

THE REVIEW

THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1882

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PENCIL IT IN

APRIL 22

-SYMPHONIC BAND, 8 P.M., CENTER FOR THE ARTS, PUGLISI ORCHESTRA HALL
-CPAB PRESENTS J. COLE, 8 P.M., BOB CARPENTER CENTER
-UD BALLROOM DANCE TEAM PUBLIC DANCE CLASS, 7-9 P.M., ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL PARISH

APRIL 23

-WHERE DO YOU STAND? HUMAN CONTINUUM, 8-9 P.M., LOUIS L. REDDING RESIDENCE HALL MAIN LOUNGE
-GLOBAL AGENDA: CHINA'S CHALLENGE, 7:30 P.M., MITCHELL HALL
-ECE DISTINGUISHED LECTURER SERIES, 3:30-4:30 P.M., GORE HALL

APRIL 24

-GENGHIS BARBIE, 8 P.M., CENTER FOR THE ARTS, GORE RECITAL HALL
-WIT, 7:30 P.M., CENTER FOR THE ARTS
-ANDREW WK CONCERT, 7-11 P.M., PERKINS STUDENT CENTER, BACCHUS THEATER

APRIL 25

-RIOT ACT APRIL SHOW, 8-10 P.M., TRABANT MPR
-E-52 PRESENTS: MEASURE FOR MEASURE BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 7:30 P.M., PEARSON HALL AUDITORIUM
-DISCO IX- DAY ONE, 7:30-10:30 P.M., PERKINS STUDENT CENTER, BACCHUS THEATER

APRIL 26

-STEEL BAND FESTIVAL CONCERT, 8 P.M., AMY DU PONT MUSIC BUILDING, LOUDIS RECITAL HALL
-BASS CAMPUS MUSIC FESTIVAL 2014, 3-7 P.M., LAIRD CAMPUS TURF
-HEALTH FAIR AND FIELD DAY, 12-4 P.M., CENTRAL GREEN

APRIL 27

-WIT, 7:30 P.M., CENTER FOR THE ARTS
-UD BALLROOM DANCE TEAM PUBLIC DANCE CLASS, 7-9 P.M., ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL PARISH

APRIL 28

-SALSA NIGHT, 9 P.M.-12:30 A.M., KLONDIKE KATE'S RESTAURANT AND SALOON, SECOND FLOOR
-SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED: TRAINING MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS TO TREAT VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES, 12-1:30 P.M., ALISON HALL 220
-TEST TAKING WORKSHOP, 3:30-4:30 P.M., GORE HALL 303

Decision Day power plant protests continue, awareness of issue escalates

BY MEGHAN JUSZAK
News Assignment Editor

Prospective accepted students and their parents flocked to campus Saturday for the university's second round of Decision Days and as they toured the city to get a feel for the university, they were greeted with protesters.

"We're protesting today because even though UD is a great school—and a beautiful school—if someone is considering attending a university, they should know its full story," junior Jake Karis said. "The power plant is part of the full story of this place—this city."

Karis was one of several students and city residents who participated in another round of protests led by the student-created group Blue Hens for Clean Air with support from Newark Residents against the Power Plant (NRAPP).

The protests centered around the concerns of The Data Centers LLC's (TDC) proposed project to build a 279-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant on the university's STAR Campus. The protests follow the similar demonstrations that occurred last Saturday during the first round of Decision Days.

Sophomore Nicole Patrona, who handed out fliers during both Decision Days, said she felt the protests as a whole have been very successful.

"I think these protests have been a really important part of this movement so far," Patrona said. "There are so many people here, and I got to talk to a lot of people

who were very receptive to what I was saying. I find that more people want to hear about it than not."

Julia Vandiver, a Newark resident who held a sign beside Patrona, said she also felt most people had some background in understanding the project and seemed to side with the protesters, especially this Saturday.

"The best part is when we have UD employees drive by, and they're giving us the thumbs-up and honking," Vandiver said.

Sophomore Sarah Rivera, who worked as a Blue Hen Ambassador tour guide throughout the days, had a different experience, however.

"To be honest, no one seemed to care," Rivera said. "Most of the people on my tours didn't seem to be interested. They just took the fliers to be polite. I barely got one question about it all day."

Calling the protests "bad publicity" for the university, Rivera said she would try to distract those on the tour away from the protesters.

NRAPP chair Jen Wallace said she found students and parents to be receptive to the cause and a popular online petition revealed the growth of the grassroots movement against the power plant construction.

First formed in August, NRAPP has grown to include hundreds of residents and concerned members of the university's faculty and student body.

See WALLACE page 3



KIRK SMITH/THE REVIEW

Protests continue outside Trabant University Student Center for part two of Decision Day.

No challengers for SGA presidential seat for third straight year

BY PAUL TIERNEY
Managing Sports Editor

For at least the third consecutive year, the Student Government Association presidential candidate will not have a challenger. Ben Page-Gil, a junior communication and political science double major from Highland Mills, N.Y., will run unopposed. Additionally, executive vice president, vice president of administration and finance and chief justice have

one candidate running for each position. There are four candidates running for vice president of university affairs.

Campaigning began on Friday, giving the candidates one week to campaign.

Jessica Borcky, SGA's outgoing president, said changes to the organization's constitution made two years ago increased the necessary qualifications required to run for president, which is the reason why the last several presidential elections have seen

one candidate run.

Unlike every other position, a presidential candidate must have been a member of SGA's executive cabinet for at least one year.

"There's a lot of information that you learn as an executive cabinet member that proves very beneficial once you are president," Borcky said. "So that's definitely one of the reasons that limits the number of candidates."

Currently, Page-Gil is SGA's vice president of administration and finance. He said increasing

student involvement within SGA will be a primary focus next year.

"If we can really galvanize this incoming freshman class to get involved and stay involved, then we can really work on the next freshman class," Page-Gil said. "Then we'll have half the university. And if we keep getting the new classes involved, everything will get better from there on out."

See PAGE-GIL page 3

University approves new major in financial planning

BY HAYLEY ALTMAN
Staff Reporter

It is all about the law of supply and demand. The new financial planning major has just been approved to meet the increasing demand for this type of financial service by the millions of retiring baby boomers.

As the 77 million baby boomers born between 1946 and 1964 continue to retire,

the personal financial advisor profession is expected to grow at a rate of 27 percent over the next ten years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In comparison, the overall expected employment growth for all occupations over the same time period is 10.8 percent.

Helen Bowers, chair of the finance department, explained the number of choices households have to invest their wealth in has gotten very

complicated, with the job of financial advisors being to assist clients in understanding the risks and opportunities of the different investment options available to them so that they can afford retirement, children's weddings and other costly endeavors.

The university has decided to capitalize on this projection, with Andrew Fields, professor in the department of finance, at the forefront by approving the

financial planning major in the Lerner College of Business and Economics.

"Any business school that is going to do a good job for its students in preparing them professionally needs to constantly be looking at the landscape of educational topics and careers," said Bruce Weber, dean of the business school.

He said one of the largest shortcomings in the financial services sector is the lack of advisement to households on managing their finances.

The finance department since 2007 has offered a Certificate in Financial Planning, which is mainly intended for adults returning to complete the education component required for the CFP.

"The CFP certifies that you are well-trained and abide by a code of ethics," Fields said.

After receiving feedback from prior students, Fields said he realized the strong need for a financial planning major that would allow undergraduates to meet the education requirement of the Certificate in Financial Planning prior to taking the test and entering the workforce.

While he was building the major over the last two years, Fields said he created the curriculum, spoke with local businesses and alumni in the financial planning profession (of which there are hundreds), ensured all of the necessary resources were in place and finally, gained approval of the major.



COURTESY OF JOE KAELEN

Business students work in the Exelon Trading Center in Purnell Hall.

See BOWERS page 5

WORLDREVIEW

**1 ONE YEAR AFTER BOMBING, BOSTON MARATHON TAKES PLACE**

Just over a year after two bombs went off at the Boston Marathon, this year's iteration of the race took place yesterday.

The 2013 event was interrupted by bombings allegedly orchestrated by brothers Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. The home-made bombs killed three people and injured more than 260 others.

This year's event, the 118th running of the world's oldest marathon, saw more than 36,000 participants, compared to just under 27,000 in 2013. Only the centennial race in 1996, which had in excess of 38,000 runners, had more participants.

The men's division was won by Meb Keflezighi, the first American male to earn victory in the race since 1983. The women's group was won by Rita Jeptoo from Kenya.

The third Monday in April is traditionally Patriots' Day in Massachusetts. The Boston Red Sox typically play a game starting at 11 a.m. that day, shortly after the race begins.

Due to the events of last year's race, security was extra-tight, and certain items such as backpacks were not allowed.

After winning, Keflezighi said he was overjoyed and not just for himself.

"I wanted to win it for the people of Boston," Keflezighi said. "It's beyond words. The laurel wreath, the trophy."

—Matt Bittle
Copy Desk Chief

2 SOMALI LAWMAKER KILLED IN CAR BOMBING

A Somali lawmaker was killed and another severely injured in a car bomb attack in Mogadishu, the prime minister of Somali said.

Parliamentarian Isak Mohamed was killed yesterday when a bomb hidden under one of the car's seats exploded while en route to a security conference with fellow parliament member Mohamed Abdi, who was injured in the attack.

Al-Shabaab, an Islamist rebel group linked with al-Qaida, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted to a pro-militant website.

"Somalia has today lost a committed parliamentarian who worked tirelessly to serve the people of Somalia and help rebuild our country," Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed said.

Ahmed called the attackers "cowardly" and said those responsible would be found. He said the attack would not stop the progress Somalia has been making.

Al-Shabaab told Reuters it set off the device as punishment to parliamentarians for backing foreign forces in Somalia. The group also threatened to carry out more attacks.

The attack came one day after President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud opened a three-day security conference and claimed "culture of lawlessness that has plagued Somalia for the last 23 years is coming to an end."

—Cori Ilardi
Copy Desk Chief

3 AVALANCHE ON MOUNT EVEREST KILLS 13

The deadliest avalanche on the world's highest peak resulted in the deaths of at least 13 Sherpa guides. The search for survivors has been called off despite the fact three Sherpa remain missing. The accident comes just days before the busiest climbing season of the year for Mount Everest.

Snow and ice came crushing down Friday as the guides attempted to transport supplies to upper camps where climbers often break during their expeditions. Helicopters and search teams searched the region but did not find the three missing men.

Helicopters ferried dead bodies, and six bodies have subsequently been kept at a Buddhist monastery in Kathmandu while the remainder were given to the families.

Much debate has arisen as to whether expeditions up the mountain should continue. On Sunday, a meeting of Nepal expedition organizers decided they would leave it up to individual expeditions whether they would continue with their climbs.

The avalanche took place just above the Khumbu Ice Fall base camp, and the path leading to the camp has been destroyed. Expedition organizers have said they will leave it to the discretion of the "icefall doctors" as to whether they want to carve another path or not.

—Kelly Flynn
Managing News Editor

4 JAPAN STRENGTHENS MILITARY HAND NEAR DISPUTED TERRITORY

Japan has begun construction on a military station adjacent to a string of islands whose possession is disputed between China and Japan, prompting questions surrounding Japan's motives.

The disputed territory—called Senkaku Islands by Japan and Diaoyu Islands by China—has escalated tensions between the two East Asian states, particularly within the past year. The sovereignty of several islands are disputed in the East China Sea with both sides increasing their military hand and naval capabilities.

The new military station, located on Yonaguni Island, is 90 miles from the string of islands with 150 personnel to be deployed within the next two years. Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said during the opening ceremony that this recent military move is the beginning of Japanese military expansion into the sea.

"I want to build an operation able to properly defend islands that are part of Japan's territory," Onodera said.

According to the Japanese Defense Ministry, there has been 415 confrontations between Chinese and Japanese planes since the beginning of the year.

China last year imposed an air defense identification zone over the disputed territory—a move openly condemned by the United States.

—Cady Zuvich
Managing News Editor

5 FERRY OVERTURNS, HUNDREDS MISSING

South Korean President Park Geun-hye compared the actions of the captain and some of the crew of a sunken ferry to murder on Monday. Police have made four more arrests in the case while divers continue to scour the submerged vessel.

Lee Joon-seok, captain of the sunken ship, has been charged for his role in the sinking. At least 87 people have been declared dead while 215 others remain missing, including students and teachers on a field trip from a high school near Seoul.

These latest arrests bring the total to seven as authorities investigate how the ship capsized. It is speculated that the ferry turned too fast. The captain is currently being charged with "excessive change of course without slowing down." He was also charged with neglecting to evacuate passengers.

According to fishermen and others who navigate the waters around Jindo island, the route used by the ferry is regularly utilized by other ferries, as well as larger vessels. They said there are few navigational risks in the main channel and the day of the capsizing saw a 0.5 meter swell. While it was cloudy, there was no fog.

—Rachel Taylor
Copy Desk Chief

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WALLACE: 'I DON'T WANT OUR CITY AND LOCAL UNIVERSITY TO BE PART OF THE PROBLEM BY EMITTING ALL THESE FOSSIL FUELS.'

Continued from page 1

There is escalating concern and awareness on the part of students and residents about the health and environmental effects of the power plant, Wallace said. She pointed to evidence that suggests the power plant will emit more pollution than the Chrysler plant, which closed in 2009.

The power plant is expected to release up to 2,000 tons of CO₂ per day, along with 81.3 tons of volatile organic compounds a year, according to TDC officials.

"Chrysler closed and when the university bought the property they promised us all a very different future," Wallace said. "The construction of this new plant is a slap in the face."

Senior Thomas DeSantis, who serves as Students for the

Environment public relations chair and assisted Blue Hens for Clean Air with the protests, said the fact that the power plant would emit five times more carbon dioxide energy than is necessary to power the city is concerning.

"All that carbon dioxide, the health risks, the damage to the aesthetic looks—everyone likes The Green on campus—this will downgrade the value of the school," DeSantis said. "It's built right next to the Ag School, which is all about saving the environment, so it would just be an oxymoron for them basically to share a site."

For a campus that claims to be environmentally conscious and green, there should be more emphasis on sustainable energy, Patrona said.

Earlier this month, NRAPP members wrote a letter to The

Princeton Review, an organization that ranks the university as a green college.

"I think a lot of people argue that it is the 'cleanest way to create energy that we have readily available,' but to me that's not an argument," Patrona said. "Because that means it's not clean, it's just the most clean out of the not-clean things. That's not a solution to me."

Aside from betraying the university's values, Newark resident Melanie Cords also said she felt that the university administration had injured relations with residents.

"The university needs to understand it has broken the trust of this community, and it needs to repair it," Cords said. "And it's not just residents. The university has also inspired a huge reaction from its students, who are out here

handing out fliers, or coming up to us protesters thanking us or asking how to get involved."

The university and the residents of the city should be in a partnership, Wallace said. A similar project proposal, headed by TDC CEO Gene Kern, was halted by residents near Rowan University, Kern's alma mater.

For now, NRAPP is waiting for the next Board of Adjustment meeting on April 29 when the appeal process will be finalized, Wallace said. The group also plans to ask more questions of the university and demand answers.

"I don't want to see this happening in my hometown," Wallace said. "I don't want our city and local university to be part of the problem by emitting all these fossil fuels. I want us to be part of the solution for global climate change."

NEWS IN BRIEF

UNCOVERED EMAIL SUGGESTS TDC REQUESTED LETTER OF SUPPORT

A newly uncovered email dated Jan. 22 suggests The Data Centers, LLC (TDC) requested the letter of support made public in March by the Combined Heat and Power Partnership, a voluntary group of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

According to the email sent by Eastern Research Group Combined Heat and Power (CHP), engineer Bob Sidner, TDC, a member of the CHP Partnership, requested the March 7 letter of support. This contradicts previous statements made by TDC officials to the press, with Vice President of Business Development Brian Honish stating to The News Journal that the letter of support was not requested by TDC.

The email uncovered by Newark Residents Against Power Plant (NRAPP), a community organization opposed to the 279MW natural gas-fired power plant slated to be constructed on STAR Campus. The email, sent to Gary Meneil of the CHP Partnership, claims TDC asked for the letter of support, including a claim that the university would be a thermal host, using excess steam generated from the plant.

However, university spokesperson Andrea Boyle refutes this claim.

"The University has no plans to purchase steam or electricity generated by the proposed combined and heat power plant," Boyle stated in an email message.

BOMB THREAT CAUSES PORTION OF CLEVELAND AVENUE TO CLOSE

A bomb threat Wednesday caused a portion of East Cleveland Avenue to close between Papermill Road and Capitol Trail for approximately 90 minutes while state police searched the area for explosives. No explosives were found, according to the Newark Police Department (NPD).

The threat was made to Porter Auto Group when a still unknown suspect called the dealership at 5:23 p.m. The four Porter Auto Group buildings on East Cleveland Avenue were evacuated while K-9 teams from Delaware State Police and the University of Delaware Police Department searched the buildings, according to the NPD press release.

Anyone with additional information can contact Detective Greg D'Elia at 302-366-7110.

DOMINO'S DELIVERY DRIVER ROBBED, SUSPECT DISPLAYED GUN

A Domino's Pizza delivery driver was robbed early Saturday morning after the suspect displayed a handgun demanding money.

The incident occurred at approximately 1:50 a.m. Saturday at 500 Stamford Dr. off of Route 896, according to a press release issued by the Newark Police Department. The victim, a 20-year-old male, was in his car when he was approached by the suspect. The victim turned over an undisclosed amount of money, as well as his Samsung Galaxy S5 cell phone.

The suspect is described as being a white male between 5'6" and 5'9" with a thin build wearing a black hooded sweatshirt with a hood on his head, as well as a black bandana covering his face. According to the press release, the delivery driver was told to deliver two pizzas to 500 Stamford Dr., Apartment D. However, the apartments in the complex were numbered, prompting the victim to walk back to his car.

Anyone with additional information can contact Detective Morgan Fountain at 302-3666-7110 ext. 133.

