detrah Bowman, a freshman medical humanities major, is about to embark on a journey most only dream of: Bowman is competing in the Miss New Jersey USA pageant. In April, she will be representing educated and inspiring women from Montclair State.

With her grace, professionalism and charming personality, Bowman is a strong contender to win this year’s title. She's a sweet person but she radiates sophistication when she speaks.

Bowman is definitely not the stuck-up and self-obsessed pageant girl everyone would stigmatize a pageant contestant to be. “Stigmas about pageants are to be thin as well as the snobby pageant girl,” Bowman said. “I feel like if you’re a pageant girl, it should make you be open to your [pageant] sisters.”

Jordan Egerton, Bowman’s sister, described her sister’s selflessness and good heart. “Usually, on one’s special day everything is about them,” Egerton said. “Since we were kids, I can only recall everyone enjoying themselves (and) she selflessly made sure of it.”

Bowman comes from Union, New Jersey, where she was active in many high school sports such as tennis, dance, cheerleading and bowling. At home, she and her two sisters were raised by a wonderful single mother.

“My mom definitely inspired me the most,” Bowman said. “She was my mom and dad. I really admire her strength.”

Using that strength exemplified by her mom, Bowman was inspired to continue working with women. Now that she’s in college, Bowman is pursuing her dreams of being an obstetrician-gynecologist.

“I have a passion [for] delivering babies and being surrounded by women and feminist empowerment,” Bowman said.

Her decision to study at Montclair State has been reaffirmed by the positivity she has experienced. “My [time] at Montclair [State] has been pretty [good],” Bowman said. “I cannot complain because I do have my cousin here and she’s like a sister to me. It’s been a big blessing at Montclair [State].”

Bowman and her cousin Nyla Egerton, a freshman accounting major, are always by each other’s side on campus and in life. “There are very few people that challenge my mellow nature, but Detrah has never failed to do so,” Egerton said. “As we’ve grown, her spunk and outgoing spirit [have] never failed to garner the admiration of those closest to her.”

While focusing on her academic career, Bowman decided to pursue pageantry. “I actually came across an advertisement for the pageant,” Bowman said. “I was very curious about it because one, I didn’t know we even had that, and two, what is there to lose?”

Bowman talked about what inspired her to compete. “What made me want to compete in the pageant was seeing people like me win the title,” Bowman said.

Bowman added how this particular pageant appealed to her because they prioritize the education of the contestants, not just their physical beauty. Although she is dedicated to the competition, she will always have the will to thrive in her academic career.

However, Bowman is ready to present herself to the world and show everyone you can be smart, beautiful and a loving person all at once. If she wins, after a good cry on stage, she will go on to compete in Miss USA and Miss Universe.

Bowman’s advice for her fellow women in college is something so many young people need to hear. “Be bold, be brave, definitely,” Bowman said. “If you like it, if you see it, go for it. As long as you like it and your head is in the game, that’s all that matters.”

Valentine’s Questions

Q: Does anyone actually ask people they’re not already dating to be their Valentine?

Emma Caughlan
A: The general attitude today about asking someone out on Valentine’s Day is that it can be a dangerous game. However, asking someone to be your Valentine can be a super romantic gesture and depending on the person, they may love it!

Good job!

Q: How do you ask someone if they’re in a relationship without it sounding too weird?

Corey Anan
A: Bring up the topic of Valentine’s Day in your next conversation with them. Try to ask them what their plans are in a nonchalant way. Usually couples will spend the day with each other during Valentine’s Day, or the weekend before. If they mention that they have no plans— it’s an indicator that they are single!

Q: Good Movies for Valentine’s Day?

Sam Nungesser
A: Anything Nicholas Sparks if you’re going for the usual romantic thing. If you’re looking to go for more underrated films check out “Stuck in Love” or “Love, Rosie.” And for your personal favorites, dig out a good 80s classic— “Dirty Dancing,” “Sixteen Candles” and “Can’t Buy Me Love” are the perfect comfort films to cozy up to (with or without a significant other) this Valentine’s Day!

Q: How do you communicate you’re upset if your partner doesn’t do anything for Valentine’s Day?

Ariel Ross
A: Be straightforward and honest about how you feel. Your feelings should never go unnoticed. Communication and transparency are key, always. Or be totally petty— whatever works!

Q: Ideas for celebrating Valentine’s Day if you’re single?

Jenna Sandel
A: Spending Valentine’s Day with your significant other is cheaper than socks with sandles. This Valentine’s Day, reward yourself with a relaxing day spent binging your favorite show (especially if that show is “New Girl”). You can also give Valentine’s cards to your friends and family to show them you care. Finally, top off with my yearly tradition of making a Valentine’s Day post for your dog.
With Valentine’s Day approaching quickly, there is no better way to show someone how much you love them than by making a homemade gift. Luckily if you’re trying to save money this year, this Valentine’s brunch for two will satisfy your date’s stomach and heart.

French toast is one of the greatest brunch staples. Adored by all, it’s a sweet and soft, delectable breakfast food that tastes like a dessert. Another breakfast favorite is Nutella. So why not marry the two for Cupid’s holiday and make Nutella stuffed french toast?

This recipe is very easy and will show your date just how much they mean to you. It will be easy to impress them when you show them this spread. For this Valentine’s Day brunch you’ll need:

- 1 loaf of brioche bread, sliced 1 1/2 inches thick
- 1/2 cup of Nutella, slightly melted
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 3 eggs
- 1 to 1 1/2 teaspoons of cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon of white sugar

Take your slices of brioche bread and slice them in half diagonally. A simple way to make your meal look more sophisticated is by cutting things on an angle. Then cut two-inch long slices in the middle of your bread to create a pocket of Nutella, using your finger to slightly open the pocket so you can fill your bread.

Grab your slightly melted Nutella and pour it into a piping bag for easy filling. Fill your slices of brioche until just full. If the Nutella pours out, just wipe it away with your knife and then you can lick it off once all your slices are done or discard it. However, I think I know which one most people will do. Repeat the slicing and filling for all your slices of brioche.

The most ingredient-heavy part of this recipe is the batter that you dunk your slices in the middle of your bread to create a pocket of Nutella, using your finger to slightly open the pocket so you can fill your bread. Grab your slightly melted Nutella and pour it into a piping bag for easy filling. Fill your slices of brioche until just full. If the Nutella pours out, just wipe it away with your knife and then you can lick it off once all your slices are done or discard it. However, I think I know which one most people will do. Repeat the slicing and filling for all your slices of brioche.

The most ingredient-heavy part of this recipe is the batter that you dunk your slices in. Not to worry, because it’s also the easiest part. Using a shallow bowl that’s wide enough to fit your bread, add your eggs, milk, heavy cream, vanilla extract, cinnamon and sugar and whisk them all together.

Once your batter is done, heat up your skillet. I used a flat pancake skillet but a regular old frying pan is fine. Use butter to make your skillet non-stick and delicious. Keep your heat low to medium to prevent yourself from burning the french toast. As you make more slices, you’ll feel more confident in controlling the heat.

Once your batter has melted, dunk your slices in the batter one by one and add them to a pan. Try not to add more than three at a time to ensure a perfectgolden crust and prevent overcrowding.

After about three minutes, flip your slices. Cook on the other side for another two to three minutes. You can keep them longer for a crispier crust, it all depends on personal preference. When your french toast is done to your liking, remove them from heat and continue to cook the rest of your slices.

After all your french toast is completely cooked, it’s time to plate and top them. The best way to top these slices of heaven is with berries, bananas and powdered sugar. Let your date decide how much maple syrup they want to enjoy themselves. Another way to top these is with bananas, walnuts and peanut butter. With those toppings, you’re creating your own version of “Chunky Monkey” french toast.

You can also pair this sweet main with some savory side dishes such as hash browns or slices of bacon.

