The Montclarion February 24, 2022

The Montclarion

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Montclair State University spent 16 years and hundreds of thousands of dollars fighting local authorities for the right to make Yogi Berra Drive into a two-way road.

They lost, and Clifton, New Jersey resident and Montclair State alumnus Ed Pasino played a part in their defeat. Pasino was embroiled in a conflict between Montclair State and the city of Clifton, as well as Passaic County. The battle began in 2005 when the university first made its plans known and Pasino raised his concerns to the city. In 2014, after years of being denied by planning boards and local authorities, Montclair State sued both Clifton and Passaic County.

Even now, after the New Jersey Supreme Court settled the matter in a victory for Clifton in fall 2021, Pasino, a retired teacher, noticeably bristles just from recounting the events.

“It’s [fun] just talking about this,” Pasino said from his cozy living room. “Because it was just an awful, awful 16 years.”

Pasino expressed a degree of exasperation over the amount of money the university has spent on the legal battle over Yogi Berra Drive. As of October 2019, Montclair State had accrued $450,000 in legal fees since the start of the case in 2014.

“I hope it’s over with because as an [alumnus] and as a taxpayer and, you know, having paid tuition, I don’t want them spending any more money on this, and look where it’s led,” Pasino said.

In 2005, Montclair State was looking to accommodate its growing student population and relieve the increasingly severe traffic congestion, drew up plans to expand Yogi Berra Drive. Andrew Mees, the university spokesperson, reiterated the importance of having an additional exit available.

“It is not inaccurate to say Yogi Berra Drive being a one-way street impacts the flow of traffic on campus,” Mees said. “That is why the university has petitioned to make it a two-lane road for the past 16 years, taking the case as high as the New Jersey Supreme Court. Another exit from campus is a necessity, on that side of campus in particular, especially in an emergency scenario when people may need to get off campus quickly.”

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Pasino’s testimony was cited by the New Jersey Superior Court as being significant enough to overturn any confidence the court had in Montclair State’s police to hypothetically enforce the speed limit on a modified Yogi Berra Drive.

As an alumnus, Pasino is sympathetic toward the students who are still dealing with the traffic situation on campus.

“I feel for them,” Pasino said. “I was one of them. There was traffic [then, too], but you don’t solve the problem by making a bigger problem.”

Pasino also reiterated that ultimately, the end result was out of his hands.

“The courts decided,” Pasino said. “It was a long process, a lot of testimony, a lot of time, a lot of different court meetings and this was the end result and I hope it’s finished.”

Commuters, who take the brunt of the traffic on campus, are divided on the issue. Leslie Gallagher, a junior communications and media arts major, thinks the State Court was right to deny Montclair State’s appeal.

“Honestly, knowing that road, I think it would have been a really dangerous thing to do,” Gallagher said. “I do think we need another exit, I just have no idea where. I think there’s a lot of traffic on campus, especially at particular times. [It] takes, like, 30 minutes just to get out of here at certain times of day.”

Taylor Lobue, a freshman psychology major, feels the change would have been beneficial to students.

“I think there should have been two ways,” Lobue said. “I’m here for, like, an hour after I get out. I already get out of here at 5 p.m. and I don’t get home until 6 p.m., so it would be a lot easier if there [were] two ways.”

Whether the university plans to continue petitioning for the expansion of Yogi Berra Drive or has some alternative in mind remains to be seen. For now, for the first time since 2005, Pasino is at tentative ease — emphasis on “tentative.”

“They’re not starting something up again, are they?”
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Red Hawk Rap Sheet

Saturday, February 19
The Village: Officers responded to Williams Hall in regards to a report of theft by deception. Officers were met on the scene by a student, who reported that an unknown individual had defrauded her of money. This incident is under investigation.

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

Did You Know?

“Cleaner shrimp are known to participate in a stylized dance that attracts other fish to come close enough so that the shrimp can feed on it, or ‘clean’ the other fish. Sometimes these fish are over twice the size of the shrimp feeding on it.”

Sourced from JustFunFacts

Check out our Newsletter!
Faculty at Montclair State University have recently expressed their concerns with the accuracy of coronavirus (COVID-19) contact tracing on campus for their classrooms.

At the Feb. 16 university senate meeting, there was buzz of possibly implementing seating charts in classrooms to improve contact tracing.

David Strobbe, a theatre and dance adjunct professor, expressed his concerns about this possible plan.

“In terms of contact tracing, I think it’s a good idea,” Strobbe said. “But in terms of the students, it doesn’t give them the freedom to move around once they start developing friendships if we put them into groups and things like that.”

Strobbe said he prefers his students to have the flexibility of moving around. He understands that students may want to be in the front of the classroom one day and in the back the next, depending on how they are feeling.

“I want to make sure students are comfortable in a space,” Strobbe said. “So, if they are locked into a [seat], it takes away their flexibility to move around. It would create more of a perimeter which I am trying not to create in my class.”

David Winters, an adjunct professor in the School of Communication and Media, is upset about how the entirety of COVID-19 was handled throughout all universities.

“This isn’t entirely Montclair State’s fault,” Winters said. “Our national policy has prioritized capitalism over human life, created confusion when clarity was a matter of life and death and made it impossible for well-meaning institutions to respond with consistency and sensitivity.”

Winters believes the university senate means well, but seating charts would burden faculty and students.

“[Montclair State] leadership has done their best to toe the line, but the state and national leadership [Montclair State] looks to hasn’t provided the clear and consistent policy we all needed,” Winters said.

Jake Hamstra, a junior theatre studies major, believes this would be an unnecessary change for the university to make.

“I can see how this could possibly aid in making contact tracing easier and making it so fewer people have to quarantine if someone in your class contracts [COVID-19],” Hamstra said. “However, I do not think this will have actual results since whenever someone in my class gets [COVID-19] no one else contracts it. It would just be an annoyance.”

Mady Garthly, a junior educational foundations for elementary teachers major, thinks if the university set this in place, it would be an extreme measure.

“We are adults,” Garthly said. “We don’t need to be assigned seats like we are in kindergarten.”

Garthly believes this would completely disrupt group projects and the way the classroom works. She stated that in all of her classes, everyone is sitting close to each other regardless, so it wouldn’t work even if they wanted it to.

Sam Seiser, a junior educational foundations for elementary teachers major, said this would be an unhelpful and unreasonable change. She had professors try assigned seating in the past and noted it has never worked out because of group projects.

“You come in contact with so many people every day,” Seiser said. “It’s impossible to determine that you got [COVID-19] from someone you were sitting next to in class that day.”
“Ms. Yerushalmy’s work melds daring ideas with lush movement that makes space for nuance and detail.”
—THE NEW YORK TIMES

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Campus Reacts to Parking Services Revenue

Last month, students, alumni and parents filled The Montclarion Instagram post with displeasing comments about parking services exceeding $1 million in revenue in the last three fiscal years.

The post, which provided infographics and quotes from the article "Montclair State University Made Over $1 Million in Parking Tickets in the Last Three Years," accrued over 300 comments, 2,000 likes and 7,500 shares.

Most of the commenters shared their excessive collection of parking citations followed by their desire for parking services to reevaluate their operation and implement change to accommodate parkers.

Justin Urbealis, a 2020 television and digital media graduate, commented under the Instagram post. He says parking has been an issue since he was an undergraduate and blames it on the infrastructure of the university.

"Montclair [State] is not putting enough money into the infrastructure," Urbealis said. "[The school] needs to put that money toward the problem and use that money to build more."

Urbealis receives alumni emails from the university about making donations but says persisting issues such as parking can sway him and other alumni away from donating.

According to Elyse Toribio, a university spokesperson, parking citation revenue accounts for 12% of the parking services budget. The remaining 88% is generated from employee and student permits, parking meters and daily parking without a permit.

From 2018 to 2019, parking services received $4,982,447 in payments from permits, meters, fines and daily parking. From 2019 to 2020, $4,383,187 was collected. From 2020 to 2021, the revenue was $1,516,247.

In the last three fiscal years, parking services amassed $10,881,881.

The money goes toward operating parking facilities which includes paying debt for the two parking garages, personnel, equipment and insurance. The university does not garner any funds from parking services.

Evelyn Moulton, a junior English major, is a commuter who pays $260 for General Commuter Parking effective September through May. She lives 15 minutes away and leaves an hour early to obtain a parking spot, but most days she ends up paying for visitor parking to achieve a spot closer to the main campus.

"I understand the school does the best they can," Moulton said. "I'm not saying we should [pave] paradise and put up a parking lot, but it doesn't mean that it is not annoying."

Some say it is an infrastructure issue, others say it is the cost of tickets, but students, alumni and parents all expressed a common emotion in the Instagram comment section: frustration. In response, the university says they recognize the campus’ concern in relation to parking.

"We are aware of the questions and concerns that our students have about parking on campus," Toribio said. "The Parking Services Office is preparing answers to the most commonly asked questions, and it plans to publish an FAQ on its website in the near future. We will let you know when that goes online."

Justin Urbealis is a 2020 graduate who says parking was an issue when he attended Montclair State University.

Givonna Boggans | The Montclarion

Afternoon traffic on Yogi Berra Drive. John LaRosa | The Montclarion

Givonna Boggans | The Montclarion
Meet the Punks and Goths of Montclair State

Montclair State University holds a unique and diverse community of students that are a part of a vast array of subcultures. Today, we pull the punk and goth scene of Montclair State from the underground to get a better understanding of who they truly are.

