From Kabul To Montclair State

“If I leave, I can pursue my bigger goals, which are serving humanity, serving my country from another place.”

-Roya Saqib on fleeing the Taliban in September 2021

Read the Story on Pages 4-5

Check this Out!

Montclair State’s Ukrainian Community Reacts to War
Confessions Of A Student-Run Instagram Page: @MontclairStateLIT
EDITORIAL: Sam Mills Deserves More From His Alma Mater
England’s Thomas Roper Adds International Flair to Men’s Lacrosse Team

Page 3
Page 11
Page 16
Page 32

Lynise Olivacce | The Montclarion
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Monclair State’s Ukrainian Community Reacts to War

Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, the culmination of over two decades spent by Vladimir Putin escalating tensions between the two nations.

Since taking control of Russia in late 1999, Putin gradually solidified power for himself, seizing dictatorial power and packing his inner circle with elites who agree with his revisionist mindset.

Putin said Ukraine has never been a legitimate state in February 2022, just eight years after illegally seizing Crimea from Ukraine following the deposition of their pro-Russian leader, Viktor Yanukovych.

Many Ukrainian-American students and employees at Montclair State University have been drastically impacted by the war.

Olena Nesteruk, an associate professor in the department of family science and human development, shared how the war has emotionally affected her knowing that most of her family members reside in Ukraine.

“Saying goodbye to my parents every day, not knowing if we would speak again and if my children would get to see their grandparents, has been very difficult,” Nesteruk said. “Although my parents are in relative safety, my heart is breaking for all Ukrainian people.”

David Kasoff, a sophomore jurisprudence and philosophy major, said when the Russian military began its assault on Ukraine one month ago, his reaction was one of fear and shock, but sadly expected.

“Two months before the invasion, Putin had bombed an entire school in a Ukrainian city,” Kasoff said. “One of [my cousins’] very good friends that lives there, Nadia, her entire home had been destroyed by a missile.”

The destruction following the onset of invasion was immediate, by March 15, the mayor of Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city, stated that over 600 buildings were damaged.

Many expressed worries for their loved ones in Ukraine, with some not staying behind to fight and others joining the nearly 4 million refugees that have fled westward, half of which are children.

Lyudmyla Yakubov, the director of the Ben Samuels Children’s center, has been having trouble staying focused at work due to the ongoing crisis.

“I had to take a few days off, I could not work,” Yakubov said. “Focusing on typical daily tasks is harder these days, intense emotions run a rollercoaster.”

Yakubov shared a bulletin board of sunflowers, the national flower of Ukraine, made by the families and staff of the children’s center, in a display of healing.

The sunflower has become a powerful symbol, being used to represent peace: a viral video showed a Ukrainian woman offering sunflower seeds to Russian soldiers, so that flowers may grow when they die.

Viktor Turchyn, the manager of computing lab services at Montclair State, said he fears for his family.

“My wife’s cousin who lives in Kyiv, called her in panic and tears, asking in despair to do something to stop the war.”

Turchyn also encouraged people to continue following the crisis in Ukraine.

“The news headlines tend to quickly change and people should not drift away from the unprovoked war that Russia has started in Ukraine,” Turchyn said. “They should demand that U.S. government steps up and does more to put an end to this war sooner than later so that more innocent lives are preserved.”

Turchyn further highlighted how important it is for Montclair State’s administration to acknowledge and share where they stand on this issue, in addition to providing their support to students and employees who are currently affected by the war.

Halya Hotso, the associate director of capital procurement at Montclair State, said her family is doing everything they can to help Ukrainians.

“They are very scared, but brave,” Hotso said. “[My family] is doing what they can to stop this war. Most of them are volunteers — helping with humanitarian aid, helping and hosting displaced citizens. Some are making camouflage nets.”

The Ukrainian community of Montclair State also advised how students can help the people of Ukraine, channeling the anxiety the war has brought to many.

Several organizations, such as UACCNJ, Razom for Ukraine and Stop Putin, either accept donations to aid in humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine or organize rallies to bring attention to the situation.

Yakubov also said students should connect with their peers whose college experiences are indefinitely interrupted.

Looking towards the current status of war, which at the moment is facing a stalled Russian offensive, due to demoralized military and equipment losses, Nesteruk pointed out the courage of Ukrainians.

“Ukrainians are hard-working, generous, and peaceful people,” Nesteruk said. “They are resisting the invading Russian army and are defending their nation from genocide and destruction. Ukrainians are also fighting for the whole world, against terrorist Putin who threatens nuclear war. Ukrainians are fighting to protect freedom, democracy, territorial integrity and peace around the world.”

Montclair State’s Ukrainian Community Reacts to War

“They are very scared, but very brave.”

Ian Horn | Staff Writer
Roya Saqib
Continued from Page 1

Sam Nungesser
Editor-in-Chief

“If you asked me [where I see myself in 20 years] in August – on Aug. 15, 2021, while I was in Afghanistan, I'd have no answers.”

The accomplished daughter of a diplomat and a kindergarten teacher, Roya Saqib, a former technical assistant to the former president of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani, was in elementary school when the Taliban said she could no longer receive an education because she was a girl. Now, 20 years later, and just over seven months since the extremist group regained control of Afghanistan, those fears for women and girls in her country have come back.

“It is not my story only; it can be for any girl in my country; and some boys,” Saqib said. “But mostly for girls because they were banned from school many times; during the civil war, the new regime changes [and] the Taliban coming.”

Born and raised in Kabul, Afghanistan, Saqib recalled moving around as a child due to the civil war and the Taliban’s first regime, which lasted from 1996 to 2001. During that time, the Taliban enforced a strict interpretation of Sharia law, killing many Afghan civilians, banning television and music, and prohibiting women and girls from school as well as most employment opportunities outside the home. However, the Taliban did not stop her from educating herself.

“I was very much interested in education as a kid. I was the kind of kid that would cry for a school,” Saqib said, remembering how happy she had felt when she took the risk of attending a secret homeschool facility only to be followed by sadness when it closed down one week later.

Because of her hard work, when the Taliban finally left, Saqib was promoted to ninth grade by passing talent exams and using government-provided opportunities for girls. Within a couple of years, she had received a full scholarship to Jamia Millia Islamia in India, where she received a bachelor’s degree in political science and economics and graduated first in her class.

According to Saqib, it was not common for girls to get a scholarship and leave the country for school due to the many changes in regimes which caused unsafe and strict social norms for women and girls.

“The social structure had changed so much,” Saqib said. “There was so much fear to send a daughter to university, let alone send them to another country as a teenager.”

She went on to receive a master’s degree in international relations at Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi in India, then a second masters of science in management at Simmons University in Boston, Massachusetts with a Fulbright Scholarship, where she graduated in 2015.

Saqib returned to Kabul and worked many jobs, from leading a communication and outreach team that promoted women in government to acting as the director of the Women’s Economic Empowerment National Program and eventually, at 29 years old, landing a position as the technical assistant to the president of Afghanistan, where she coordinated with other government entities, conducted research and provided reports to the president.

That lasted one year and two months before the government collapsed and the Taliban took over once again.

“People were getting scared day-by-day, they thought [the Taliban was] coming to share the power,” Saqib said. “They couldn’t imagine that they could get the whole government in their hands.”

When she had first received the call from her driver on Aug. 15, 2021, saying the Taliban was closing in on Kabul, she brushed it off as a rumor. However, when all the phone lines were busy and she saw people running home to safety and rushing to get visas to leave the country, she knew it was real. Later on, she found out the president and his team had fled the country.

“That was the time I believed that nothing is normal, and everything is gone now,” Saqib said.

According to Saqib, she couldn’t even fathom staying alive as they had been killing government employees for so long.

“It was a nightmare for me,” Saqib said. “I thought I lost all the efforts, all the hard work, all the ambition that I had. I was sitting at home and just doing nothing, like what now? At least if I don’t get killed.”

However, it wasn’t dying herself she was afraid of, nor was it the violence she had grown accustomed to her whole life such as airstrikes, rockets and at least one suicide bombing or blast a day in Kabul and every other province; it was the fact that every record of her immediate family and relatives, along with their addresses and phone numbers were stored in a database in the president’s office when she began her job there.

“My life not so much, but for my family’s life I was scared,” Saqib said. “I remember when I would hear people walking on the stairs [at my apartment] … my heartbeat would go high and I would think they were knocking on my door.”

Despite everyone telling her to destroy her degrees out of fear the Taliban would find out she had studied abroad, something her father did during the civil war to hide that he had studied in the United States, she did not.

“I said, ‘No I’m not going to do
that, even if I die,” Saqib said. “Because every degree I earned, every certificate I earned, I worked so hard for it.”

It was because of the connections she had made while studying abroad that she was finally able to evacuate, and even though she was leaving Afghanistan behind, she knew she wanted to continue serving her home country. “[If I leave], I can pursue my bigger goals, which are serving humanity, serving my country from another place,” Saqib said. “[In Afghanistan under the current circumstances], I wouldn’t be able to pursue anything – if I stay alive.”

In September 2021, Saqib and her mother were given an opportunity to fly out of Afghanistan to a nearby country, though it meant leaving behind her father and sister, something she said was a difficult decision. While the rest of her family evacuated two months later, only Saqib and her mother were flown to the United States, on Oct. 29, where they remained at the Fort Dix military base in New Jersey for three months.

As for how things are now in Afghanistan, Saqib says public schools still have not reopened, and when they do, girls will be allowed to attend unlike during the Taliban’s previous ruling. However, women are still being deprived of holding leadership positions within the government, something Saqib says will cause a decrease in ambition for women to pursue an education with a career goal. “Killing with a knife is one thing and we have a phrase; killing with cotton is killing the person, still, but in a soft way,” Saqib said. “In terms of women’s rights and so many civil rights, they are killing people with cotton.”