Obamacare enrollment reaches 8 million, future effects still uncertain

BY MATT BUTLER

Assignment News Editor

After much speculation and hand-wringing over the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Obama administration announced last week the number of signups reached 8 million, far beyond the initial goal of 7 million before the enrollment period began.

The administration's original estimation figure was thought to be doomed after a botched roll-out of the website for the ACA, colloquially known as "Obamacare," which was plagued by technological failures and inadequate fixes. The mistakes made during the introduction of the website led to Kathleen Sebelius, the former Secretary of Health and Human Services, resigning last week. Sebelius was in charge of overseeing the healthcare plan's enrollment period.

Students at the university have seen some effects from the new regulations. Many students have remained covered under the ACA's new tenet that allows children and young adults to stay on their parents' healthcare plans until they turn 26 years old. In relation to that, the university instituted a new healthcare plan that students had to opt out of at the beginning of the school year, or they would incur hundreds of dollars

of medical expenses, regardless of whether they had a separate pre-existing plan or not.

Daniel Flynn, the associate dean for research in the College of Health and Human Services, said he thinks the rash of late signups was the result of people wanting to wait as long as possible since they would not have to pay until April. Around half of the signups took place in the month of March, the last month to sign up, Flynn said.

Flynn said the price of Obamacare—projected to be around \$1.4 trillion after penalties—is paid back to the government and is quite similar to the expected price of healthcare if the system had remained unchanged. The main difference, he said, is that hopefully 45 million more Americans will be insured under the new system as opposed to the old.

Something desperately needed to be done, he said, as the portion of gross domestic product that would have been spent on healthcare expenditures would have reached 32 percent in 2020 had this new system not been instituted. As for the effect on students, Flynn said he does not think the changes in the healthcare system will impact student workers that heavily.

"There are some structural changes happening that are impacting college graduates,"

Flynn said. "Older employees are working longer, some simply for the insurance. It is anticipated that with the ACA, many older employees will drop out of the workforce, which should open up jobs for younger employees."

In addition to this, Flynn said

"Older employees are working longer, some simply for the insurance."

-DANIEL FLYNN, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH IN THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

he thinks the impact the ACA will have on new medical technology industries and the opportunities it could present in that field is largely unknown. He said the chance to start new businesses and companies could be plentiful, though whether or not those new avenues for innovation will open is yet to be seen.

Flynn said one example might be minute clinics, which he described as kiosks in grocery stores that house small nurse practitioner clinics. He said it could be a far more convenient and expedient way to take care of small scale, yet still possibly urgent, medical needs.

"If your daughter has chronic ear infections, and she's crying in the morning and you see the reddening in her ears, you know that she needs amoxicillin," Flynn said. "You also know what hell you're going to go through that day to get it. You're going to miss work, your child is going to miss school, but if you can walk into the minute clinic for 15 minutes and \$20, that's a big difference."

Sophomore Brittany Gatto said she works during school in order to cover expenses that financial aid does

not account for. She said the different circumstances some students face could lead them to have to have to work to support themselves and their healthcare costs, particularly once the ACA shows its effect on the university.

"Since the Affordable Care Act came into play, UD has required students to obtain healthcare through the school, unless they are already on a healthcare plan," Gatto said. "Some students may have to work in order to pay for this, especially if they have become more independent from their parents."

Sophomore Erin Dugan said she thinks the overall effect on student workers will be neutral, as they are now eligible for a longer amount of time on their parents' plans, and so once the employer mandate does start, most workers of college age and slightly older will choose to opt out of job-provided healthcare.

She said some of the statements made about Obamacare in the media have proven to be untrue, particularly the conjecture about its effect on businesses and the economy in general. The law got so much press coverage, she said, that it was bound to be scrutinized and debated.

"Over the long term, [Obamacare] is going to have a positive effect on the federal deficit by decreasing it," Dugan said. "I think that it was really hyped up in the media and for a lot of people the law is not going to affect them significantly every day."

Flynn said though the struggles are apparent and somewhat worrisome, the Obama administration did a decent job of motivating young people to sign up, a key to the success of the new system.

"It was really surprising that they could not get a good website going, early on," Flynn said. "I think the media campaign in the last couple of months have helped out a lot. I think there is a lot of misinformation and confusion floating around and it would be nice if we had sources of information that were consistently trustworthy. Politics is very frustrating."



COURTESY OF PETE SOUZA

A total of 8 million people signed up for the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, surpassing expectations.

PAGE-GIL: 'OUR MOTTO IS 'DARE TO BE FIRST,' BUT WE WEREN'T FIRST ON THIS.'

Continued from page 1

During his term as president, Page-Gil said he hopes to continue implementing a tobacco ban on campus. According to the American NonSmokers' Rights Foundation, there are currently 811 tobacco-free campuses in the nation.

In 2012, a poll conducted by SGA showed 72 percent of the student body supported making the university a tobacco free-campus. The survey had 2,202 student responses, roughly 13 percent of the total undergraduate student body.

Although the tobacco ban has already been passed through Senate, Page-Gil said no determinations have been made as of yet by campus administrators regarding how widespread the effects of the ban will be.

He said the goal of SGA is to make the entire campus tobacco free, but the policy may start with certain sections of campus banning tobacco and eventually transition into a full tobacco ban in the future.

"I think Delaware is a little behind the ball right now," Page-Gil said. "There are already a lot of other institutions across the

United States that have had the policy enacted for a long time. Our motto is 'Dare to be First,' but we weren't first on this."

In regard to future policies, Page-Gil said he would "dare to be first" in implementation.

Additionally, Page-Gil said his goals for next year include lowering the cost for tutoring services on campus and to get the university to look into renovating the Morris Library. The library, he said, is too small for the expanding student population to effectively utilize.

Helping Page-Gil push SGA's agenda will be junior Danielle Imhoff, who is running unopposed for executive vice president, which is the same position she currently holds. Imhoff said she plans to support Page-Gil's efforts to further implement the tobacco ban.

The duo have known each other since freshman year when they both joined SGA.

"Ben is one of my best friends," Imhoff said. "It's been a really nice progression for both of us. We need to keep looking forward and continue to learn things about how to work with one another. I think we'll be a really good pair."



Ben Page-Gil, president.



Danielle Imhoff, executive vice president.

SGA candidates

President
Ben Page-Gil

Executive Vice President
Danielle Imhoff

Vice President of University Affairs
Josh Berkowitz
Rebecca Jaeger
Aryana Alborzi
Brian Engstrom

Vice President of Administration & Finance
Lalu John Ologbauma

Chief Justice
Javier Horstmann

Student Affairs Senators
Giuliana Lorusso
Becky Bronstein
Michelle Wasserman
Claire Gollegly
Ross Schinik

Bike-sharing program, safety discussed at SGA-sponsored forum

BY JULIANA RUSSO
Staff Reporter

An SGA-sponsored bike-sharing program, dining hall swipes and off-campus safety were topics brought to the forefront Thursday during an open forum with university officials.

Hosted by the SGA in Perkins Student Center, the panel featured six university administrators who all responded to questions and comments prompted by student attendees.

"We strive to foster and empower university community as a leading influence to encourage all students to be heard," said senior Jessica Borcky, president of SGA.

Borcky began the forum by introducing participants to the panelists they would be directing their questions towards.

The panelists included Assistant Dean of Students Katie Connolly, Senior Director of Operations for Dining Services Robin Moore, Director of Auxiliary Services Richard Rind, Senior Associate Athletic

Director for External Relations Stacy Bunting Thompson, Assistant Director for Student and Community Advocacy Jimmy Howard and Sgt. Hugh Ferrill of the university Police Department (UDPD).

The first question of the forum was directed at Ferrill about the responsibilities of the UDPD regarding safety in off-campus housing.

Ferrill said students should call 911 to reach the Newark Police Department—not UDPD—if suspicious or inappropriate activity is noticed. Break-ins around the area are usually related to drug activity, he said.

"We put out more police officers in this town than the entire county of New Castle does on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday night," Ferrill says. "If you see something, say something. You have to say something."

Questions were also directed at Moore about meal plan options and the lack of variety for multicultural students at the dining halls. The first question asked Moore if she

had any plans in changing how students are unable to swipe into the dining hall twice within the same dining period.

Moore said the parameters that surround how many swipes can be used at once falls out of her jurisdiction and she could provide the information for who to contact regarding this request after the forum.

"If for any reason you can't get to a dining hall because of a class schedule, we can make arrangements for bagged meals," Moore said.

Addressing the multicultural meal option, Moore said she recently met with a group from the Center for Black Culture to collaborate with them in order to serve multicultural meals during the month of February.

Junior and SGA senator Josh Berkowitz, who helped pass the proposal for a bike-sharing program at the university, directed a question to Rind about his opinion on the program.

Rind said the program is something the university would love to move toward but due to high start-up costs, a creative solution needs to be found in

order to move past the issue.

"We are definitely looking at different ways to enhance the bike program," Rind said. "Bike sharing is something that has the potential that we can share with the city of Newark because they are very interested in bikes."

Up until a couple months ago, Rind said, bikes did not have homes on campus. However, now that bike policies and infrastructures belong to the parking department, improvements are being worked toward.

Rind also said his department is looking to create high-quality waterproof bike seat covers with tracking systems implanted in them. This will help Public Safety if bikes are stolen, he said.

"Newark is a very bike-friendly town to begin with, but we can perhaps make it better if we can combine forces," he said.

Toward the end of the forum, freshman Michelle Wasserman brought the topic of discussion back to campus safety, directing her question to Ferrill.

Recently, when Wasserman called for a public safety escort,

she was only walked halfway back to her desired location, she said.

Ferrill said university policy is that during any hours of darkness, an escort is supposed to walk students from any campus location to another campus location. In addition, any student working at a location relatively close off campus can be provided an escort.

SGA Executive Vice President Danielle Imhoff, a junior, directed a question to Howard about Living Learning Communities.

Howard said he wants to introduce and make students more aware of the Living Learning Communities on campus. Currently on campus there are honors, biology and Air Force ROTC Living Learning Communities, he said.

"We have a committee with student life to talk about the benefits of LLCs because we don't want it to be something just we run, because then it's not a partnership," Howard said.



THE REVIEW/JULIANA RUSSO

Panelists, in no particular order, were: Alan Brangman, Vice President for Facilities, Real Estate and Auxiliary Services; Katie Connolly, Assistant Dean of Students; Richard Rind, Director of Auxiliary Services; Robin Moore, Senior Director of Operations for Dining Service; Jake Olkkola, Associate Director of Athletics and Recreation Services; Sergeant Hugh Ferrill, University of Delaware Police Department; Jimmy Howard, Assistant Director for Student and Community Advocacy in the Office of Residence Life & Housing.

POLITICS STRAIGHT NO CHASER:

WITH EMERGENCE OF #MCCONNELLING, 'THE DAILY SHOW' SHOWS IT'S JUST BEYOND ENTERTAINMENT

BY DYLAN GALLIMORE
Political Columnist

#McConnelling briefly swept cyberspace about two weeks ago when Jon Stewart, host of the Comedy Central staple "The Daily Show," took footage from an awkward web ad produced by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell's (R-Ky.) reelection campaign, and put it to songs like "Baby Got Back." It's classic Stewart—disarmingly funny, seemingly harmless and goofy while pointing at someone on the conservative end of the political spectrum.

But it is also another step forward in Stewart's increasingly activist effort to help unseat the 72-year-old senator, and it raises a number of questions about Jon Stewart's incredibly influential role in modern news.

Stewart has successfully and hilariously lampooned activist media outlets for years, frequently hurling barbs of pointed criticism at biased networks like MSNBC and Fox. One of his career highlights includes appearing on CNN's "Crossfire" and criticizing the hosts' commentary and competence so poignantly that the network decided to shut down the show for a time.

When accused of taking part in the on-air activism he so often skewers, Stewart has frequently claimed that he is just a comedian making observations, even joking during the infamous "Crossfire" appearance that "the show that leads into [The Daily Show] is puppets making prank phone calls."

Stewart has rejected the notion that he contributes to

an activist and biased media time and time again. But this election cycle, McConnell has so frequently been the target of his ridicule and humor that I'm having a hard time accepting that Stewart is completely resisting the chance to directly influence American politics in a way that he sees as favorable.

It's clear to anyone who watches "The Daily Show" that Stewart at least leans to the left, and he's frequently critical of Tea Party and Republican policy. And so it is not hard to imagine that Stewart might be seduced by the opportunity to frequently lampoon McConnell in order to help Allison Lundergan Grimes, Kentucky's 35-year-old secretary of state, oust the most powerful Republican in the Senate.

"The Daily Show" has pointedly gone after McConnell. The invention of #McConnelling, the jokes about his age, voice, turtle-like appearance, as well as the sheer amount of times Stewart mentions his name per week are all clear indicators of this, and it has rendered the argument that Stewart is "just a comedian" fairly thin.

Jon Stewart is a smart, influential personality in America and his show plays an essential role in the political education of the American public. If Jon Stewart wants to use his platform to influence outcomes in the democratic process, it is time he drop the increasingly absurd assertion that he's nothing more than a jester and realize that the power he holds comes with a responsibility to never become part of the activist media he's built a career shredding.

Yes U Can Extension club brings zip-line for fundraiser

BY TORI NADEL
Staff Reporter

What better way to start your weekend than to stand atop a 30-foot tall structure and zoom down a 180-foot wire?

Yes U Can Extension Club allowed students to take that leap of faith by bringing a zip-line to the field behind the Christiana Commons on north campus Friday afternoon as a fundraiser for their cause.

Yes U Can Extension helps people with disabilities continue to be physically active by providing activities for them to participate in, senior and co-president of public relations for the club, Jennifer Williams said.

The organization raises funds for its mother organization, Yes U Can USA, a non-profit in Delaware, whose founder has multiple sclerosis, Williams said.

The idea came after Yes U Can USA had a zip-lining event where Yes U Can Extension was supposed to help provide volunteers and fundraising, but was unable to do so because of a school break, junior Thea Byrne, president of Yes U Can Extension, said.

"We knew we couldn't get enough people to come so we figured why not bring zip-lining to school so people could do it?" Byrne said.

In order to entice people to donate, Yes U Can Extension offered prizes to the top three donating teams: first place would receive Chipotle for 100 people, second place would receive free ice cream and a visit from the UD Creamery ice cream truck and third place would receive a visit from YouDee, Byrne said.

"It was a great event, but we had a lot of incentive to participate," Byrne said. "It's not as heart wrenching of a cause."

Williams said she hoped to raise more than \$50, the amount raised at their event last year, while Byrne said she wanted to raise more than what the school paid for the zip-line.

The event raised \$3,174.63, junior Cleo Reiss said. As the

other co-president of public relations, she said she has been posting that figure often and knows it by heart.

"Phi Sigma Sigma came out of nowhere," Williams said. "They did the last kiosk, the day before and the day of the event and raised \$700."

Phi Sigma Sigma ended up raising \$708.11, making them the largest contributors and ensuring their win of the Chipotle party. Chi Omega donated \$431, winning the ice cream truck visit and Alpha Kappa Psi won the visit from YouDee after donating \$378, Byrne says.

The event was co-sponsored by SCPAB and IFC, which donated the largest aspects of the event. IFC provided the disc jockey, while SCPAB provided the financial support Yes U Can used to buy the prizes, Byrne said.

"The event was mostly funded through the allocations board, which is why it was free to students with a suggested donation," Byrne said.

SCPAB, Alpha Phi Omega and Gamma Sigma Sigma provided additional volunteers the day of.

Originally, Yes U Can Extension wanted to use the funds they raised to purchase an electrical stimulation bicycle for those with disabilities to use, sophomore Alison Berglund, vice president of Yes U Can Extension, said.

The event raised more money than they were expecting, so the funds will be able to go to several different things, Byrne said.

Throughout the four hours, about 300 people went on the zip-line, with 20 people or so going down it twice, Byrne said.

With that many patrons, the line was continuously moving and the line was constantly full.

"The zip-line never stopped," Reiss said. "The workers never had a break, which was super exciting."

Many people came to the event and donated, but did not participate in the zip-lining, either because they had class, were dressed nicely or did not want to

ruin their shoes, Reiss said.

Since the event, Yes U Can has heard very positive reactions to the event, Byrne said.

"We were all very nervous going in, but we were very excited about it though," Byrne said. "Nothing like this has been at campus before, so we didn't really know what to expect. If it was any more, we would have been overwhelmed."

Sophomore Michael Staufenberger said he was not aware that the event was happening beforehand, but he heard the music playing from his West Towers bedroom and decided to check it out with some friends.

"It was fun," Staufenberger said. "I like that they have stuff like this. I love adrenaline things."

Having only been on campus for three years, those most closely associated with Yes U Can Extension hoped the event would leave a lasting memory with students.

"A lot of people didn't know us on campus, and we thought the zip line would bring more attention to our club," Williams said. "We thought everyone would remember us as the people that brought the zip-line."

Since few other clubs on campus raise money for equipment for those with disabilities, the work Yes U Can Extension does is pretty unique, Reiss says.

In addition to working with Yes U Can USA, Yes U Can Extension works with the Career and Life Studies Certificate program on campus. The CLSC program allows for those with disabilities to go into undergraduate classes, integrate into the community and learn how to do interviews as well as basic skills to get into the workforce, Williams said.

Williams said she is proud of how well the event did, especially on a weekend with other things happening, such as Resapalooza and Easter weekend.

"It was everything I expected, and it couldn't have gone any better," Reiss said.



Professor Christopher Knight and his team have discovered exercise can help individuals with Parkinson's with quickness and mobility. COURTESY OF UDAILY

Researchers use exercise to fight effects of Parkinson's disease

BY SARAH ELLER
Staff Reporter

UD researchers are advocating awareness and building support as they have devised a program that integrates exercise into the lives of men and women with Parkinson's disease, a neurological condition that is currently without a cure.

Graduate student Kevin LeNoir says in spreading the word, it is important to address the misconceptions regarding what Parkinson's disease is.