While many students spend their weekends finding frat parties to attend, punks and goths seek concerts and shows in local basements or at a professional venue. Shannon O’Connor, a senior animation and illustration major, is one of those people who seek out unique live shows.

“Some of the basement venues that I go to are called the Ghost Harbor [creative] and the Ghoul Lagoon in New Brunswick, New Jersey called the Meatlocker that is here in Montclair, to watch my friend’s band play,” O’Connor said. “I just saw the band Save Face perform there last weekend.”

Another student, who goes by his artist name, Shiva, is currently a junior political science major. He doesn’t have to travel far for the live shows he attends.

“I’m actually going to the Wellmont Theater [in Montclair, New Jersey] this weekend to see Black Veil Brides and In This Moment,” Shiva said. “There are also goth clubs, bars and venues in New York called QXT’s and Saint Vitus that I go to every now and again.”

Sophia Malloy, a junior journalism major, also spends her college weekends seeing lots of live shows.

“I just went to Dingbatz [in Clifton, New Jersey] to watch my friend’s hand perform,” Malloy said. “I also know about The Meatlocker that is here in Montclair, but it just shut down.”

Some of the interviewees’ favorite bands and artists include metal musicians Marilyn Manson, Slipknot, Korn, Motionless in White and Rob Zombie. Others enjoy emo rap like City Morgue and classic punk like The Descendents. Despite not typically being associated with goths and punks, pop musicians like Britney Spears and Lady Gaga are also artists commonly listened to.

Punks and goths are big into the arts and are such a big part of goth and punk culture. Their tattoos and piercings have allowed them to feel truly beautiful. "My body modifications definitely boosted my confidence a lot," O’Connor said. “I hated my lips before I got my vertical labret lip piercing and my pinky tattoos on my arm covered something I was really insecure about. Overall, I love art, so putting it on my body makes me like myself a lot more. It also reminds me to not be so hard on myself.”

Meet the Punks and Goths of Montclair State

Shiva at Stokedville, creating promotion videos where Murdoch films and edits while Shiva models his self-made clothing.

Punks and goths are known for taking their love for art to the next level through body modifications such as tattoos and piercings to express their interests and individuality. “I have six piercings and nine tattoos," Shiva said. “I love my Stokedville logo [skull and crossbones] tattooed on my arm or the eye of Shiva on my chest [who I named myself after]. He is one of the Hindu gods and is called the destructor of the universe. When his third eye opens, all evil and ignorance will be destroyed, which is overall humanity itself.”

Shannon O’Connor seeks out unique live shows.

Murdoch also has sentimental tattoos. “I got my first tattoo at 18 and it’s a pink and blue semicolon butterfly,” Murdoch said. “The semicolon and butterfly are for both suicide prevention and self-harm prevention so I got it as a promise to myself at one year clean to never do that again. Plus, if I ever relapsed I’d have to get it covered as I would have broken the promise it represents to myself.”

The effect that body modifications and the general punk and goth aesthetic have on these students has played a crucial role in the way they view themselves and the world around them. Their tattoos and piercings have allowed them to feel truly beautiful.

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Many punks and goths are just looking for ways to express who they are on the inside, with the way they look on the outside. Like everyone else, they too just want to feel comfortable in their own skin.

“Growing up, my parents always tried to teach me to have a high self-esteem and that being different was amazing and to be who I am, glitter, chains and all,” Murdoch said. “Looking at myself now, I’ll sometimes tear up just because I see the person my middle school self who felt trapped in their skin always wanted to be.”

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Montclair State Student Jordan Stewart Works To Create New Civics Course

Lynise Olivacce Assistant Photo Editor

Transferring from Arkansas Baptist College, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), to a predominately white institution stirred a mixture of emotions for Jordan Stewart.

The senior political science and Spanish major expressed that leaving a place that accommodated his needs as a person of color to an institution that arguably lacked such perspective in areas of its curriculum was a tough transition. He reflected on the discomfort he felt being in high school classrooms, where he was one of the few Black kids, but also on how much of a relief it had been to attend an HBCU where topics discussed made him feel included, heard and fueled his purpose to become the youngest Black man to run for Congress.

During his two years at Arkansas Baptist College, where he got his associate degree, Stewart took a course called Topics in American Studies: Remembering and Forgetting: Race, Violence and History in the U.S. “[The professor] taught it in a way everyone in the class could understand it, and it was really relatable," Stewart said. "It kind of made me think that's the kind of career path I want to go into.”

Once Stewart transferred to Montclair State University, he realized he didn’t entirely feel the same way in his classes as he did at Arkansas Baptist. But the lessons and experiences Stewart’s professors instilled in him and the obstacles he faced in high school influenced him to start Soul Civics (@soulcivicsinc), an Instagram account that educates others on the importance of civic engagement and political enlightenment.

However, Stewart did not want to be limited to a social media platform.

For that reason, he’s in the process of curating a civics course at Montclair State where students, specifically students of color, can be encouraged to take political enlightenment seriously. That is, utilizing current events, student participation in school governance, news media literacy, so-politics kind of go hand in hand,” Stewart said. “We need to engage in methods of voicing our dissatisfaction with the lack of true representation and change from those who claim to serve or even care about our interests.”

Johnston said the course would explore both history and current events. “The civics course [will unveil the importance of] reforming our conception of what policing is [and examining what] its originating functions were: the enforcement of enslavement and punishment of those who would dare to dream of liberation,” Johnston said.

Stewart’s curricular method of teaching civics is that it directly impacts you whether you are actively engaged in it or not — so, why not have a say in your future?”

Despite the journey it will take to get to his goal, Stewart believes the youth has the essentials of what it takes to be revolutionary. He urges them to show how they can.

“I feel it’s very important for us to know the rules of the game in order to play the game," Stewart said. “Politics in the game but civics is the rules. The institutions that are set up and the people that are in power are in power for a specific purpose. And if you want something [to] change, you can’t change that without knowing the ground rule of the game.”
2022 Book Releases To Look Forward To

Beatrice Kimata
Guest Writer

As we continue to move our way through the new year, there is a whole slew of intriguing books that are set to release this year. For those of you who have “reading more books” as a part of your 2022 resolutions, it’s not too late to start.

“In These Deadly Games” by Diana Urban (Feb. 1, 2022)

In a sick and twisted game, Crystal Donovan’s sister gets kidnapped. With only 24 hours to win and the threat of her sister’s death looming over her head if she refuses to play, calls the police or tells anyone about the game, reluctantly obliges.

The only piece of her past that main protagonist Olivia holds onto is her mother’s journal. When a letter arrives for Olivia to come home to Gallant, she’s surprised to learn that no one was expecting her arrival.

No matter how many troubling circumstances she’s faced with, Olivia finds comfort in Gallant. With a thirst to uncover the secrets hiding in Gallant, she uncovers a whole new side of her family.

One reason I’m excited for this book is because it reminds me of one of my favorite books from 2021, “The Grimrose Girls” by Laura Pohl, which has a second book coming out this year as well. Both books involve a boarding school where something isn’t quite right, which is my taste in books with academic settings.

Schwab released a short story titled “First Kill” in the book “Vampires Never Get Old: Tales from the Side.” This is also another book coming out this year as part of the author’s new duology “First Kill.”

When a letter arrives for Olivia to come home to Gallant, she’s surprised to learn that no one was expecting her arrival.

Young adult thriller novels do unusual and harmless, but soon take a turn for the worst as Crystal realizes that the tasks are meant to hurt and kill her friends.

With the clock continuously ticking, Crystal must outsmart the kidnapper and figure out their identity, while having to choose between her sister and her friends at the same time.

Young adult thriller novels do not always have the best feedback, but I like to stick my nose in them because of how fast-paced they are. Based on the plot alone, I think this book might be enjoyable for fans of the series “A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder” by Holly Jackson.

“Gallant” by V.E. Schwab (March 1, 2022)

Mina Zanetti comes from a generation of mediums who use the ocean to guide the dead to their final resting place. When the ghosts become increasingly dangerous after the sea levels rise, Mina gets shut out of her family’s business.

After Evelyn performs another summoning that goes wrong, Mina and Evelyn decide to solve the mystery of who was behind the drowning summer, while surfing through their feelings for each other at the same time.

When it comes to books dealing with the paranormal, I’m used to them being in academic settings. With this book taking place in the summer, I’m easily interested to see how this will play out.

These books are catered towards those with an appetite for spine-chilling mystery and thriller stories, with an occasional romantic relationship on the side. So stick to your resolutions and pick up these books as they release.

Photo courtesy of David Curtis
Carley Campbell
Assistant News Editor

If you’ve been on campus in any capacity, then you’ve been to Sprague Library. It’s a small building on the outside, but once you wait for those slow-moving automatic doors to open and make your way inside, you are greeted with three floors of books, microfilm and a whole collection of multimedia.

Typically, when you think of libraries, you think of midterms and long study sessions with stacks upon stacks of papers to sort through and long hours of monotony to get the best grade possible.

Arguably, you’d think the library is the best place to study on campus. It’s quiet. It has air circulation, plenty of comfortable spaces to sit and focus, a lot of books and people who can help you find exactly what you’re looking for.

So for the sake of curiosity, I went to test this theory on a Friday afternoon, arguably the least popular time to visit the library. I started on the second floor as I found the first floor to be too daunting to start asking people why they prefer one spot over the other when it comes to studying.