Saqib says her role in being a women’s rights activist is not her job, it’s her prophecy. “As a girl in Afghanistan, if you are in a position where you lead and manage so many men, it is not a smooth process.”

- Roya Saqib

As for where she sees herself in 20 years, Saqib, who thrives off a good challenge, now has a clear vision. “[There are] three things: women empowerment, particularly in developing countries and countries like Afghanistan... and fighting poverty globally, not just in my country. And working for peace,” Saqib said. “These are the things which I have been suffering [from] and I want to tackle those challenges.”
Several Montclair State University organizations met with representatives of Covenant House New Jersey for a Sleep Out event on Friday, March 18 at the Student Recreation Center patio.

The Sleep Out Event was co-sponsored by Campus Recreation, Health Promotion and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

It focused on giving students the knowledge and ability to understand the perspectives of those who are homeless and the various struggles they go through every day. Presentations and speeches painted the picture of how much homeless youth at Covenant House are not too different from regular college students.

Students present at the event were welcomed to s’more-making and campfires. They were also broken into groups to make gift bags, vision boards and cards with kind-hearted messages to be sent to Covenant House centers.

Tzu-Lin Toner, assistant director of campus recreation programs, enjoyed running the event and collaborating with students to make it happen.

“To listen to student inputs and work with them to come up with ideas, how to make them happen, plan them, promote them and ultimately make them come to fruition is an experience unlike any other,” Toner said.

It was recommended that students bring their own sleeping bags or blankets for the outdoor setting of the event. Various speakers shared the perspectives of homeless youth, how they might end up in such a situation and what students can do to support them.

Teni Bello, RecBoard community service chair and director of special events for Campus Recreation, explained why it was so important to host the event.

“I am definitely grateful that I took action from a lot of opportunities at [Montclair State] to host and speak at this event tonight to represent students,” Bello said. “As someone from poverty, being able to have a platform which will hopefully lead other students to support homeless youth and Covenant House is very inspiring and rewarding for me.”

Sara Duricko, a senior psychology major, said she learned a lot by attending the event.

“I’m very surprised by the sizable turnout of students for this event on a Friday night,” Duricko said. “This topic ties directly with psychology in learning how homeless youth live and act every day. I’m very happy to be here and learn what I can do in the fight against youth homelessness and what my classmates can offer as well.”

Covenant House has centers located across New Jersey. Aside from Montclair, they are present in Newark, Elizabeth, Atlantic City and Asbury Park with offices and centers to support homeless youth and young adults.

Kirsten Corley, a senior development associate at Covenant House, gave her input on the event and being an active part of it.

“This experience has been wonderful,” Corley said. “I love how students of all years share the same enthusiasm to learn about youth homelessness and what they can do to make a difference. [Bello] is a marvelous student leader. [Montclair State] and the rest of the students here have been very welcoming toward us.”

Dr. Melissa Zarin, the new associate director of CAPS, shared how it felt to attend this event.

“I took this job only a couple of months ago and to see the student body come together to learn about youth homelessness proves that they can do anything with their minds put together,” Zarin said.
Students React to Making Daylight Saving Time Permanent

Maja Koprivica
Guest Writer

Just two days after most Americans set their clocks forward one hour, the United States Senate unanimously passed a measure that would make daylight saving time permanent across the country.

The bill, called the Sunshine Protection Act, would end the practice of changing the time back one hour in November. This makes daylight saving time, which typically begins in March, remain throughout the year.

The measure must be passed by the House of Representatives and signed by President Joe Biden to become a law. It would then take effect in November 2023.

After turning their clocks last weekend, Montclair State University students shared their thoughts on the bill.

Grace Petroccia, a junior family science and human development major, supported the measure after feeling the effects of the time shift.

“In hindsight, I feel like an hour—adding to a day or subtracting from a day—isn’t that different,” Petroccia said. “But I feel like I’ve been feeling it the past few days, and maybe not having that transition will be slightly easier.”

Petroccia said the bill will be helpful for those who suffer from seasonal affective disorder, which often occurs when we lose an hour of sunlight in November.

“I think that’s super beneficial for the winter because seasonal depression is a thing, and I think that people will definitely benefit from longer days in the winter,” Petroccia said.

In addition to seasonal depression, researchers found an increase in car accidents, heart attacks and other health risks during and after both time transitions.

Rose Vichiconti, a freshman psychology major, felt affected by the time transition.

“I generally notice [the effects of the time shift] when I lose an hour of sleep because I don’t plan it out ahead of time,” Vichiconti said. “I significantly feel more tired.”

Vichiconti expressed mixed emotions about the measure.

“In the same breath, I want the hour back, but I also don’t want to lose the hour,” Vichiconti said. “But I think, in the end, it’s worth it, not losing the hour.”

Other students, like Anthony Rota, a senior business administration major, did not notice the effects of the time shift considerably but appreciated the additional sunlight during daylight saving time.

“I think the first day [after the time change] probably affects me, but other than that, not really,” Rota said. “I kind of like daylight saving because, when I come out of work and it’s all dark at night, I kind of don’t like that.”

Isabella Pozo, a sophomore English major, said the practice of turning our clocks is outdated.

“Turned our clocks is outdated. It seemed a little unnecessary,” Pozo said. “It doesn’t make sense for modern times.”

Pozo said she was also affected by the time transition.

“It was always annoying that one night where it switches because my sleep gets thrown off a little bit, but if it just stays constant the entire year, then I don’t have to have that,” Pozo said.
Grocery stores can be overwhelming. Between fad diets, TikTok influencers and their food diaries and people throwing around fancy diet terms, it can be hard to know what you should actually get while you’re food shopping.

I started doing the grocery shopping for my family as a teenager; I wanted to help my mom out and lessen her load. Almost five years later, I like to think of myself as an established grocer. OK, not really, but I do know what every college student should have inside their dorms or in their personally labeled snack cabinet at home.

1. Oats

If you know me, you know I love oats. Oats are the most versatile food in my pantry. They can be used for breakfast, lunch and even dessert.

Buying a container of old-fashioned oats should be at the top of your list when you go to the store. My favorite way to use them is in overnight oats. Grab your favorite milk, sweetener and fruit of choice. Throw these in a mason jar with the oats, stir it up and then refrigerate overnight and they’re good to go.

2. Eggs

Eggs are a great way to add protein to meals, especially if you’re vegetarian. I have eggs almost every morning, but I also like to add eggs in fried rice, ramen and I even eat them hard-boiled as a quick snack. The best way to enjoy them is with Everything But The Bagel Seasoning and nutritional yeast.

3. Nut Butter

One of the most underused things in most pantries is nut butter. Typically, people use it once for a recipe or to satisfy a random PB&J craving and then they shove it to the back of the cabinet until it goes bad.

Nut butters are a great way to get in healthy fats to keep you sustained for long days of work and classes. I use nut butter in my smoothies, toast, oatmeal and even salad dressing. I make pesto noodles with cashew butter and use peanut butter to make a spring roll dipping sauce.

The possibilities for these butters are endless, which is why you must find a great one to throw in your shopping cart. The best nut butters have few ingredients, so look for ones that don’t have any preservatives. If you want a flavored one, look to the brand RX for delicious, protein-packed varieties.

4. Frozen fruits and vegetables

Frozen fruits and vegetables often get a bad reputation, as if they’re not as healthy as their fresh counterparts. That’s just factually wrong. Frozen produce is just as healthy. In fact, they freeze the produce at peak freshness, so you are getting the very best of that product.

Buying fruits and vegetables already frozen not only saves you time and money but also limits waste because they last for so long. My favorite frozen fruits and vegetables are from Trader Joe’s. They make great varieties: some plain and some with seasoning or sauces. They even make different packs that are for specific dishes like a stir fry or fajitas. The one I use the most is the cauliflower stir fry. It’s a simple, easy dinner that I top with protein and is ready in 10 minutes.

5. Pre-cooked rice

Rice is one of the more complicated grains to nail when cooking it. It’s either too soupy or bone dry and sticks to the bottom of your pot. To stop these mishaps before they happen, buy pre-cooked rice from your grocery store.

At Costco, Seeds of Change makes a great garlic, rice and quinoa blend. It comes in a large box and it’s great to split as an expense with your roommates. Trader Joe’s also has easily prepared and portioned bags of white rice. These packs are great for the days you have no inspiration, or for when you just want to pour a bag of rice in a bowl and eat it while watching “Grey’s Anatomy” all day.

Now that you have a basis for your grocery list, it’s time to start meal planning. With the basics listed here, the possibilities are endless. I know it can be overwhelming but take it one week at a time. Until the next bite.
‘Color Theory’ Brings an Isolated Campus to Life

The submission guidelines for “Color Theory” are relatively loose, as the only requirement is that the material is related to the GSWS program. The zine is open to showcasing all types of art, including drawings, photography, writing, puzzles, playlists and interviews.

The beginnings of “Color Theory” trace back to fall 2020 when Farley and Schwartz interned for the GSWS program and pitched the idea of a collaborative zine to their faculty advisor, Jessica Restaino. During their time at Montclair State, especially during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Farley and Schwartz felt that GSWS students had few resources to apply their education outside the classroom and were limited in communal activities.

“I found myself so moved by [Farley and Schwartz’s] creative energy and capacity to have a vision to make something,” Restaino said. “Particularly something that brings people together and celebrates what it means to be human.”