This recipe is easy, insane-ly delicious and one of the best ways to let someone know you care about them. Whether you make this brunch for your significant other, your roommates, your “Galentine’s” sleepover or even yourself, this brunch will be sure to make you feel the love this year. Until the next bite.
Since working together allowed them to spend more time together outside of the home, it has also brought them closer to each other’s colleagues and friends. Reddington has become friends with some of McCarthy’s through socializing together. “We’ve made some friends that I know we’ll stay friends with,” Reddington said. “I’ve gotten to meet people he works with and he’s gotten to meet people I work with.”

The network they created for themselves at the university helped them become more involved in the community. Reddington decided to create a scholarship fund in honor of Marie Sparks, her former boss and mentor who retired two years ago.

Reddington and McCarthy raised $10,000 for the Marie Sparks College of the Arts Scholarship. The scholarship is meant for students studying the arts who are in financial need. “We’ll have a bond here for a very long time and for very good reasons,” Reddington said. “I think both of us being able to see how education makes such a great difference to our students and how they get back to [McCarthy] is the biggest takeaway for me.”

Because both of them come from the same educational background as the students here at Montclair State, they enjoy being able to provide scholarships for schools and students that need them. “We’ve both products of schools just like this. In fact, [Reddington] graduated from here,” McCarthy said. “I come from the same background as the students I teach, so it’s been very fulfilling for both of us to be here.”

While they have been fortunate enough to travel together for school-related trips, like to Puerto Rico where McCarthy helped lead a student journalism team to report on the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2018, both Reddington and McCarthy will be traveling separately this semester. McCarthy will be going to New Orleans, Louisiana for a reporting class this spring and Reddington will be going to London, England for a second time with a theater class. Despite spending some time apart this spring, the two will be closer than ever this upcoming fall. Reddington and McCarthy will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary next September. The same work dynamic is present between associate professors Bond Benton and Dr. Daniela Peterka-Benton. Benton, an associate professor of public relations, met Peterka-Benton, an associate professor of justice studies, in Vienna, Austria when he was visiting a friend of hers. Shortly after they began seeing each other, Benton and Peterka-Benton both pursued their PhDs in Austria and decided to come to the United States to try and get two faculty jobs at the same university.

“In Austria, it’s very difficult to get a university job,” Peterka-Benton said. “It never really occurred to me that it would even be a possibility, so when he came along and I got to know him better and the system, I realized that it actually could work.”

The two purposefully began applying at locations that were offering two positions and ended up working in different departments at Montclair State. “I like having a partner that knows what my job is. It’s nice to have someone to talk to and understand what’s going on,” Peterka-Benton said. “We’ve also been really lucky that over the years we’ve developed research agendas that sometimes overlap, but we really like to research together. We’re horrible with Ikea furniture, but working together on research is like a puzzle piece that fits into the other.”

Benton and Peterka-Benton were dedicated to working ing separately and in different departments to avoid making themselves and colleagues feel uncomfortable. Even though they work separately, they still give each other teaching and work advice. “We always help each other find solutions to work-related problems,” Peterka-Benton said. “We ask each other ‘How would you grade this? How do you think about this?’”

Since they are able to focus more on their research at the university, it has brought them closer together in a certain sense. “It brings us closer in a way that we can focus more on research and also work on collaborative projects,” Peterka-Benton said. “Our research has morphed a bit more while working here, so it’s very nice.”

This Valentine’s day is the perfect time to celebrate Montclair State’s many Red Hawks who are in love, just like these professors.

Professor Steven McCarthy and Associate Dean Kathleen Reddington will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in September.

Karsten Englander
The Montclarion

Bond Benton helped motivate Dr. Daniela Peterka-Benton to get a university job.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Daniela Peterka-Benton

Photo courtesy of Dr. Daniela Peterka-Benton
HAWK TALK

What’s one thing you wish you could tell your EX?

By Photo Editor John LaRosa and Layout Editor Hannah Effinger

“I know I messed up and I wasn’t perfect, but it is what it is. I wish you the best.”

Alex Caramelli
Sophomore
Accounting

“There ain’t any hard feelings, take care.”

G. Gunning
Junior
Business Administration
“I hope the time in the life that we were in was worth it enough to mean something to you.”

Marilyn Remo
Senior
Communication & Media Arts

“I don’t think there is anything I would want to say.”

Emily Kohlenstein
Senior
Music Therapy

“...you’re well.”

Melanie Alfonso
Freshman
Child Advocacy
PART-TIME BABYSITTER

Seeking a babysitter/mother’s helper on Mondays in Teaneck from 4pm-8pm to help me with an infant, 5yr old and 8yr old. Responsibilities may include feeding/holding the baby, playing with my older kids, and helping with homework. We are looking for someone fully vaccinated and with excellent references. Experience with an infant is a plus.

Please reply to 516-241-7616 if interested.
Valentine’s Day Edition
By Kayla Carlamere

Across
1. Although the main characters are fictional, this film is based on a real-life disaster and depicts the love affair between a young aristocrat and a poor artist.

4. Two patients with the same serious illness must maintain a safe distance at all times, but as they grow closer it gets increasingly harder to resist the temptation of their mutual attraction.

6. This rom-com focuses on two childhood friends who develop feelings for each other but are constantly encountered with obstacles, including college plans, a teenage pregnancy and other relationships and marriages, all spanning over a decade.

7. This tragic film highlights the relationship between two teenage cancer patients who meet at a support group, including an adventure they take to meet the author of their favorite book in Amsterdam.

Down
1. This rom-com follows the story of a girl who must keep the secret that she is dating her best friend’s brother.

2. Set in the 1940s, a young rich girl falls for a boy her parents do not approve of.

3. This coming-of-age period drama focuses on four sisters leading separate lives who are brought back together by a serious illness in the family.

5. A bubbly young woman gets a job as a caretaker to a wealthy young man, paralyzed due to an accident a couple years prior. His cynical attitude begins to change as the woman reminds him that life is worth living.

Sudoku

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Don’t Let Me Be Misunderstood: Learning Your Partner’s Love Language

lovers is in the aim — or is that the smell of yet another holiday that’s been commercialized beyond recognition? Either way, Valentine’s Day is almost here in all of its polarizing glory. Single people are either depressed or relieved, and those with partners are probably reading this and saying, “Oh crap, that’s this week?”

Many couples feel pressured to drop exorbitant amounts of money on gifts or dinners, sometimes to mend a fraught relationship or prove the fervor of their love. But these kinds of expensive gestures can fall flat, leaving the receiving partner feeling overwhelmed and awkward while the giver feels their efforts are unappreciated.

If this sounds familiar, it could be that you and your partner have different love languages.

The concept of a love language originated from the book “The 5 Love Languages” by Gary Chapman, originally published in 1992. Chapman, who has since gone on to publish many more “love language” books geared toward some odd niches such as “military,” claims there are five love languages that people tend to identify with. According to him, they are words of affirmation, physical touch, receiving gifts, quality time and acts of service.

Whether they are conscious of it or not, the majority of people already know their preferred love language, the one they “speak,” in other words. If you feel the most loved or cared for when someone brings you a surprise coffee on their way home, your love language is probably receiving gifts. If holding hands with your partner is the most important part of your grocery shopping excursion, then it’s likely physical touch and so on.

Of course, it’s common and possible to have more than one love language, but there is usually one that carries the most significance for an individual. And while Chapman’s categories are nice and neat, love, like any other language, has its nuances beyond such compartments.

Some have even argued for a sixth love language: distance, or personal space. This may seem counterintuitive, but it makes sense given that many people would think themselves an exception to their partner’s need for alone time and in turn be offended by a request for space.

Knowing your love language and being able to identify what you need is important for any relationship. But it’s equally important that you know your partner’s love language and are able to speak it.