The second floor was warm and relatively empty, but on my way I met Veronika Hammond, a senior philosophy major, who was pouring over her notes on her laptop when I walked over to her.

She was right, 4 p.m. on a Friday is hardly a popular time to be on campus. Most students have already filed away to their cars and the shuttles and made their way back home for a restful weekend.

I continued walking around the library. It was quiet as ever. You could hear the shutter of the camera clicking as I wandered around the space, looking for people to chat with. The sun was streaming in through the windows facing Cole Hall, painting everything in a soft, buttery glow.

I headed down to the first floor again and made my way to the printing lab by the University College office.

That’s where I found Patrick Quigley, a senior business administration major with a concentration in marketing, and he thinks the library is the best place to study.

“I usually like going to the library if I have to get work done or study,” Quigley said. “It’s really quiet and everyone is pretty respectful and doing their own work and their own thing. I think it’s probably the best place to be when you’re studying or doing homework.”

To get a better perspective, I talked to Zach Abruscato, a senior filmmaking major and one of the student librarians. Abruscato started working at the library last spring and also prefers the study space by the windows.

“[The best place to study is] the library of course, I’m not just saying this as an advertisement for it, it’s just an easy place to study,” Abruscato said. “It’s a very nice way to utilize space but it’s a very versatile place to study.”

Samiha Miah, a junior biology major, agreed.

“My favorite place to study is definitely the library and the cafe in the library, that’s where I usually go other than home,” Miah said.

With midterms approaching, it’s important to find the best place for yourself to study, and that just may be at Sprague Library.
The Robotics Club Is Making an Electric Start to the Semester

Amanda Alicea  
Staff Writer

On the second floor of the Center for Computing and Information Science, Robotics Club executive board members Omar Obidat, Laury Rodriguez, Jean-Jacques N’Dri and Jesse Parron prepared their workshop presentation, greeted participating members as they entered and set up equipment. President Obidat took his place at the center of the room in front of his PowerPoint presentation and instructed participants.

The executive board members of the Robotics Club prepared their very first hands-on workshop of the semester after being inaugurated in fall 2021. The workshop focused on assembling a breadboard using an Arduino, an open hardware development board that can be used to design and build devices. Participating members connected a sensor and LED light to an Arduino to have it light up depending on how close it is to an object. Before the LED lights could light up, participants had to code on their laptops and change values depending on where they placed their jumper wires which were connected to the Arduino board.

Participating members kept up with Obidat with the assistance of Secretary Nderi and Vice President Parron. Members, like junior computer science major Samantha Zuza, enjoy the club due to how hands-on the activities and members are.

“I joined out of pure curiosity,” Zuza said. “I’m in computer science and I wanted to branch out and do different things, and this is a really hands-on club.”

The workshops are open to all majors, including those who do not have any familiarity working with robotics. Executive board members walk around in between each step to make sure everyone has an understanding of the project at hand. Lana Saadeddin, a junior data science major, said this allows everyone to feel welcomed and comfortable while there.

“It’s really fun,” Saadeddin said. “Even if you don’t know what to do, they’ll just help you out, so it’s very welcoming.”

This was just the first of many workshops the Robotics Club will host alongside the club advisor, Dr. Weitian Wang, who is an assistant professor of computer science. Executive board members already have the next few workshops planned out ahead of time.

“We have a set agenda when the semester starts, and if any members feel like they want to focus on something, we will add a workshop or bring someone in to explain it,” Obidat said.

Wang and the executive board members will also be organizing a series of workshop activities for local schools and K-12 students in the Montclair, New Jersey area.

“We have a coordinator from Montclair middle school here today and hope to have a workshop there in March at his middle school,” Wang said.

The club will also be conducting a semester-long project which will be open to members of the club. Members can team up or work independently to come up with a proposal to present to the executive board members. Once a project has been approved, the club will purchase the equipment needed to perform the project and assign an executive board member for any assistance needed. After the projects are completed at the end of the semester, executive board members and Wang will have a showcase to display them to students of the university.

The Robotics Club leadership is creating the semester-long project in hopes to inspire more members to be innovative and make their own project, according to Obidat.

“We want students to be able to start their own projects because on a resume it looks amazing,” Obidat said. “We’re funded by the Student Government Association (SGA) and given a budget of $2,000. If we can spend it on students’ learning, it would mean we spent it effectively.”
PRSSA Students Spread Awareness About Lymphoma

Emma Caughlan
Managing Editor

There is a new TikTok dance trend hoping to grace Montclair State University’s campus and it’s already recruited the one and only Rocky the Red Hawk. Although, the subject matter might not be what you expect.

The hashtag #Dance4Lymphoma is just one part of the “Let’s Talk Lymphoma” campaign that launched last week. Four Montclair State students are participating in the Public Relations Student Society of America’s (PRSSA) Bateman Case Study Competition, where students from all over the country compete to create the best campaign for a specific client.

This year’s client is the Lymphoma Research Foundation which studies cancer of the lymphatic system and includes the lymph nodes.

Ana Carolina Populim-Boykin, a senior public relations major, is one of the students who worked on the campaign and knew nothing about lymphoma prior.

“I wasn’t even really sure what lymphoma was,” Populim-Boykin said. “I knew it was a cancer but I didn’t know the intricacies of lymphoma. [With this campaign], not only am I getting hands-on experience of PR but I’m also learning about lymphoma.

This lack of knowledge is the Lymphoma Research Foundation’s main problem, especially among young people. To tackle this, the students came up with the idea to make a TikTok dance according to senior social media and public relations major Maria Alegria Menendez, another student who worked on the campaign.

“We were all in front of this whiteboard thinking of all the ideas that we could come up with to get people involved and want to get involved,” Menendez said. “I pointed out how TikTok dances were so popular, then we were all thinking ‘Oh my god, it’s a great idea!’

They wanted to have the dance show the three major lymph node areas: the neck, the armpits and the groin. To help with the choreography, they reached out to the Montclair State Dance Company (MSDC) for help to create a simple and fun TikTok dance.

“It was like a no-brainer because you’re educating but you’re having fun,” Menendez said. “[You’re] learning yourself and then helping spread awareness and hopefully getting other people involved. So it’s awesome.”

Despite the fun the students had creating the campaign, they never lost sight of what it meant on a broader scale. Dimitrios Rodriguez, a senior public relations major, learned on a personal level when his grandmother was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma during the campaign.

“I basically lived it firsthand,” Rodriguez said. “It means even more to me now than it was going into it in the beginning.”

His grandmother is in remission but Rodriguez said, “It hit home, obviously, and I was really trying to do the best to deliver on it, but even more now,” Rodriguez said.

The students are led by Mary Scott, an adjunct professor for the School of Communication and Media. This is her first time running the Bateman Competition but she has been thrilled with the work the students have done.

“I’ve just been so happy with how the team came together,” Scott said. “Everyone had different areas of expertise and things that they excelled in but they all came together and worked really hard to build an incredible campaign.”

Along with the rest of the world, this project has been no stranger to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The team has experienced delays in some areas and the modest size of the group could also be attributed to COVID-19 as numbers for the group were between 20 and 30 in past years.

The biggest challenge that COVID-19 has presented to the group is the sheer enormity of it. With COVID-19 being the only health-related thing (sometimes the only thing in general) people talk about, the Lymphoma Research Foundation has struggled to raise awareness through the pandemic buzz.

“With [COVID-19], there’s a lot of misinformation going around, and no one knows what to believe,” Rodriguez said. “You can be as health-conscious [as you possibly could be] and it can just happen out of nowhere just like what happened to my grandmother.”

The “Let’s Talk Lymphoma” campaign runs until March 11 and the students as well as Scott are urging the Montclair State community to engage with it.

“This is all about getting lymphoma on the map with young adults,” Scott said. “But it’s also a chance to help your [Montclair State] peers because we are competing against students from great schools around the nation and the more we can show the world that we were able to engage the community, get them behind it, get them to understand and really absorb our message that we’re putting out there, the better our campaign will have a chance to win.”

You can check out their website at msulymphomies.org and their TikTok and Instagram is @msulymphomies.
What is your guilty pleasure?
By John LaRosa, Photo Editor

“I don’t got no guilty pleasures, but probably chocolate, milk chocolate.”

Jordan Spagnola
Freshman
Humanities major

“Staying up too late, sometimes until 4 a.m., just watching YouTube videos, messing around with my phone.”

Willow DeFilippo
Sophomore
Psychology major
“I guess listening to music way too loud, like blasting it way too loud when I’m driving. It depends on the mood, but usually hip-hop or rap, sometimes metal.”

Daniel Lund
Junior
Psychology and Justice Studies
double major

“Watching ‘Queer Eye.’ It’s this show where, like, five queer men go and makeover someone’s life, it’s wholesome and heartwarming.”

Bella Canonaco
Junior
Business major

“Chocolate, dark chocolate, ugh not milk. You gotta get the Lindt truffles, dark chocolate, they’re really good.”

Amanda Fiore
Senior
Sociology major
Help Wanted

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.

PART-TIME DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIALIST

Start here, build a career! Want an environment where you can grow in your career while making a difference in the lives of others? Positive Development is looking for individuals with a passion for helping children with developmental differences to join their team.

Multiple part-time entry-level positions available, up to $26/hour. Paid training provided.