After the online publication of “Color Theory (Vol. 1),” Farley, Schwartz and Restaino noticed the GSWS program had a significant increase in sign-ups and student involvement.

Spencer Crines, a sophomore GSWS major, explained how it gave him and his writing a sense of belonging.

“[Color Theory] helped me feel more connected to the queer community on campus and in the local area,” Crines said. “I knew [my writing] would be read, but I didn’t think it would be something I would be recognized for.”

As the zine circulated campus and elicited positive reactions, Farley and Schwartz decided to keep up the momentum and create a second volume.

When submissions reopened, the two were ecstatic to find that responses were immediate and had nearly doubled since the first volume. While this means the selection process will have to be more involved, Farley and Schwartz felt that GSWS program had a significant increase in sign-ups and student involvement.

The digital version of “Color Theory (Vol. 2)” is expected to release this month, and physical copies are to be printed in April thanks to an increased project budget given by the university. This volume will also include a new project budget given by the university.

“I hope readers can see themselves in the work or a perspective different from their own, and feel a sense of community regardless of their race or identity,” Farley said.

The zines will be released in April thanks to an increased project budget given by the university. This volume will also include a new project budget given by the university.

The online version of “Color Theory” is most often physical objects, but they can also be electronically published.

Like other zines, the “Color Theory” zine is open to showcasing all types of art, including drawings, photography, writing, puzzles, playlists and interviews.

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When submissions reopened, the two were ecstatic to find that responses were immediate and had nearly doubled since the first volume. While this means the selection process will have to be more involved, Farley and Schwartz are already impressed with the quality of submissions and hope to showcase the wide range of student talent.

The digital version of “Color Theory (Vol. 2)” is expected to release this month, and physical copies are to be printed in April thanks to an increased project budget given by the university. This volume will also include a new credits section for contributing artists to promote their creative practices. Additionally, Farley and Schwartz plan to host an on-campus celebration on April 29 with presentations from contributors.

“I hope readers can see themselves in the work or a perspective different from their own, and feel a sense of community regardless of their relationship to the diverse communities represented,” Schwartz said.

While Farley’s graduation this May will likely mean the end of “Color Theory,” the GSWS program has other collaborative and student-led projects, such as Conversations in Feminism and the university’s chapter of Planned Parenthood Generation Action.

The zine is related to the GSWS program. The only requirement is that the material is related to the GSWS program. The zine is open to showcasing all types of art, including drawings, photography, writing, puzzles, playlists and interviews.

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While Farley’s graduation this May will likely mean the end of “Color Theory,” the GSWS program has other collaborative and student-led projects, such as Conversations in Feminism and the university’s chapter of Planned Parenthood Generation Action.

The zine is related to the GSWS program. The only requirement is that the material is related to the GSWS program. The zine is open to showcasing all types of art, including drawings, photography, writing, puzzles, playlists and interviews.

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The Web3 Association at Montclair State aims to give students the skills they need in order to be the web professionals of the future.

Sal DiMaggio
Assistant Feature Editor

The World Wide Web is a vast, complicated place, filled with detailed intricacies that would overwhelm most people’s minds. Yet it’s essential to our lives and we couldn’t live without it. We use it every day, from submitting our assignments online to posting on social media. But the internet is changing, and Montclair State University students are not blind to this.

The Web3 Association at Montclair State is made up of a group of students who are dedicated to being a part of the future of the web. Led by president Joshua Porporino, a sophomore information technology major, the club aims to prepare students to be able to work with Web3, or what Porporino called “the next iteration of the internet.”

Web1 is the early version of the internet, where all the common user could do was read what was put online. Then came Web2, which allowed internet users to comment and interact with content, as well as make their own. Web3 builds off of Web2, but with a twist.

“So normally when you host a website, you have to go through Amazon, or you have to go through some kind of service,” Porporino said. “But to host your own website on Web3, you just code it directly to the network. There’s no third party.”

Porporino explained how this would be done. In order to make the websites decentralized, they would be built on blockchains, the same technology that cryptocurrencies use.

“Using that type of technology, you can build computer applications on top of that technology,” Porporino said.

The purpose behind this is to make the web more accessible, as well as more efficient. The main project that the club is working on is to move how students transfer their credentials from the university to Web3. This will allow them to do it for free, as opposed to the $40 charge that it takes now.

“They’re doing that to ensure that nobody’s messing with [it], there’s no fraud,” Porporino said. “But if it’s on the blockchain, it literally gets transferred for free. And you know that it’s legit.”

Another advantage to Web3 is its security.

“(The hosting servers) have their network issues all the time,” Porporino said. “You constantly hear almost every day of server issues. And another big thing is [that Web3 is] impossible to hack. It’s impervious to all hacking because of the way it’s designed.”

A large reason behind the club’s founding is that no classes are being offered on Web3. Dewan Fatima, the club’s vice president and a senior business major with a concentration in management in information and technology, explained why she felt the club was important and why she became a part of it.

“It’s just something new that many people are getting into,” Fatima said. “And I do want to be one of the first new people to learn about it and get into it before everyone else gets in it. And I know we’re learning [to use] this website’s programming to help us build those skills.”

Nazia Ozair, treasurer of the club and a junior computer science major, said why she feels it’s important that students join the club.

“I don’t think people understand how useful the information in this club is that we’re teaching,” Ozair said. “So I always talk about the blockchain club if I meet any of my other friends and like to see if they’re interested in it.”

As for what’s in the future for the Web3 Association, the members’ main goal is to get Student Government Association (SGA) approval, which they need in order to be an official organization and grow.

“We want to have our own research lab where we could have our own personal computers where we could have the programs already up and running,” Fatima said.

Personal computers for the club are important to help encourage new students to join the club and learn a bit about what it takes to code your own website.

“We need our own specific computers [so that we can use] specific programs to use Solidity, [the coding language the club uses],” Porporino said. “And by having a lab, we want to create an environment where people can come and learn at any time of the day.”
Confessions Of A Student-Run Instagram Page: @MontclairStateLIT

University life can be full of adventures, both academically and leisurely. Whether it's poor experiences with roommates, opinions on college life or hook-up disasters, some students have been clearing the air on social media about life at Montclair State University.

Montclair State students have been anonymously sharing their university experiences with the student-run Instagram page @montclairstatelit for almost a year.

The owner of @montclairstatelit, who decided to remain anonymous, started the page back in April 2021, after realizing that most Instagram pages associated with the university did not voice the experiences of students.

"No platform really lets the student voice [share] how they really feel which can skew the perceptions of students, making them think Montclair [State] is just this ordinary boring school. It's much more than that," the owner said.

Interactions from the owner and confessions from students helped secure a current following of 4,674 people. The page began to gain traction when a little over 1,000 people followed the page, just four days after its startup.

The owner of the page credits this growth to interactions with the page's followers and to maintaining a non-biased presence on the platform.

"I knew my marketing strategy would make noise and almost instantly it did," he said. "I followed people back, liked their posts, interacted like humans do."

Anonymous confessions from students also began pouring in during the first week the page was up and running. In the page's first week alone, over 200 confessions were submitted to the owner of the page.

Rather than use the page for exploitative reasons, the owner aimed to create a safe space for students to share their experiences with no judgment.

"Having been through many of the obstacles that students faced, I could relate to many of these confessions and give honest advice," he said. "It didn't really hit me that people were actually being vulnerable and sharing deep things because I created a space just for that."

Some students think that certain confessions are submitted by students with malicious intent. Maria Hofmann, a senior journalism major, thinks some confessions can be hurtful to students.

"I think it's great to have a place students feel comfortable sharing their thoughts on but when students have an open forum like that, it can lead to students using it inappropriately," Hofmann said. "I've seen a lot of posts where I felt like kids were being made fun of. Even though we're older, it still hurts when students see they're being talked about."

The page receives between 50 to 100 anonymous submissions per day. When a submission is selected, it is posted to the page in white font over a black background and quoted by the page, @montclairstatelit.

Despite other student-run confessions pages circulating on Instagram, the owner of @montclairstatelit has decided to stand out in alternative ways.

"Mine differs in many ways, for one it's straightforward and easily accessible," he said. "Students know they will get a response. It's not as colorful and the energy isn't fake or forced."

The owner of @montclairstatelit plans to hang up his hat and retire from the page once he graduates. He hopes to pass down the account to another undergraduate student he feels can maintain the standards and integrity of the account.

"My hopes are that this account can be a staple in Montclair [State] history and the tradition can live on," he said. "I want the account to be passed on and keep living up to what I've started."
What makes you feel alive?
By John LaRosa, Photo Editor

“I’m an acting major so I really like performing. Comedy is my favorite; I’ve done open mic in the city which is really cool. I get, like, a high I guess.”

Sofia Pastena
Sophomore
Acting major

“I’m a dancer so performing live, definitely in front of an audience.”

Rebecca Vigna
Junior
Dance major

“Guitar, it just validates how I feel sometimes. I’ve been playing for two months I’m very new. I just fell in love with it to be honest.”

Alex Saldana
Freshman
Music Therapy major
“Being at school, being surrounded by people. The whole COVID thing happened, I’m a very shy, antisocial person. I wasn’t before, but now that I’m at school, being surrounded by people, it feels really good. People interacting with me is really good.”

Aliza Benvenutty
Sophomore
Undecided major

“Feeling nature, like sitting in wet grass, or looking at the moon and stars.”

Kayla Dunleavy
Freshman
Political Science major

“Eating good food. Love Italian food, love pasta. I’ll go down on a chicken parm.”