"I knew Parkinson's as a disease that leaves people with a tremor, people who shake—that is a very narrow view of the disease," LeNoir says.

After teaming up with physiology professor Christopher Knight, physiology professor in the fall of 2011, LeNoir says he learned what Parkinson's disease is and just how debilitating it may be.

Knight and some of his associates are involved in ensuring students and the Delaware community are aware of the significance of what April represents, as they have dedicated much of their time researching "exercise to improve quickness and mobility in people with Parkinson's disease," Knight says.

Studies conducted around exercise and its effects on patients with Parkinson's disease is a rather new and ongoing proposal among researchers, says Ph.D. candidate Maria Bellumori. Prior to results as established by Knight and Bellumori, patients were advised against exercise because doctors thought it could make Parkinson's worse, Bellumori says.

"What doctors didn't originally consider is that exercise benefits all physiological processes so it shouldn't cause any problems," Bellumori says.

Knight's investigation began in 2010 when he and his team were conducting an age-related study focused on how exercise may be used to "speed up" normal-functioning older adults, Knight says. The results suggested there may be a correlation to those with Parkinson's as well, Knight says, and so the direction of his study took a turn and the project began.

The testing was simple, Bellumori says. People with Parkinson's would come into the lab and cycle on a recumbent bike two times a week for six weeks, she says. She says she noted results among the men and women after the 30-minute session.

"[They] anecdotally felt better after the exercise they just completed—they felt like they had more energy and some even felt like they could reduce the amount of medication they were taking," Bellumori says. "We definitely saw some positive results."

While Parkinson's may be without an actual cure and there is no way to completely stop the development, it became increasingly clear through the research results that exercise can improve the quality of life for men and women with Parkinson's, LeNoir says.

Exercise can help slow down the progression, Bellumori says, and it can be done in any number of ways.

One major supporter of the research completed by Knight, LeNoir and Bellumori, among others, is university alumna Jodi Cianci. Cianci was diagnosed with Parkinson's four years ago at the age of 49. An active woman, always eager to exercise, Cianci was not going to let Parkinson's change her lifestyle and so she attempted to use exercise to help alleviate her case of the disease, Knight says.

"She manages all of her

symptoms with exercise," Bellumori says.

Cianci's attempt at managing Parkinson's is what serves as the backbone to her Shake It Off Foundation, a non-profit organization that "passionately advocates exercise for those with Parkinson's disease," according to the foundation's website.

Knight and Cianci first connected through Bellumori, who was advocating support for individuals with Parkinson's disease. Cianci says Bellumori and Knight's work aligned directly with her feelings, and thus she reached out to Bellumori to get involved.

"She has not been a research subject with us yet, but she was interested in learning how we operated," Knight said. "We agreed that a person who is recently diagnosed should not have a hard time finding information about exercise. It should be right out there for them."

From that point on Cianci and Knight decided to team up, with Shake It Off managing most of the fundraising and the university conducting the research, Bellumori said.

"The foundation had a bike ride in the fall and donated some of the profits to the lab," Bellumori said. "It was exciting because even though I know we are helping people, it was affirmation that other people want to support us helping other people."

The work, now complete, has not gone unnoticed, LeNoir says. One of his former patients has since been independently exercising and ran a 10k, he says.

"If I had to put it into one word: rewarding, on all ends, to know that the work we are doing is having a positive impact on others lives," Bellumori says.

BOWERS: 'THIS COURSE IS A VERY POTENT DISCOVERY LEARNING EXPERIENCE.'

Continued from page 1

The financial planning major mirror the current finance major, with few differences. Fields shared the five new courses to be offered in the Fall 2014 semester, including "Principles of Financial Planning," "Insurance Planning," "Retirement Planning," "Estate Planning" and "Financial Plan Development."

"Financial Plan Development" acts as the capstone course where students tackle a financial plan for a family or some entity so that they get practical experience in the profession that they will be going into," Fields said.

Bowers said the intended benefit of the capstone course is to increase students' value in the eyes of potential employers, with many already showing interest in working with the future graduates of the program.

"This course is a very potent discovery learning experience," Bowers said.

Fields said the new major is also working in accordance with the department of accounting and management information systems to provide the "Estate Planning" course and "Income Tax Accounting" which already exists, to students majoring in financial planning.

In addition, the financial planning major creates the opportunity to earn a dual degree, which Bowers said is highly valued by students, specifically accounting and marketing majors.

"As they progress in their careers they face situations where they need to provide this type of advice to customers," Bowers said.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics describes a personal financial advisor as responsible for assessing the financial needs and goals of their clients, both in the short and long term, and aiding in their decisions on investments, providing tax advice and selling insurance.

Fields said the profession is highly rated in terms of job satisfaction.

Bowers said the profession requires analytical skills, interpersonal skills, math skills, sales skills and communication skills, with an emphasis on interpersonal skills.

All major financial institutions recognize the need for financial planners, with most having a wealth management department to serve this purpose for clients, said Bowers.

Weber said many of the incoming Finance students hold the inaccurate vision that their degree will enable them to work on Wall Street upon graduation. He said statistics actually show a decline in recruiting by Wall Street firms.

"The real driver of employment in the financial services industry over the next five or ten years will be the need to take the complexity of Wall Street to Main Street in order to improve the way the average American household manages their finances," Weber said.

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Officials celebrate four years of Race to the Top in Delaware

BY MATT BITTLE
Copy Desk Chief

Four years after Delaware received funding from the federal government to improve its schools as part of the Race to the Top competition, a variety of changes have been made, including using new data to examine academic success, creating a modified standardized testing system and focusing more on low-performing schools.

Though some of the transitions have been positive, others have raised concerns among some state educators, Frederika Jenner, the president of the Delaware State Education Association, said. Issues over the rapidity of the alterations, as well as the continued existence of the achievement gap between white and minority students, make Race to the Top a mixed bag, she said.

"One of the issues all of this has been working around is the reality in our schools of childhood poverty, so for underachieving students and the achievement gap we're generally looking at students who came from situations where they might not have enough to eat," Jenner said. "They may not be properly clothed. They don't have the learning resources."

The Race to the Top initiative, a national program designed to award grant money to states that met certain academic criteria and presented a proposal on how funding would be used to improve schools, began in 2009. Delaware was one of two states—along with Tennessee—to win funding in the first phase of the program. Because Delaware was deemed to be on the right track and

scored highest among all applicants, the U.S. Department of Education granted the state \$119 million, designed to last through the end of September, according to a document on the state Department of Education's website.

Earlier this month, Gov. Jack Markell, in honor of the anniversary, delivered remarks to a group of officials and others. In his speech, which is available on the state's official website, he said a great deal of progress has been made, with the dropout rate falling to 2.9 percent—the lowest in 30 years—more students applying to colleges and more data that analyzes teaching methods.

Carol Vukelich, the deputy dean of the College of Education and Human Development, said she thinks Race to the Top has certainly succeeded in some areas, such as using data to help school officials figure out strategies for teaching.

"There are aspects to the grant that have helped teachers work together more effectively in order to learn how to help all children learn," Vukelich said. "The grant provided funding for professional learning communities and for folks to help teachers really study data and learn how to use that data to help their instruction. In schools where it's working, I think teachers really value that time to come together for 90 minutes every week and find out what to do to help students learn."

Another of the changes instituted as part of Race to the Top was the implementation of Common Core Standards, according to Jacquelyn Wilson, director of the Delaware Academy for School Leadership

in the College of Education and Human Development. Common Core, which exists to allow comparisons of students from one state to students in another, worked well because Delaware already had a similar standardized program, she said.

Strengths of the initiative, Vukelich said, include the districts working together to send teachers to successful schools, where the instructors can observe and learn new methods, which they then bring back to their schools and spread among their colleagues. Jenner said the money from Race to the Top allowed for improvements to high-need schools. Additionally, Race to the Top involved higher education institutions as well, Vukelich said.

"It has provided incentives for universities to work with colleagues in high schools in-state to figure out ways that we might be able to encourage more students to stay in-state and graduate and transition to either a community college or another state institution," she said.

The university has received multiple contracts to help benefit education in the state of Delaware, Wilson said.

Because the state is small, comprised of 19 school districts, officials were able to work together with administrators from all districts to develop a plan for Race to the Top, Education Professor Robert Hampel said. The plan was supported by the districts as well as the governor and various groups, including teachers union, Wilson said.

Although Race to the Top has improved certain aspects of the state's education system, others remain below the goal,

Vukelich said. For instance, high schoolers could still use improvement in some cases, she said.

Hampel said it is too early to tell whether or not the program succeeded, especially considering the many changes it sought to bring to the state. One key change is the increased collaboration amongst teachers, he said. Teachers have typically had a great deal of freedom in instructing their students, for better or for worse, he said.

"My own sense, based on what I've heard from various teachers, is it takes time to change the way most teachers teach," Hampel said. "Many teachers are fine teachers right now, but if we're really serious about professional development that helps teacher become better teachers, we have to make it possible for them to work together and discuss lessons."

Going forward, the state's grant money must be spent by Sept. 30, according to the document on the Delaware Department of Education's website. Vukelich said the state is working on a no-cost extension plan to submit to the federal Department of Education, which, if accepted, would allow the state to use the remaining funds for plans that have already been implemented but not finished. Once the money is gone, officials would have to decide what aspects to continue and how to do this, she said.

Wilson said districts are aiming to identify the key points to focus on for state funding.

"What do we need to continue to do?" Wilson said. "What do the metrics say have been the most successful



Carol Vukelich

processes, and what are the things we must dedicate future funding to?"

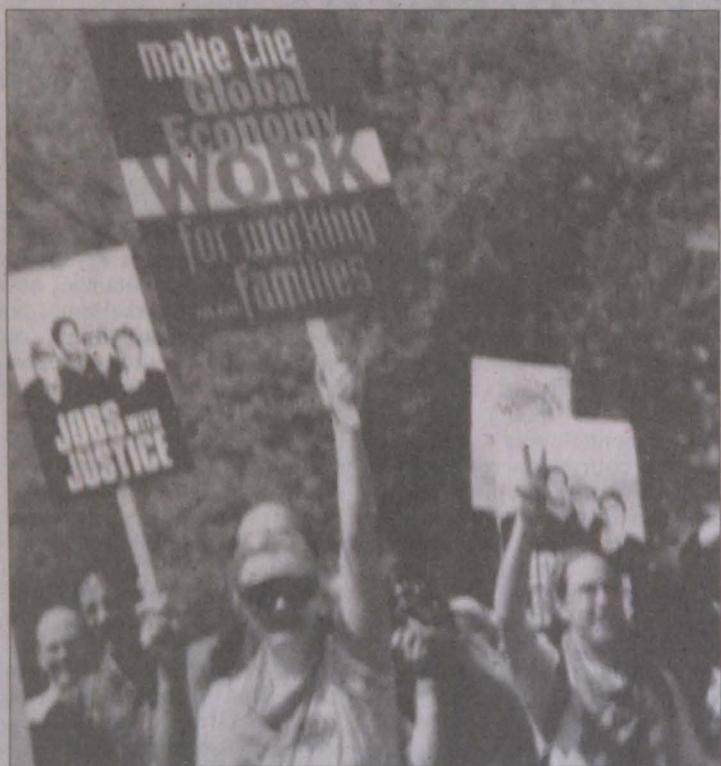
Hampel said Delaware stacks up favorably against the other 49 states in education, and school programs typically receive support from the business community.

"What I think is impressive in Delaware is we've already taken school improvement seriously," Hampel said. "We've never shrugged our shoulders and said, 'We can't do more, we tried that and it didn't work.'"

Going forward, there is one key thing to remember, he said.

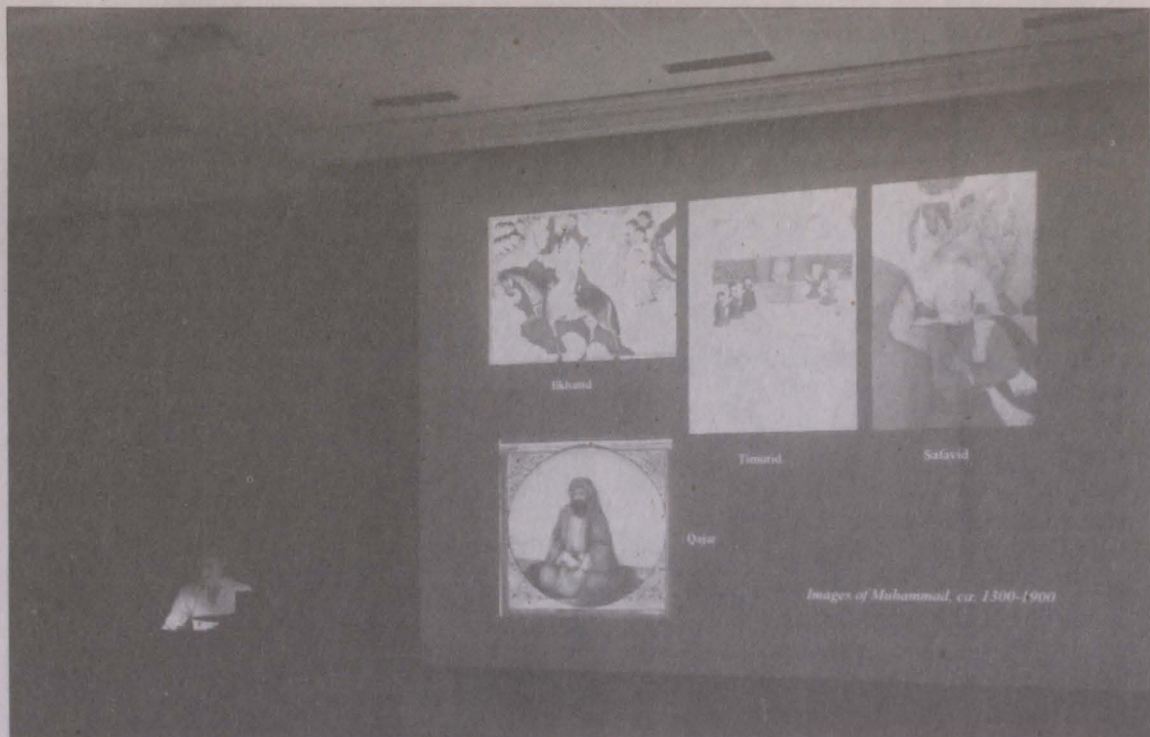
"It's very, very important to see all of this through the eyes of the students, and I just hope as we move forward we continue to ask students how is this changing their schooling," Hampel said.

This Week in History:



APRIL 18, 2000

Thousands of protesters gathered in Washington, D.C. to speak out against the practices of the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund.



SARAH PFEFER/THE REVIEW

Contrary to popular opinion, images of Muhammad do exist, University of Michigan Christiane Gruber said.

Scholar discusses the role of the Prophet Muhammad in contemporary Iranian visual art

BY RAINA PARIKH
News Assignment Editor

In a dark room of Memorial Hall, colorful images with golden halos lit up on a screen.

These images were paired with a talk by Christiane Gruber of the University of Michigan as she spoke on the depictions of the Prophet Muhammad in contemporary Iranian visual culture.

Gruber visited the university as a part of the Graduate Student Lecture organized by the university's department of art history, art history graduate student Elizabeth Simmons, who helped coordinate the event. The lecture series features artists, curators and scholars who speak about different topics in art history, Simmons stated in an email message.

Simmons, who studied under Gruber at Indiana University, said she recommended Gruber to speak for the series.

"I took a focused discussion course with her on images of the Prophet Muhammad from across various time periods, and I knew she was working on this subject in contemporary visual culture," Simmons said. "I thought the committee and the department would find her work both novel and engaging."

Gruber's lecture, "Prophetic Portraits: Muhammad in Modern Iranian Visual Culture," focused on the depictions of the Prophet Muhammad in contemporary Iranian visual culture and its various roles and influences during Iranian history.

Contrary to popular belief, depictions of the Prophet Muhammad that include his face have occurred in Iranian society, Gruber said. It was mostly after the 2005 Danish satirical cartoon of the Prophet that changes were made.

"There is a common misconception that there are no images of Muhammad in

Islam, that they are prohibited, especially now after the Danish cartoon controversy," Gruber said. "But images of Muhammad with facial features, with a facial veil, as an abstract entity have been produced in good quantities, I would say, from about 1300 until today in both Sunni and Shi'a spheres."

Gruber said since the Danish controversy, Iran has been cracking down on images of the Prophet and saints after a 2008 decree was issued to do so. In many shrines where icons were present, images have been covered or removed, Gruber said, presenting the example of such an occurrence at the Imamzadeh-yi Zayd of the Tehran Bazaar.

However, authoritative commands are not always followed, Gruber said. Images of Muhammad are commonly found as pictures that are sold in supermarkets, or on other media, such as stamps, she said.

Gruber displayed examples of stamps that circulated during the revolution against the Pahlavi monarchy that show Muhammad in various forms. One stamp, she said, showed Muhammad bathed in light to represent him bringing in a new era.

"Through the stamps and postcards you see how Muhammad enters the public sphere, and I think that has to do with the fact you have a new kind of regime that's being implemented," Gruber said.

Many images portrayed Muhammad ending the previous eras of pre-Islamic Iran and or the Pahlavi reign, which the revolutionists wished to distance themselves from, Gruber said. One such image depicted the hands of Muhammad breaking the pagan idols previously found in the Ka'aba, showing the end of the pre-Islamic era.

Gruber also went on to explain the evolution of

depiction of Muhammad through the years.

Displaying older images, she said they generally showed Muhammad as sitting or kneeling, oftentimes with his family.

Newer images, Gruber said, illustrate Muhammad as "beautifully bearded and cloaked." In the modern era, Muhammad is typically shown with a golden halo, holding a glowing Quran and pointing his finger to the sky, typically towards the Shahada, or creed, stating that "There is no god but God, Muhammad is the messenger of God."

The strong depiction that is typical in modern times aims to depict an authoritarian, divine leader, Gruber said.