Apply now at www.positivedevelopment.com/careers.

PART-TIME BABYSITTER

Seeking a part-time after-school sitter Mondays through Thursday in Wyckoff, NJ for one preteen. Hours are 2:30PM – 5:30/6PM. The child participates in swimming activities once a week. The perfect candidate is punctual, communicative and a strong leader. We are looking for someone fully vaccinated and with excellent references. Must have a valid driver’s license and reliable transportation.

Please reply to 201-394-0873 if interested.

BECOME A SPORTS WRITER

The Montclarion

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PUZZLES
Musicals Edition
By Kayla Carlamere

Across
2. Though in part inaccurate and exaggerated, this award-winning musical about a Founding Father was described by its playwright as “America then, as told by America now.”
4. This musical, which came to Broadway 13 years after its premiere in Vermont in 2006, combines two tales from Greek mythology, displaying themes like love, loss and sacrifice.
5. This musical is Disney’s longest-running hit, based on the classic animated feature film which is a unique adaptation of Hamlet.
7. As Broadway’s longest-running show, this musical is based on a horror novel and tells the tale of a man who haunts the stage, falling for a young singer.
8. This comedic musical focuses on a hardworking woman trapped in an unhappy life and abusive marriage, who ceases an opportunity to escape, rediscovering old dreams and passions with the help of her friends.

Word Search

1. This dark comedy blends multiple classic fairy tales, as each goes on a journey to obtain their desire and learns the lesson: be careful what you wish for.
3. This musical, based on a 1995 novel, retells a classic children’s fairy tale with a twist, and is ultimately about an unlikely friendship doomed to fail.
6. Inspired by a 1890s opera, this quintessential queer musical revolves around a rag-tag group of friends living in New York, struggling with life, love and addiction.

Sudoku

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Broadway  Monologue  Understudy
Curtain Call  Actor  Orchestra
Intermission  Playwright  Ensemble
Audition  Audience  Stage Crew
Rehearsal  Theatre  Showstopper
What Is It Going to Take to Make You Believe Us?

Where is the high-octane outrage for the rampant sexual harassment on campus that featured so prominently in the parking ticket fiasco? Where are the angry parents, the alumni chiming in with their stories, the chorus of calls to action? More importantly, what is Montclair State University doing about any of this?

The Montclarion raised awareness around the sexual harassment problem on campus back in October 2021, after multiple allegations were made regarding instances of harassment or assault in residence halls.

On Feb. 17, 2022, we published another piece in answer to an Instagram post on @montclairstateconfessions, Montclair State has seemingly failed many students who have come forward to report sexual violence. A sexual assault response system that allegedly tells a victim they have no evidence and allows their attacker to remain on campus is not just broken, it is a grotesque and cruel mockery of itself.

It’s been said over and over again, but clearly, it bears repeating: this negligent precedent is a major reason why sexual assaults are so underreported. Without adequate support, or even the bare minimum guarantee of being believed, reporting an attack of ten causes even more trauma on top of the attack itself.

The process for reporting sexual harassment or assault to Title IX is entirely internal, and if a hearing needs to be held regarding a case, it is usually conducted by university administrators. In other words, no matter how much “objectivity training” they receive, they are still Montclair State representatives. And because Title IX reports do not involve law enforcement, if the perpetrator does not face appropriate consequences as a result of the report, it’s likely the victim will have to continue to face their attacker on campus.

The Instagram comments on our most recent sexual harassment article show just how serious the problem is. Students came forward to share their own experiences and denounce the university’s track record of handling sexual assault and harassment cases. One comment said: “THIS IS WHY I LEFT MONTCLAIR [STATE]. MY HARASSER IS STILL ON CAMPUS AND THEY DID NOTHING!!”

We know the administration is reading our articles because we’ve gotten emails asking for corrections. But without reading the public response to our pieces, many of which deal with issues that most concern students, they are missing critical context. Social media is by far the most widely used platform when it comes to giving unadulterated feedback, and as proven by the 300-plus comments on our parking ticket article, people are more than willing to let their feelings be known.

If the administration really wants to know how students are feeling, they need to be looking at comments, raw feedback from real people with names and stories. The student body is not a monolith, it is made up of individuals and social media is the ultimate showcase in individualism. Everyone who comments has some form of input to give, and the more people there are with a common opinion on an issue, the more likely it is that serious consideration is due.

What good is it to read our articles if the endgame is scanning for errors? As of now, we have received no comment from the administration on the sexual harassment articles — no corrections, no concern, no acknowledgment of the courage or the pain of the Montclair State students who came forward to tell their stories.

This is a sensitive issue and it can’t be solved without a compassionate, prompt response. Montclair State: do better by your students, because this is beyond unacceptable.

Campus Voices:

Who do you think should be held accountable for sexual violence on campus?

By Hailey Mayewski

“I feel like the university could do more to make people feel comfortable talking about it and then the police could also make them feel comfortable as well because they’re usually afraid to go to the police. So, the police can be held accountable as well.”

- Allison Prieto  
Exercise Science  
Junior

“I think whatever student is being accused should be held completely accountable and the university should help the victims with the repercussions of their mental health from the sexual harassment.”

- Whitney Daniels  
Theatre Studies  
Freshman

“I would say the university needs to get better in their reaction to it. I mean, there are these little blue boxes everywhere that help with it, but I’ve heard way too much about that kind of stuff happening. So, I think that we also need to get better at holding these people accountable.”

- Tony Del Giorno  
Jazz Studies  
Freshman

“I think it’s kind of the job of everyone to be responsible. Making sure that if you hear something, say something, I definitely think that the perpetrator should [definitely] be held accountable.”

-Lindsey DeCavaignac  
Education  
Sophomore
If you are a fan of women’s sports, or you are someone who never cared before but you are looking for a reason to bash women, you have probably heard the name Lia Thomas. Thomas is an astounding women’s swimmer for the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is constantly crushing the competition. However, some may say her victory can be credited to the fact she was born male.

There’s the overwhelming argument that it is unfair to have a “man” swim with women. Lia Thomas is not a man. Thomas is a woman who, according to Swimming World Magazine, began “transitioning and undergoing hormone-suppressant therapy ... having met antiquated NCAA guidelines that — prior to the season — only required one year of testosterone suppression.”

For anyone to say they’re not transphobic, only to call a transgender woman a man, is disgusting. Thomas has clearly demonstrated her dedication to becoming her true self. This isn’t just some con to win in collegiate athletics; it is her entire life that is being altered.

If that still doesn’t convince you to let her swim, here’s a reality check: every top player in every sport is genetically superior to the rest. That is why they’re winners. If that still doesn’t convince you to let her swim, here’s a reality check: every top player in every sport is genetically superior to the rest. That is why they’re winners. You can train as hard as you can, but you will not beat Usain Bolt in a race.

Dr. Sam Allen of Loughborough University claims “the best sprinters will always benefit from having a huge amount of natural ability.”

Olivier Rioux, a 15-year-old who is towering 7 feet, 5 inches tall is the tallest teenager in the world, according to the Guinness World Records. Should Rioux be banned from playing high school basketball because he’s taller than NBA all-star Shaquille O’Neal? Clearly, no other high schooler stands a chance at blocking him or preventing him from shooting the ball way over their heads.

One of the most famous swimmers in the world, Michael Phelps, has multiple incredible advantages, including double-jointed ankles, a disproportionately wide wingspan and a naturally reduced production rate of lactic acid, which causes fatigue when it builds up. He is biologically superior to his male competition, yet he is still viable to compete and win.

Evidently, most athletes will encounter someone who is born with natural talent and will complete a challenge effortlessly.

From a biological standpoint, Thomas should be able to compete. But, there’s another issue that is just as important. Transgender people have never had it easy. They have faced horrific hate crimes, higher rates of murder and torment for decades now. The American Academy of Pediatrics revealed that “more than half of transgender male teens who participated in the survey reported attempting suicide in their lifetime, while 29.9% of transgender female teens said they attempted suicide.”

It is selfish, ignorant and disgusting that people care more about placing in a competition than the safety and acceptance of their teammate. The whole world calling you a man and hating you for doing what you love must be extremely detrimental to one’s mental health, not to mention the hormone treatments and the insecurities transitioning people have to deal with.

Thomas’ teammates and the new so-called fans of collegiate women’s swimming should accept the fact that Thomas is a female competitor and she is a fantastic swimmer. Thomas trains just as hard as ever and has gotten to that spot for a reason. Whether she has an advantage or not, she is a human being who deserves to be treated with compassion.

If you’re a college athlete and you think your problems within a sport are more severe than the livelihoods of transgender people, you should read up on all the struggles they face and what they went through as a community.

Avery Nixon, a freshman television and film major with a minor in creative writing, is in her first year as the assistant opinion editor for The Montclarion.
The Underlying Impact of Microtrends

BEATRICE KIMATA
GUEST WRITER

However, with the increasing rise of fast fashion and quick microtrend cycles there arises a question: how can you be yourself if you’re not dressing for yourself?

Establishing the difference between trends versus microtrends is critical. A trend describes the rising popularity of a specific article of clothing or style, and it maintains its popularity for a seemingly long period of time. A microtrend involves a specific article of clothing or style that quickly becomes popular and then unpopular in a short amount of time.

Microtrends are common on social media platforms such as TikTok, where they last for approximately a month. Creators will make a video with their outfits on display, and the people who view the video are in awe of what the person is wearing and want to imitate it.