Lissette Bernabe
Senior
Psychology major
Help Wanted

**DAY CAMP COUNSELOR & TEACHER**

Ramapo Country Day Camp is seeking college students who have an interest in working with kids in their future. Perfect fit for education, psychology, sociology, and nursing students. Group counselor & teaching jobs available. Camp runs from June 27-August 19, Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm. Located 30 minutes from MSU, next to Mahwah, Ramsey, Ridgewood and Montvale.

If interested, visit www.ramapocamp.com and www.ramapocamp.com/staff-application or contact 845-356-6440.

**DRIVER & SITTER**

Driver and sitter wanted Monday-Friday for 15 year old and 13 year old to drive/pick up from after-school and to/from practice in Montclair area. Times vary every day during the week. Current schedule is Monday 4:50pm (Brookdale Park) & 7pm School (MKA); Tuesday 7pm School (MKA); Wednesday 7pm School (MKA) & 7pm - 8:30pm (Brookdale); Thursday 7pm School (MKA); Friday 7pm School (MKA) & 5:45pm - 7:15pm (Brookdale). Would love help with games on some weekends too. Must be dog friendly.

If interested, please text or call 310-279-8877.

**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/carers.

**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.
PUZZLES

International Women’s Month Edition

By Kayla Carlamere

Across
3. This English mathematician is credited for being the world’s first computer programmer, having published the first algorithm intended for a computer, although it took a century after her death for people to appreciate these notes, now recognised as the first description for computer and software.

7. This famous scientist made many contributions to the field that are still relevant today, such as discovering two new elements, coining the term radioactivity and developing a portable x-ray machine. She was also the first person to ever win two Nobel Prizes—for physics and chemistry.

8. Constantly defying gender-norms, this American aviator became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic as well as the first person ever to fly from Hawaii to the US.

Down
1. As one of Hollywood’s most famous actresses, she was the second woman ever to own her own production company in the U.S., becoming a successful businesswoman, philanthropist, and early feminist.

2. This famous activist sparked an entire Civil Rights movement by refusing to give up her seat on the bus to a white man.

4. This inspiring woman escaped slavery only to return multiple times, risking her life, to bring others to freedom as a conductor of the Underground Railroad.

5. This influential figure is known for being many things but most notably for writing her memoir, “I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings.”

6. This iconic English novelist wrote many books, though she was only revealed as the author of these novels after her death. Included in the six major novels she is known for is “Pride and Prejudice.”

Sudoku

Word Search

Zendaya
Serena Williams
Jennifer Lawrence
Oprah Winfrey
Taylor Swift
Beyoncé
Michelle Obama
Madonna
Simone Biles
Meghan Markle
Julie Andrews
Meryl Streep
Margaret Atwood
Greta Thunberg
Martha Stewart
Sam Mills Deserves More From His Alma Mater

Former Montclair State University linebacker Sam Mills will be inducted into the 2022 Pro Football Hall of Fame on Aug. 6 after being nominated earlier this year. If you're not familiar with campus sports or football in general, you may not know his name. Except you do — Sam's Place is named in his honor, as is Mills Hall.

To be frank, Sam Mills deserves much more than that for the outstanding breadth of his achievements on the field. In his relatively short 45 years of life, Mills built a legacy most people never even dream of having. Throughout his career, Mills had doubt cast on him — and his potential, and his ability from his coaches. But Montclair State saw what previous students are doing, and it’s only fair that he be recognized for the legend he was.

United States Football League, Mills successfully made his way onto two professional teams. He first played with the New Orleans Saints, during which he was selected to the Pro Bowl four times, and quickly earned a reputation as part of the Saint's intimidating defense. Mills then joined the Carolina Panthers and had similar success there, eventually retiring and becoming an assistant coach for the Panthers until his death in 2005. Mills' posthumous election and induction into the hall of fame come over a decade after his death. He was only 45 and passed away from intestinal cancer after a two-year-long battle with the disease.

But until the end, Mills didn't let his diagnosis stop him. In his famous 2004 pre-game speech to the Panthers, he told his team, “When I found out I had cancer, there were two things I could do: quit or keep pounding.” To this day, the Panthers have lived and played by that mantra, inscribing it into their jersey collars and starting every home game at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina with their “Keep Pounding” drum. As one would expect, Mills has made every institution he was associated with feel special.

People like Mills don't come along every day, and it's only fair that he be remembered for the legend he was. People should do something to help [alumni] do. I feel like they accomplished a lot. I feel like [Montclair State doesn’t] do enough, or at least I don’t hear enough about them. So I wish I knew more about what [alumni] do. I feel like they should do something to help us recognize that.”

- Melanie Cuentas
- Levi Morici
- Natalie Yost
- Liv Byrne
- Melanie Cuentas
- Levi Morici
- Natalie Yost
- Liv Byrne

- Theatre
- Sophomore
- Acting
- Junior
- Nursing
- Sophomore
- Psychology
- Freshman

Sam Mills has his Long Branch jersey and his Panthers jersey on display in the gym. There is a statue of him outside the Bank of America Stadium and his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame will be commemorated with a bronze bust.

Montclair State has a lovely bronze statue, too — of a bird. In 2015, the 12-foot high Red Hawk statue was installed on campus. At $210,000, the hawk statue was no small price to pay in the name of building school pride. What might actually help build school pride is a commemorative statue of a real person who achieved incredible things at Montclair State and beyond. Rocky is, of course, an inspiration and an icon, but he is a mascot and that is his job. Mills had no obligation to be great, he simply was. Besides, his current on-campus dedication is lacking, to say the least. Having a dining hall that students show a begrudging affection for at best named after you seems more like a punishment than an honor.

The Montclarion is calling on Montclair State to show some appreciation and Red Hawk Pride on behalf of Sam Mills, a man who gave his all to the university that believed in him when no one else did.

So it's better for students to know how things work outside of school. With professional scouts, prospects post-Montclair State were similarly limited, so Montclair State saw what previous students are doing, and it's only fair that he be recognized for the legend he was.

People like Mills don’t come along every day, and it’s only fair that he be remembered for the legend he was.

I know in the department that I’m in, we have a lot of students come back to help, and it’s great to see where they’ve gone, and they are definitely teaching our students how things work outside of school. So it’s better for students to know what previous students are doing, and it’s just great school recognition as well.”

- Melanie Cuentas
- Theatre
- Sophomore

“I think so. I think they’ve accomplished a lot. I feel like [Montclair State doesn’t] do enough, or at least I don’t hear enough about them. So I wish I knew more about what [alumni] do. I feel like they should do something to help us recognize that.”

- Levi Morici
- Theatre
- Sophomore

“Yeah, I think so because it’s important to reflect that Montclair [State] can bring out the good in people and they bring out the best experiences for them and also the many talents that come from this school. So, I think it’s very beneficial.”

- Melanie Cuentas
- Theatre
- Sophomore

“Maybe? I don’t know. Maybe that is telling though, because I don’t know anything about our alumni so, probably.”

- Natalie Yost
- Acting
- Junior

“I think so. I think they’ve accomplished a lot. I feel like [Montclair State doesn’t] do enough, or at least I don’t hear enough about them. So I wish I knew more about what [alumni] do. I feel like they should do something to help us recognize that.”

- Natalie Yost
- Acting
- Junior

Campus Voices:

Should Montclair State be doing more to recognize accomplishments of past alumni?

By Hailey Mayewski
In New Jersey, coronavirus (COVID-19) omicron cases have been declining for months. As a result, Centers for Disease Control and Health (CDC) and New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy gave schools the option of lifting the mask mandate starting March 7, 2022. Even though Murphy gave all New Jersey school systems the option of going maskless, Montclair State University continues to have a mask policy on campus. This makes sense due to the high number of students on campus, how many students commute to and from outside the campus and the large number of student gatherings on campus. All of these things could create more exposure to COVID-19 at the university.

It is for the best that Montclair State’s mask policy remains in place for students and faculty members who are vaccinated or unvaccinated. Since classrooms are at capacity, it is hard to maintain social distancing, so this is warranted.

Students who are commuting to campus may face a higher risk, and the mask mandate ensures they don’t bring COVID-19 home with them. They might have some members of their family who are not fully vaccinated or have underlying conditions like diabetes or heart disease, which makes them vulnerable. Some students may also have siblings who are too young to be vaccinated and may become infected with COVID-19.

Commuters who often take public transportation are at risk as well. Trains and buses can be places full of unknown people who may be sick or unvaccinated.

Students who are living on campus like to gather and socialize with friends. Partying in a large group might cause cases to increase. Since there has been a steady stream of events occurring on campus, it is especially important that all participants continue to wear masks due to the higher risk of catching COVID-19 during a large gathering.

During spring break, many students had the opportunity to party even more in the city or in clubs. Traveling was also another activity Montclair State students took part in during their spring break. In several states and countries, masks were not required, so there was still a risk of getting COVID-19. Plus, as previously mentioned, the people around you who are traveling could be unvaccinated, sick or asymptomatic.

According to an article by CNBC, Murphy said the state’s school mask mandate will hopefully remain a policy of the past. But if cases increase again in New Jersey, all private and public colleges should require students to wear masks. In some counties where there are large numbers of hospitalizations and severe disease, masks should continue to be worn in indoor places.

Partially as a result of the spread of the omicron variant, the pace of COVID-19 deaths across the country accelerated throughout the fall and winter. In mid-December, deaths reached 800,000, and then after 11 weeks, 100,000 more people died. As omicron surged, millions of Americans were out sick from work. Employees should be held to the same standard as students; that is, they should wear masks in groups, especially considering most of their time is spent around each other as well as students.

Montclair State decided to offer in-person courses for the fall and spring semester with the proof of students’ and faculty members’ vaccination and now booster records. Keeping the masks on throughout campus will reduce the spread of the coronaviruses and not allow another variant to spread should it materialize. For safety’s sake, students and faculty members should still have to keep their masks on during indoor settings.