Many images also bear resemblance to medieval Coptic and Byzantine images of Jesus, Gruber said, juxtaposing the two types of images.

Similar to modern-day Muhammad illustrations, medieval depictions of Jesus showed him as bearded, holding a jeweled Bible and pointing his finger to the sky.

The role of Muhammad in both the public and political sphere has had a great influence on Iranian visual culture. Junior Caitlin Moon said she found this particularly interesting.

"I was really impressed by the duality of images," Moon said. "You can find them in a fruit section or as a postcard. I was impressed by the personal connection with the images."

Political and personal images of Muhammad have been used to direct many different areas of thought, Gruber said.

"Images of Muhammad, even though they are mass produced and serve as commodities, actually have a lot of power," Gruber said.

HAVE AN OPINION?

The Review gladly welcomes its readers to write letters to the editor and submit their writing as guest columnists. Letters can be submitted through udreview.com.

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Suzy Ismail provides insight into the choice to wear the hijab

BY NICOLETTE TUONO
Staff Reporter

In the West African tribe Wodaabe, men are seen as beautiful and women are seen as functional, with men painting their lips black and making their teeth appear whiter similar to the tendency of some American girls to pose pouting their lips, creating the well-known “duck face,” author Suzy Ismail while speaking to a group of students.

This, Ismail said, is evident that standards of beauty vary from culture to culture.

Speaking to an audience last night in Perkins Student Center, Ismail related this idea to hijabs, a headscarf traditionally worn by Muslim women. Ismail came to the university as the first speaker for Islam Awareness Week, hosted by the Muslim Student Association (MSA). Her lecture, entitled “Hijab: Liberation or Oppression?” shed light on the deep religious ties Muslim women have with the hijab.

“The reason why the hijab—or the traditional dress for covering that a woman wears—has drawn so much attention is because the function of the hijab, which is a form of outward modesty, is such an integral part of the religion itself,” Ismail said.

For the less familiar members of the audience, she quoted a passage

from the Quran instructing men and women to dress modestly. She expressed her pride and commitment to her Islamic beliefs at the April 14 lecture and told the crowd that wearing a hijab is a way for Muslim women to be closer to God.

The hijab, Ismail said, is often compared metaphorically to pearls. In this metaphor, women are so beautiful they need to be protected by a “shell,” but Ismail was quick to discredit the metaphor. Hijab is not meant to protect women, but to instead showcase their religious faith and to express their modesty, she said.

“It is said that every religion has one defining characteristic and that in the religion of Islam, the defining characteristic is that of Haya, or modesty,” Ismail said. “That is the defining characteristic of the religion because it is seen in the interactions and the actions of all who practice the religion.”

Tasnim Amin, vice president of the MSA, said her main goal in putting together the event was to raise awareness of the culture of Islam. The MSA spent the last year preparing the club for a greater involvement within the university, she said.

“The events are meant to be general knowledge for people who aren’t really experienced or used to hijab and it’s to teach people why

women wear it and what it’s like for Muslim women,” Amin said.

This lecture was also meant to combat stereotypes of Muslim men and women perpetuated by the media, especially because the hijab is often seen as oppressive, Amin said, though she feels this is not necessarily the case.

“It’s more of a choice that women wear it and it is part of an identity,” Amin said. “It grows to be a part of who you are.”

Amin found the turnout for the event last night to be encouraging, she said.

Junior Bridgette Spritz and senior Kelsey Fein, both international relations majors, said they attended the event to learn more about hijabs for an upcoming presentation in their Global Islam class.

“I’m really interested in getting a different perspective and coming out to support Islam Awareness week,” Spritz said. “It’s very important that here at UD and in general we make ourselves knowledgeable about other people and other cultures and religions so we can have a better outlook and a better understanding of where they’re coming from.”

Islam is the second-largest religion in the world with over 1.6 billion practicing Muslims throughout the world, according to Pew Research. In North A, more than



MICHELLE MORGENSTERN/THE REVIEW

The Muslim Student Association hosted a kiosk in Trabant University Center where students could try on headscarves.

3 million people consider themselves to practice Islam.

Amin said she hopes events like this will help dispel media myths about her religion.

“To everyone who has a misinterpretation of Islam, they should come to an event or get to know a Muslim before they follow what’s being said in the media,” Amin said.

Ismail repeated more than once

throughout her lecture that it does not matter if you are a man or a woman, nor how you look. The only thing that matters in Islam is your actions.

“In the eyes of God, this is the utmost equality,” Ismail said. “Knowing that it doesn’t matter what gender I am, it doesn’t matter how I look externally, it doesn’t matter what my physical appearance is. I will be judged on my actions and whether or not I am obedient to God.”

EDITORIAL

Climatic catastrophe: Poisoning the air... Does UD care?

BY PHILLIP POLLNER
Guest Columnist

The ongoing scientific study of global climate has raised serious concern for the future habitability of the Earth. While scientists, governmental authorities and the public still differ about the validity of the findings, we are continuously loading the Earth’s atmosphere with noxious materials whose long-term influences are not completely known. What are we doing to Earth? If we destabilize the climate will our civilization destroy itself, or will we endure?

The belief that we may be responsible for not only placing civilization in jeopardy but all humanity is so despairing we are inclined not to think about it. What we wish not to think about we can mistakenly ignore. Others may find it more comforting to accept the prevailing prejudice that attempts to refute the scientific evidence for global climate change, although such opposing views are made without even the slightest suggestion of proof.

Nevertheless, we do have a talent for deceiving ourselves, and where we have strong emotions we are likely to fool ourselves. Doubt, apathy and finally denial may also keep us from the realization that our own survival may be in doubt—who wants to consider that humanity may not have a future? But the facts as reflected in the evidence directly point without a doubt to Earth’s vulnerability.

John Adams, the second U.S. president, said it best when he said “Facts are stubborn things, and whatever may be our

wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions—they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.”

The world scientific community sounded the alarm about the grave danger of global climate change. The assault on the environment from burning fossil fuels threatens the ecosystem, which all life depends on. The knowledge that we could have prevented it and did not—what account then can we give for our stewardship of the Earth, preserving the lives and wellbeing of its citizens and the future of the planet? It is essential that we address the issue honestly by examining rigorously and skeptically the hard facts, disregarding all opinions and arguments or beliefs made before considering the evidence.

Will our foresight, reason, experience, our desire to learn from history and our intelligence be the clear tools for our survival and prosperity, or will we submit to the dreary prediction of the poet Robinson Jeffers who wrote “that a day will come when the Earth will scratch herself and smile and rub off humanity.” Is it inevitable that as a result of unforgivable neglect or our indifference that we are a danger to ourselves? The imperative to cherish the Earth and protect the environment that sustains all of us has gained some acceptance.

But there is yet no evidence or examples that demonstrate our worthiness to value the Earth and our commitment to life. We have misused science and technology allowing passions to obscure our intelligence by the development worldwide

of obscene weapons of mass destruction that threaten all of us. A chain of morbid causality exists. Whether it’s nuclear war, the poisoning of the air or water, catastrophic climate change, ozone depletion, pandemic disease, global poverty and drought, deforestation or overpopulations, our survival is in doubt. An uninvolved public not realizing the consequences is far more dangerous in our time than any other time before.

The failure of conventional wisdom to protect the environment is exemplified by the university, a highly respected academic institute that harbors the mission to promote an ethic of environmental responsibility. With the support of government officials, the university plans to build a large power plant adjacent to a highly populated residential community emitting dangerous pollutants into the atmosphere. In a mockery of their own policy, the administration has chosen to value special vested interest and special cases over the sustainability of the environment and the health and wellbeing of the community.

The health consequences from respiratory pollutants for people living nearby must be addressed, and suppression of the truth is unforgivable. Medical studies published in world-renowned textbooks of medicine alert us to the following dangers. First, large numbers of people are at risk for developing serious respiratory disease as a result of exposure from gases emitted by power plants. Second, close proximity to atmospheric pollutants is directly responsible for the

highest mortality rates for people with chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

Third, people with asthma, heart disease and other cardio-respiratory disorders can suffer serious life-threatening exacerbations requiring hospitalization with mortality rates between 11 and 25 percent when exposed to pollutants. If mechanical ventilation is required, the six-month mortality rate is 40 percent. Those who survive endure poor functional status.

Fourth, children with asthma, allergies and rhinitis exposed to even low concentrations of respiratory pollutants suffer severely. Asthma accounts for more pediatric hospitalizations than any other single illness. Fifth, even healthy individuals can develop respiratory illnesses when exposed to atmospheric pollutants. If only five percent in Newark (a low figure) are affected, it means that 1,500 individuals will suffer from respiratory diseases. The perils we face are real, and since there is no cure the only intervention is prevention. A Newark power plant from a risk-benefit analysis is medically contraindicated. If we wish to maintain a healthy community and also reduce atmospheric pollution responsible for destabilization of the climate, we must stop poisoning the air.

It’s perilous and foolhardy for the average citizen to remain ignorant or in denial about the catastrophic consequences of global climate change. The people must be informed of the intimate dangers and willing



Phillip Pollner

to challenge complacency. No doubt we have made some progress, but the steps are too small and too slow.

In the final analysis our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet, we all breathe the same air, we all cherish our children’s future and we are all mortal. Our loyalties are to the species and the planet and our obligation to survive and flourish is owed to ourselves and the generations to follow. We know who speaks for the nation, who speaks for Delaware, who speaks for the university, but we speak for humanity, we speak for Earth

Dr. Philip Pollner practices medicine in Newark. He was awarded special recognition Nobel Peace Prize 1985 as president of the Delaware Physicians for Social Responsibility, the American affiliate to International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.



EMILY DIMAIO/THE REVIEW

“Prospective students’ impression of UD.”

New financial planning major will help students succeed in the workforce

Let’s face it: Millennials don’t have the greatest reputation. Pegged as self-absorbed and forever-dependent on mom and dad, impressions of a post-grad rarely conjure images of financial literacy and job security. Starting next fall, the university will try change this occurrence with the addition of a new major in financial planning.

Financial advisors seek to assist clients in understanding the risks and benefits of different investment options and make sense of the increasingly complicated world of household financial planning.

Prospective students touring campus Saturday were met by protesters brandishing signs with slogans saying “Give our youth a clean future” and “Choose a school with less pollution,” further fueling the ongoing debate over a proposal to construct a natural gas-fired power plant on the university’s STAR campus.

Reactions to the protesters’ controversial decision to picket on Decision Day were mixed. Some saw the protests as bad publicity for the university and were concerned the demonstration, led by Blue Hens

Considering commonplace skills such as balancing a checkbook and managing a budget are becoming rarities, the importance of teaching students to be financially literate is significant.

The addition of the new major is a step in the right direction for the university, which should provide students with the proper tools to seek employment after graduation including analytical and interpersonal skills.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, careers in personal financial advising are expected to grow at a rate of 70 percent over

the next ten years as baby boomers continue to retire. This contrasts greatly with the 10.8 percent growth expected for all occupations over the same time period.

While some have argued the program’s requirements echo that of the financing major’s, the new major emphasizes the national need for financiers handling personal accounts, stressing Main Street over Wall Street finance. The major is an important one for students seeking employment after graduation, teaching students to be financially literate and succeed in the workforce.

University should inform students about power plant rather than leave responsibility to public

for Clean Air and Newark Residents against the Power Plant, would turn prospective students away without fully understanding the details of the proposal. Demonstrations should be informative rather than intimidating to prospective students. However, incoming students should be aware of the debate, as the decision may affect them if they choose to attend the university.

The decision to hold protests on Decision Day was well-intended. Many current students who plan to move in search of jobs after graduation feel apathetic toward the

proposal saying the decision will not affect their time at the university. This is not the case for prospective students, who deserve to know and understand the consequences of the power plant.

The university should take the opportunity to disseminate information about the power plant, rather than have residents bear the brunt of the burden of the ongoing debate. Approval of the power plant would affect thousands, including residents of the community and students at the university. It is time students engaged in the debate.



ABOVE: The Climbing PoeTree perform in the West Lounge at Perkins Student Center on Wednesday, April 16th, 2014, Krik Smith.



LEFT/BELOW: Graduate department hosts "Rep Your Culture" event at Townsend Hall, Kirk Smith.



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Linda Burt
Dear Mom & Dad,
I am so proud of you for your hard work and dedication. You have always been there for me, and I am grateful for your love and support. I hope you are proud of me as well. Love, Linda Burt

Dana Marie Beltran
Dear Mom & Dad,
I am so proud of you for your hard work and dedication. You have always been there for me, and I am grateful for your love and support. I hope you are proud of me as well. Love, Dana Marie Beltran

Keifer-Jack Chausman
Dear Mom & Dad,
I am so proud of you for your hard work and dedication. You have always been there for me, and I am grateful for your love and support. I hope you are proud of me as well. Love, Keifer-Jack Chausman

Lindsey Alexa
Dear Mom & Dad,
I am so proud of you for your hard work and dedication. You have always been there for me, and I am grateful for your love and support. I hope you are proud of me as well. Love, Lindsey Alexa

Jillian Cara Kramer
Dear Mom & Dad,
I am so proud of you for your hard work and dedication. You have always been there for me, and I am grateful for your love and support. I hope you are proud of me as well. Love, Jillian Cara Kramer

Travis Joseph Krell
Dear Mom & Dad,
I am so proud of you for your hard work and dedication. You have always been there for me, and I am grateful for your love and support. I hope you are proud of me as well. Love, Travis Joseph Krell

Katie Mohan
Dear Mom & Dad,
I am so proud of you for your hard work and dedication. You have always been there for me, and I am grateful for your love and support. I hope you are proud of me as well. Love, Katie Mohan

Contact adsudreview@gmail.com for more information.

Jewish students mark Passover with Seder dinners, dining hall matzo

BY KELSEY WENTLING
Assignment Editor

This past week, the familiar pastels and plastics of Easter took drugstores by storm. Pink eggs and chocolate bunnies were displayed for customers perusing the aisles in search of their favorite Jelly Bellies.

However, for many students, the week marked a time of moderation and fasting as they observed Passover, which commemorates Jewish freedom. The holiday, which began on April



SARA PFEFFER/THE REVIEW
While the dining hall attempts to offer kosher foods, they are often minimal.

14, ends today.

Human development and family studies professor Steven Eidelman, who also volunteers as the president of Hillel Kristol Center for Jewish Life, says the history of Passover originates from the story of Moses liberating the Jews from Pharaoh's oppression and is a celebration of liberation.

"It's really all about freedom," Eidelman says. "It's a festival of freedom. Freedom from slavery, freedom from oppression, freedom from the daily rules and the grind of life."

He says Hillel is not a religious group per se but an international movement comprised mostly of undergraduate students.

"The idea is to give them a safe place to be who they are on campus," Eidelman says. "Our campus is a very diverse place, and Hillel gives you a place where you can go and, to varying degrees, practice your Judaism."

Eidelman says Hillel is comprised of several different Jewish organizations, most of which are student-led. He says through Hillel and Jewish organizations, students are able to develop as leaders in the Jewish community.

Sophomore Morgan Fuentes serves as vice president of KOACH, the conservative Jewish group at the university, according

to the Hillel website. In Hebrew, koach means "strength."

Fuentes says she is observing Passover by abstaining from eating leavened or unrisen breads, pastas and some grains. She says this tradition originates from the Jews' flight from Egypt. Because they left Egypt in a hurry, they had no time to leaven the bread, Fuentes says.

"It's definitely really difficult," Fuentes says of observing Passover at the university. "Especially if you live on campus and don't have a car. The dining halls are your main source of food, so it can be difficult."

Senior Brittany Kalman says she also believes it to be challenging to observe Passover while at school.

"I find it more difficult at school because not many people observe the whole week, and I do observe the whole week," Kalman says.

Fuentes says the dining halls attempt to offer kosher foods and options for students observing Passover, but the options are minimal and unsatisfying.

Eidelman says he believes the lack of kosher options in the dining halls contributes to a smaller conservative Jewish population on campus. However, with the introduction of the new dining hall on The South Green in 2015,



SARA PFEFFER/THE REVIEW
Students gathered to celebrate Passover, which commemorates Jewish freedom. The holiday, which began on April 14, ends today.

he says he believes this will be different in the coming years.

"Many Jewish students won't come to UD because we don't have kosher dining, but I think that will change," Eidelman says. "There will be kosher dining on campus and it will be open to all students. There will be more opportunity for students who are observant."

For now, Eidelman says students can use their meals plans to sign up for Seder dinners at Hillel during Passover. He says the first Seder dinner is a meal of paramount importance for many Jews and nearly 150 students attended the first Seder on April 14.

"We had a Seder last night at Hillel, which is a meal that talks about how the Jewish people were liberated from Egypt and how matzo became to be the food because [the Jews] went in a hurry, so matzo was quickly taken," he says.

Matzo is a form of unleavened bread that can be eaten during Passover, Eidelman says.

Kalman says she also attended Seder dinner through the university group. Additionally, she shared a Seder dinner with friends, where they often eat matzo ball soup, chicken, brisket or, her favorite, matzo brie.

Fuentes says after days of fasting, there is a large celebration centered around a feast. Although she lives too far away to go home, many of the people she knows make the commute home to celebrate Passover with their families, she says.

"Passover is very much a family holiday," Eidelman says. "Lots of students went home. Different people celebrate it differently. There's not a uniform way of celebrating it."

Similarly, Kalman says Passover allows her to spend time with friends and family while reflecting on Jewish history.

"To me, it's a time to connect with my heritage and my culture," Kalman says. "It's a time to think about family and friends."

Caffé Gelato exhibits eclectic new series by local artist

BY JENNIFER FINN
Staff Reporter

Pamella Bounds-Seemans is a painter, and her Marshallton home is just another canvas. Her "studio" is her glitter-encrusted dining room table. And her kitchen isn't just for cooking—though she does make a mean beef bourguignon.

"Sometimes things just explode in there," she says of her paint-splattered microwave.

In the middle of the night, she might be found transferring pieces in and out of her yard to dry. In the winter, she says she props them up in front of the fireplace.