Let’s say your love language is receiving gifts, but your partner’s is words of affirmation. Instead of saying “I love you,” you give them a necklace for Valentine’s Day, which might make them feel like you’re trying to buy their affection or like you don’t care. Of course, that isn’t true at all, but you do love them! But you’re expressing it in the way that means the most to you, not to them.

Now, instead of having a romantic evening, you’re trying to figure out what you did wrong, and your partner is insisting that you must not care if you can’t even tell them you love them.

You may not speak the same love language as your partner, but that doesn’t mean your relationship won’t work. It just means you’ll need to pay extra attention to what makes them the happiest. If it’s hard to tell, just ask them outright. It may feel strange, but chances are, they’ll appreciate that you want to get it right. After all, basic communication is necessary for any partnership, no matter what your respective love languages are.

When you’re in a relationship, especially if you spend a lot of time together, it can be easy to lose some of your identity and at the same time forget their individual status outside of the relationship as well. This person you are now calling your boyfriend, girlfriend, partner, etc., has led an entire life outside of your relationship. So before you take the plunge this Valentine’s Day and lavish your partner with expensive presents or regale them with an epic ballad, stop and consider if what you’re offering is more like something you would want from them.

On the other hand, if you’re just thinking of putting some gas in their car and ordering Wendy’s (which honestly sounds pretty great), make sure that’s as meaningful a gesture to them as it is to you.

From everyone at The Montclarion, have a happy Valentine’s Day!

Campus Voices:

What is your love language?

By Hailey Mayewski

“I’d say I like physical affection and also gift-giving, too. I like putting my time and effort into someone when it comes to a gift and putting a thought into it.”

- Carissa Flores

Undecided

“T’d say I like physical affection and also gift-giving, too. I like putting my time and effort into someone when it comes to a gift and putting a thought into it.”

- Carissa Flores

Undecided

“T’d say I like physical affection and also gift-giving, too. I like putting my time and effort into someone when it comes to a gift and putting a thought into it.”

- Carissa Flores

Undecided

“I guess my love language would be quality time...like taking my girlfriend out, we went to New York City and probably my favorite part about that was just walking through Central Park and it was just a really fun time.”

- Steven Anton

Business Administration

Junior

“For me personally, I like gift-giving because I love shopping, so I love to shop for my boyfriend and I know everything that he likes. So, it’s nice to just buy him stuff and see his reaction after.”

- Grace Walter

Educational Foundations for Elementary Teachers

Freshman

“I think I would say quality time. Just spending time with my boyfriend and trying new things, doing fun things is awesome.”

- Deirdre Ryan

Communications & Media Studies

Sophomore
With Valentine's Day approaching, love is in the air. As everyone scrambles to find their secret admirer or their star-crossed lover, we often overlook the built-in lovers we have every year: our gals!

It seems like nine out of 10 commercials during Valentine's season depict the classic intimate relationship, with some even advertising nice jewelry to get for your partner. There is little to no focus on the friendships in our lives. Galentine's Day, widely accredited to Leslie Knope (Amy Poehler) of “Parks and Rec,” is celebrated on Feb. 13. The holiday was introduced in the second season of the show as Leslie likens it to Friendsgiving: an opportunity to celebrate loyalty, love and friendship.

Additionally, focusing on the same way as romantic breakups. Don't think about friend breakups in the stable friendships in our lives, as we overlook the built-in lovers we have every year: our gals!

While you may feel lonely or excluded as the season of love is upon us, remember you can turn to the people that are always next to you: your friends.

That is all the more reason why Galentine's Day is so important. It's very easy to overlook the stable friendships in our lives, as we don't think about friend breakups in the same way as romantic breakups. Additionally, focusing on the friendships in your life is actually key to maintaining a happy life and good health. Friendships can increase your sense of belonging, reduce stress, improve self-confidence and worth, encourage healthy lifestyles and even help one cope with traumas, according to Mayo Clinic.

This Feb. 13, focus on celebrating your friendships with some of these fun activities:

Have a Rom-Com Marathon

Nothing screams a Happy Galentine's Day more than watching a cheesy rom-com! Cozy up with your friends and watch a fantastically attractive male lead chase after his love while breaking various traffic rules. Some of my personal favorites include "10 Things I Hate About You," "50 First Dates," "How To Lose a Guy in 10 Days" and "When Harry Met Sally."

Relax With An At-Home Spa Night

Who says staying in with your girlfriends has to be boring? Relax with some skincare and face masks to prioritize self-care with your besties! A refreshing night of self-care with your best friends will make you forget about the burden of Valentine's Day.

Order Takeout With Your Friends

While couples are waiting on their reservations for their oh-so-expensive Valentine's dinners, skip the hassle and keep all the fun by having a nice takeout night. Order some Chinese food or pizza and relax with your friends. It also doesn't hurt to think about all the money you'll be saving rather than eating at an overly-crowded fancy restaurant.

Create Vision Boards Together

If Valentine's Day is one of those holidays that brings more stress than joy, try channeling that into a fun vision board activity with your friends. Vision boards are great for organizing your goals and wishes for the new year. What makes this even better is sharing your goals with your support system and encouraging each other to commit to them.

Do Some Valentine's Crafts

Unleash your inner Picasso and get crafty! You don't have to be particularly artistic to do crafts with your friends either, in fact, it's sometimes more fun to laugh at what you tried to create.

Exchange Valentine's Candies

Just because you may not have a significant other to give you gifts and chocolates, that doesn't mean you can't exchange with your besties. It's very endearing to put the same effort into your friends as you would in a committed relationship. Enjoy Valentine's treats and gifts without the stress of the holiday.

Galentine's Day is about love, and that is not limited to your romantic life. After all, relationships can come and go, but your friendships are for life.

Kayla Mulligan, a sophomore history and political science double major, is in her second year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.

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**Thumbs Up**

Eight-year-old’s book placed on a library shelf now has a years-long waitlist

Arizona bride makes pet tortoise the ringbearer at her wedding

Cannabinol could hold key to preventing diseases like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's

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**Thumbs Down**

Houston-area neighborhood plastered with racist flyers overnight

Minneapolis police fatally shoot sleeping man during execution no-knock warrant

Retired nun admits to stealing $835,000 from a California school where she worked

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Sophia Caparros | The Montclarion

KAYLA MULLIGAN | STAFF WRITER
Valentine's Day Isn't Just for Romance

I

I f there's anyone who has held the record for never spending Valentine's Day with a romantic partner, it's me. Sometimes I like to compare this special day with a plague: ads with loving couples everywhere, heart-shaped chocolates, balloons with cheesy messages, giant stuffed animals and love letters at the card section at Walgreens. It's crazy stuff when you think about it, and it's an unavoidable reminder of the time to come.

Valentine's Day can be stressful, even more so if you are single. But there are many alternative activities you can do before and during Valentine's Day by yourself.

Spend the day with friends

I love spending time with my friends during this time, and I'm sure I'm not the only one. If you are single and have single friends, this is the perfect day for you! Take advantage of this day to enjoy it with your BFFs by doing an activity you all like, or doing something new and different.

This is also the perfect day to hang out platonic with someone new. You can choose to hang out with a friend you've recently met, or make new friends online. The point is to have fun and get out of your comfort zone. Make this day unforgettable!

Quality time with family

Personally, spending time with my family is always the best medicine. I don't see them as often as I would like. If you haven't seen your family in a while and you have no plans for Valentine's Day, it could be time to drop by. Go visit them and do things together, and remind them how much you love them.

Spend your pets

Our pets deserve to feel loved too, so Valentine's Day would be the perfect excuse to spoil your best friend. Take them for a walk in new places, play with them or buy them their favorite treat. You can also go further and buy them a new toy, an ornament or a new outfit. Believe it or not, your pet will thank you for it.

A day just for you? Of course!

Spending time with yourself is the best way to heal and relax. School, work, assignments — so many things at the same time can be stressful. You can use this day, or even the days before, to rest and do the things you enjoy most.