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In the Words of Future, Mask Off

Starting on March 7, Gov. Phil Murphy ended school mask mandates that were in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). As cases have begun to go down, people are now free to walk maskless once again. However, Montclair State University is continuing to mandate mask usage on campus regardless of the changes occurring around the state.

Now, as a public health major, I can understand why the university feels the need to continue with these mandates. Even though there is a significant drop in COVID-19 cases, large congregations like universities still need masks to protect their students from spreading the virus. Plus, there are still unvaccinated people who may need to wear masks to protect themselves and their classmates from getting sick.

But as a college student dealing with a now two-year-long pandemic, it’s exhausting having to cover my face every time I go inside. At this point, COVID-19 seems like it’s here to stay and it’s time we accept that reality. Things may not be the same as they were before 2020, but we should begin falling back into normalcy — which ultimately means a maskless routine of life.

Of course, masks can still be used for protection, but that should be a choice given to the students rather than an order given by the university. I feel that’s the message Murphy was trying to send when he officially ended the mask mandates.

Think of a time when you did something because you wanted to do it, like chores or a new hobby. Now imagine someone like your parent or guardian telling you to do that same thing. It would be much less enjoyable and you may not even want to do it just because you were told to. This idea is related to a theory called Psychological Reactance Theory (PRT).

In summary, it states that people who feel their freedom is being reduced or taken away entirely are more likely to go against those rules and continue risky behavior just to “prove” they still have freedom. When students feel they are being forced to wear masks, they’ll be more likely to not wear masks when officials are looking the other way. However, withoutimations, students are more likely to take safety precautions in their own lives and mandate themselves to make smarter health decisions without the university’s involvement.

Please understand that I’m not in any way trying to say we should all just give up masks without caring for anyone else. I just feel mandating masks is the equivalent of yelling at a kid to wear their helmet when they already have the helmet on their head. If someone is already doing the right thing without being told to do it, then why go an extra, unnecessary mile to meet a goal that was already met?

I think it’s safe to say no one wants to get COVID-19. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health organizations already making efforts to spread awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic, it’s fair to assume that everyone is doing what they can to avoid contracting it. Whether people believe that COVID-19 is real or not, people are still dying from something and no one wants to follow the same fate.

I remember feeling anxious myself when I first learned people were suddenly dropping dead from a disease that came from Wuhan, China. There’s already so much tension and fear from the events that have occurred from the pandemic, so why make our lives harder by mandating something that seems like common knowledge to anyone else?

Even though I can’t read the future, I can say with some certainty that masks may still stick around for a while after the coronavirus pandemic ends. But I believe it will be something that will stick around without someone telling us it should.

Serena Thomas, a freshmen public health major in her first year as a guest writer for The Montclarion.
‘No Sabo’ is Harming Your Fellow Hispanics and Latinos

According to Urban Dictionary, the term “no sabo” refers to Hispanic people that speak very limited to no Spanish. In linguistic terms, it’s a common mistake many people learning Spanish make when trying to conjugate the verb “saber,” which means “to know.” The phrase is often used to embarrass children of Spanish-speaking parents who were never taught the language.

Sadly, it seems to be the punchline of the century to many TikTok users, whose favorite joke is recreating how non-Spanish speakers with Hispanic parents would fail miserably to adjust to their home country’s culture. If you are one of these people that goes around making fun of people’s well-intentioned efforts to learn about their heritage, let me pop your ignorant, bliss-filled bubble for a second.

By using such an insult, you are implying that a person’s ability to belong and connect with their culture is based on their proficiency to speak their home country’s language. This couldn’t be farther from the truth. There are a plethora of reasons as to why Hispanic and Latino parents, as well as guardians within immigrant households, avoid sharing that part of themselves with their children.

For one, Hispanic and Latino parents could be out of touch with their cultures or they just never learned Spanish at all. According to the Pew Research Center’s 2015 National Survey of Latinos, 53% of the second-generation Hispanic parents “often” encourage their children to speak Spanish. When the third or higher generation Hispanic parents were questioned, only 41% picked “often.”

Pew Research further explains that “Spanish use also declines in mixed families where one spouse or partner is non-Latino.” Just 55% of Latino parents with a non-Latino partner speak Spanish to their children.

Parents could also fear that their children will face repercussions for expressing where they’re from. The FBI’s 2019 Hate Crime Statistics reported that there were 3,963 victims of hate crimes, 13.3% of those being victims of anti-Hispanic or Latino bias. I have seen firsthand the fear in my mother’s face whenever she felt she couldn’t speak Spanish because something might happen. The microaggressions, fetishization and criticisms deeply rooted in our society are enough to intimidate a person into hiding who they are, even morphing themselves into something they’re not.

Judging someone who’s acting purely on survival instinct knowing this country’s history of racism and xenophobia toward immigrants and minority groups is lacking basic human compassion.

To understand how embarrassing the lack of tact is when it comes to making such comments, we must discuss the difference between identifying as Hispanic, Latino or both.

Hispanic people are those that come from Spanish-speaking countries. This means the majority of South and Central America, in addition to Spain, Mexico and some Caribbean countries, identifies as Hispanic.

On the other hand, Latinos are those that come from Latin America, which covers Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. So yes, Brazilians, Haitians and Indigenous groups, amongst other people from varied backgrounds within Latin America, are still Latinos.

With all of this in mind, it is more than clear why the argument that one needs to know Spanish to claim their Latino or Hispanic heritage is baseless and quite honestly a most uneducated view of our widely diverse countries.

My dear Hispanics, this is not a private members club in which you get to pick and choose who is more “Hispanic” or “Latino.” By claiming that Latinos exclusively speak Spanish, you are erasing the hundreds of languages spoken by Indigenous groups and minority groups in Latin America. Additionally, we have no place to judge those who have refrained from speaking or learning Spanish — unless we want to be hypocrites, that is.

Sofía Acevedo Valencia, a history major with a concentration in public and digital history, is in her first year as a guest writer for The Montclarion.

Tell Me Something... Good!

Submit your “Something Good” weekly on themontclarion on Instagram!

I'm starting to feel like myself again.

Marina C. Constantino
Senior Sociology Major

I got a scholarship from CNJAPA and went to a Tame Impala concert!

Camryn Craig
Junior Linguistics Major

“I did well on my film midterm!”

Sophie Jackson
Freshman Filmmaking Major

“Spent time with family and my dog.”

Aidan Ivers
Freshman Communication & Media Studies Major

“Finally got a car! I had no car for months after a crash.”

Michelle Conceo
Senior Journalism Major
"A Story About A Mama Bear"— Alex Pavljuk

All my life I looked down from the mouth of these chasms and cliffs, seeking validation between the rocks and twigs.

I was a monster.

Scared and battered from years of battle. I commanded these woods with snarl and terror. A ghost of the mountain was but I. Existing without reason, just waiting for validation amongst this solace life of discontent. I longed for a world with meaning beyond that of this cave that I called home.

Then you came to me, my love. I found purpose and reason within your long-ing eyes. A gaze that no other beast could have swayed. Your coat, the same color as mine, and your stamper, so much like my own. Watching you stir and sneeze in your sleep, awaiting spring on this long winter eve. I can see a mystic wonder that you are far from conscious of. It dances in your heart, a manifestation that twinkles in your eye.

I love to dream of what I think you’ll become.

Then I remember. You are so much like me.

With guilt streaming down my snout and sadness to replace that faint dream that I contemplate. There is no saving you from this fate.

We will be ghosts together, hunting in tandem, searching for something. Restless in our quest to pull ourselves from this dark and hollowed creek. You will trust me, and I will love you, teaching you all the things that my mother never did. You’ll whisper mistrust from the perch of your lip, but trust me, my love, you’ll miss me when I am not here.

That day will come, when death’s caress comes either from the hands of man or the jaw of a far more monstrous beast, a beast no match for me. Then you will be alone, and it will be hard, but all that I taught you, all that love, will still flow on within you, and with any luck, you will escape this mountain life without me, my dear.

But until that time comes, we will live here for the moment. Holding you close as you sleep beneath the trees, dreaming of a day when all the other animals will not run away from you and me.
Montclair State University students were given the opportunity to perform in any way they pleased with one of the university’s open mic nights. Hosted in the Student Center’s Rathskellar by the Center for Student Involvement, any student could sign up to take the stage and perform their hearts out.

The Rathskeller provided a chill atmosphere for the event, rather than something that might give people some serious stage fright. The overall event was comfortable and felt like it was just a bunch of friends hanging out. The people who attended were welcoming, accepting and supportive of all performers who dared to try.

The first act, by freshman film major Jenny Asuzano, gave us an electric opener that got everyone to cheer and sing along. Asuzano sang and played “Crocodile Rock” by Elton John on the piano. Her voice, as well as her piano skills, were powerful and exciting.

“I knew it’s a song most people know and I feel like it’s something that can really engage the audience,” Asuzano said. “It was a song that I was supposed to sing at a talent show. Then [the coronavirus pandemic] happened so it never got to happen.”

Following Asuzano came one stand-up comedy routine, and the rest of the night were singers and songwriters. All the acts were amazing, but a few really stood out and got the crowd going.

One of the fan favorites, Lance Trusty, a senior television production major, debuted two songs from his upcoming album expected to release in early May 2022. Having, Trusty put on a show with his suave dance moves and soothing voice. “I’ve been performing since my freshman year,” Trusty said. “I did a poem and I was shaking and super nervous. I have an art I want to show people. [Now] if I get nervous before a show, I remind myself this is just an expression of myself.”