"My husband's given up," she says. "He's the sensible one. I'm kind of crazy."

Her permanently stained furnishings—and fingers—are a testament to the freedom and creativity on which she thrives.

"I'm known as 'the lady with paint on her hands,'" she says.

Bounds-Seemans, 65, has a new series entitled "Botticelli Spring" on display this month at Italian restaurant Caffé Gelato on East Main Street.

Named after the Italian painter Sandro Botticelli, the collection consists of paintings and mixed media works, Bounds-Seemans says.

The opportunity for this exhibit arose through Caffé Gelato owner Ryan German, Bounds-Seemans says.

"He's familiar with my work," she says. "I showed there several years ago. Back in January, he called and asked me if I would do it again."

German says he is happy to feature Bounds-Seemans' locally-inspired pieces in his restaurant.

"She paints fun renditions of recognizable landmarks," German says.

This includes a painting of Caffé Gelato itself, as well as the Wilmington Blue Rocks Ballpark, which contains a reference to "The News Journal."

Bounds-Seemans' rendering of Caffé Gelato exemplifies her colorful style and uniquely decorated frames.

Bounds-Seemans says she wanted to relate the series to the restaurant's Italian theme. In early March, she and her husband celebrated his birthday with dinner at Caffé Gelato, which she says inspired her to name one of the pieces,

"Mermaid Primavera," after the primavera fettuccine they ordered.

The mermaid is one of her 3-D works, which she says is made out of wood and covered in colorful mixed media, including sequins, buttons, costume jewelry, seashells and gobs of puffy paint. She says she even makes some of her own materials out of clay.

"I think it's extraordinary that she can get that much stuff on one piece without messing it up," says senior fine arts major Brittany Katz. "She has a really great whimsicality to her work."

Bounds-Seemans says her husband helps out with such pieces by cutting the wood for her before she paints and decorates.

"He's an architect, so he has a steady hand," she says. "It would be really wobbly if I tried to do that. I'd probably cut myself!"

Acrylic paint is her frequent medium these days, Bounds-Seemans says, although she studied watercolor painting at New Mexico Highlands University.

One-of-a-kind frames accompany her paintings, typically recycled pieces that she says she adorns with her signature touch.

She says she finds her varied materials everywhere, from resale shops to AC Moore to Goodwill. She says she even visited a Harley-Davidson motorcycle shop over the weekend to hunt down materials.

In addition to her own finds, she says she often receives materials from others.

"Sometimes people just leave 'em on my doorstep!" Bounds-Seemans says. "One day, UPS delivered a box full of beads from New Orleans. I didn't even know who it was from!"

Bounds-Seemans says her phone number is listed on handwritten price tags that hang from colored ribbons on each work. All of the "Botticelli Spring" pieces are available for purchase.

"I do this the old-fashioned way," she says. "Usually, people will call me and I'll come down and meet them. I call it remote control sales."

Katz says she had an assignment that involved researching how well artwork sells in different settings. While the actual statistics revealed that pieces don't typically sell as



JENNIFER FINN/THE REVIEW
A different artist has been featured at Caffé Gelato for the past 14 years.

well in restaurants and cafés, she says she personally thinks Caffé Gelato's monthly exhibitions are fantastic.

"There aren't enough galleries around for things like that," she says. "It's great that they're supporting this."

Although the series is up until the end of April, Bounds-Seemans says restaurant-goers can buy her work at any time.

"She's like, 'If you want it, take it off the wall,'" German says. "And we know that. Pam wants to sell them. She wants to make more."

When he first opened the restaurant in April 2000, exhibiting artists' work was part of a plan to actually get people to come in for dinner, German says.

"We would have an art opening the first Monday of every month," German says. "It was a marketing focus."

As word about Caffé Gelato spread, dinner each night became so regularly busy that a monthly art opening was no longer a sustainable option. But German says there has been a different artist featured every month for the past 14 years, with the exception of a few artists showing their pieces twice, Bounds-Seemans included.

German says the fresh art displays provide a nice change of landscape in the restaurant each month.

Bounds-Seemans says she enjoys hearing reactions to her work among Caffé Gelato customers.

"My work easily causes a stir—it's a bit different," she says. "Most of the time I hear good things. They don't always know I'm the artist!"

She says the most rewarding part of her work is being free to do what she loves and bringing art to Delawareans, amongst whom her clientele varies.

"Young people, old people, rich people, rednecks, scholars, professors—and I get to meet 'em all," Bounds-Seemans says. "That's always the exciting part."

Noted artist tells of photographing Haiti, Air Force, President Obama

BY ANGELA SALERNO
Staff Reporter

Robyn Phillips-Pendleton's career has taken her in many directions when it comes to exercising what she does best—creating art. She interned for USA Today as a graphic artist, traveled to Haiti to capture the aftermath of the earthquake, worked as an art professor at the university and currently is illustrating a children's book.

Phillips-Pendleton was invited to speak in Gore Hall Thursday to honor the FreshPAINT: African Art @ UD exhibition, which is currently on display until June 28 and focuses on select paintings and the style, content and methods used in creating them.

Phillips-Pendleton's presentation was focused around the concept of what motivates her and what she likes to do in terms of painting and creating ideas, Phillips-Pendleton says. To convey this idea to her audiences, Phillips-Pendleton created a presentation based around the places she learned these tactics.

"I left the newsroom, but in my head I really didn't leave the newsroom," Phillips-Pendleton says, referring to her internship after college at USA Today. "I was constantly being intrigued by why do these things happen and how do I feel about them."

Phillips-Pendleton's life changed forever when The Pentagon called her asking her for her services. The Air Force artist program of the United States was looking for artists who like to tell stories and create imagery about events, Phillips-Pendleton says.

"They wanted the public to see that they were not all about just going to war," she says. "They had a humanitarian side, a huge humanitarian side, as far as helping people all over the world in serious crisis situations."

Phillips-Pendleton was hired for the job and asked to go to Haiti to create an image two weeks after the earthquake in the country in 2010, she says. This was an opportunity she couldn't turn down, she says.

In Haiti, Phillips-Pendleton captured the living conditions of the U.S. soldiers, she says. She slept in a tent and lived the military lifestyle in order to get accurate and creative shots of the conditions following the earthquake, she says.

Audience members were able to hear and see behind the scene's footage from her trip. These pictures included the

planes that she flew on to arrive and depart from Haiti, the officers she encountered and the people of Haiti. Event goers were able to see photos of children orphaned from the quake and how they were being cared for and transported.

Several years after her trip to Haiti, Phillips-Pendleton got another call from the Pentagon. This time it was for President Barack Obama's second-term inauguration.

Phillips-Pendleton displayed pictures and videos of her experience in Washington. One picture she showed to the audience was a girl with USA painted on her cheek creating an American flag out of rocks on the ground. This was a picture she couldn't resist, Phillips-Pendleton says.

She showed her video footage of Obama from the inauguration and joked about her proximity to the president.

"People asked, 'Were you really that close?'" Phillips-Pendleton says. "No, it was just a really good camera."

Phillips-Pendleton was also able to join in the inaugural parade and capture moments from that experience.

During the lecture, she displayed various pictures of her work that had significance in her life. One piece was a poster that she was asked to do for Black History Month. The poster displayed a face of an African-American woman who had half her face painted as the American flag.

"The piece was a response to 9/11," Phillips-Pendleton says. "This was the piece that said, 'I really have something to say. I really have these concepts that I want to have these visual conversations about.'"

Phillips-Pendleton's also showed some pieces from her library on a projector. The pieces contained a combination of imagery and photography. Sophomore Margaret O'Brien attended the event. What she enjoyed most was how she was able to view Phillips-Pendleton's creative process, in addition to being able to see sketches from Phillips-Pendleton's sketchbooks and how she created her final image, O'Brien says.

"From this presentation I learned a lot about how Robyn thinks and creates wonderful moving paintings from images, experiences and feelings that she has personally," O'Brien says.

OFF THE RECORD

"SAVAGES"

BY BREATHE CAROLINA

The rock and electronic band Breathe Carolina has come a long way from their early beginnings in 2007, when two of the band's members used to experiment with GarageBand to produce tracks. Since then, Breathe Carolina has proven themselves innovative stylistically, with four studio albums, covers on three of the "Punk Goes Pop" compilations, performances at Vans Warped Tour and the notable radio single "Blackout" (released in 2011 on their "Hell is What You Make It" album).

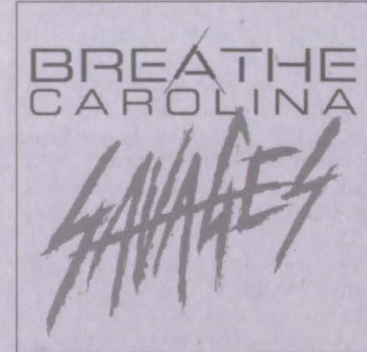
Their most recent album, "Savages," released in stores on April 15, favors a noticeable electronic, high-energy component that was not as prevalent in their previous albums. The first released single from "Savages" features the YouTube turned pop music sensation Karmin, titled "Bang it Out." It's catchy, clever and guaranteed to be a popular party hit. Luckily for Breathe Carolina fans, the momentum exhibited on this track doesn't falter on the rest of the album. "Shots Fired" — impassioned and fast paced, shows off the band's lyrical strength, and "Collide" is another addictive dance track. The album's title song, "Savages" is equally as likeable and should resonate with a wide range of listeners.

A sample of the band's rock sound can be found in the intense song "Sellouts." I personally recommend giving "Chasing Hearts" a listen, which features a collaboration with artist Tyler Carter of the band Issues.

With the extra electronic influence found in "Savages," there is something on this album for almost anyone. A combination of thoughtful lyrics, fascinating beats and multiple collaborations with undeniable chemistry make this album worth a listen.

— Katie Alteri
kalteri@udel.edu

The views reflected in this column do not necessarily represent those of The Review.



DEERING: 'HAVING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW OTHER ARTISTS CARVE OUT THE COURSE OF THEIR OWN CAREERS CAN ONLY BENEFIT US AS STUDENTS.'



Professor Phillips-Pendleton discusses her artwork.

Continued from page 9

While creating her artwork, she always likes to keep in mind her voice, what she is saying and who she is talking to in order to communicate effectively to her audience, she says.

Senior Kerry Doring, a former student of Phillips-Pendleton, was also in attendance at the event. Doring attended the event to get a better understanding of her personal work processes, Doring says.

"To me, this approach to producing work, focusing on communication rather than depiction, blends that line between making work for a job or making the work she needs to express," Doring says. "At the end of the day, having a better understanding of how other artists carve out the course of their own careers can only benefit us as students. We are at the very beginning of doing the same ourselves."



DINNER TABLE SCIENCE

BLUE BLOOD

For most of human history, we've been a little narcissistic. We not only believed we were the only intelligent life in the universe, but that we were the center of it all. The sun revolved around us, the universe was created just for us and Earth was a one-of-a-kind home planet unlike any other, designed for us. However, as telescopes got larger, computers got smarter and science began to build upon itself, we soon learned the truth. Earth, just like all other

There are estimated to be at least 200 billion galaxies, the NASA's Kepler Mission (an orbiting observatory) estimates at least 100 billion planets in our galaxy. Looking at some more specific (and less conservative estimates) some researchers estimate there could be as many as 1024 planets (that's a one followed by 24 zeroes!) out there. Statistically speaking, it's highly unlikely that only ONE of those billions and billions of planets was capable of supporting life.

Ever since the first planet outside our solar system was discovered in 1996, we've been looking for another life-capable

and Mars are all rocky, or terrestrial, planets—meaning they're made up of rocks and metals instead of hydrogen, helium and water like the gas planets (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune). A terrestrial planet has land for processes like the water cycle and plant growth to occur on. A terrestrial planet has the potential to accumulate sediment build up, stored heat, oceans of water and life forms like you and me. A gas planet is just that—a large, cohesive ball of gas that orbits the sun—and makes an unlikely candidate for a life capable planet.

It also has to be located in what scientists call "the habitable zone." In our solar system, for example, Earth is exactly the right distance from the sun. It's warm, but not unbearably hot, it's cool but not frozen. We have liquid water, which means we're getting the right amount of sunlight to keep water as a liquid instead of as a solid (ice) or a gas (water vapor).

Earlier this month, scientists sifting through the data from their Kepler Observatory discovered a potential "second Earth." Its name is Kepler-186f (named for the star it orbits, Kepler-186, and the fact that it is the fifth star away from its sun). Kepler-186 is a red dwarf star about 500 light-years away from Earth. The star is much smaller than our sun, but Kepler-186f is much closer to the sun than we are to ours—about the distance of Mercury. This "second Earth" sits right in its star's habitable zone and scientists couldn't be more thrilled. Some researchers think that the planet's close proximity to its star will make

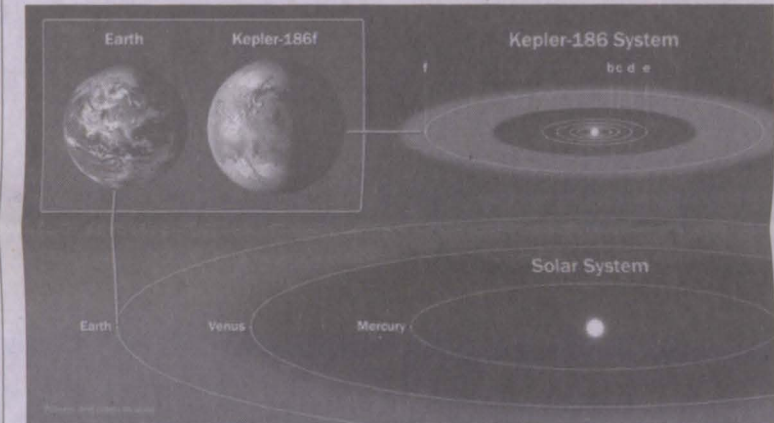
it more vulnerable to radiation hazards and solar flares, but as co-author of the paper announcing the discovery, Stephen Kane, points out that these types of stars burn much longer than a star like our sun and "that is good news for life, because there is a longer period of time for it to take hold."

The news gets even better. Previous planets found to be in a habitable zone have all proven to be much larger than Earth and were probably gaseous planets unable of hosting life. However, Kepler-186f is just 10 percent larger than Earth and very likely a rocky planet!

Unfortunately, Kepler-186f is likely not going to be our first answer to the age old question "are we alone in the universe?" It's much too far away. Researchers can't confirm that it has life or water, they can just prove that it has all of the right qualifications—distance to the sun, rocky composition and relatively small size. But this is still news that will revolutionize the scientific community's hunt for life out there. Harvard exoplanet researcher David Charbonneau says it best: "The biggest impact of this discovery is to know that there are planets that are the same size as Earth in the habitable zone of small stars...[the next step is to] find a close example...study the atmosphere of such planets, and perhaps even deduce the presence of life on them."

— Rachel Ibers
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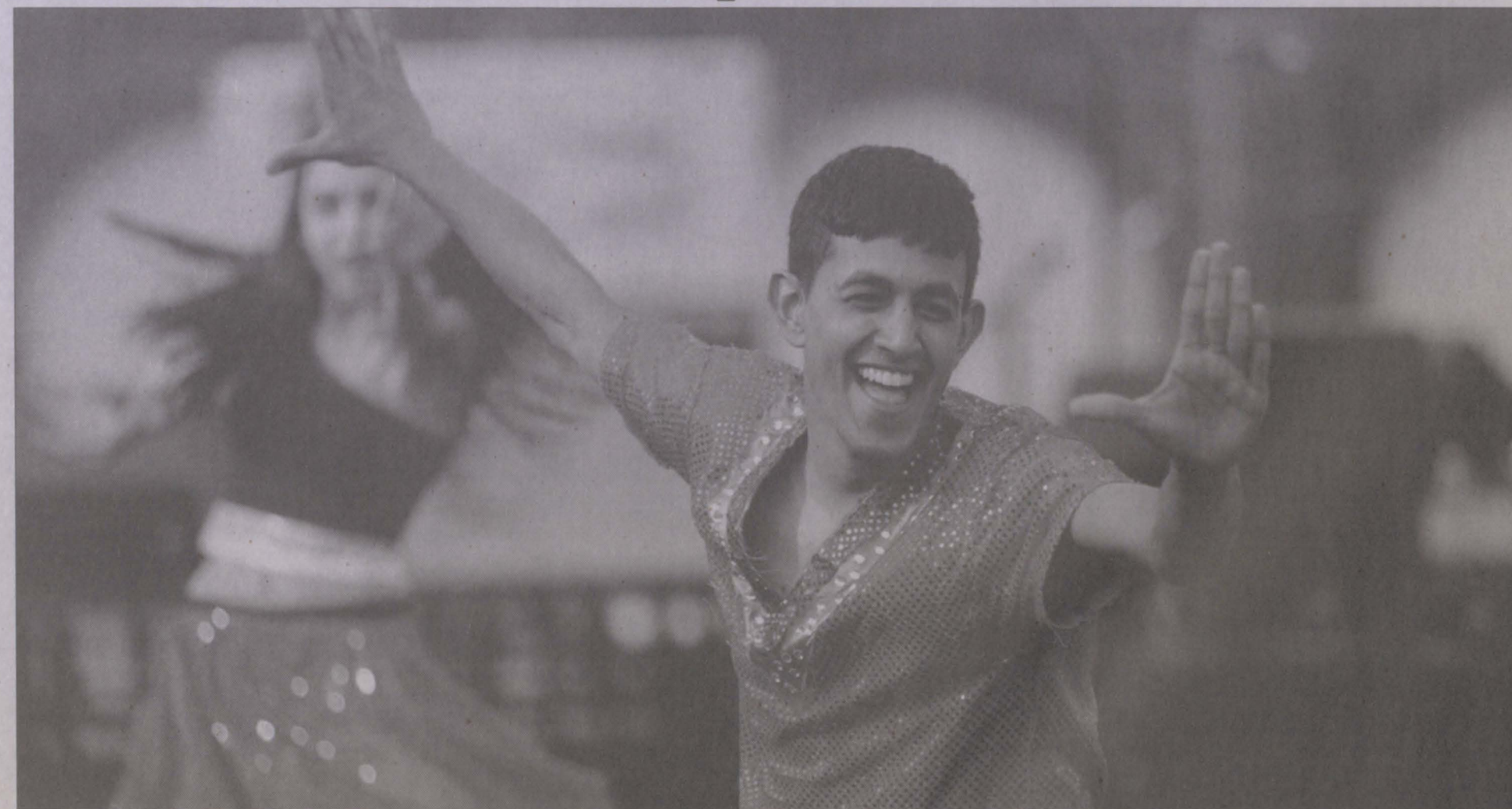
The views reflected in this column do not necessarily represent those of The Review.



planets, revolves around its sun, moves within its galaxy and is just another tiny rock compared to the vastness of the universe. We're playing our part in the universe just like anything else—and the potential for life is definitely out there.

planet like Earth. What makes Earth so special? What are we looking for that tells us a planet could support carbon-based life like we have here on Earth? First of all, the planet has got to be rocky. In our solar system, Mercury, Venus, Earth

Talent shines at Resapalooza on North Green



UD's Got Talent competitors perform at Resapalooza Friday afternoon on the North Green.