Romantic and sexual love is not something that resonates with everyone. For many, it has a negative association, and for others, sexual desire isn't something that they experience. Approximately 70 million people identify as asexual, about 1.6% of the world's population. Asexuality is generally defined as a lack of sexual attraction to others or a lack of interest in sex. For those who identify as asexual or aromantic, Valentine's Day may be difficult given the holiday's emphasis on sexual and romantic love.

Like many holidays, Valentine's Day can be a dark time for people across the world, and the constant commercialization is a painful reminder of this. Lingerie goes on sale, and phrases like "text me" and "too hot" can be found on the Sweethearts passed around by students in elementary school classrooms.

But don't let this discourage you. Despite what advertisers would have you think, Valentine's Day is also about friendship, familial love and self-love. A day about love is a time to celebrate platonic relationships and show love to the people we care about. This doesn't mean we are obligated to present a grand gesture; it can be as simple as sending a text to a friend or expressing your gratitude. It's a perfect day to appreciate the friendships you have.

Rather than sitting at home to watch "The Notebook" with a box of tissues, go to the movies with an old friend. Take Valentine's Day as an opportunity to reconnect and reminisce. Call a relative and tell them how much you love them; they'll appreciate it more than you know. Treat your sibling to a fancy dinner or cook a meal for your best friend. Tackle Valentine's Day as an opportunity for profit and begin making dollars each year. For some perspective, every year approximately 145 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged worldwide.

To sum it up, Valentine's Day is a capitalist holiday that benefits mostly the rich and powerful and therefore should not be taken too seriously. But besides that, and perhaps for that very reason, it lacks inclusivity.

The true origins of Valentine's Day are gory and abusive. From Feb. 13 to 15, the ancient Romans celebrated the fertility festival of Lupercalia. The men sacrificed a goat and a dog, then ran around the city, whipping women with the hides of the animals they had just slain. They believed this could make any woman hit with the hide fertile.

As time passed, the traditions were warped and rebranded into a day for people to express their love. Hallmark, along with many of your favorite brands, took this as an opportunity for profit and began making dollars each year. For some perspective, every year approximately 145 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged worldwide.

To sum it up, Valentine's Day is a capitalist holiday that benefits mostly the rich and powerful and therefore should not be taken too seriously. But besides that, and perhaps for that very reason, it lacks inclusivity.

Regardless of the retypes surrounding the holiday which make us believe the only way to enjoy it is alongside a loving partner. But don't forget this day is all about love in general: love for your family, your friends, colleagues or coworkers, your pets, for people you admire the most and of course, love for yourself. It's normal to feel like Valentine's Day is a romantic holiday reserved for couples. Everyone deserves happiness on Feb. 14.

Chloe Lawrence, a junior English major in her first year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.

Chloe Lawrence, a junior English major in her first year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.

The Montclarion
Valentine's Day isn’t just for romance. Valentine's Day is a day for lovers, and with the holiday comes the top of both romantic and platonic. Whether you’re setting up a romantic date night with your significant other or making your mom a homemade Valentine's Day card, it’s always important to maintain healthy relationships.

Managing relationships can be tricky, though, so it’s important to filter out the red flags, or bad signs, from the green flags. Red flags aren’t just things that annoy you about your partner. They’re signs of a larger problem, often serious enough to be dealbreakers in a relationship, and they should not be ignored.

Here are six major red flags to watch out for in any relationship:

1. **They Lie to You Constantly**
   Everybody lies in some capacity, but some lies are worse than others and can be potentially damaging, like lying about having a criminal past, having lots of debt or even about who they are. If a partner is constantly lying to you or omitting the truth, it can be hard to make a solid foundation for a relationship.

2. **They Run Away When Things Get Difficult**
   It’s easy to stick around with someone when things are going well. However, if they start avoiding you the second things get rough, that’s a sign to cut them off. Fair-weather friends are nice to have, but when the storm comes, don’t count on them to stick around.

3. **They Love Bomb You**
   Love bombing is when a person showers you with things such as love, affection, gifts or flattery, only to mistreat you and put you down shortly afterward. To make up for this, they love bomb you again, making you believe they’re going to change. In reality, it’s a pattern of abuse.

4. **They Gaslight You**
   Gaslighting is a type of manipulation in which a person creates a false narrative, making the other person question their judgment and sometimes even their reality. “I never said that,” “That never happened” or “You should’ve known how I’d react” are just some examples of common phrases used during gaslighting.

5. **They Exhibit Obsessive and Controlling Behavior**
   Have you ever been in a relationship with someone who always wants to know what you’re doing, when you’re doing it or who you’re doing it with? That’s not a sign that they care about you, but rather an indicator of someone obsessive and controlling. You are your own person, and sometimes having time or space away from a friend or partner is healthy.

6. **They Have Problems With Drugs or Alcohol**
   Having a drink once in a while isn’t a bad thing. But when someone is doing it every day in excess amounts and also refuses help, it’s a ticking time bomb. However, if a partner does accept that they need help, it is a step in the right direction and can bring you and them closer together.

Always remember that not everyone will exhibit the same red flags. Sometimes the best way to combat these is to talk to your friend or partner about them as the key to a healthy relationship is to make sure you communicate and respect each other’s boundaries.

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**How to Spot Red Flags in a Relationship**

Kelly Weckstein | The Montclarion

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**The Montclarion**

Want to be part of something greater?

Write for feature! Fashion writer wanted
"Love is a Burning Flame"—Victoria Ribarich

My grandmother sings to me
The golden words of Johnny Cash's Ring of Fire
She is placing silverware on the table
And swaying her hips as she belts her heart out
After she is done singing the lyrics she tells me this:
“You know, your grandfather loved that song.
He’d always sing it to me and we’d dance in the living room.”

He died of colon cancer, four years before I was born.
She was devastated by his sudden death
He was only fifty.
She seems unfazed when talking about him, though
Her eyes glimmer and her lips always curl into a smile
“Do you miss Grandpa Dave?” I reluctantly ask
I don’t want to make her upset.
“Every day. He’d always bring me beautiful red roses.
I have never seen roses so beautiful in my life
until he’d give me some for my birthday every year.
Now that he’s gone, I haven’t seen any bouquet of roses
as bright and red ever since.” Her voice cracks a little bit
But her smile is still intact. As she finishes putting down silverware
She hollers, “The table is set! Come and get dinner before it’s gone!”

Ever since she told me that small story about my late grandfather
I’d ponder - Should I buy her roses for her birthday this year?
I don’t want to upset her and make her miss him even more than she already does.
She carries a picture of their wedding picture in her wallet
Pictures of their younger selves hang on the walls-
His presence is well acknowledged in her tiny house.
June 18th finally came around, and I bought her a bouquet of roses.
“These roses look exactly like the ones my husband would give me.”
I have never seen her so excited and happy in my life.

"Bath Time"

“Bath Time”

"It's a Wasteland"—Alex Pavljuk

The sound of the radio crackled and hummed over the rattle of a low and melodic fan rushing back and forth. The sound of such a machine was no more distracting than the sounds of cannon fodder on a battlefield. Not that there even was a battlefield anymore, let alone that of armaments to keep us from such a barbaric practice. It was all gone these days.

The radio, as mentioned before, bled in and out of static as a cold pale hand twisted the dial before landing on a faint yet longingly hopeful station. “Autumn Nocturne” by Lou Donaldson was in its final breaths. As the song came to a close and static was about to take over the void, a voice spoke out to the world.

“It’s a beautiful morning baby, yeah?” His voice was smooth and his utterance was crisp, not far off from a Vegas performer before the world was left but a shell of its already dying self. The cold pale hand that once turned the dial reached for its nightstand. He tried to remain as quiet as he could, for he didn’t want to wake the hands of the others who dwelled within the same dreary domain.

He opened the drawer and pulled out a pack of cigarettes and some matches. He examined them closely before putting them back and instead pulled out a knife. The angelic voice continued on.