Someone with a similar star quality as Trusty who we also hope to see on a bigger stage someday is the one and only Tommy Robert, a sophomore fashion studies major. Robert is an absolute star, and I think we all felt like we were in the presence of someone like Beyoncé.

Robert immediately took the microphone and started interacting with the crowd, cracking jokes, getting them to clap for the beat of the songs and just having a good time overall.

What made Robert stand out, even more than before, was the fact that the crowd picked the closing song. We picked “Single Ladies (Put a Ring On It)” by Beyoncé, to which Robert responded with, “Y’all have to clap really fast though, y’all already struggled [with] claps.”

The sophomore has the same confidence as an A-list superstar, which he attributes to his culture.

“I’m an African, so it comes to me naturally,” Robert said.

Though Robert currently works at Urban Outfitters, we know we’re going to see him turn into entertainment royalty.

One of my personal favorites was Steffani Asenman, a junior music therapy major, who performed her original song “Life Is Not Mythology.”

“She Used to Be Mine” from “Waitress” or Henehan’s explosive showcase of her vocals with “Lost On You” by LP, the audience had a blast.

Hopefully, more people will take the time to attend the next open mic night to truly experience the artistic magic of Montclair State’s best performers.
Professor Karl Nussbaum Shares Experimental Films and Familial Inspiration at Film Forum

Karl Nussbaum visited the Film Forum on March 15.

Megan Lim
Assistant professor of film Karl Nussbaum has shared his expertise teaching within the classrooms of Montclair State University for 15 years. But on March 15, he took his experimental films and story as the child of a Holocaust survivor to the screen at the School of Communication and Media’s Presentation Hall.

Open for anyone to attend, Montclair State’s Film Forum invites talented film and video professionals to present their work and speak on their artistic process. As a “one-man-band” who writes, shoots and edits projects to be displayed at specific locations, such as Germany, France and Italy, Nussbaum has plenty of wisdom to impart in his question-and-answer portions hosted by Professor Roberta Friedman.

The event kicked off with a showing of Nussbaum’s “Ghost Dance for America, 1890,” which was originally presented at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Named after a Native American Indian movement done in response to colonization, this film explores how the beginnings of our nation and the violence that occurred in the 1800s have culminated in the political climate we find ourselves in today. Touching on topics such as Manifest Destiny and the Civil War as scenic images, serene music and sounds of nature filled the room.

“Ghost Dance for America, 1890” set the tone for the evening’s lineup of presentations, as Nussbaum says the unifying theme of his works is that they are all “ghost stories.”

“They were about death, the dead and ghosts of the past, about memory, time and what is left behind,” Nussbaum said. “I tell these ghost stories and ghosts of the past, about memory, ‘They were about death, the dead and generations of trauma resulting from slavery in America and the destruction of the Native Americans in our country. All these tragedies lead to generations of trauma passed down. We need to look at and explore these traumas for all our peoples to heal.’”

With his father and aunt being the only ones to survive, as well as his having been arrested several times and put into a camp for a period of time, Nussbaum translates this knowledge into his projects.

“This traumatic family background has inspired just about all my work,” Nussbaum said. “It’s something that’s always in the background and influences both my art and my world view.”

Following this theme is his film “Phantasmagoria, 1945,” presented in the castle in which German Nazi politician Joseph Goebbels and his family stayed, located in Rheydt, Germany, also the hometown of Nussbaum’s father. The project uses a variety of elements, from Goebbels’ propaganda ideas and anti-Semitic cartoons to modern-day clips of Black Lives Matter protests, riots at the White House and heart-wrenching segments of children in detainment.

“Ghost Dance, 1890” and “Phantasmagoria, 1945” are only two of the several films presented at the Film Forum before the event concluded with Nussbaum’s most recent work, “Psychedelic Ode to Sunshine.”

Though still drawing inspiration from his family background by paying homage to his late aunt who had survived the Holocaust, this film proves different from the others. He connected the idea of his aunt having lived as a Christian missionary in Angola, Africa to his strong interest in brightly colored African wax prints and early, upbeat African music, the two main components that define “Psychedelic Ode to Sunshine” and help set this film apart from the previous ones, according to Nussbaum.

“So when I put these two ideas together, it seemed I could create a film that was both fun but also had an emotional core and story to it,” Nussbaum said. “And then I realized this is the first time I have been able to combine the sadness and darkness of the Holocaust with the beauty and exciting, colorful energy of life in one of my films. That utter contrast is exciting and acts as a necessary sense of balance.”

The final showing and the films that preceded provided those in the audience with much to walk away with.

Charlie Martin, a sophomore filmmaking major, agreed with Nussbaum’s process of how he organically creates films and uses footage.

“I love his way of thinking when it comes to experimental films,” Martin said. “How he’s, kind of like, ‘Oh, this isn’t a mistake. This is something I can use later.’ And I like that type of thought process, and I kind of want that for myself.”

Katharine Flynn, a junior filmmaking major, left the presentation with a deeper interest in Nussbaum’s type of work creating installations.

“I haven’t had a lot of experience with the type of film that he does where it’s projected on walls and stuff,” Flynn said. “And now I really want to look more into that because it’s kind of cool.”

Nussbaum’s visit at the Film Forum achieved what he shared his goal to be, which is to have a conversation with the audience and present his work to others so they might be affected enough to form their own thoughts and feelings.

The event kicked off with a showing of Nussbaum’s “Ghost Dance for America, 1890.”

Photo courtesy of Karl Nussbaum

Julian Putnam | The Montclarion
Top Picks for International Women’s Month

Denise Jugo
Staff Writer

March is known as International Women's Month, and what better way to celebrate than to watch some of the best films and shows focused on women and created by women? The following selections highlight various women's experiences that general audiences, no matter what background, can find a connection to.

1. "Booksmart" directed by Olivia Wilde

In Olivia Wilde's "Booksmart," Amy (Kaitlyn Dever) and Molly (Beanie Feldstein) are straight-A honor students who may seem like the average overachiever. However, on the night before graduation, the best friends have an epiphany. Because of their intense focus on school, they feel as if they missed out on many special moments high schoolers experience. They agree to make up for the lost time and cram four years of the fun they missed out on into one wild night. With Dever and Feldstein as its stars, the film is a fresh take on a female-focused coming-of-age comedy. It is fast-paced, as the plot calls for, and un believably charming. The chaotic events will keep you hooked from beginning to end and make you feel as though you experienced everything yourself.

Wilde's next project is a psychological thriller called "Don't Worry Darling," starring Harry Styles and Florence Pugh, set to release this September.

2. "Little Women" directed by Greta Gerwig

If you are a fan of period films, this next pick is for you.

Greta Gerwig's adaption of "Little Women" (by Louisa May Alcott) tells the story of the March sisters growing up and eventually growing apart to find their place in the world. Starring Saoirse Ronan, Florence Pugh, Emma Watson and Eliza Scanlen, the intimate and deep love between the sisters is perfectly captured by these leading women.

Gerwig's careful yet experimental direction executes a well-told story with compelling character arcs that will have you holding the March sisters close to your own heart. Prior to "Little Women," Gerwig also wrote and directed "Lady Bird," a directional debut that landed her her first two Oscar nominations for Best Director and Best Original Screenplay. Gerwig's next project, "Barbie," starring Margot Robbie, is currently in the works.

3. "The Farewell" directed by Lulu Wang

“The Farewell" is a comedy-drama film based on an actual lie as the opening title card reads. Billi, played by Awkwafina, is a strong-willed Chinese-American woman whose family reunites in China after her beloved grandmother becomes diagnosed with terminal cancer. During their trip, Billi faces a major struggle to keep her grandmother in the dark about the truth while the family stages an impromptu wedding to spend the matriarch's final days together.

“The Farewell" is the epitome of bittersweet. With its small joyous family moments and its heart-rending conflicts, the film is well balanced and deeply sincere. Lulu Wang showcases her direction by composing a thoughtful and touching depiction of the complicated family dynamics that children brought up in a cross-cultural environment face. Despite Chinese culture being at the center of the film's many themes, it manages to capture a universally relatable experience that audiences of any background can find comfort in. Wang received the Independent Spirit Award for Best Film in 2020 for "The Farewell."

4. "Lingua Franca" directed by Isabel Sandoval

Written, directed, edited, produced by and starring Isabel Sandoval, "Lingua Franca" is a portrait of a transgender Filipino woman seeking legal status in the United States. From its tender and gritty storytelling to its intimate composition, Sandoval commands emotion without demanding it. Even in today's culture, mainstream films are not at a point where proper representation is as common as it should be, but this film is a breath of fresh air as it takes a genuine, intersectional approach to its story while accurately representing both transgender and Filipino communities.

In 2019, Sandoval became the first transgender woman of color to compete at the Venice Film Festival with her feature "Lingua Franca." She is one of the directors of her latest project "Under the Banner of Heaven" alongside David Mackenzie. The limited series stars Daisy Edgar-Jones and Andrew Garfield and will premiere on Hulu on April 28.

5. "Nomadland" directed by Chloé Zhao

Based on a novel by the same name, "Nomadland" details the life of Fern, a nomad who embarks on a journey through the western United States after losing everything in the Great Recession.

Its striking cinematography illustrates the vastness of nomad life. Although the captivating landscapes may evoke a sense of loneliness, there is an emphasis on the nomadic community and how no matter how much distance is traveled, they are bound to find one of their own on the way to their next destination. The film stars three-time Academy award-winning actor Frances McDormand and is available to stream on Hulu.