However, it’s evident there is widespread confusion on whether someone genuinely likes a specific style or if they only like how it looks on other people.

Constantly seeing different people with visually pleasing clothing styles is difficult to ignore. Young minds are easily influenced by unnecessary articles of clothing they don’t need, creating overconsumption of clothes.

Once these fast-paced trends are over, many people find themselves with several clothing pieces they regret buying. A lot of the clothing pieces that can count as microtrends aren’t timeless. Once they lose their popularity, they become officially outdated and unsavory.

For example, the Hockey dress by House of Sunny went viral in the midst of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, with the brand accepting pre-orders for the third drop of the dress in July 2020. But just weeks later, the TikTok fervor that had sold it out twice died down, and it was promptly abandoned.

The lack of individuality microtrends cause is astronomical. It’s indisputable that there are scores of teenagers who dress almost identical to each other to fit in. Dressing similar to someone you saw on the internet without taking into account what you truly like personally is like trying on different masks every day, withholding your true self from the public eye in order to cater to others.

In hopes to discover your own style, it’s important to spend less time on social media apps like TikTok, especially the subsections that involve clothing and fashion. Perhaps you might even completely delete those apps.

Pinterest is another well-liked app for sorting out different ideas for many people, and one of the app’s most common uses are boards dedicated to clothing. Completely erasing all the pins in clothing-centered boards and starting fresh is a positive step forward in the journey to finding your fashion identity.

When considering buying a new piece of clothing, it’s crucial to ask yourself: “Do I genuinely love this?”

An effective strategy to consider is to save the peace of clothing you want to buy and return it in at least three weeks. If you find yourself no longer being interested in the item, then it’s clear you would have been an irresponsible impulse purchase. However, if you’re still interested in the item, go ahead and buy it.

As fun as social media can be, it’s important to realize comparison to others will never do anyone any favors. Taking the time to figure out your likes and dislikes without the conflict of interest from others is rewarding, not only to your personal being but to your pockets as well.

Beatrice Kimata, a psychology major, is in her first year as a guest writer for The Montclarion.

SEXIST MEN WITH MICROPHONES AND HOW TO FIGHT THEM

AVERY NIXON
ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR

Lately, it seems as if every middle-aged, conservative-balding man is competing in the Olympics of who can have the worst podcast. Their rhetoric is both unmedical and unfunny and atrocious.

“I mean, if you want to take dating advice from a man named ‘Walter,’ that’s your business. If you haven’t heard the atrocity that is the ‘Fresh & Fit’ podcast, do yourself a favor and throw your phone out a window before it’s too late.”

The duo of Walter Weekes and Myron Gaines claims to be lifestyle coaches, helping men navigate the world.

I don’t know about you, but if I had a lifestyle coach who just complained about men for an hour each week instead of giving me actual advice, I’d probably find a new one. Don’t get me wrong, we would be the best of friends probably find a new one. Don’t get me wrong, we would be the best of friends.

They are constantly putting women down, even ones with more success and talent than them.

After verbally assaulting rap artist Asian Doll on their podcast, they even had the audacity to say, “I don’t even know who she is,” referring to the guest they invited. Using a successful woman for clotur and then disrespecting her to the point that she has to walk out is not “fresh and fit” if you ask me. I’m extremely close to starting a Change.org petition to rename the show “Morons & Misogyny.”

Within countless hours of painfully unfunny and atrocious podcast content, there is one instance that restores some of my faith in humanity: Miss Brittany Renner.

After sitting down with Weekes and Gaines, she quickly went viral for demolishing their toxicity and putting them in their place.

Renner was told she was “like other girls” and “not special.” Quick to respond, “So what makes you special, then?” Renner asked. “What do you gain from telling girls that they’re not special?”

She’s absolutely right to ask that question. What do these men gain from tearing down women?

I could take a wild guess and say it fuels their self-confidence as it has been destroyed by years of rejection and loneliness, but to each their own.

This kind of content is annoying, but it’s also dangerous. Weekes and Gaines are setting an example for young men, especially those who have very little luck with women, to hate them for almost everything they do.

Their rhetoric encourages rape-prone men to harm women when they don’t get what they want.

I’ve already voiced my opinion on Joe Rogan and expressed my thoughts that he should be silenced if he’s going to continue to broadcast conspiracy theories to vulnerable people. In this instance, I am not calling to shut the “Fresh & Fit” podcast down.

More women, like Renner, should push back and speak out about the harmful fallacies from the “Fresh & Fit” podcast. We need women and their allies to be as prominent on platforms as misogynists.

Take action by having meaningful conversations with younger generations of men. Talking openly can help end the cycle of sexism, correct stereo types and reinforce the truth, as well as raise awareness for violence against women.

If you are a woman in trouble and in need of safe housing, look into the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which “protects victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.”

Avery Nixon, a broadcast television and film major with a minor in creative writing, is in her first year as the assistant opinion editor for The Montclarion.

The Montclarion
A sigh of relief escaped Suzette's lips at the bus driver's call. The chattering amongst other passengers, the man who refused to use headphones, and the crying baby created a symphony of noises that felt like sandpaper to her brain. Looking down at her now dead noise-canceling headphones she only wanted to slam her skull to the plush headrest behind her.

Her eyes wandered to her hands. Hangnails, half bitten off, accented her chipped nail polish. Crinkling her nose, she became painfully aware of her dry skin. She could already hear her mother's comments, questions on why she let herself go dripping with the condescending tone that had stayed since childhood.

When the bus came to a halt, Suzette got up so quickly she nearly bumped her head. After her escape, she allowed her ears the pure break that was a suburban morning. Just the same sparrows she used to play princess with chirping in her ear.

"Howdy stranger."

Whipping her head around, she found her brother. Gavin had gotten taller, features stronger. He'd grown into those mousy ears he'd had as a small child. But those mischievous green eyes were just the same.

"Guess I can't call you a runt anymore."

"Aww I missed you too Suzie!" Gavin dropped the act and instead brought her close, his hug lifting his elder sister off the ground.

A similar dimpled smile formed on Suzette's own face. This kind of chatter, less like sandpaper and more cotton sheets. It was strange to feel peaceful around the child who used to give her Barbies haircuts without her permission, the one whose shoes she filled with jelly beans before their soccer game. Yet, here she was, laughing with the "evil little gremlin."

"Shouldn't you be in school right now?" Suzette questioned once she was placed down.

"First off, it's spring break. And second, it's a special occasion," the teen snarked back.

"I wouldn't call a funeral a special occasion, Gav. Dad would beat the shit out of you for that little comment."

"You know full well I meant picking you up. Besides, he's been digging since he woke up." Gavin replied. Spinning on his heels, he walked towards the beat-up sedan that both siblings had learned how to drive in.

She could already imagine it. Her father's determination, her mother's fingers tapping against her coffee mug, neither able to look at each other. Suzette couldn't help but wonder if the silence was a family trait, talking about tough topics nothing less than poison.

"Where are we burying Goldie?"

"I think she's going where the peonies were."

That dog loved nothing more than destroying her mother's flower garden. Dirty paw prints tracked through white carpet so frequently, the family nickname Stinky clung to the retriever as much as her own name.

"How are you holding up with this?" Gavin tried to break the tension.

"With what?"

"Mom and Dad didn't tell you until after we'd put her down. Goldie was your birthday gift way back. That didn't seem too fair to me. So, like...are you OK?"

"I'm not sure, but it's not like I blame you. It would be worse if she suffered more."

The siblings were once again left in silence, sitting in the leather seats of the family car, turning on the radio and letting whatever station their dad listened to play. Frank Sinatra and a low rumble of an ancient engine felt less like cotton and more like silk.

Soon she would be standing where the peonies were, and where her best friend now stayed.
Montclair State Students Sprinkle Their Unique Touch In ‘Dance Makers’

Sekhena Sembenu
Assistant Entertainment Editor

Why go to Broadway to see professional dance numbers when you can visit Alexander Kasser Theater here at Montclair State University? On Feb. 18, Montclair State’s Department of Theatre and Dance kicked off the spring semester with “Dance Makers.”

“Dance Makers” is a curated dance concert in which Montclair State student choreographers and dancers bring their unique creativity to the stage through 10 performances. Maxine Steinman, the artistic director of “Dance Makers” and an associate professor in the department, noted the difference in each part of the production.

“Each piece varies in content, texture and movement unique to each choreographer,” Steinman said. “In planning the performance, I designed the order of the program in a way that would highlight each piece in reference to content, movement, costumes, design, amount of dancers and music.”

As the lights dimmed and the curtains opened, we were greeted with “ERIF,” choreographed by Jordan Moore, a junior dance major.

“ERIF” is “fire” spelled backward, which serves as the abstract concept of Moore’s piece. It illustrates the transition of igniting a flame to blowing it out.

Filled with natural sounds of lightening matches, electric blues and hints of Spanish guitar, the dancers glowed as they effortlessly brought a powerful yet saucy and spicy performance to the stage with impeccable choreography and technique.

It was an incredible way to start the show. And just when you think it can’t get any better, it does.

Next up was the stunning and soul-stirring duet, “Conjoined,” choreographed by Oksana Horban, a senior dance major, featuring Serena Brown, who is also a senior dance major.

Brown says “Conjoined” is about two beings who find comfort in their togetherness.