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“Be wary of traveling out there today, it’s a cold one with a concerning wind ripping down from the north. One might only guess what dangers follow that fog.” The pale hand then reached for his boots that sat on an old welcome mat just below his bunk. He situated himself and stood. He grabbed a long overcoat that’s neck was beginning to stretch from its time hanging on the bedpost.

He moved quietly to the door of the dark room, the fan and radio still keeping his mind quiet. The pale hand pulled the lever which cracked the large steel door slightly. A yellowish tint of the clouded sun cut through the dust that filled the air.

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He opened the door and stepped out before remembering. He turned quickly and pulled a gas mask off a coat rack filled with other masks. He fixed it onto his skull and moved out the door. As the threshold closed, the sound of the radio left his ears with one last notation.

“It’s a wasteland out there baby, but don’t let the apocalypse stop you from enjoying the music, here is ‘Take Five’ by The Dave Brubeck Quartet.”

-Mackenzie Reeves-Mason

-Ian Long
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BACKGROUND IMAGE BY SVSTUDIOART
‘Book of Love’ Is Wasted Potential

Denise Jugo
Staff Writer

If you are a writer, having your work translated and completely misinterpreted might be on your list of worst nightmares. One may want to take legal action as soon as possible and fight to have their work properly represented. But what if the translated version of your book became wildly successful in another country?

That was the case for Henry Copper in “Book of Love,” an Amazon Original directed by Analeine Cal y Mayor that was released on Feb. 4.

Henry, played by Sam Claflin, is an unsuccessful English writer who is down on his luck when his romance novel, “The Sensible Heart,” is not as popular as he hoped it would be. Book sales are low, the reviews are terrible and Henry realizes his book is a failure.

However, not all hope is lost when his novel surprisingly goes No. 1 in Mexico. In a desperate effort to reap the benefits of book sales there, Henry’s publicist organizes a small book tour. Maria Fernanda Rodriguez, played by Verónica Echegui, is the translator of Henry’s book and guides the writer on his tour in Mexico.

Not only did Maria translate Henry’s book, but she also rewrote the entire thing. She transformed “The Sensible Heart” from being a boring and uninspired romance to a fiery, sensual, erotic novel. Henry becomes upset at first, but the success of his book in Mexico is too good to jeopardize so he chooses to go with the flow.

The film starts on a strong note but begins to decline rapidly. Many of the scenes become repetitive. Henry and Maria go to their next spot of the tour and get asked the same questions about the making of the book and are even followed by the same group of fanatics to each tour stop.

A crucial element to making a successful romantic-comedy is likable and attractive characters. Henry, being the main protagonist, falls short in both categories.

Although Claflin has starred as the charming boy who meets the attractive girl in other romance films, such as “Me Before You,” “Love, Rosie” and “Adrift,” his Henry Copper character is less than desirable. It makes sense to introduce him as a dull person at first because that connects him to his failed novel. However, there is no big transformation at any point in the film that makes him lovable.

Another thing this movie fails to do is execute a convincing and believable romance between the two main characters. Henry and Maria’s love feels painfully forced, and there is no strong chemistry that can make audiences genuinely root for them.

In the film, Maria explains the reason she rewrote the novel is because Henry did not know what love was, but she did. This may be a believable argument, to say the least, until she contradicts herself when she says she never has time to write because she works three jobs to make ends meet. This statement could be speaking to gender inequality in Mexico and how women are given fewer opportunities for success, but any importance this potentially has gets swept up in the great wave of inconsistencies.

One saving grace of the film is the setting and scenery. The vibrant colors of the carnival festivals and the greenery of the jungles in the Mexican countryside are eye-catching. Unfortunately, this is not enough for “Book of Love” to be saved from its wasted potential. From its unimaginative romance to the dragged-out plot, you are better off choosing any other rom-com to watch for Valentine’s Day this year.
Celebrate Love With the Greatest Romance Movies of All Time

Sekhena Sembenu
Assistant Entertainment Editor

With Valentine’s Day right around the corner, you’re probably trying to plan an extravagant outing, but with the coronavirus (COVID-19) still around, options are quite limited.

Don’t panic though. You can still have a romantic and cozy night in filled with a home-cooked meal, some candles and, of course, a classic Valentine’s Day movie. Whether you’re single as a pringle or course, a classic Valentine’s Day movie. Don’t panic though. You can still have an extravagant outing, but with the coronavirus (COVID-19) still around, options are quite limited.

Here are the best romantic movies ranked from “be mine” to “soulmate”:


If you must ask, I had to leave the best for last. May I present to you the classic Nicholas Sparks film, “The Notebook.” This tear-jerker will truly have you going through all of the emotions.

Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams star as Noah and Allie, two young teenagers in a whirlwind romance — one that Allie’s rich and obnoxious parents don’t approve of.

As Allie’s parents declare Noah isn’t right for her, the couple is forced to go separate ways. As the years pass by, Noah and Allie eventually reunite, and it’s like nothing ever changed.

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Eventually, he comes to the senses, and Jamie and Landon take the world by storm until a heartbreaking secret is revealed. Through trials and tribulations, Landon continuously proves he’s not one to give up.

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Landon’s mind, Miss Jamie floats right into his life like the godly angel she is. Although, there’s only one thing preventing Landon from going all-in: his ill-mannered friends.

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Inspired by a true story, “A Walk to Remember” centers around an unexpected relationship between bad boy Landon Carter (Shane West) and goody-two-shoes Jamie Sullivan (Mandy Moore).

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Eventually, Jamie finds herself living with Savannah.

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Ladies, this one might be solely for you. Sorry, gentlemen.

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After getting into some mischief, Landon must return to school, and John must return to duty, but they make an effort to keep their romance alive through love letters. Just as John is set to return home again, the 9/11 attacks strike and John reenlists, putting their love to the ultimate test.

Distance proves to be an obstacle that Savannah can’t overcome, which leaves her no choice but to move on. As the years pass by, John finally returns home due to a family emergency but finds himself exactly where he was several years ago: in love with Savannah.

It might just be a case of the right person, wrong time.

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“Dear John” follows a young soldier, John Tyree (Channing Tatum), who meets college student Savannah Curtis (Amanda Seyfried) while on summer leave from his base.

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After two weeks together, Savannah must return to school, and John must return to duty, but they make an effort to keep their romance alive through love letters. Just as John is set to return home again, the 9/11 attacks strike and John reenlists, putting their love to the ultimate test.

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Despite their efforts to keep their romance alive through love letters. Just as John is set to return home again, the 9/11 attacks strike and John reenlists, putting their love to the ultimate test.

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Upon boarding the ship, Rose has a fiancé, but that doesn’t stop the witty and wild Jack from pursuing an attraction with her. Despite their efforts to keep their romance alive through love letters. Just as John is set to return home again, the 9/11 attacks strike and John reenlists, putting their love to the ultimate test.

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3. “Titanic” (Available on Amazon Prime Video)

Looking at the title, you might think it’s about a gigantic ship sailing toward the land of opportunity. But in reality, it’s just another love story pulling on our heartstrings.

Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet star as the infamous Jack and Rose, the star-crossed lovers who meet by fate while traveling across seas on the “ship of dreams,” the Titanic.

Upon boarding the ship, Rose has a fiancé, but that doesn’t stop the witty and wild Jack from pursuing an affair with her. Despite their efforts to keep their romance a secret, Rose’s narcissistic fiancé and snobby mother find out and attempt to keep them apart by all means necessary.

But an iceberg in the North Atlantic has a different plan. Together, they must fight to stay alive and most importantly, never let go.

Not much has to be said; it’s a classic that will never get old.

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When it comes to romance, there’s nothing in the world that beats old-fashioned love letters.

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5. “Endless Love” (Available on HBO Max)

A classic tale of teenage romance is the best way to describe “Endless Love.”