KIRK SMITH/THE REVIEW

Spoken word duo Climbing PoeTree was invited to the university by the Delaware Environment Institute's Student Programs Committee to kick off Earth Week. The performance was designed to inspire audiences to be the change they wish to see in the world.

BY SASHA CANADY
Staff Reporter

The spoken word duo Climbing PoeTree took to the stage of the Perkins Student Center on Wednesday, telling students to be prepared to be enriched, renewed and inspired, for they are not in the entertainment business but the inner attainment business.

The Delaware Environment Institute's (DENIN) Student Programs Committee invited Alixa Garcia and Naima Penniman to the university to kick off Earth Week with a

multimedia theater performance designed to inspire audiences to be the change they wish to see in the world.

Through poetry, hip-hop and the spoken word, the Brooklyn-based duo works to channel hope, expose injustice and make a better future imaginable for their audiences, according to their website.

DENIN committee member Elizabeth Chajes says they wanted to bring Climbing PoeTree to the university because it is important for Earth Week not only to focus on science but also humanities and

the arts.

"It seemed like a good way to get things started by having a performance that is really thought-provoking and inspiring," Chajes says.

Garcia and Penniman say, for them, Earth Week lasts all year, and they hope their words can motivate others to take action in preserving the environment.

"They are selling the rain and leasing the rivers," Penniman said during the performance. "The ocean is worth more than gold, and water cannot be held captive."

Poetry duo inspires environmental change to kick off earth week

Through poetry and video, Climbing PoeTree showed students the consequences of environmental injustice. Behind Garcia and Penniman, pictures of children without clean drinking water and oil spills depicted the devastation.

"This story that we have inherited is not the story that I want to pass down to my children," Garcia says. "So I'm doing everything I can do in my lifetime to leave this place cleaner and more inspired."

The activists ended the show with optimistic words aimed to empower individuals to take action.

"Who has the power? The money, the people or the law?" they asked toward the end of their show.

They answered their question by giving examples of the power of individual strength.

People around the world are banning together to put a stop to environmental injustice, they said.

"The universe is counting on our belief that our faith is more powerful than fear," Garcia says.

Freshman environmental studies major Daniel Farmer says this was the first spoken word performance focused on the environment he had been to and was completely inspired.

"My ideas about what is

important environmentally have been affirmed through them," Farmer says. "What needs to change in order for the world to be a better place has been verbalized by them in ways that I have never heard before."

Garcia and Penniman told the students every little action is an action, and the possibility of those actions is as wide as the space they create to hold it. They say they hope the performance will have a lasting impact on students because a time of great disaster is inherently a time of opportunity.

"Do the little things that you can do because if we can't do the little things, how are we ever going to change the big things?" Garcia says.

Senior Tiffany Clarke says Climbing PoeTree's show was life-changing.

"They showed me the beauty and simplicity in how you can make a change just by speaking," Clarke says. "It makes you want to do something to help."

Garcia says she does what she does for the love of her community, for the love of the planet and for the love of the human experience.

"We were born right now for a reason," Garcia says. "That reason is up to you."



EVERYDAY RUNWAY JUST IN "CASE"

Recently, I've found that I have the attention span of a two-year-old. I easily become bored with things that were recently shiny and new—shoes, boys, clothing, accessories, etc. Now I'm in search for something new and exciting and I think that something is a new iPhone case.

It seems silly—how could such a small purchase satiate my short attention span? It might not, but at least these small purchases won't break my bank account, unlike a new pair of Sam Edelman booties or a Michael Kors watch.

You say a lot on your phone,

so what does your phone say about you? Are you bold? Are you artistic? Do you blend in? Do you like to shine? There are so many different options; you can satisfy any mood.

For those of you who are brand name-oriented and want something different, try a Marc by Marc Jacobs case. My favorite is the Supply Compact Mirror iPhone Case. No longer will you need to turn the camera to selfie mode in order to check your hair and make-up. All you need to do is flip open the mirror on the back of the case and take a quick look. The best part of all: the mirror barely adds any weight so you won't feel like you're carrying a brick in your back pocket.

Another adventurous Marc by Marc Jacobs case is the Classic Q. This case has a dual purpose as a protector and a faux purse

complete with strap for easy carrying. The Classic Q comes in coral and mint and is currently on sale on Nordstrom.com for \$43.50.

Want to attract attention with your phone case? Look for fun and eye-catching cases like Kate Spade's Hello Sunshine for \$35. Another Kate Spade option is Power Trip. Not only are these fun phrases printed on the back of the case, it also acts as a portable charger. This charger is much more expensive at \$120, but it will save you from anxiety attacks when you have three percent power, a flashing red battery icon and are stuck in the library studying.

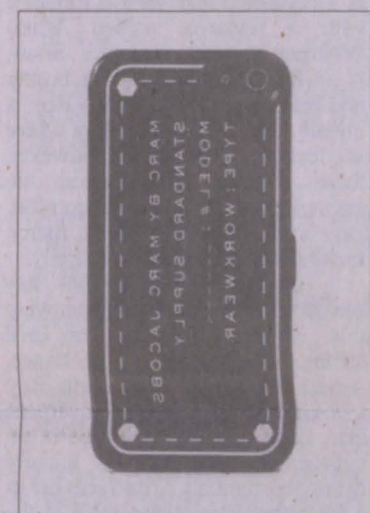
Also consider picking up a case with a pattern suitable to the season. With spring upon us, look for bright colors, nautical stripes

or floral. Check out any of the Michael Kors or Tori Burch cases or even Petunia Pickle Bottom for fun cases that match trends on point for this season. Looking to personalize your phone with a picture or quote? Try Vistaprint. With your creative license, this case is perfect if you need the ultimate in personalization.

With all of the cell phone case options you can be vain, trendy, show off your puppy or be on point with this season's floral and stripe patterns. The good news is, most of your options won't break your bank.

—Madison Fertell,
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COURTESY OF MARC JACOBS

Phone cases are a fun and less expensive way to express a personal style.

Students are exposed to the martial art of capoeira

BY NICOLE RODRIGUEZ
Mosaic Assignment Editor

A capoeira workshop was the final event in the Latin American and Iberian Studies: Connecting Through Film and Culture series presented last Wednesday. The series taught students about various aspects of Latin American and Iberian cultures, and as the final event in this year's series, an additional segment was included—a learnable craft for the average student.

With approximately 45 students in attendance, anthropology professor Carla Guerron-Montero presented her lecture on the history and meaning of the Brazilian martial art, capoeira. Originally created by African slaves in Brazil, the martial art was despised and those involved were perceived to be a part of street gangs, Guerron-Montero says. The typical outfit worn by a person practicing capoeira is a white pair of pants with a cord around the waist and any colored shirt. She says the art form also reflects the everyday fight.

"It teaches us to have a philosophy of life that includes—shows every day struggles and how we can respond to it creatively," Guerron-Montero says. "It's a philosophy of life."

Though originally outlawed from 1890 to 1930 under the government of Getulio Vargas, it



MICHELLE MORGENSTERN/THE REVIEW

Capoeira attendees warm up with a jog before dancing together.

soon became a national symbol of pride. As its popularity rose, its influence spread and soon became globalized, Guerron-Montero says.

Joining the presentation was the university's capoeira club. After the lecture, club members demonstrated capoeira fights

before encouraging students to participate with club members in learning various steps and moves used in the martial art. Led by club supervisor, Jelani Ashanti from Elsmere, 38, the club and several students came together to warm-up and then practice key steps to the martial art.

Inspired by capoeira since 1995, Ashanti says he was very involved in the workshop by aiding and encouraging the participating students as well as enforcing precision and attention to detail to club members. To Ashanti, capoeira is more than just a martial art.

"A lot of times what I hear other people get out of it is a lot of camaraderie, they get a fulfillment, they feel a little more cultured in the world in general," Ashanti says. "It also gives you an idea that, in a world, at least when I grew up, there were only Asian martial arts, there are actually other ones."

This encouraged Ashanti to explore the diverse world of martial arts and gain a broader view of the world, he says.

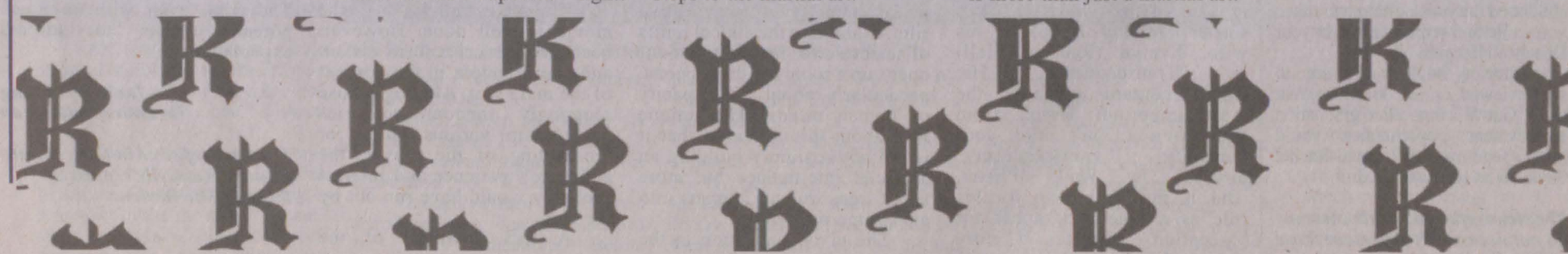
Started by Ashanti's brother in 2008, the club currently trains approximately 15 students, Ashanti says. The club is a mix of current students and alumni.

Sophomore Rachel Albrecht says she attended the capoeira workshop as an extra credit assignment for her anthropology class.

Though Albrecht did not know what to expect, she says she enjoyed learning about different cultural things and the reasons behind the various aspects.

After hearing the lecture and viewing the demonstration, Albrecht says she had a new appreciation for the art and learning about different cultures.

"It's cool that they think of it as such a cool thing, the presentation talked about how when they see the people wearing the outfits they think it is impressive," Albrecht says.





READING WITH RACHEL

"BOY, SNOW, BIRD"

Growing up, I remember being constantly surrounded by books, movies and toys centered around fairytales. From "Beauty and the Beast" to "The Swan Princess" to "Robin Hood," fantasy and magic took center stage—something I'm sure anyone who grew up watching Disney can relate to. However, this fascination with fairytales never truly dissipated; rather, it transformed, leading to more mature and stylistic versions of the stories I obsessed over as a child.

"Boy, Snow, Bird" by Helen Oyeyemi is one of these retellings with a twist, taking the classic fairytale "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and bringing a (relatively) more modern edge to it. The novel is split into three parts, the first and last narrated by Boy Novak, the "evil stepmother" of the situation, and the second by her daughter, Bird.

The book starts with Boy fleeing her abusive father, who she refers to as "the rat catcher," from New York in the 1950s. She hops a train that takes her as far as she can go, which turns out to be a small town in Massachusetts called Flax Hill.

After a rough start and under the scrutiny of a small town, Boy eventually finds her footing working at a bookshop and starts a romance with a widower named Arturo Whitman. Arturo's daughter, Snow, is an 8-year-old of startling beauty and infectious charm, which Boy is initially drawn to, to the point where she feels that Snow is hers; however, these feelings of affection are entangled with fear and discomfort. Boy and Arturo eventually marry, making the three an official family.

However, things do not stay pleasant for long, and foreshadowing that compares Boy to an evil stepmother is weaved in. For instance, Arturo, a jewelry maker, crafts Boy a bracelet in the shape of a serpent that wraps up her arm in lieu of an engagement ring. Boy is initially distressed, thinking Arturo sees her as a snake but later relates more to the serpent.

Not long after the marriage, Boy becomes pregnant and gives birth to a girl named Bird. The birth of her daughter reveals startling family truths that overshadow and warp Boy's affections for Snow. Fearing the differences between Snow and Bird will plague and overshadow her own child, Boy sends Snow away to live with other relatives. The remainder of the novel weaves through family connections, shocking revelations and personal demons.

"Boy, Snow, Bird" is a tangle of emotions and to be honest, my thoughts about it after finishing were more than a little tangled. The novel is beautifully and artfully written; Oyeyemi weaves an intricate story using well formed and compelling language.

She also does an excellent job of changing readers' perceptions; small details and incidents that seem like side notes become important and shocking plot points. The ending genuinely shocked me and looking back at the small clues Oyeyemi leaves for readers was impressive.

Though the ending was a surprise, it did not really feel like an ending, and that is the core issue I had with this novel. Things were left unresolved and unexplained, leaving a distinctly unfinished feeling. While it didn't feel like there was much story left, it definitely felt like it was missing something, which was a bit frustrating, to say the least.

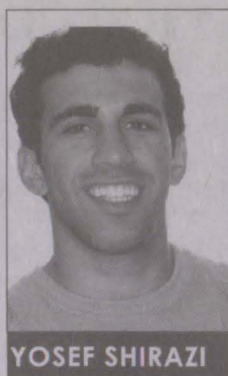
Although "Boy, Snow, Bird" is based around the idea of "Snow White," the fairytale appears to be more of a structuring point than anything else. Mirrors are a centralizing theme to the novel, a nod to the enchanted mirror, and the novel absolutely has parallel plot points to the fairytale, but outside of that, the book goes its own direction.

Despite some of my frustrations and reservations about this novel, I would recommend it to anyone looking for a more challenging read. The language is beautiful and the story compelling, with just enough childhood fairytale nostalgia to make you smile and reminisce about your Disney VHS tapes.

Have a book you want to see reviewed or just know a great read? Got full time after graduation employment opportunities you'd like to send my way? Email Rachel Taylor at retaylor@udel.edu!

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WWW.UDREVIEW.COM



YOSEF SHIRAZI

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRARIAN

WE MAKE STICKY COAL

Last week I argued that natural gas turbines and nuclear power are superior sources of electricity compared to coal. Not only do they pose less threat to human and environmental health, but they can also serve as low cost base load electricity.

Despite the alternatives available, society seems to lack the desire to stop the mining, transporting and burning of this black substance. While electricity generation from coal has decreased over the last few years in the United States (related to a rise in natural gas generation), this trend is projected to slow down dramatically. In a recently released report, the Energy Information Agency under the Obama Administration predicted that the United States (and the world) will continue to lean heavily on coal even by 2040. Global coal consumption is set to nearly double by 2040. So much for a revolutionary green future in our lifetimes.

Why do we continue this coal habit? Why do the most knowledgeable experts, in an agency overseen by a progressive administration, no less, project we will be incapable or unwilling to make substantial change? This is especially shocking in the United States where there exists an abundance of cheap and readily available alternatives.

First, coal generation is cheap for the power producer and consumer. In our largely deregulated generation market, low cost prevails. Coal deposits are plentiful in the United States, and coal is easily mined, transported and stockpiled. However, many costs of coal are external to the market, and appear cryptically in other segments of society like increased hospital bills, sick days, degraded habitats and contribution to climate change. These externalities, while often ignored, are necessary for calculating the true cost of coal to society. Needless to say, the true cost of coal is much higher than the market price, with society absorbing the extra costs.

Coal also sticks around because many people are complacent with their current electricity generation mix. While residents might support the concept of clean or renewable electricity in theory, very few take simple meaningful action to support it. For example, many areas in the United States have near-seamless green power pricing options for residential bill payers, but participation rates are extremely low, hovering around one percent for the last decade.

There is no better way to send market signals that we want green power, but almost no one elects to pay the extra penny or so per kilowatt hour to do so. In the Newark area, for example, individuals are able to source electricity from Next Era

Energy with a high renewable energy mix and comparable rates compared to the default electricity generation.

Another important, but overlooked, factor for the continued operation of outdated coal plants is the difficulty in siting new power plants. Regardless of fuel, technology or location, proposed power plants are likely to become stuck in tortuous legal and ethical battles with disgruntled nearby citizens.

Whenever a power plant is proposed, it is almost certain to attract opposition from some segment of the local population. This certainly does not mean that opposition is necessarily bad, just that it is prevalent regardless of circumstance. Wind turbines have been vehemently opposed on land and at sea. Large solar plants have been vigorously opposed in the desert. Nuclear plants are similarly opposed at nearly every location.

Long, drawn out battles, sometimes stretching over a decade, have increased the financial risks associated with constructing new (and therefore relatively clean) plants, and has sapped motivation by firms to pursue new construction. Without new power plants, existing plant infrastructure (largely outdated coal) enjoys a structural advantage and continue operation far passed their otherwise optimal lifetime.