Director Chloé Zhao made history last year by winning the Academy Award for Best Director, making her the second woman to win in this category and the first woman of color to take home the Oscar. "Nomadland" also received the awards for Best Picture and Best Actress in a Leading Role. Zhao went on to direct Marvel Studio's "Eternals" and is currently working on a Sci-Fi Western take of "Dracula" for Universal.
**‘Fresh’ Revitalizes Psychological Thrillers**

**Avery Nixon**  
Assistant Opinion Editor

What I assumed to be a scary movie based on the horrors of dating hipster men named Chad turned out to be close to a masterpiece. From director Mimi Cave comes one of the first feature films she has directed, “Fresh.” While Cave only has five movie credits to her name, three without pictures on Google, “Fresh” is nothing like a rookie film and is even comparable to hits like “Midsummer” and “Hereditary.”

With all-star leads, Sebastian Stan and Daisy Edgar-Jones, “Fresh” on Hulu has already made quite the name for itself with such little promotion. After Stan’s acting skills were recognized for his other Hulu hit, “Pam & Tommy,” people were hungry for more. With a retro soundtrack, killer cinematography and a fascinating plot, “Fresh” is certainly the next thriller to put on your to-watch list.

The movie starts with Noa (Edgar-Jones) struggling to survive a painfully awkward date with Chad (Brett Dier). After declaring she doesn’t need a man, Noa meets a charming stranger in the grocery store.

Noa gives Steve (Stan) her number after a bit of fumble with his words and smooth skills. Reluctant at first, they hit it off quickly and fall for each other. So much in fact that Noa agrees to go away for the weekend with Steve.

On the first night, Noa begins to feel dizzy and passes out unconscious after she drinks a cocktail Steve prepared for her. After she passes out, the opening credits begin to roll, showing us Noa’s psyche deeply explored through science. You might like this movie if you’re not too strict with the sci-fi genre and “Back to the Future” movies. Otherwise, the film could be a bit disappointing. The plot is predictable. From the beginning of the movie, you already have an idea of the direction it’s taking. There are some moments where it gets a bit over the top because there is nothing new or surprising.

The only resuable aspects related to this point are the battles, technology and special effects. Even though they are not innovative, they do get your attention during particular scenes.

Another downside to the film is the villain, Maya Sorian, played by Catheri ne Keener, who is one of the least de veloped characters of all. She does not have enough background or a distinct personality. Maya merely fulfilled the goal of being the bad guy of the story to eventually be defeated.

“The Adam Project” does a decent job of entertaining and moving you. Even though you’ll enjoy watching it, it isn’t groundbreaking and you’ll likely forget about it soon after watching.

**‘The Adam Project’ Is an Enjoyable but Ordinary Movie**

**Darian Mccoo**  
Staff Writer

Netflix teamed up with Skydance Media and 21 Laps Entertainment to bring us a film that seemed to have great potential but turned out to be more of the same. “The Adam Project,” a movie with sci-fi elements, action, adventure and a bit of comedy, was released on March 11. It is currently in the top 10 most popular movies in the country.

The film introduces us to Adam Reed, played by Walker Scobell, a 12-year-old boy who is deeply scarred by the death of his father. He is constantly bullied at school and has a distant relationship with his mother. His life takes an unexpected turn when he meets the future version of himself, played by Ryan Reynolds. The two team up to accomplish an important mission.

The chemistry between the two actors brings Adam to life. While there are moments where you are touched by seeing the two of them together onscreen, there are also scenes where their jokes and gaffes make you laugh. Scobell’s performance is impressive, considering this is his first major film role. He’s a charismatic and funny kid. His jokes and intelligence during the movie undoubtedly give him a touch of tenderness in all the scenes he appears in. Despite being a bit rude in several scenes, his personality doesn’t become annoying.

While the film is entertaining, as many of these scenes are accompanied by punch jokes and sarcastic humor, the movie also did a great job handling sentimental scenes. It takes initiative to talk about sensitive topics such as death and the loss of a loved one. These topics could be delve into more, though what we get still meets the movie’s goal.

Despite the mentioned positive aspects, several details make “The Adam Project” a bit repetitive of what we’ve seen before in other films. The movie’s explanation regarding time travel and how it works is not deeply explored through science. You might like this movie if you’re not too strict with the sci-fi genre and “Back to the Future” movies. Otherwise, the film could be a bit disappointing. The plot is predictable. From the beginning of the movie, you already have an idea of the direction it’s taking. There are some moments where it gets a bit over the top because there is nothing new or surprising.

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Another downside to the film is the villain, Maya Sorian, played by Catherine Keener, who is one of the least developed characters of all. She does not have enough background or a distinct personality. Maya merely fulfilled the goal of being the bad guy of the story to eventually be defeated.

“The Adam Project” does a decent job of entertaining and moving you. Even though you’ll enjoy watching it, it isn’t groundbreaking and you’ll likely forget about it soon after watching.
‘Semantic Error’ Highlights Beauty in the Mundane

Donelle Benoit
Staff Writer

While shows like “Euphoria” are all the rage, “Semantic Error” seeks to bring you back to Earth. This Korean drama released in February 2022 is based on a webcomic of the same name by Jeo Soo-ri and Angy Kim. It stars Jae Chan Park and Park Seoham as university students, Cho Sang Woo and Jang Jae Young.

I was skeptical going into this not having read the source material prior, but the show manages to weave the story together without any glaring holes, so I never felt as though I was missing key background information stored in the original.

The story centers on Sang Woo, a computer science major who decides to jumpstart his career in his junior year by creating a video game. He realizes he'll need the aid of a visual artist, so he decides to put out an ad on the school bulletin board. Jae Young, a graphic design major, is the only student who reaches out. The problem is he and Sang Woo have a bit of a history, and Jae Young is notoriously known for being a slacker on assignments.

“Semantic Error” is a classic display of the enemies-to-lovers trope, but the chemistry between the two leads makes it palatable. Just take a look at one of the many scenes where Jae Young has Sang Woo pushed up against a wall or door, and it's made abundantly clear the director was eager to take advantage of their height difference.

Jae Young is an absolute charmer. He's confident without being arrogant and most importantly, without displaying abusive tendencies. Even when he's teasing Sang Woo about his idiosyncrasies, this activity never ventures into bullying or harassment. Their relationship is genuine and has a natural progression.

Despite them being polar opposites, the show doesn't turn into a blueprint on how to transform Sang Woo from an introvert into an extrovert overnight. Although Sang Woo may come across as a frustrating protagonist because of his standoffish and rigid nature, it's clear he has a deep, underlying desire to make real connections with the people around him.

The show does an excellent job of balancing romance with the subplot. Sang Woo's video game is never forgotten, and it is just as equally important to the whole plot. In fact, it's through this time the leads spend together to create it that the audience gets to know the characters properly and see them develop.

I'm not a video game fan myself, but I enjoyed seeing the process of their project. They never get too technical with the mechanics of coding and other computer science jargon to the point where the viewer gets bored or painfully confused. The art is quirky and reminiscent of children's cartoons. It would be interesting to see it played in real life.

Perhaps the most striking part of “Semantic Error” is the normalcy of college life it portrays. There's no hardcore binge-drinking, hedonistic parties or gratuitous sex scenes. It's refreshing to see young adults without sensationalism. It may have to do with the fact the protagonist is an introvert, but Jae Young is the popular stud and the most action he gets is hanging out with friends on his lunch breaks and mingling with co-workers at his restaurant job.

It could also be cultural differences, but I'm sure plenty of American students can relate to this lowkey lifestyle. For the majority of the show, the characters stress about the things we expect: homework, projects, exams, balancing a life outside academia and impending post-graduate opportunities.

“Semantic Error” is fun, cute and unabashedly normal. It's a story about the little things in life we take advantage of. If it doesn't stimulate you intellectually, then it will serve to remind you of the good parts of humanity and all it has to offer.
Charli XCX’s ‘Crash’ Is the First Great Pop Album of 2022

Kevin Olivier
Guest Writer

As we get deeper into the year, there have yet to be many standout albums or musical projects until now. Charli XCX has “crashed” into all of us with the first marvelous pop album of the year with her fifth studio album, “Crash.”

Coming in at only 34 minutes and 12 tracks in length, this new album by Charli XCX, the well-known leader of “hyperpop,” the sub-genre that adds electronic and avant-garde production to what would be regular pop songs, has been somewhat of a long time coming.

The first single, “Good Ones,” was released on Sept. 2, 2021, and in this day and age, for a lead single to come out six months before an album is rare. However, that does not affect the solid power of “Good Ones,” as it has only gotten better with age. The track kicked off a new era, and within the first few seconds, you can tell it was going to be different than the many previous eras Charli has gone through.

Since it is Charli’s last album with her current label, Atlantic Records, she has said she wanted to go full pop star with this album. In doing so, it sounds much more mainstream than her previous albums and goes fully into the popular dance-pop genre, though Charli still knows how to make it unique to her own sound. This is heavily evident in tracks like “Good Ones,” “Baby” and “Used to Know Me.”

The album only has two collaborations, and Charli chose the perfect people to feature. “New Shapes” features two previous collaborators of Charli’s, Christine and the Queens (right) and Caroline Polachek (left).

“Good Ones” features two previous collaborators of Charli’s, Caroline Polachek (left) and Christine and the Queens (right). Photo courtesy of Charli XCX / YouTube

“New Shapes” features two previous collaborators of Charli’s, Christine and the Queens (right) and Caroline Polachek (left). Photo courtesy of Charli XCX / YouTube

Many songs on this album like “Lick” and “Move Me” are some of Charli’s best yet. It is a credit to the type of artist Charli is. She’s not afraid to go in when it’s called for and lean out when she wants to.

of September’s 2006 hit dance single “Cry for You,” this song can teach many artists about doing both collaborations and samples.