“As they move through the piece and find more space between themselves, they begin to panic and then join back together in the quiet comfort of their connection,” Brown said.

Right off the bat, you get this ethereal sensation as Brown and Horban perform. Brown best describes it as “otherworldly.”

As they graced the stage in sync with beautiful lines, one can’t help but notice that Brown and Horban are complete visual opposites in terms of movement.

“We are different in the way we look and move, which allows for an interesting blend of movements that lead to an innovative and unique style of dance,” Horban said.

“Conjoined” caught the eye of Jenny Juhas, a senior psychology and medical humanities major.

“It was very emotional [and] expressive,” Juhas said. “You can tell there was a lot of trust between the partners.”

Apart from their unforgettable performance, the use of lighting was flawless. It was intense and dazzling.

To mention, the popular effect of spotlighting accentuated both performers and essentially brought the piece together.

Transitioning halfway through the program was “SPECTRUM,” choreographed by Mark Lovell, a junior dance major.

Lovell was playing around with different ideas for his piece when the color spectrum came across his mind.

“Just like how there’s an emotional spectrum from sadness to happiness, there’s also a color spectrum,” Lovell said. “There’s so many things you can play with, like lights and angles.”

Lovell said his goal was to go on a journey with himself and his dancers to explore who they are as a whole journey with himself and his dancers.

For Maya McKinney, a sophomore dance major, this piece was like a personal outlet.

“For myself, I was able to express independence, which is something that I’m learning as a sophomore in college, especially being away from home,” McKinney said. “I felt very free.”

Considering the times and circumstances the world resides in, McKinney couldn’t help but feel immense gratitude.

“It’s a blessing,” McKinney said. “I am someone who thrives off of performing [and] the adrenaline [that comes with] making people feel something. It’s inspiring.”

Beyond the group performances, there was one solo that without a doubt captivated the audience.

“Shades of Blue,” choreographed and performed by Brown with an original piece of music written by senior musical theatre major Alex Birchwale.

It was the most elegant and exemplary solo performance.

“Shades of Blue” explores how I interpret four different shades of blue, the feelings I attach to them and how I can convey those feelings and ideas through movement,” Brown said.

Watching this solo, you can’t help but feel this sense of calm, almost like a breath of fresh air. The way Brown floated across the stage so gracefully with her flowing, sheer dress brushing the floor is an unforgettable image.

Overall, “Dance Makers” was a success.

Camyron Chaufe, a senior theatre major, doesn’t go to dance concerts often but absolutely loved this show.

“Any piece of entertainment is worth watching, especially dance, but I feel like it is so underrated,” Chaufe said. “Dance is something that people can relate to more than they realize.”

With the show being a success, we can’t forget to recognize all the hard work that occurred backstage.

It takes a village to put on a beautiful production such as this, so the credit needs to also be given to the production and tech crew, which includes the lighting, sound, wardrobe, stage manager and backstage crew,” Steinman said.
WMSC Hosts Second Annual Talent Show

Lynise Olivacce
Assistant Photo Editor

Members of 90.3 WMSC and other students came together for their second annual talent show on the night of Feb. 17 at Montclair State University. The hosts Hajsok, Gallagher and Ben Petruk, a junior journalism major and the associate program director, introduced the judges of the show: Kenny Herr, WMSC's former Morning Buzz producer, Tom Kaminski, an adjunct professor at Montclair State and Kate Braunstein, the former station manager of WMSC.

From Broadway music to guitar melodies, the performers evoked emotions of happiness, passion and standing ovations from the crowd.

Sitting center stage was Melanie Lopez, a freshman journalism and digital media major. As nerves ran through her body, she rubbed her hands together for comfort. Before she sang, “Killing Me Softly” by Lauryn Hill and Fugees, she claimed she was nervous but at the bridge of the song, she felt comfortable as a result of the heartfelt support in the crowd.

Lopez closed her eyes and held the mic as if she was alone in the comfort of her own room and sang her heart out, killing the crowd softly with her impeccable range.

“I got so into it because I love that song,” Lopez said. “So, I just kind of had to close my eyes and pretend like I wasn’t in front of [many] people.”

Daniel Acosta, a freshman communication and media studies major, performed an original piece with his guitar. Acosta’s talent left the crowd mesmerized as the amplying vibrations of the guitar filled the room. Kaya Maciak, a senior communication and media arts major and the station manager of WMSC, sang “Till Forever Falls Apart” by Ashe and FINNEAS with sophomore filmmaking major Jared Tauber. Tauber’s stellar guitar skills and Maciak’s sustainability with her tone and breath were uniquely impressive.

The family bond radiated through the screen as the show came to an end with a montage created by Mari Zuni-ga, a senior communication and media arts major, played. It reminded the memories the station members had with each other. For a person who’s never been a part of WMSC, I could tell it is more than just a radio station.

As the wholehearted montage came to an end, the judge’s favorite and the winners will also be spotlighted in WMSC’s newsletter. Guitarist Anthony Soto, a senior communication and media arts major, won the fan favorite award. Acosta won judge’s favorite. Soto was surprised but also proud he had conquered his fears.

“I’m shaking,” Acosta said. “My body’s vibrating, I still came up here knowing I was nervous. Any opportunity you get to be great, just be great – take it.”

Kelly Meagher, a sophomore film and television major, thought the in-person experience was great, since the first one was online.

“I think the event was really incredible,” Meagher said. “There were amazing acts tonight [and] it was really awesome seeing it in person. I want to say my favorite performances had to be Emily McCormack and Lara Ziccardi.”

Gallagher expressed that even though planning the talent show was a lot of work, she wouldn’t have it any other way.

“College radio is all about bringing people together and it’s all about music,” Gallagher said. “So, the fact that a lot of these [are] music performances really just reminds me of why we do this every day and why we hold these student leader positions. [These positions] take a lot of time and a lot of work. But these things remind us of how rewarding it is. I think everyone did an amazing job. We’re just surrounded by so much talent. I can’t wait for next year, too.”
Top Picks to Stream  

‘Enchanted’ on Amazon Prime Video  

‘Les Misérables’ on Netflix  

‘Heart Shot’ Could Have Given Us So Much More  

Photo courtesy of Walt Disney Pictures  

Fifteen years later and “Enchanted” still holds one of the top spots on my list of movie musical favorites. Amy Adams acts as Giselle, a role so strikingly sweet and lovely that it’s hard to associate Adams with any other personality after seeing this film. Set in the fictional, cartoon land of Andalasia, Giselle is set to become the next princess after marrying Prince Edward (James Marsden). Plans are delayed when her evil step-mother pushes her into a well, sending her into the live-action, bustling New York City where she is taken in by Robert (Patrick Dempsey) while she attempts to make her way back home.

As expected, plans again do not go as Giselle anticipated them to as she learns love for both herself and someone new. And of course, because it is a fairytale inspired movie, there’s a dreamy soundtrack including my personal favorites “So Close” and “That’s How You Know.”

And of course, because it is a fairytale inspired movie, there’s a dreamy soundtrack including my personal favorites “So Close” and “That’s How You Know.”

Photo courtesy of Netflix  

Directed by filmmaker Marielle Woods, “Heart Shot” is a short romantic action film that follows the love story of two high school senior girls, Nikki (Elena Heuze) and Samantha (Nia Sondaya), who dream of a future together. However, one of their secrets from the past might just bring all of that to an end.

“Heart Shot” lives up to its category of “short film,” lasting only 19 minutes, approximately. Despite this short amount of time, the story is well-developed in the beginning.

From the first two minutes, we instantly get a sense of the characters’ lifestyles and their near futures.

This film is very progressive as it displays a good representation of women empowerment and support of the LGBTQIA+ community. Nikki is a strong female protagonist while Samantha is a mature, intelligent woman in the process of getting her life in order for a better future.

In general, the performances by Heuze and Sondaya are compelling. However, the performances by minor characters did not feel as natural at certain moments.

One aspect of the film that stood out the most was watching the relationship between Nikki and Samantha unfold.

True, their love story is a bit stereotypical, but regardless, the performance is worth watching.

Nikki and Samantha’s relationship is endeavors and sweet. Throughout the time we see them on screen, it’s easy to feel their strong connection, as well as the genuine love they have for each other.

Plus, the camera close-ups of the couple’s affectionate moments capture the emotional intimacy of the relationship while creating a comfortable and cozy ambiance for the viewer.

The fast-paced, rhythmic-breathing music at both the beginning and end of the film makes you anxious and somewhat impatient trying to figure out what’s next.

Even though a tense event in the story was already on the horizon, the climax of the story is still unexpected. Around those nine minutes of tension, you won’t be able to take your eyes off the screen. The events transpire rapidly, and in some scenes, you feel as though you are actually inside the movie.

Despite the adrenaline rush, there is one negative aspect about this film. Compared to other short films, the ending of “Heart Shot” feels unfinished, as it leaves the viewers with many unanswered questions pertaining to the characters.

This movie had all the potential to have been made into a series or could have at least have lasted an hour.

This love story and its characters deserved more than just 19 minutes, which many fans of the romance genre will agree with.

“Heart Shot” is a beautiful love story full of adrenaline that will remind you of your time in high school with your first love, but will also teach you a lesson of how traumas and mistakes can deeply affect your life as a couple if they are not solved in time.
Romance can be a tricky genre to write content for. It's common for romantic movies to either be comedic stories, in which two opposites find each other and gradually fall in love, or dramatic stories where their love is threatened or lost.