There are a variety of underlying human psychological phenomena at work in these opposition movements. In

general, people are highly resistant to negative change regardless of the existing level of nuisance. Of low import is the actually background level of nuisance, while high importance is placed on any negative deviation. This is often termed "loss aversion" by behavioral economists (see Kahneman and Tversky). This disproportionate attention to negative change (while exhibiting near indifference to background levels) can apply to air pollution, increases in noise, obstruction of view or any other observable metric. Additionally, the frequently observed difference between "willingness to pay" and "willingness to accept," as well as the phenomenon known as "drawbridge mentality" are similar psychological quirks that can help explain motivations for local opposition.

Because of the low nominal price for coal, the shamefully low levels of voluntary support for green electricity by utility payers, and the financial risk associated with constructing new power plants (due to the prevalence of opposition), coal plants are likely to stick around for decades into the future. In no small way, environmentalists contribute to coal's exceptional stickiness. When we oppose nuclear and natural gas plants (the two leading producers electricity after coal), we cast a vote not for renewable fuel but for coal. Next week I will explore unintended environmental consequences of opposition to a locally proposed power plant.

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VC Print Sale

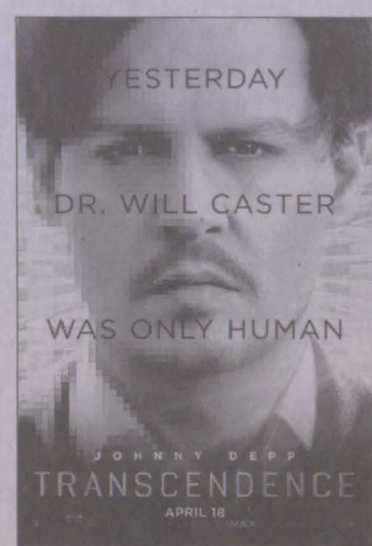


CHELSEA SIMONS

Senior Alex Paro manages the Visual Communications 50/50 print sale. One half of the money paid for each print goes back into the artist's pocket while the other half goes towards the Visual Communication senior art show.

TRANSCENDENCE

2.5 OUT OF 5



COURTESY OF FORBES.COM

"Don't lose yourself," are the dying words of Will Caster (Johnny Depp) to his wife, Evelyn (Rebecca Hall) in "Transcendence." His words contain probably the most important lesson from the movie: Don't lose your humanity. "Transcendence," directed by Wally Pfister, who is mostly known for his role as a cinematographer for "Inception," narrates a story about the struggle between

humanity and science.

With help from their best friend, Max Waters (Paul Bettany), Caster and his wife have worked many years developing artificial intelligence that could reveal the wonder of one's consciousness, ultimately transcending humanity into the next level. When a radical terrorist terminally wounds Caster, they encounter an opportunity and a choice. Due to the technology they have developed, they can now transfer Caster's consciousness to a computer, permanently keeping his mind alive. But will he be the same person after being transcended? Would this help the world, or would it bring the destruction of humanity as we know it?

Surprisingly "Transcendence" is a philosophically provocative film, examining the ethical limits of science over humanity, and it opens up a room for discussions, particularly about the capacity of human minds. The unique idea about this movie is that it is not about simply building an artificial intelligence but more about transcending humans into more superior beings.

The pivotal question in the

movie is how much of humanity would a person lose after being transcended? This conception is established early in the movie from Caster's dying words. The movie also tries to illustrate people's constant resistant against changes and offers both positive and negative aspects of the new type of scientific advance.

Unfortunately, the film fails to deliver such intellectual stimulation due to its flaws. The first problem with the movie is its pace. The film feels a lot longer than it should have been, and the long scenes do not provide as strong emotional connection to the audience as it probably intended. While some parts of the movie are exciting, they, again, fail to compensate for the movie's generally slow pace.

Cinematography in the movie is well done. However, beautiful sceneries seem distant and even random in the context of the main plot. Although those seemingly random sceneries do contain various clues for the ending of the movie, the audience's patience and interest probably would have run out by the end.

A real downfall of the

movie comes from its inability to properly utilize an excellent cast including Morgan Freeman and Cillian Murphy. Conversations in the movie also lack an authentic flow, making the characters seem somewhat insincere. The characters give each other warnings, which they without fail ignore. The characters' lack of common sense only adds irritates the audience further, and ultimately leads to disappointment.

"Transcendence" is ultimately a movie that praises humanity while leaving room for the integration of science in humanity. In a way, it tries to transcend the audience's thoughts, provoking many possible discussions. While it is easy to grasp the message, the film makes it nearly impossible for the audience to feel inspired or provoked by the message. The film, even with so much potential, fails to surpass expectations.

—Jae Woo Chung
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UD student named Delaware Soldier of the Year



Kyle Sullivan receives his award for Delaware Soldier of the Year. Sullivan participates in the university's ROTC program.

BY KYLE COULTER
Staff Reporter

Unlike most college students, sophomore Kyle Sullivan goes to bed at 9 p.m. and is willing to wake up at 4:30 a.m. to perform a physical fitness test in sub-freezing temperatures.

Sullivan is a member of the university's U.S. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corp (ROTC) as well as the Delaware Army National Guard and this past March, Sullivan took part in the Delaware Soldier of the Year competition, where he won against nine other soldiers.

Sullivan, who graduated at the top of his National Guard human resource class with distinguished honor, says he was nominated by the group leadership to represent his unit at the competition, which took place at the ice-covered National Guard training facility

in Pennsylvania during the first weekend in March.

Sullivan was informed of his nomination only a few months before the competition, but says he received a confidence booster from a soldier who had competed the year prior.

"I told him I was competing and he said, 'You know they only pick the best guys for that,'" Sullivan says. "I didn't see myself being in those shoes. I didn't want to let my unit down."

Sergeant First Class Kofi Kyereme is Sullivan's current professor of military science at the university, and says he taught Sullivan the art of lane navigation, as well as tactics and leadership techniques.

Kyereme says Sullivan is a remarkably punctual student, a good leader and currently has a 4.0 grade point average in the ROTC classes, which is just slightly

above his overall academic GPA of a 3.7.

"I'm not here trying to sugar-coat a kid, but he is one of my studs," Kyereme said. "He's an ideal soldier that I would love to have had in my platoon two years ago when I was in Iraq and Afghanistan."

The competition featured six events, spread out over two days that tested both mental and physical ability. Sullivan says he came in either first or second in every one, showing "consistency across the board," which was what the officers who were judging the event were looking for.

One of the events was a first aid test, in which Sullivan had to perform a medical procedure on a simulated victim. For his scenario, he had to attend to a soldier who had "gotten his leg shot off," apply a tourniquet and stop the bleeding while in the middle of a

simulated battlefield.

Sullivan also excelled at the marksmanship portion of the competition, where he says he achieved Sharpshooter level, the second highest level possible, by hitting 34 out of 40 targets with both a pistol and an M16 rifle. He was able to attain this mark, even though it was the first time he had ever shot a pistol, and his hands were shaking from the cold, Sullivan says.

"I knew I was in the running to win, so I was trying not to let the pistol beat me," Sullivan says. "I wasn't too nervous when I started shooting because it kind of came to me."

Sullivan says the event that he believed won him the competition was also the hardest thing he had ever done in the Army. The task was lane navigation, where he says he had to plot five points on a map and make his way across the completely ice covered course to each one in the fastest time possible.

"I fell a lot on the ice, and I just picked myself up," Sullivan says. "I was using the ice to push myself. I was getting mad at it and it made me push myself even harder so I could get out of the cold."

For the last event of the competition, Sullivan says he had to march four miles with a 40-pound "ruck" on his back. Although the cold weather was a hindrance for him for most of the weekend, Sullivan says he recalled that during the march, he stuck out his tongue to catch the falling snowflakes just to get some extra water. It was possibly that extra hydration that propelled him to finish second out of the ten competitors, and solidify his place as the overall winner, Sullivan says.

Sullivan says he had a pretty good feeling that he was going to win, and when he heard the name of his closest competitor called as the runner-up, he knew that his feeling was correct.

"They called my name and it was pretty surreal," Sullivan says.

"I was kind of impressed with myself. I kind of stepped back and said, 'Woah!' I must have been doing something right to get to this position."

This title will go on Sullivan's ROTC record and give him an advantage when it comes to deciding which of the 15 "snuffies" out of the class of 30 will be selected to become a recognized cadet in the military, Kyereme says.

Sullivan says he got the motivation to enlist in the military from his father, who has been in the Marines for the past 30 years and, currently, the National Guard.

It has not always been easy handling his demanding schedule, Sullivan says; however, he was thankful for the teachers who have helped him find a "happy balance."

Graduate student Ryan Evans, one of Sullivan's former professors, says he would help Sullivan with school work, and often times give him a couple extra days to finish assignments when Sullivan had to fulfill his military duties.

"I kind of saw myself in Kyle," Evans says. "He's a great student and a very, very smart person. And that made me want to help him even more."

Upon learning that his former student had won the title of Delaware Soldier of the Year, Evans eyes widened with pride.

"That's incredible," Evans says. "That does not surprise me at all though."

Sullivan will now take part in the regional competition which will take place in May. If he is able to win, he will move on to compete for the title of National Soldier of the Year.

Sullivan says his greatest feat was pushing himself to join the military in the first place; however, he is optimistic that there is still a lot left to conquer.

"I would like to think of this as not my last accomplishment," Sullivan says. "Just one of many to come."



SARAH BRAVERMAN

SARAH'S SPOTLIGHT

HTAC: D.I.S.C.O. IX

Next weekend the disco is returning to campus. No, I don't mean the dance craze. The D.I.S.C.O.—Delaware Improvisation and Sketch Comedy O'Festival. Hosted by the Rubber Chickens improv group, this year marks the ninth consecutive year D.I.S.C.O. has been in action. I spoke with Kelly Grzanic, senior and president of the Rubber Chickens, about this year's event and her involvement in D.I.S.C.O. over the past four years.

D.I.S.C.O. is an annual event, and Grzanic says it's a tradition for it to be held in the spring. The Rubber

Chickens bring different college improv groups, indie groups and professional groups to the university to connect, share art and perform. The vice president of Rubber Chickens, Matt Roarty, is in charge of organizing this year's event. Grzanic says she was vice president last year so she understands how the planning process works. She has helped Roarty with anything he's needed in terms of booking, getting contracts organized and keeping track of finances.

The event is split into two nights — Friday and Saturday. Grzanic says Friday features more college improv

groups including the university's own Rubber Chickens and Riot Act as well as A4Effort from Rutgers and Improv on Rye, a professional troupe from Maryland. She says the band Grey Visions is also performing on Friday. Saturday features The Bureau, from University of Maryland, and professional troupes Mister Sister and The Improvised Shakespeare Company as well as musician Katie Dill. The Improvised Shakespeare Company hails from Chicago and performs entirely in Shakespearean rhyme and meter.

Grzanic says the groups get to warm up together and hang out

throughout the weekend, and since the university's groups are hosting, many visiting participants stay overnight at their host's houses and crash on their couches, giving the groups even more opportunities to bond. Grzanic says her favorite parts of the weekend are connecting with improvisors from other school and cities, enjoying the company of these artists and sharing this comedic art with audiences. She first became involved in the Rubber Chickens during her freshman year. After attending a show, she decided she had to audition. This group has been a huge part of her college experience, she says.

When asked why I should attend D.I.S.C.O. IX, Grzanic countered immediately with the question, "Do you like to laugh?" Yes, I like to laugh! I've attended Rubber Chickens and Riot Act shows throughout my time at the university, but D.I.S.C.O. IX sounds like a whole new level of

improv. Grzanic says that all of the groups involved have mind-blowing amounts of talent.

"Improv is a release for audience members," Grzanic says. "You get to really tune into what the performers are doing, and they're hilarious. It's a release. That's as basic as it gets."

Get your fill of comedic release Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Bacchus Theatre in the basement of Perkins Student Center. Tickets for D.I.S.C.O. IX are \$3 for one night and \$5 for both and will be sold at the door. Grzanic suggests audience members stick around after performances as the improvisors would love to meet attendees and talk about the shows.

—Sarah Braverman braves@udel.edu

The views reflected in this column do not necessarily represent those of The Review

The Waffle Stompers, Innoko and The Rodjects fill Perkins with rock music

BY MADELAINE LEVEY
Staff Reporter

Guitar strums, drum beats and bass lines filled the air Saturday night as students and members of the community gathered in the Ewing Room in Perkins Student Center to hear tunes from three local bands: The Rodjects, Innoko and The Waffle Stompers.

Starting at 7 p.m., the concert began with a performance by The Rodjects. The Rodjects performed a set that included both original songs and covers of popular songs such as Cage The Elephant's "Ain't No Rest For The Wicked" and Lorde's "Royals."

Innoko took the stage, following The Rodject's performance. Junior Andrew Connell, guitarist and vocalist for the band, said the group's style is "groovy, folk, alternative rock."

Innoko is comprised of junior Andrew Connell on the guitar and vocals, junior Chip Keever on bass, Jon Cohen, 23, on guitar, Dan Keever, 18, on drums and Alton Haynes, 25, on percussion.

"All five of us have unique styles of music and we take different pieces of all of our favorites and combine them into one," Connell says.

Innoko's namesake was inspired by Native American influences, Connell says. Its music is a product of the members' personal styles, he says. Connell says rock groups such as Local Natives, Lord



The Rodjects perform in Perkins Ewing Room on April 19th.

Huron and Gives, amongst others, influence the band.

Innoko played songs from its recently released EP, "First Light," as well as more original songs like "Coastlines" and "Naomi."

Throughout their set, Connell introduced each song and described the songs' influencers. Before

playing "Coastlines," he said the song makes him feel as though he is on a beach.

"We play about two shows a month," Connell says. "One of our favorite things about playing in the Newark area is that most of our friends are here and our families are local so they all come see us and

support us."

Sophomore Jack McMahon attended Saturday's concert, and says he has seen both The Rodjects and Innoko perform before.

"I know members of both bands and have seen them perform a few times on campus," McMahon says.

The post-ska band The Waffle

Stompers followed Innoko's performance. The Waffle Stompers hail from New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Ted Moore, the manager and guitarist for the band, says The Waffle Stompers name has been around since the initial formation of the band and is a reference to the soles on shoes that are typically worn while skateboarding.

"The Waffle Stompers began in 2001, but in the state we are today, we've started touring in 2008," Moore says.

The Waffle Stompers have toured across the country at multiple universities, and have performed at the university in the past.

"UD is one of our favorite colleges," Moore says. "Whenever we go there's always a solid group, a good crowd that wants to dance, sing along and get sweaty with us."

The Waffle Stompers encouraged audience members to catch onto their energy and dance around throughout their set. Members of the audience followed the lead of the band and were dancing and jumping to each song.

The Waffle Stompers have plans to continue performing and touring.

"We want to keep this band in any form that we can that make us happy," Moore says. "Our goals are to tour the rest of the country, which we're looking to do this summer and to start releasing music independently."

From Ghana to Delaware, Opoku looks to make impact next season

BY PAUL TIERNEY
Managing Sports Editor

To a betting man, Delaware senior wide receiver Andrew Opoku is an anomaly. The neighborhoods that instilled within him the discipline required to become a Division I college football player are the same neighborhoods that robbed him of childhood friends and cast a stigma upon him that nearly pillaged ambitions of stardom from his grasp. Statistically, he was never supposed to make it out.

Growing up in a village just outside Accra, Ghana, Opoku remembers the agony he felt embedded in the pit of his stomach after surviving days between meals. He and his friends often found themselves hurling rocks at pigeons, hoping they could knock one out of the blazing African sky and devour it for lunch. They threw those same rocks at decomposing dead bodies scattered alongside dirt roads that led to nowhere, as far as Opoku was concerned, because he had no shoes to walk down them.

"It was rough," Opoku said. "Sickness, hunger. Death is not abnormal where I'm from. It was nothing like America where someone dies and everybody is like 'Whoa.' Death happens all the time in Ghana."

Born in New Brunswick, N.J., Opoku was still breast feeding when he was separated from his mother for the first time. At six months old, Opoku's biological father left him in Ghana with his aunt at the behest of his mother, Vidā Graham-Acquaah, who birthed him on Nov. 11, 1990, which coincidentally was her 25th birthday. Opoku spent his first birthday away from his parents while they worked day and night to make ends meet.

Opoku returned home when he was 13 months old, but it didn't last. Not long after he was born, his parents divorced, leaving his mother with four young kids and no money for daycare. Left without options, Graham-Acquaah sent Opoku and his younger sister, Chandra, to Ghana to live with their grandmother. He was just three years old.

"I had no choice, but I knew I wanted a better life for my kids," Graham-Acquaah said. "I love my kids very much and I didn't want to part with them. But I knew I couldn't finish school with four children, so I had to make that tough decision to



COURTESY OF UD MEDIA RELATIONS/BLUEHENS.COM

Delaware senior wide receiver Andrew Opoku hopes to have a breakout 2014 campaign and impress NFL scouts next season.

let my mother take the children to Ghana with her."

Opoku didn't see his mother again for nearly three years. In Ghana, he'd wake up at 5:30 a.m. and walk to a local church that doubled as a school. His teachers focused heavily on mathematics, often physically abusing students who answered questions incorrectly or even with hesitation.

As the years past, Opoku's hopes of ever returning to America grew weary. He was over 5,000 miles away. All he knew of his American family came from pictures hung

along the walls of his home.

Every day, Opoku told his friends that he'd make it back to the United States. His aspirations of a better life were scolded by his peers time and time again, but he kept dreaming that one day, he'd be able to live the American dream.

But Opoku's dreams weren't necessarily of a lavish lifestyle. He just wanted a hamburger.

"When you're in Africa, your idea of America is just the home of the free," Opoku said. "It's the finish and the glory land. Whenever you speak of America, that's just what it

is. Once you get there, you're free. You've made it. That's where the money is. That's where success is. That's where McDonald's is."

Eventually, he made it to see the golden arches.

Something to Work For

When Opoku was six, Graham-Acquaah completed her accounting degree at Rider University, setting the stage for her children to return home. When Opoku arrived at the airport, he had a picture of his mother on hand so he knew who to look for. The first thing they did together was

go to McDonald's. Opoku got a Happy Meal, complete with a Tech Deck finger skateboard.