“Crash” is a consistent, precise pop album that does not fail in any of its tracks and gets better with each listen.

The other collaboration on this album is “Beg for You,” featuring Rina Sawayama. Everything about this song is perfect. From the chemistry between Sawayama and Charli to the sample
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The club wrestling team is open to all levels of experience.

### Wrestling Team Reaches National Success After Years Of Hardship

There once was a time at Montclair State University where the Division III wrestling program was one of the best in the nation. In its history, the school has recorded many national champions and over 100 All-Americans. However, the program was discontinued after the 2005-2006 season as a varsity sport.

Since then, wrestling at Montclair State became a club sport, with its ups and downs in terms of staying alive. In March 2020, the squad was set to take on nationals only for it to get canceled the night before due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

During the 2020-2021 season, the club was limited to practices only and that put the future of the club in jeopardy as its number of members decreased significantly.

The future of the wrestling club was beginning to look bleak and if it wasn’t for the current executive board, which is led by president Michael Wong, it might not exist today.

"By the end of the 2020-2021 season, there was really only one or two guys left, me being one of them and the other being the old president Jacob Tarkey," Wong said. "And then me, Joe [Rivera] and Noah [Ramadan], the current executive board, decided to pick things back up, start recruiting, try to get a full team back again and that’s kind of where we got to now."

Turning this club around was no easy task but it is safe to say that it all paid off as the club saw its amount of members rise to approximately 20 this season.

In what was their first full season since before the pandemic, the club had five names qualify for nationals — Ramadan, freshman standout Frank Brigati, junior Dominic Dimassimo and seniors Rey Miller and Ali Iqbal.

In order to qualify for nationals, the Red Hawks had to place in the top five or six of the weight class. Although there wasn’t a great amount of success at nationals, almost every participant for the Red Hawks at nationals came within striking distance of being an All-American.

At times this season, it was very difficult for the Red Hawks to challenge other schools in dual meets and competitions largely due to their team being smaller than most. However, individually speaking, Ramadan believes they were successful.

"We would always lose in terms of the team score just because we couldn’t field a full roster," Ramadan said. "That being said, the guys we did have wrestle, [they] blew through their competition."

A wrestler that especially stood out this season for the Red Hawks was Brigati. The freshman had a season to remember as he won the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA) Mid-East conference championship in the 141 Pound division.

“I really wanted to build this team up so I think [the season] went really well.”

Building and maintaining this club hasn’t been easy in the slightest, but after an extremely successful 2021-2022 season, the Montclair State wrestling club is back on the map.

“I’m extremely excited, there’s a really bright future," Wong said. "There’s a lot of guys who are really dedicated to building the club and not just focusing on themselves as wrestlers but for what’s best for the future of this team.”
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Room 2035, School of Communication and Media in Upper Montclair, NJ, 07043
STATS THAT DEFINE THE 2022 SOFTBALL TEAM

100%  MONTCLAIR STATE’S STOLEN BASE SUCCESS PERCENTAGE. TEN TRIES. TEN STOLEN BASES.

27  THE AMOUNT OF HITS JENNA MELUSO HAS, LEADING THE NJAC.

25  THE AMOUNT OF STRIKEOUTS ALI CAVALLARO HAD IN THE LAST WEEK, WHICH EARNED HER NJAC PITCHER OF THE WEEK.

17  THE AMOUNT OF RBIS BOTH ALYSSA BOROZAN AND KAYLA COSENTINO HAVE, BOTH LEADING THE NJAC.

15  THE AMOUNT OF RUNS THE RED HAWKS SCORED AGAINST DESALES UNIVERSITY ON SUNDAY.

8  THE ERRORS THE RED HAWKS HAVE THIS SEASON, TIED FOR LAST IN THE CONFERENCE.

6  THE OTHER CATEGORIES MONTCLAIR STATE LEADS THE NJAC IN (RUNS, HITS, DOUBLES, RBIS, SLUGGING %, TOTAL BASES).

.361  THE BATTLING AVERAGE FOR THE RED HAWKS WHICH LEADS THE NJAC.
STATS THAT DEFINE THE 2022 BASEBALL TEAM

43
The amount of runs MSU scored against Catholic University over the last weekend in February.

29
The amount of runs Peter Cosentino has already gained this season, leading the conference by three.

11
The amount of doubles the Red Hawks gained against Bridgewater State, a single game record.

4
The amount of different hits Jorden Jurkiewicz had against Manhattanville College on Sunday, hitting for the cycle.

3
The amount of Montclair State players in the Top 5 in hits in the NJAC (Jorden Jurkiewicz 34, Peter Cosentino 32, Joe Norton 32).

2
The other categories Peter Cosentino leads the conference in, with nine home runs and 37 RBIs.

1
The amount of complete games Jacob Dembin has. It is his first season with the Red Hawks.

.722
The winning percentage of the baseball team in its first 18 games (13-5). This is the program best start to a season since 2002.
England’s Thomas Roper Adds International Flair to Men’s Lacrosse Team

Thomas Roper first played lacrosse at the University of Kent in England.

Ryan Nussbaum
Staff Writer

The road to Montclair State University's men's lacrosse team was a bit longer for senior midfielder Thomas Roper. Around 3,513 miles to be exact.

Hailing from Hertfordshire, England, Roper attended the University of Kent, where he played for the school's varsity lacrosse team. For years, he's wanted the opportunity to compete in the United States. Roper said one of his main motivations for coming across the pond was to test his abilities against higher-level competition.

"Ever since I've been playing, I've wanted to come to the [United States]," Roper said. "This is the place to play, the NCAA [is] one of the highest levels I can play in. It's been part of the dream."

Lacrosse is a sport rooted in North America, with few countries playing the sport outside the United States and Canada. Internationally, in places such as England, the game has a small but dedicated following, much in the same way that rugby does in the U.S.

Roper is no stranger to the game, as he plays for Team England, which competes in international lacrosse competitions. Although much of international play was disrupted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, he was able to take the field against neighbors Scotland and Wales. Roper said playing with the national team is a great honor for him.

"It just makes you feel proud," Roper said. "Even though lacrosse is a small but growing sport [internationally], it's still really cool to be able to throw on an England shirt and actually represent your home."

So how does an international player go about the recruiting process? As Roper explains, there are connections between the Red Hawks and Team England.

"My coach in England actually knows [Montclair State's coach Matthew] Poskay, so there's kind of a link there," Roper said. "Knowing [that] there was a connection there made it much easier to communicate with everyone."

The NCAA upholds strict regulations when it comes to bringing in international talent. The process of determining eligibility, from acquiring the proper visas to attend school in the U.S., along with the college enrollment process is a daunting task that can take months.

Poskay explained some of the logistics behind Roper’s move to Montclair State.

"[Roper] reached out to us with an interest in playing here," Poskay said. "He has endured a rigorous transition in the last year in terms of [NCAA] eligibility."

When arriving in the United States, Roper was able to adjust to his new home relatively easily, save for some small differences. For example, when Roper arrived in the country for the first time, he went to get on the driver’s side of the car rather than the passenger side. But Roper gave credit to his teammates for taking him in and making him feel at home.

"I guess it was on the top of my mind [before coming over] that this might not work out and that I won’t be able to get on with anyone," Roper said. "But we all got on really well. When I’m at home I can walk everywhere and here it’s not really possible, you have to drive and relying on people for rides can be kind of difficult. I’ve got all my friends now so I don’t mind asking them. I live with my teammates now and we all go to practice together which makes it all easier."

On the field, Roper has shown promise early on. Through Montclair State's first seven games, he has recorded six goals and three assists. The highlight of his season was a two-goal performance that helped put the Red Hawks over Misericordia University 18-16. Roper said there is still room for improvement as the 2022 campaign continues.

"It’s really encouraging that we all got on really well. When I’m at home I can walk everywhere and here it’s not really possible, you have to drive and relying on people for rides can be kind of difficult. I’ve got all my friends now so I don’t mind asking them. I live with my teammates now and we all go to practice together which makes it all easier."

"I’m definitely excited to see what our future games hold," Poskay said. Roper’s defining characteristic is his work ethic and that he is excited to see how far he progresses as the Red Hawks push through their schedule.

"He is one of the hardest workers during practice and is without a doubt the hardest worker after practice," Poskay said. "]Roper] is getting better every day and is starting to put up numbers in the stat columns. We look forward to what he will contribute come conference play."

Poskay explained some of the logistics behind Roper's move to Montclair State.

"[Roper] reached out to us with an interest in playing here," Poskay said. "He has endured a rigorous transition in the last year in terms of [NCAA] eligibility."

When arriving in the United States, Roper was able to adjust to his new home relatively easily, save for some small differences. For example, when Roper arrived in the country for the first time, he went to get on the driver's side of the car rather than the passenger side. But Roper gave credit to his teammates for taking him in and making him feel at home.

"I guess it was on the top of my mind [before coming over] that this might not work out and that I won’t be able to get on with anyone," Roper said. "But we all got on really well. When I’m at home I can walk everywhere and here it’s not really possible, you have to drive and relying on people for rides can be kind of difficult."

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On the field, Roper has shown promise early on. Through Montclair State's first seven games, he has recorded six goals and three assists. The highlight of his season was a two-goal performance that helped put the Red Hawks over Misericordia University 18-16. Roper said there is still room for improvement as the 2022 campaign continues.

"It’s really encouraging that I have managed to make an impact to start the season," Roper said. "I’m certainly still finding my way and getting more comfortable on the field."

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