"The In Between," now streaming on Paramount+, takes an approach that twists the latter formula with the inclusion of supernatural forces as a teenager discovers her late boyfriend trying to reconnect with her from the afterworld.

Joey King and Kyle Allen play Tessa and Skylar, two high school students whose romance is told in a non-linear format. From the moment they meet, the chemistry between them is apparent. Both King and Allen give their characters enough personality to make their relationship worth following. King, in particular, does the necessary work to make Tessa an interesting lead.

The backstory of how Tessa ended up where she is is not necessarily groundbreaking, but that does not always matter, as long as there is an ounce of relatability and sympathy for the character. In this case, there is. The movie seesaws between the present day and flashbacks as the couple meet and immediately click. In this, we gradually get to see Tessa and Skylar's relationship blossom and later, falter. Their individual personal lives are also focused on, which helps give them a certain ounce of depth.

The aforementioned supernatural element allows this film to stick out compared to various other teen romance movies. The way Skylar tries to reconnect with Tessa adds a decent amount of tension and mystery as we and Tessa try to figure out what is occurring.

The existence of supernatural forces in this movie's universe doesn't show up completely out of nowhere, either. One woman who Tessa meets while in the hospital, Doris, played by Donna Biscoe, claims to have a connection to the supernatural. While her role in the film is relatively minor, her knowledge of the afterlife does go a long way in helping Tessa.

The use of color is particularly superb. The flashback scenes have somewhat brighter colors to illustrate how Tessa suddenly has a new lease on life. After losing Skylar, the colors become muted and naturalistic, reflecting how she loses the light in her life.

The climax, which officially ties in the flashbacks and the present day together, is also shot in a clever way. All these elements come together to create what is ultimately a fine movie. "The In Between" presents an endearing enough romance for the audience to become invested in. It holds enough creativity in its inclusion of the supernatural, and the technical elements deserve commendation as well. Additionally, the film's structure helps to convey the ups and downs of the relationship, as well as their own personal stories.

With a movie like "The In Between," it is essential that the audience learn enough about the characters so that they can find them worth following. Otherwise, their plight falls flat. Luckily, "The In Between" succeeds on that front.
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Campus Activities
Mike Jackson Makes Waves as Freshman Guard for Red Hawks

Sal DiMaggio  
Assistant Feature Editor

When first reading his name, one may think of The King of Pop, Michael Jackson, but freshman guard Mike Jackson’s passion is basketball, not music. The Red Hawk has made quite the impression during his first season on the team, both on and off the court.

Jackson has already racked up some impressive stats, scoring a whopping 42 points against Rowan University on Feb. 19 — his career-high. He is also turning heads on the defensive end, with eight rebounds against Kean University on Jan. 19.

From Jersey City, New Jersey, Jackson played for Union City High School before coming to Montclair State University. It was in his home city where he found the discipline to push himself to be the best player he could be.

“Back at home, there’s basically nothing there,” Jackson said. “It’s just a basketball court and a ball. I don’t want to think about going back there. I want to make sure my family is straight. Everything that happened back in my life pushes me to keep going and do good.”

Jackson’s team has been a crucial support system for him and his success. Sophomore guard Kieran Flanagan sees potential in Jackson and lifts him up, as Jackson does for his teammates.

“All season long, I’ve been his rock,” Flanagan said. “[Jackson] is a great team player. He’s always encouraging you with your shots [with] little pointers, and I try to do the same for him.”

Head coach Justin Potts shared similar thoughts on the basketball player. Potts met Jackson through recruitment for the collegiate level and saw his work effort then.

“I think the biggest thing is just the amount of work that he’s put in,” Potts said. “Coming out of high school is an adjustment for every guy, but I think his work ethic has really grown and developed early in the year.”

Potts gave an example of Jackson’s rigor when it comes to the game.

“We talked to him about trying to get in and work more [on the day of the [Ramapo College of New Jersey] game, [and] he made 500 threes before the game,” Potts said. “So, that’s just an example of putting the time in to work at it.”

Jackson said his experiences in Jersey City have made him a better team player. He described how living in an urban community like that taught him what it meant to support others.

“Coming from Jersey City, everybody focuses on themselves,” Jackson said. “Me, I don’t do that. I want to see everyone succeed. I want to push everybody to their full limit. I don’t want all the shine on me; I want everybody to shine.”

All of this has led to Jackson becoming one of the most important players on the team. Jackson went from having barely any playing time at the beginning of the season to starting in the game against New Jersey City University (NJCU) on Feb. 12, where he scored 23 points and made six rebounds.

Jackson has proven himself to be a crucial player for the Red Hawks, especially in the eyes of his coach and teammates.

Standing tall at 6 feet, 3 inches, his height gives the Red Hawks a significant advantage when it comes to scoring points. His long build also makes for good defending, being able to go up for plenty of rebounds.

The road thriller against Rowan proved this. Although the Red Hawks lost in overtime 110-102, Jackson’s scoring performance is the third-best in a single game for a Red Hawk. He also tied the record for the most three-pointers made at 10, matching Daniel Ramis in 2018.

Potts spoke about Jackson’s recent hot streak.

“I think [Jackson’s performance] on the court kind of speaks for itself,” Potts said. “He’s a really good shooter; obviously, and he’s played really well of late. But, I think the thing that probably goes a [long way] is how good he is defensively. He’s a really good defender. He competes at a really, really high level.”

Flanagan said Jackson is only getting better from here.

“We all know how good of a shooter he is,” Flanagan said. “So for him, it just keeps on working. His shots are always gonna be good for us. And on top of that, you see on the defensive end he’s really playing a lot better [with his rebounding [improving]. It’s not just [his] shooting which is good — he’s playing the whole system. It’s a great job as a freshman.”

In terms of what comes next for Jackson, the freshman says he and his teammates are focused on winning a New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) championship. And with the amount of talent Jackson has already shown, he could be the one to lead the Red Hawks there.
Trisha Peterson is the Unsung Hero of Red Hawks Women’s Basketball

The NJAC Defensive Player Of The Year has been a jack of all trades

The Montclair State softball team finished with a 13-9 record last season.

really just hard work driven more than defense, the steals. My style of play is noticed as much, like the rebounding, the assists. The one place where Peterson has been pivotal to the on-court success of the Red Hawks. Currently, she is leading the team in rebounds (9.0 avg/g, 207 total) and is tied for first in steals (2.2 avg/g, 51 total) as well as being second in blocks and assists.

With the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Tournament occurring this week, Montclair State University’s women’s basketball team has been on a tear in the second half of the 2021-2022 season, clinching the third-seed in the conference tourney with a 14-9 regular-season record.

Many people will look at a scorecard and believe the team’s top scorers, junior guard Julia Sutton and sophomore guard Kendall Hodges are solely responsible for this success. But another, under-the-radar player has dominated the court and stat sheet. That would be senior guard Trisha Peterson.

Peterson has proven to go far past the traditional “role player” label and has been pivotal to the on-court success of the Red Hawks. Currently, she is leading the team in rebounds (9.0 avg/g, 207 total) and is tied for first in steals (2.2 avg/g, 51 total) as well as being second in blocks and assists.

The Montclair State softball team finished with a 13-9 record last season.

being the big headline.”

Peterson shows that it’s possible to be a valuable part of the offense without needing the ball in her hands as much. Her situational awareness on the court, especially while in transition, allows her to easily identify a wide-open Hodges or Sutton. Coupling that with great passing, and it often leads to an easy bucket for Montclair State.

Sutton emphasizes that Peterson not just excels at her role, but also takes great pride in being able to facilitate points.

“She lights up when she makes a pass and being so unselfish is what makes her a special part of our team,” Sutton said.

But what makes Peterson’s game completely unique isn’t the inability to score. There have been multiple games where she has let her shooting ability shine, scoring a season-high 16 points against New Jersey City University (NJCU). It’s been her willingness to play team basketball and put the team ahead of her personal stats.

Head coach Karin Harvey pointed out how valuable Peterson is in her role.

“She is very, very unselfish,” Harvey said. “She doesn’t care if she has two points or 10 points, and she’ll have 17 rebounds, 10 rebounds, 11 rebounds, against much bigger players. What Trish does for us is invaluable and it’s hard to even take her off the court.”

“The Montclair State's game against Rutgers-Newark on Feb. 9 was amazing and I love being able to [help her do that]. That makes me, as a player, feel good when my teammates achieve those types of things.”

Defensively, Peterson takes over. She is an aggressive defender that is always a threat for a block. Peterson has proven to be a force to be reckoned with in the rebounding game. To put it in perspective, she has collected 207 total rebounds while her next best teammate has 120. In addition, she frequently steals the ball.

When reflecting on her four seasons as a Red Hawk, Peterson said she wants to be remembered as a player who left it all out on the court.

“Trish always tries to bring a toughness to our team,” Harvey said. “She always has positive energy and she has the ability to dictate how hard we work and how tough we play.”

When reflecting on her four seasons as a Red Hawk, Peterson said she wants to be remembered as a player who left it all out on the court.

“I want to leave a legacy for this team and all the underclassmen that I was the girl that worked really hard,” Peterson said. “I think that would be a really cool [reputation] to have.”

Trisha Peterson is the Unsung Hero of Red Hawks Women’s Basketball

The NJAC Defensive Player Of The Year has been a jack of all trades

The Montclair State softball team finished with a 13-9 record last season.