The film follows recent graduates, Jade Butterfield (Gabrriella Wilde) and David Elliot (Alex Pettyfer), who muster up the courage to speak to each other after years of just passing each other in the hallways.

Immediately, sparks fly, and they become inseparable over the summer. However, being born into two different social classes proves to be quite the roadblock in their relationship. While outside efforts try to keep them apart, Jade and David must find a way to keep their love endless.

Although not really a tear-jerker, it still gets the job done.

Although not really a tear-jerker, it still gets the job done.

To read the full article, go to themontclarion.org
With Cupid’s Day just days away, now is the time to treat yourself to a night of binge-watching sappy romance movies, a box of chocolates and glass of …water... in hand (because it’s not like we haven’t been doing this every night already).

Kick off your movie marathon with “Isn’t It Romantic,” a romantic-comedy that pokes fun at the typical “will they-won’t they-it’s-been-him-the-whole-time” plotline by turning into just that.

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When the insecure, rom-com hating Natalie (Rebel Wilson) is knocked unconscious during a mugging, she wakes up to find herself stuck in a cliché romance movie — musical style, of course.

“Crazy, Stupid, Love” will quench your thirst this Valentine’s Day for all things love to falling out of love and of course, reconciling that love, this movie is sure to resonate with anyone watching.

Alex Pavljuk
Entertainment Editor

Nerves were high for Nick Najarian, a sophomore communication and media studies major and local musician, as he prepared tirelessly throughout the week for his first live acoustic performance on Montclair State University’s acclaimed radio station WMSC.

“This was actually an idea that our production director, Chaz Campbell, had,” Williams said. “I always wanted to do a show like this, but [Campbell] helped bring it to life. It’s all come together to make this wonderful space where we can showcase local talent, such as [Najarian], and I hope it continues after I graduate.”

Nervous he was, Najarian felt the experience was unique and personal in a way that would make Sir Elton himself proud. Najarian hopes this show becomes a good starting point for people to find their calling.

“I think it’s very inspiring that WMSC wants to have a platform for smaller artists to debut their skills in front of a large audience,” Najarian said. “It’s a great thing for local musicians here on campus since there are so many of us.”

When Cal’s (Steve Carell) wife Emily (Julianne Moore) tells him she had an affair and wants a divorce, he finds himself stuck in a cliché romance movie — musical style, of course.

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The show will continue to air in the future as more musical guests are curated and scheduled, but until then WMSC has tons of other programming produced by student voices that can be reached via iHeart Radio, their website or more traditionally, via 90.3 on the dial of the radio in your car.

As the first musical guest of “Unplugged,” Najarian felt the experience was humbling.

“I was definitely honored and really privileged, but with that came a lot of stakes,” Najarian said. “How was I [going to] set a good impression for others to follow? I was very nervous throughout the process, but eventually, I definitely came into my own.”

Needless to say, he made the most of his opportunity by simply having a great time and masking whatever nerves he had with ease and grace. He made jokes, did impressions and even brought props for his cover of Elton John’s “Rocket Man,” which he made uniquely personal in a way that would make Sir Elton himself proud. Najarian hopes this show becomes a good starting point for people to find their calling.

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Filmmakers
(continued from page 1)

Di Prospero himself has his own short film, “SKULLDIVE,” a thriller that follows an internet game turned deadly.

Heavily involved with his community of filmmakers at Montclair State, he runs the Instagram account to show off his peers, and also created a Discord chat to help connect students to more opportunities within the university.

“The reason I made the [Montclair State] student films account was because I just found such [an] amazing community at the school,” Di Prospero said. “I really think [Montclair State] just has an amazing plethora of individual filmmakers who have come together.”

One of the showcased artists on Di Prospero’s account is Jenny Rose Asuzano. With the skills of filmmaking and music by her side, “Swap” director Asuzano is equipped to be a star.

“Swap” is Asuzano’s film about a girl who finds herself in an unusual predicament: her voice is swapped with her ukulele.

While “Swap” was a one-woman show, Asuzano has found her home at Montclair State.

“Montclair State has helped me because I had a lot of trouble making connections,” Asuzano said. “[It has also] taught me the common language [or] the vernacular of film students,” Montclair State has not only given Asuzano friendship and great opportunities, but a chance to be her true self.

Asuzano recently came out as a transgender woman. Her bravery, beauty and creativity make her inspiring to many and a name to remember for years to come.

Another filmmaker who presents us with beautiful LGBTQIA+ stories is Sophie Jackson, a ray of sunshine that is often present in her work.

Jackson’s film, “Book Lover,” is an aesthetically beautiful short film centered around “a young girl’s quest for a new book [that] turns into a search for love.”

Jackson explains the community she has found at Montclair State and how it has helped her.

“My life is a lot of learning and collaborating with other student filmmakers,” Jackson said. “I’m truly getting to know what my strong suits are and what I gravitate naturally towards.”

Sophia “Bee” Montano’s work contributes to the list of important topics portrayed in Montclair State student films.

In Montano’s silent film “Out of Body,” we learn “about the discovery of one’s gender identity and all of the denial, confusion and frustration that comes with coming to terms with who you are.”

“Recently, I’ve wanted to make [more] LGBTQ-based stories,” Montano said. “I feel like there’s not much of that representation in the media.”

Montano’s goal is to be a cinematographer. With such a powerful start to their career, the possibilities for the future are endless.

Scott Ackerson takes us back to the love stories with his film “COUNTDOWN.”

Ackerson’s “sweet-yet-psycho” tale of romance shows us how “a lonely young man finally gets the love of his life ... from a very unexpected place.”

Ackerson gave us some insight into his relationship with the craft.

“Filmmaking more than other mediums feels like a marriage between narrative and visual storytelling,” Ackerson said. “What you see on the frame and what you’re hearing are both just sort of working together to create a new whole piece of art.”

Last, but certainly not least, comes Esther Soca.

Soca is one of the sweetest people you will ever meet, and anyone would be lucky to work with someone like her.

Written and directed by Soca, “Ghosted” is the way-too-relatable tale of “a girl [who] gets ghosted by her crush at a Halloween party.”

Soca comments on how she still has so much left to do with her career.

“I know [being in] film is going to be a complete journey for me,” Soca said. “The ideas and goals I set for myself now could completely change.”

Someday, these artists who told their story will look back and remember their time at Montclair State, before their inevitable fame.
‘The Woman in the House Across the Street from the Girl in the Window’ Is an Entertaining Parody

Michelle Coneo
Staff Writer

In the past, Netflix has gracefully delivered nail-biting shows to fans of mystery and psychological thrillers. This time, we received an entertaining parody and darkly humored mini-series with a ridiculously long title.

In “The Woman in the House Across the Street from the Girl in the Window,” Kristen Bell stars as Anna, a mourning, depressed woman dealing with a drinking problem: a satire to the melodramatic protagonists in most psychological thriller films released in past years.

Right off the bat, we learn of Anna’s sob story, oddly intended for viewers to pity a divorcee mixing prescription drugs with alcohol. Her daily routine could make one wonder what she truly does for a living to afford such leisure time. Technically, that detail is never explained.

Bell does a great job delivering this character, making the audience feel close and connected to the story. The emotional numbness she portrays through Anna’s routine lifestyle may be a relatable aspect to some.

In fact, throughout the first episode, each character seems to be concerned about Anna, from the annoying neighbor Carol, played by Brenda Koo, to her best friend Sloane, played by Mary Holland.

Later, an apparently single yet handsome father moves in across the street from Anna. Neil, played by Tom Riley, and his daughter Emma, played by Samsara Yet, happen to be the out-of-the-ordinary element that spins Anna’s life around, as she begins to fantasize about recreating her past.

The dynamic between the three characters seems to work in her favor until the appearance of Lisa, Neil’s flight attendant girlfriend played by Shelley Hennig. She is presented as some sort of villain, foreshadowing the leading plot of the story. However, the relationship with Neil right away.

As the story progresses, Anna believes she has witnessed a murder but no one believes her. The flow of certain scenes and the facts about the characters are often thrown around to maintain suspense, but that can also be infuriating.

Some details worth mentioning are the main character’s emotions and reactions toward others. For some reason, these tend to lean on the extreme side of things. They are definitely there to work as hyperboles to convey the paradoxical interpretation of this show. It is meant to ridicule, and it most certainly serves its purpose.

Some faults found in this mini-series are the abrupt changes, the rush for character development and the little time from when the audience is dragged from one subplot to another within the same episode.

In truth, there is little room to breathe and assimilate the characters’ responses and plans, which can make the storyline appear superficial and dull in certain cuts. The last couple of episodes are crammed together with a lot going on, almost as if the creators were running out of time.

Overall, this eight-episode series will make you Anna’s friend, her enemy, her psychiatrist, a detective and a victim to one of the most unanticipated developments since “Memento” by Christopher Nolan.
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‘The Fallout’ Brings The Reality of School Shootings to Light

Beatrice Kimata
Guest Writer

Most of the time, when you hear your principal over the intercom say “shelter in place” or “lockdown,” you think it’s a drill. For some, it’s not. Released on Jan. 27, the HBO Max film “The Fallout,” directed and written by Megan Park, explores the intense trauma and aftermath that adolescents face after their life is turned upside down due to a school shooting.

Beginning on a regular day, the film follows tomboy Vada Cavell (Jenna Ortega) as she suddenly finds out she’s living every student’s worst nightmare. Bonded by trauma, Vada ends up forming a friendship with two survivors, Mia Reed (Maddie Ziegler) and Quinton Hasland (Niles Fitch), who she hid in a bathroom stall with.

After the shooting, Vada struggles to cope with her trauma and develops post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Vada’s trauma, mixed with her teenage stubbornness, prevents her from seeking help from her parents and her therapist, Anna (Shailene Woodley). As the film progresses, Vada starts to emotionally unveil her feelings, claiming she’s doing better. The question on everyone’s mind is, “does she genuinely mean it?”

In the end, this is short-lived when we are met with the disturbing reality that school shootings will not stop, and the trauma surrounding them will indeed continue to bubble toward the surface.

Parks undoubtedly hit the nail on the head with this film. Despite being R-rated, the film is shaped in a way that puts a restraint on certain scenes, yet maintains a sincere and real feeling, allowing the impact that school shootings have on one’s mental health to be accurately depicted.

Each scene is raw, realistic and spine-chilling, leaving you in suspense and wondering what’s next.

With such a sensitive and triggering topic, “The Fallout” executed its cinematography quite well as it wasn’t extravagant, but instead, simple and effective.

Besides the cinematography, the stellar performances are what really brought the film together. Ortega and Ziegler took their roles of Vada and Mia to another level. Their outstanding on-screen chemistry allowed them to tackle the heaviest scenes with grace.

Park’s portrayal of Vada and Mia’s relationship was intense and captivating as they both found solace in their newfound friendship. Watching the two navigate through their trauma, grief and romantic feelings for each other is awkward yet beautiful.

School shootings occur quite frequently but are all too often only talked about for a few days before the commotion surrounding one dies down and people quickly forget about it. When a student walks into a school building, not once does it cross their mind that their life can end in a blink of an eye.

“The Fallout” illustrates this perfectly, and demonstrates that even though there is hope, returning to normalcy after a school shooting is not always feasible for those who experienced it.

Most importantly, the film serves as a reminder that the ongoing cycle of school shootings is far from over if no action is taken.
Alex Cooper’s ‘Call Her Daddy’ Podcast Takes on Mental Health

Victoria Lodato
Guest Writer

College students rely heavily on podcasts to get through the school week. For a commuter, like myself, I’m constantly driving while being connected to CarPlay, listening to “Call Her Daddy,” hosted by none other than our single father, Alex Cooper. It’s a safe space to gain insight and various perspectives.

Cooper’s episodes varied heavily from sex talk to squashing misogyny — until recently. What was once a simple podcast has now evolved into a global movement.

Each Wednesday, she invites a new guest, ranging from celebrities to psychologists, to sit down and dive deep into mental health issues that are super relatable, especially for college students. Additionally, an occasional mini-episode is released on Sundays.

The episodes last roughly 45 minutes to an hour.

Whether it’s about toxic relationships, depression or therapy, nothing is left off the table.

While the title enforces the idea that men are the dominant species, hypothetically speaking, Cooper makes it clear women have the free will to do and say as they please. Our value as women is not emanated based on our performance in the bedroom.

“Daddy Gang,” as she likes to refer to her fans, love the talk of therapy. She even goes as far as discussing details on how to afford it, as well as providing other resources that are accessible for those with and without healthcare.

This is very much appreciated as it’s not always easy for college students to access therapy, especially on campus.

There’s comfort in knowing Cooper’s podcast brings awareness to mental health. Her segment, “Questions of the Week,” allows fans to send in their experiences and struggles.

The transition from sex education to mental health also serves as a representation of a women’s journey. Being in college introduces a lot of people to hook-up culture. Oftentimes, we subjugate ourselves to restrictive norms set by society, resulting in shame and fear.

Instead, Cooper encourages her audience to set their own rules for relationships rather than being forced to fall victim to the patriarchal system.

In this past week’s episode, 20-year-old social media icon Emma Chamberlain expressed her struggle with her own sexual identity. As someone who may struggle with their identity, trauma, relationships — whatever it may be — Cooper’s podcast is definitely the platform to go to for safety, healing and ultimately, free therapy.

What most viewers applaud though is the authenticity behind it all. As society, our time is consumed by social media: a space that creates a lot of room for comparison and low self-esteem issues due to the photoshopping and editing that we are exposed to. Cooper speaks the truth behind her photos while reminding her audience that what you see on social media isn’t always transparent. As a young female, it’s comforting to know that even those under the limelight who seem flawless also have insecurities.

Whether you’re a celebrity, a TikTok star or a full-time college student, we all experience some sort of trauma, depression, heartbreak or mental issue. It would be seriously inhumane to say you don’t.

So, plug in those headphones or AirPods and make sure to stream “Call Her Daddy” if you’re going through it this semester, because it will, for sure, make the walk to class a lot less dreadful.
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Men’s Lacrosse Motivated For More After Bitter Playoff Defeat in 2021

Campbell Donovan
Guest Writer

The best word to describe last season for Montclair State University’s men’s lacrosse team: tumultuous. The last season came with restrictions, practice pods, not having locker rooms at away games and, of course, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. But, they say a lot can change within a year.

Last season was met with ups and downs as the Red Hawks finished 7-5, ending 2021 with a tough 16-7 loss to their rival, Kean University, in the Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) semifinal. The home record did not help their cause as much either, with a 4-3 record in Red Hawk territory including losses against Kean, Cabrini University and Stockton University.

Senior midfielder Tim Elefonte had his “Stefon Diggs” moment last year, watching an elated Cougars team that eventually won the conference championship.

“No, put it in six months of hard work and lose to a team that you’ve seen three times already is frustrating,” Elefonte said. “But we use it for motivation.”

Senior attacker Tyler McCreery said the loss was tough for the team in general.

“It leaves a sour taste in our mouths,” McCreery said. “It’s motivation for next year. You look past it and remember how it felt to lose like that.”

This year, there are fresh faces to the program. Freshman Aidan Long and transfer Connor Gablules look to earn valuable minutes as Jacksonville University transfer Matt Holland wants to find a spark in the offense.

McCreery explains how different the lacrosse team is, and what the focus is for this upcoming season.

“This team has [done] a complete 180,” McCreery said. “Everyone has bought in, [including] freshman class, transfers, a strong senior group and a few fifth-year players. We remind them about the Kean loss and [how] it does not leave our heads.”