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Standout Siblings

A pair of siblings return to the diamond to carry on their family athletic tradition

David Forcellati
Guest Writer

With spring around the corner, a pair of Montclair State University siblings are gearing up to make their returns to the diamond and carry on their family tradition of athletic success. Siblings Peter and Kayla Cosentino are a couple of standout Montclair State athletes whose bond has carried from school to the diamond in a meaningful way.

Kayla, a sophomore outfielder on the softball team, is coming off a highly productive season for the Red Hawks where she batted .315. Peter, a senior infielder on the baseball team, is returning to follow up a historic season in which he batted .426 with nine home runs and 32 RBIs in the coronavirus (COVID-19) shortened year.

The siblings’ bond is one that has benefited from their shared love of sports for some time now. For Kayla, seeing her brother play baseball inspired her. “At my age, in my town, softball wasn’t really a thing, so I would have to play baseball,” Kayla said. “So I saw him playing baseball, too, and I thought, ‘I want to be just like him.’”

Both siblings got their baseball and softball careers started from a well-known person in their lives. “A thing that we have in common is our father, who has been a big influence on my career and my sister’s as well,” Peter said. “Kayla and I have always listened to whatever hitting style he had and I know for me, I attribute a lot of my successes to him.”

With this strong passion for their sport, Peter and Kayla have managed to take it further and use it to bring them closer together off the diamond. Kayla spoke about how cool of an experience that is for her. “Being athletes at the same school has brought us closer together, obviously,” Kayla said. “I don’t see him as much on campus since we are two years apart, but seeing him be a college athlete and [reflecting on] how much he trained, made me ask him questions and also led to us training together.”

Peter expanded on how he and Kayla find time to bond as siblings, even with their hectic lives on campus. “We’ve definitely become closer than ever over the past two years with her coming here,” Peter said. “[So], we try to find time in our schedules to get lunch and talk every week.”

With Peter coming back for a fifth season after the 2022 season, his time here isn’t done yet, but with the end approaching, it is comforting for him to know the Cosentino name will carry on here at Montclair State. “It’s definitely a nice feeling,” Peter said. “This school has been awesome athletically and academically. Just to have a reason to be able to come back and see the guys and see Kayla play is definitely a nice feeling.”

The sentiment isn’t lost on Kayla, who is very aware of the impact the Cosentino name has already had on her brother’s impressive career. “It means a lot,” Kayla said. “People know who I am through his success, so they expect the same from me. I like that and the competition it brings on me to reach that higher level.”

Kayla and the Montclair State softball team also have their eyes set on a championship, as they look to start their season up as well. The Red Hawks are ranked fourth in their NJAC Preseason Coaches Poll and are coming off an impressive 20-10 season.

Head coach Dave Lorber explained what the baseball team wants to succeed in, which has not changed for a while. “Our goals don’t change,” Lorber said. “Our goals are to get back to the NJAC playoffs and compete for a championship there. If we don’t win that, then [we want to] compete for an at large bid for the NCAA tournament and see what happens from there.”

Outside of winning an NJAC title, Peter can also become the all-time record holder in batting average for Montclair State baseball this upcoming season, and was also selected for the D3baseball.com Preseason All-American Team.

With both Cosentinos leading the way for softball and baseball, we can expect to see high success for the Red Hawks this spring.

“Being athletes at the same school has brought us closer together, obviously,” Kayla said. “I don’t see him as much on campus since we are two years apart, but seeing him be a college athlete and [reflecting on] how much he trained, made me ask him questions and also led to us training together.”

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STATS THAT DEFINE THE 2021-2022 WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM

220 REBOUNDS THAT TRISHA PETERSON GRABBED THIS SEASON, WHICH LED THE NEW JERSEY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (NJAC).

55.3 THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF POINTS ALLOWED BY THE RED HAWK DEFENSE THIS SEASON, TIED FOR THE BEST IN THE NJAC WITH STOCKTON.

23% AVERAGE OPPONENT THREE-POINT PERCENTAGE ALLOWED BY THE RED HAWKS, THE BEST MARK IN THE CONFERENCE.

34 AMOUNT OF POINTS THAT NICKIE CARTER SCORED AGAINST RUTGERS-NEWARK ON FEB. 9, WHICH IS THE SECOND-MOST POINTS SCORED IN SCHOOL HISTORY BEHIND CAROL BLAZEJOWSKI.

17.1 JUNIOR GUARD NICKIE CARTER’S SCORING AVERAGE THIS SEASON, GOOD FOR SECOND IN THE CONFERENCE BEHIND NJCU’S DAMARIS RODRIGUEZ.

6 AMOUNT OF BLOCKS OLIVIA VERÓ RECORDED AGAINST RUTGERS-CAMDEN ON FEB. 5, TIED FOR FOURTH ALL-TIME.

30% JULIA SUTTON’S FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE THIS SEASON, DOWN FROM 38% LAST SEASON.

.500 THE RED HAWKS WINNING PERCENTAGE AT PANZER ATHLETIC CENTER (6-6), THEIR WORST FINISH IN 20 YEARS.
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Under Kubicka, the Red Hawks have made 14 NCAA tournament appearances.

Matt Orth
Assistant Sports Editor

When it comes to legendary Montclair State University athletic figures, a couple of key names come to mind. Sam Mills, Carol Blazejowski and Rick Giancola are just a few of the iconic names in Red Hawk athletics.

But while football and basketball usually take up most of the attention here at Montclair State, one of the greatest coaches to ever grace the campus is still going strong with the softball team after 32 years.

Anita Kubicka, a former player at Trenton State University in the 1980s, now called The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), explained what it is that keeps her going as a coach after so many years.

“I like when I can make a difference,” Kubicka said. “When you have the ones that call you and want you to save the date for their wedding and when you have the ones that are excited because they just painted their baby’s room, [your impact shows]. You have the good with the bad. I just had an alumnus whose mother recently passed away, so I talked to her years later through that. It’s more than just wins and losses. It’s caring about people.”

Kubicka cares so much about the players she coaches and the softball program as a whole that she helped create MSU Softball Stadium across from Doganball Field.

The stadium opened up in 2004 and is considered one of the elite softball fields in the region. It has hosted events like National Pro Fastpitch as well as hosted the NCAA Division III tournament in 2009.

But before Kubicka began her prestigious coaching career and even stepped foot at Montclair State, she got her reputation going at an early age playing for Trenton State. And not only did she help win Trenton State their first national championship, she was also named a First-Team All-American.

Kubicka then moved on with her academic career and got a master’s in science in 1994 at Amherst (UMASS Amherst), where she also served as an assistant softball coach. In three years, the team received two Atlantic 10 championships as well as a bid to the NCAA Tournament.

But, Kubicka owes her success and inspiration to pursue her love for softball to two important people in her early years in the sport.

“I was under the tutelage of two hall-of-fame coaches: Dr. June Walker at [Trenton State] and Elaine Sortino from [UMASS Amherst],” Kubicka said. “I think the mentorship I had was excellent.”

The accolades she has encompassed over the years speak for themselves: Top 10 winning percentage; multiple wins among Division III coaches; 14 NCAA tournament appearances, including a runner-up finish in 1997 and a third-place selection in 1992 and 2012; 10 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) championships; and numerous New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Coach of the Year honors.

The greatest honor, however, was Kubicka being induct ed into the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Hall of Fame in 2014. Kubicka and the coaching staff also help the players in the classroom, with the softball team being ranked one of the best academic teams on campus. Coaching 39 All-Americans is one thing, but when the success translates into the classroom, as a Division III program, not much more can be asked for.

Kubicka explained how the players coming onto the team stay so consistent in academics as well as on the field.

“We try to do that from the front end and the recruiting end,” Kubicka said. “You get people that come in and care about academics, care about softball and are self-motivated. This is key because that makes my job easier since they want to be in the weight room and at practice for hours so that they can be the best student-athlete they can be.”

Kubicka’s influence also spreads onto the multitude of players she has coached in her 32-year career, including some of the current players now, junior pitcher Ali Cavallarro, who was Second-Team All-NJAC last season, spoke about how Kubicka motivated her to improve her craft as a pitcher.

“My relationship with Kubicka is really good,” Cavallarro said. “When I got to [Montclair State], I didn’t throw as much, but the more I kept throwing, [Kubicka] was really good with me and helped me a lot throughout the season and this upcoming season as well.”

Another member within the Second-Team All-NJAC, sophomore outfielder Kayla Cosentino, said Kubicka has also meant a lot to her in the two years she has been a Red Hawk.

“She has been very influential,” Cosentino said. “I think she’s actually one of the best coaches I have ever met. She is very honest and helpful and she really likes to be positive with criticism.”

Ultimately, Kubicka can get all of the individual accolades she wants – 1,000 wins in her career, Coach Of The Year, etc. However, these awards won’t be as satisfying as seeing her team succeed, especially considering the Red Hawks haven’t seen a significant amount of postseason success in quite a long time. It’s been nearly nine years since the Red Hawks have won an NJAC title and the competition gets stiffer each year.

“I don’t view it as a legacy,” Kubicka said. “There is no difference [being viewed as an accomplished coach]. I think that right now, my focus has been trying to get back to the top of the pack in the NJAC. The goal right now is to play until May and in the NCAA tournament and beyond. That’s what I continue to strive for.”