In comparison to past years, the team chemistry hasn’t been as strong as it could’ve been. This year has been different thus far.

“It’s a breath of fresh air to see everyone have team chemistry and connect,” Elefonte said. “We’re all friends and it’s nice to see it click.”

The jersey numbers will look different on both players. Elefonte will switch to No. 24 and McCreery will don No. 19. The team voted on who will wear these jerseys during the season, as they are given to seniors who exemplify leadership and character on and off the field within the program.

McCreery and Elefonte are both grateful they get to wear those numbers.

“These numbers are special, motivating and exemplify the coaching styles of those coaches, how they were as people and how much they cared about people,” McCreery said. “I’m thankful and honored.”

Elefonte elaborated on why the number is so special to him.

“I grew up wearing No. 24 and my whole life, so having something [like this] to honor coach Greco, I hope I can make him and his family proud,” Elefonte said. Head coach Matt Poskay looks to ride momentum into his fourth season at the helm. With a career record of 21-14, Poskay explained how the team can adapt.

“You learn from your wins and losses and even when you win, you don’t feel right,” Poskay said. “Having to work on the mistakes — it’s a whole combination of learning to get better, and no one has a perfect game.”

The Red Hawks start their 2022 season with three games on the road beginning on Feb. 22 with Vassar College. The date of May 1, 2021 still irks the program, but at the end of the day, it’s all about being 1-0.
Montclair State Women’s Lacrosse Hopes To Capitalize Off Historic 2021

Senior defender Katherine Yarusso is one of the team’s key returners this year.

Ryan White
Staff Writer

After coming off of one of the best seasons in its program’s history, the Montclair State University women’s lacrosse team is hoping to seal the deal with a championship in 2022.

Just last season, the Red Hawks finished with an overall record of 8-1, an undefeated regular season for the first time in program history. The only loss for this team came from The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) championship game in a crushing 16-6 defeat at home. Despite the loss, this program had reached a level of success in 2021 that surprised many. Montclair State won the NJAC regular-season championship for the first time in school history and their 2021 NJAC Title game appearance marked their first since 2017.

Although the NJAC trophy was not captured, Montclair State still had some accomplishments to be proud of. Perhaps the most notable was that they are as competitive this season, holding an overall record of 7-1. Last year’s tournament run is only going to help this season’s chances even more. Now that the Red Hawks have more experience in bigger games, they are as confident as ever. Konen reflected on last season and how she plans to move forward.

“Playing in the NJAC tournament was a great experience,” Konen said. “Every game we had to give 100% to keep the season going. The season didn’t end the way we had hoped it would (but) watching [TCNJ] celebrate the championship win on our home turf left me the drive to want to work harder and be even more competitive this season.”

As the season inches closer, it’s only a matter of time until we get to see how great this Red Hawk team can truly be.

For the first time in school history, the Red Hawks ended a 22-game losing streak to the Lions with a 10-9 victory.

Senior defender Rhiannon Brown is one of the team’s key returners this year. She spoke on what it was like to replace Gorman’s leadership and defensive unit that will be looking for a monster season, having scored 32 goals, which lead the team in goals per game with 14.5 and also finished first in the conference in assists per game with 7.8 just one year ago.

With senior midfielders Amber Gonzalez and Tristin Konen still on the team, they shouldn’t have any issues finding the back of the net. Konen is coming off a monster season, having scored 32 goals, which lead the team that season.

Players such as Brown and Gonzalez were vital to last season’s success. However, the two of them might see an increase in opportunity in terms of scoring goals with Mahlstadt being gone.

“Beating TCNJ last year in the first game was one of the most amazing moments in my entire lacrosse career,” Brown said.

The Red Hawks will begin the 2022 season ranked No. 19 in the Nike / USA Lacrosse Magazine Top 20 poll. Last season, the team finished 18th in the final poll.

Montclair State is set to open the regular season at home on Feb. 26 as they host Haverford College at 1 p.m. Their first NJAC contest will be against No. 11 ranked TCNJ on April 9, a high-anticipated rematch from last season’s title game.

Defensively, senior Katherine Yarusso will headline this defensive unit that will be looking to replace Gorman’s leadership and clutch play. Another player to look out for will be sophomore Cristina Torsello, who won NJAC Defensive Rookie Of The Week last season.

Senior defender Kaitlin Zazzaro, who is returning to the program after a year hiatus, spoke about how talented the team really is.

“Everyone on our team can play really well,” Zazzaro said. “No matter who is in, it’s going to work. You can throw anyone in and you know that they are going to go out and do their job.”

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As the season inches closer, it’s only a matter of time until we get to see how great this Red Hawk team can truly be.
Family mentality and team chemistry mean a lot to the Montclair State women’s club basketball team. Montclair State University that has been successful.

The women’s club basketball team, headed by student coach Kayla Fletcher, currently has a 4-0 record both overall and in the Mid-Atlantic East Conference as well, with huge wins against Lehigh University out of Pennsylvania and a familiar foe in the Rowan University Profs.

Senior guard Lisa Cohen spoke about how strong the team chemistry was against their contests in Glassboro, New Jersey. “The courts they have us play on is in their [recreation] center,” Cohen said. “There was an open gym happening on the other side and we constantly saw the other people [looking over at us] because we were so loud. The chemistry was amazing. People were walking over, looking through the divider and sitting and watching us because they were mesmerized by what was happening.”

Something spectators can be mesmerized by is Cohen’s defense in recent games this season. Cohen has notched two steals in three straight games against St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Lehigh as well. Cohen emphasized how important defending the ball is to her. “I think defense is my strongest suit, and everyone on the team can agree with that,” Cohen said. “I have a way of being able to control the defense and envision what is going to happen by the other team before it even happens. I think that impacts the team, our chemistry and the game as a whole.”

Fletcher has had a tremendous impact on the team over the last few seasons. Back in 2019 and before the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the team was not in a good place on paper, with a 4-6-2 record in addition to coming second in the Mid-Atlantic East Conference. But with the help of Fletcher and Cohen, they were able to make a turn around and become a strong team.

“[Fletcher] has a way of being focused and being ready at every practice. And, my teammates also help because they’re very encouraging and always picking you up. If you miss a shot, it’s no big deal. You go back on defense and take another shot in the next possession.”

One player who has reaped the benefits of working hard for the team every day is junior forward Jada Baker. Baker not only leads the team in points per game, (with over 14 points per game), but she also recently won Player of the Week honors for the club team. This is one of the rewards they give as a way to feel good about putting in the work. Baker speaks on how she is shooting so efficiently this season. “I starts with putting in work in the gym, as much as possible,” Baker said. “That’s what helps keep my shot consistent as well as staying focused and being ready at every practice. And, my teammates also help because they’re very encouraging and always picking you up. If you miss a shot, it’s no big deal. You go back on defense and take another shot in the next possession.”

Baker also highlighted that every girl is essential to the team, and talked about how during one of the games at Rowan, Cohen made a three-pointer. Because of her defensive playstyle, something like that doesn’t happen often, so the girls on the bench went crazy. It’s moments like that which help the players’ confidence.

Junior center Danijela Markanovic also has a lot of confidence being that she is the tallest and the true center on the team. She is averaging close to nine points per game and even had four steals in a game against St. Joseph’s University.

Markanovic spoke on what helps her offensive playstyle. “You have to treat the ball like it’s your baby,” Markanovic said. “Obviously, height comes at an advantage, but it also doesn’t matter since [Baker] is 5 foot 9 [inches] and she averages 14 points a game. You also have to talk loud, and control the girls, or else it won’t work out.”

With games against The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), Villanova University and Iona College coming up in their schedule, they all want anyone interested to come out to the games and support the squad. It can only further build their family chemistry, as Cohen touches upon, “You have to come to one of our games to truly experience what it is we’re saying,” Cohen said. “Everyone sounds amazed when we talk about our team, but it isn’t enough to just talk about it, but rather to see a game in person.”