But the struggle was far from over.

Opoku was kicked out of five schools before he reached high school. Graham-Acquaah was petrified every time her phone rang, thinking it was another school administrator calling to tell her that her son was in trouble. Opoku said his mom considered sending him back to Ghana if his behavior didn't improve.

"I kept putting my mother through stress and kept seeing her cry and all that," Opoku said. "My siblings were always upset at me. I used to get teased because I had an accent. I was fighting kids because they would pick on me. I was just misunderstood, the way teachers used to talk to me at times. I wouldn't go out looking for trouble, but I just had to adapt to a new culture."

Athletically, Opoku adapted just fine. While his academic life was in flames, he excelled at every sport he played. After missing Pop Warner football sign-ups during his first year in the United States, he took on karate and soccer as his first ventures into athletics.

But when football season came around again, Opoku was unstoppable.

"My first position I started playing was running back," Opoku said. "I used score every time. Like, every time. I was the biggest one. Nobody could tackle me."

It wasn't until sophomore year of high school Opoku realized football could be his ticket off the streets on North Brunswick. One day while he was asleep in his room, his mother walked in with a phone call for him. Opoku thought it was another teacher ready to scold his behavior at school, but instead, his life changed.

It was a coach from Illinois State University. For the first time since he came to the United States, somebody told Opoku he had the ability to make something of himself.

"The phone was on speaker," Opoku said. "My mother was listening to everything. That was like the snap point for me. I was like 'All right, I have something to work for.' That's what really turned it around."

See OPOKU page 15

Baseball takes two of three from Hofstra

BY MEGHAN O'DONNELL
Sports Assignment Editor

Going into their weekend series with Hofstra, the Delaware baseball team was slumping. They had lost four of their last five games, were 3-5 in conference play and had struggled both offensively and defensively.

Needing a win, the Blue Hens got off to a promising start in the first game. After two scoreless innings, Delaware junior catcher Ty Warrington led off the third with a double to left.

Senior infielder E.J. Stoltzfus would hit into a fielder's choice that scored Warrington and gave the Blue Hens the early lead.

Later in the inning, junior infielder Zach Lopes extended the lead with an RBI single to left field.

Up 2-0, senior starting pitcher Dan Gatto held off the Hofstra offense until it launched a sixth-inning comeback.

TJ Ehram stole home as part of a perfectly executed double steal, cutting Delaware's lead in half.

The Pride would tie the game at two, then took the lead just an inning later, when a couple of wild pitches from Gatto allowed Ryan Donovan to score. Though Gatto closed out the inning, Delaware's early lead had vanished.

Down by just one run, the team failed to muster any offense in the remaining two innings, falling to the Pride 3-2.

"Dan Gatto has been phenomenal all year," said junior outfielder Norm Donkin. "It stinks because we haven't gotten the run support."

With two more games to play against the Pride, Delaware quickly put the loss behind them.

"We came out the next few days with a chip on our shoulder knowing that we could dominate Hofstra and that we definitely could've played better that first game," Donkin said.



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Junior catcher Ty Warrington had two hits on Saturday. The Blue Hens took two of three against Hofstra this weekend.

The Blue Hens would turn the tide in the second game, and it would help them go on to claim the series.

The second game was scoreless through five, but the Delaware offense slowly came alive in the sixth, as Stoltzfus scored on a RBI single by Lopes.

The team continued to add to their lead in the seventh, after a groundout by Warrington scored freshman infielder Doug Trimble. Redshirt junior Joe Giacchino followed with a single that scored junior infielder Ryan Hartley to give the Blue Hens a 3-0 lead.

"After that first game, coach told us that we needed to give our pitching staff some support with our bats," Giacchino said.

The team did just that. A three-run offensive outburst in the eighth sealed the victory. Redshirt junior outfielder Tyler Powell knocked in a run, and Warrington walked to put the Blue Hens up by five. After Trimble was hit by a pitch, Lopes scored to earn Delaware the 6-0 win.

The Blue Hens' victory was aided on the mound by freshman lefty Kevin Milley, who earned his second win of the season, and junior righty Luke Alicknavitch recorded his fifth save.

Having evened the series at one, the Blue Hens went into the rubber match determined.

However, it was another slow start offensively, as the game was scoreless through

three. Pitching in a tight game, Redshirt freshman righty Chad Martin allowed only seven hits over nine innings.

Delaware got Martin some run support in the fourth, thanks to a single by senior Jake Clark and a Hofstra error that scored Lopes. The Blue Hens went up 3-0 in the seventh, thanks to Stoltzfus, who hit an RBI double.

However, it was not until the ninth that Delaware sealed the game. Sparked by Donkin's two run double, the Blue Hens scored six to close out the game.

Though he allowed a run in the bottom of the ninth, Martin closed out the 9-1 victory for the Blue Hens, earning his fourth win of the season.

Donkin said the pitching staff played a huge role.

"All of our pitchers really battled all weekend and gave us chances to win and on Saturday and Sunday we kind of pulled it all together and scored some runs for them," Donkin said.

Delaware will take on Temple next at home on Wednesday at 3 p.m. at Bob Hannah Stadium.

With 14 regular season games remaining, Donkin said the team will continue to improve.

"We're a pretty good team and we know we're a good team so I think we'll be able to play better to finish out the year," Donkin said.



COURTESY OF BLUEHENS.COM

Under new coach Kevin Gruber, the Delaware women's rowing team has exceeded expectations so far this season.

Women's rowing preparing for CAAs

BY BRANDON DECK
Senior Sports Reporter

In the eyes of Delaware women's rowing coach Kevin Gruber, there are seven steps in attaining mental toughness. It begins with focus, then challenging oneself, followed by composure, letting go, passion and putting the team first. The seventh and final step asks a player to complete the circle in whichever way seems fitting.

For the women's rowing team, the blank seems to have been filled by progress and amenity.

In Gruber's second year at the helm, the women's rowing team is beginning to find its knack again in the rivers of the mid-Atlantic. The 2012-2013 season saw an entire staff change for the team, an unprecedented move which meant unavoidable transitioning among the crews.

"There's a natural transition anytime there is a coaching change," Gruber said. "Things were dialed in when I got here. There was a pretty good system in place. I still wanted to tweak things though, do some things my own way. There was definitely transitioning last year, but asking them to work hard was already instilled as a team. That wasn't news to them."

Graduating several rowers, the team ended last year on a strong note at the CAA Tournament, where the varsity eights defeated the Eastern Michigan University Eagles, a known rival in previous years.

Entering this year, the team did not know what to expect and aimed for a season of improvement. In an effort to top their earlier accomplishments, members discussed regularly of advancing more than one crew during the Dad Vail Regatta, the largest regular intercollegiate rowing event in the United States, held annually on the Schuylkill River, in Philadelphia, Pa.

"We ended in fifth last year, and hope to finish in the top three slots

at this year's CAA [Tournament]," junior Varsity Eights rower Calla Cissel said. "We gained a lot of speed over winter, after going through a pretty intense training camp, with two practices-a-day on top of weightlifting. We're getting faster and faster throughout the spring."

In the water, the girls have already begun filling in that blank left open to interpretation by Gruber. Although they were the only boat to advance to the final from Delaware, the mid-April heats at Knecht Cup in West Windsor Township, N.J., saw the Varsity Eights post record times.

Neck-and-neck with top crews like the University of Alabama and conference rival University at Buffalo, the crew posted a fifth-place finish by earning a time of 7:12.37 in the race and a 17th place showing. The girls attribute much of this newfound success to the styles and habits of Gruber.

"I've had three coaches during my time here, and out of the three he is easily my favorite," senior Second Varsity Eights rower Meredith Murphy said. "The dynamic of having a male coach versus a female one has its subtle and predicted differences, but Kevin just wants to go fast. Everyone is so much faster this year. He's brought a whole new focus."

Before the CAA Tournament comes around in mid-May, the rowers are contending in a quad-meet with Bucknell University, University of Connecticut and Boston University and also must prepare for the looming Dad Vail Regatta.

"Improvement is the ultimate goal," Gruber said. "It's going to take some real good racing from the three crews we send up there to make that happen. But there's a lot of faith amongst these girls, and we all believe in all of our effort."

The quad-meet will be held on Bucknell's campus at Pinchot Lake, in Lewisberry, Pa., on Saturday.

OPOKU: 'I BELIEVED IN MYSELF, AND THAT'S WHAT REALLY MATTERED.'

Continued from page 14

Not a day goes by

Opoku was 16 when he went over his best friend Tyler Smith's house for a day of video games, home-cooked food and a break from reality. They played Tyler's brand new PlayStation 3 for hours, taking their minds off the violence that often plagued their childhoods.

Two days later, Tyler had a sleepover with friends. Opoku couldn't attend because he had a football game the next day. In the early hours of the morning, Tyler was found unconscious with blood dripping down his nose. He never woke up.

"It was just like coming from Ghana to America, death is everywhere," Opoku said. "When that happened with Tyler, that hit me hard. That was a really close friend to me. Not a day goes by when I don't think of him."

Tyler's mother gave Opoku the PlayStation. He still has it. And this wasn't the last time death touched Opoku's life.

In 2008, Opoku's close friend Jeron Baker was shot just inches away from his heart after football practice. Opoku and Jeron were together nearly every day after school, but Opoku was at home the day Jeron was shot.

Jeron survived. But Eric Andrews didn't. On Dec. 29 of last year, Andrews, who was signed to Opoku's brother George's rap label, was murdered in a barbershop in full view of Andrews' father.

For Graham-Acquaah, letting her children fall victim to the streets wasn't never an option.

"Being out in the streets and taking in that kind of life was not one that me or my husband would tolerate," Graham-Acquaah, who is now remarried, said. "We set rules for our children. They could not be sagging their pants. They

could not be out there with us not knowing where they were. It was understood."

To this day, Opoku has never been arrested. But it took the efforts of an entire community to keep it that way. Opoku said that whenever a problem came up, his friends always told him to keep him away from trouble.

"It's just like back home in Ghana, your neighborhood, that's your village, that's your tribe," Opoku said. "Everybody took care of one another. We're going to fight. There's going to be trouble, but we all stuck together. And my friends started to respect me and respect what I did once they saw I was taking it serious. When there was an issue, they'll tell me 'No, you just focus on football.'"

Making a Decision

After hearing from Illinois State, Opoku's heart was set on playing Division I college football at the University of Miami. But his 1.9 GPA at North Brunswick High School was not going to get him there.

At first, his friends told him he would never make it.

"When I was in Ghana, I told my friends I was going to come to America, that I was going to live the American life," Opoku said. "They didn't believe it. I always used to get teased about that. But it was crazy because I went through the same thing when I said I wanted to play college ball. My friends at home, they didn't believe in me. Same thing at school, my teammates didn't believe in me. I believed in myself, and that's what really mattered."

He spent the final years of his high school career working with tutor after tutor to get his grades up. Eventually, Opoku made the honor roll and got himself eligible to pass.

His first firm offer to play college football came from Illinois

State. But after Miami didn't come calling, his heart was set on Rutgers University. He'd often don Scarlet Knights gear to the school's recreational facilities for workouts. His cousin, who played for the football team, introduced Opoku to star players such as Ray Rice and Kenny Britt.

Opoku got his offer from Rutgers, which at the time he said was a dream come true. But questions arose when Opoku started hearing rumors that (now former) Rutgers coach Greg Schiano thought Opoku had gang tattoos and would be a bad locker room influence. Opoku doesn't have any tattoos.

Come signing day, he was blindsided.

"Rutgers was waiting on another kid to sign or something like that, and I'm like 'Wait, what?'" Opoku said. "'You're trying to say I don't have my offer anymore?' They were playing shady games."

Opoku signed with Temple University, knowing he wasn't going there either. He still had to prove to himself and to others that he was no longer the person who couldn't stay in school. He signed a scholarship with Fork Union Military Academy in Virginia.

At Fork Union, Opoku woke up at 5:30 a.m. each morning. There were no cell phones, no girls and no visits. He graduated with no demerits.

From UConn to UD

In 2010, Opoku signed a scholarship to play for Randy Edsall at the University of Connecticut. During his redshirt freshman year, the team made it to the Fiesta Bowl, where it lost to Oklahoma.

Edsall, who left after the season to take the head coaching job at the University of Maryland, didn't even come back into the locker room after the loss to say

goodbye to his team, which left a sour taste in the mouths of players. Several players transferred after the season, setting the Huskies up for a 5-7 2011 campaign. After some run-ins with new coach Paul Pasqualoni and even getting suspended for a game, Opoku decided it was time for him to move on from UConn.

With promises of being able to play outside linebacker at Delaware, Opoku came to Newark for a fresh start. Because he went from a Football Bowl Subdivision school to a Football Championship Subdivision school, he did not have to sit out a year.

But he never got to play outside linebacker. He was moved to full-time defensive end duties once he made it to Delaware, a position he said he was not able to put his heart into. During his first season as a Blue Hen, Opoku told his coaches he wanted to move to wide receiver, the position he played in high school. They listened.



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Andrew Opoku said his life was heavily impacted by the death's of several childhood friends. Growing up in North Brunswick, Opoku said his neighborhood was heavily impacted by violence.



SARA PFEFER/THE REVIEW

Senior infielder Michelle McKinnon squares to bunt during the Delaware softball team's weekend series against Hofstra. Delaware lost all three games.

Lady Hens get swept by Pride

BY JACK COBOURN
Sports Assignment Editor

Having beaten Rider University in a doubleheader Wednesday, the Delaware softball team came into the weekend's conference play against Hofstra having won three out of its last four games. However, the Pride claimed all three games, outscoring the Lady Hens 28-3.

Head coach Jaime Wohlbach said the team was strong, but Hofstra was better throughout the weekend.

"I feel that we're a better team than we played this weekend," Wohlbach said. "You have to give credit to Hofstra, they have a lot of tradition in their program, and they showed up at Delaware and played good softball. But we battled, we battled, and offensively we just have to get things going."

The weekend began on a sour note for Delaware, as Hofstra shut it out, 15-0, in a five-inning first game of a doubleheader on Saturday. The Pride scored three runs in the first two innings before coming up big in the third with eight runs.

Delaware improved its chances in Saturday's second game, holding Hofstra scoreless through the first three innings before the Pride opened up the third inning by scoring four runs. The Lady Hens were able to get a run on Saturday in the bottom of the fourth, when freshman utility player Sarah Bencivenga got on base with a double before scoring on a single by sophomore utility player Lisa Stacevicz. However, Hofstra added another run in the sixth inning and closed out the

5-1 victory.

The third and final game of the series on Sunday proved to be Delaware's strongest, as they scored two runs in the bottom of the first, as senior infielder Michelle McKinnon brought in Bencivenga and freshman utility player Giovanna Kolofer. However, those were the only two runs Delaware scored, as the Pride took an 8-2 victory.

Bencivenga said the Lady Hens gave it their all in the last game of the weekend.

"I think that what matters at the end of the game is, we were in control and came up big," Bencivenga said. "I think a lot of us, including myself, put the ball in play and hit it hard, but they made the plays."

Offensively, Delaware improved over the weekend's play, getting two hits in Saturday's first game, four in the second and five in Sunday's game. However, Hofstra had 29 hits over the three games.

McKinnon said the Lady Hens were not able to build on their offensive efforts, and they did not get many chances to do so.

"I don't think we executed well offensively," McKinnon said. "We were against tough pitching, we put the ball in play, we hit the ball in play, we hit the ball hard, the shots we hit hard went by two people. We didn't catch any breaks offensively. We were aggressive, but we didn't put it together."

Defensively, Delaware stayed level throughout the weekend, giving up two errors in Saturday's first game and Sunday's game. The pitching staff

took a hit though, as three pitchers were used in Saturday's first game, and freshman right-hander Carolyn Szymanski was credited with the loss. Sophomore righty Kelly Lupton took the complete game loss in Saturday's second game, and then Szymanski had her second loss of the weekend in Sunday's game, bringing her to an 11-11 record for the season.

McKinnon said while the defense started strong, the problems would snowball after one problematic inning.

"We held our own for a bit, and then we had innings where it kind of got away from us a little bit," she said. "We would give up one bad inning, and then we'd be strong for most of the game, and then we'd have one bad inning, and it was hard to recover."

With the losses, the Lady Hens fall to 21-22 overall (5-9 CAA), good enough for fifth in the conference standings. The team will need to win its next three conference games to get into the tournament. They will play a doubleheader against St. Peter's on Wednesday at the Delaware Softball Stadium before playing their final conference games at James Madison on Saturday and Sunday.

McKinnon said the team will most likely be going back to basics in practice this week.

"I think we're going to be working on just straight-up fundamentals, really just trying to keep things simple, and trying to get one on at a time, trying to play one play at a time and just focus on that," she said. "I think we need to focus on doing all the little things right so that the big things come together."

COMMENTARY
'ARE YOU NOT ENTERTAINED?'

BRANDON DECK

In an attempt to capture that unruly state-school student section they see on television, the vast majority of students attend the first two or three home football games their freshman year. But what they tend to find out is that the varsity competition in Newark doesn't live up to their expectations.

Fans have their reasons: harsh university backlash against tailgating, consistent losing seasons from various teams, lack of excitement and rivalry. Whatever the case may be, unless you were recruited, sports was most likely not the reason you chose to attend Delaware.

Many wonder why we aren't like the teams of the Southeastern Conference. Why don't students know who plays for our teams? Why don't students want to spend their weekends cheering for the Blue Hens?

In the post Flacco-era, this student body seems to have given up on sports entirely. It needed a hero again, someone to prove that it's worth trekking down South College Avenue to the Big Bob. It was an unlikely luminary on an unlikely squad who gave us a glimpse of what seeing the Blue Hens on television was like. It was a luminary like Elena Delle Donne.

Although the women's basketball team only advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament in 2013, Delle Donne was the start of something different here on campus. Never before had students seen their social media conversations include the topic of Delaware sports. Never before had Main Street hotspots advertised for the games of their own team.

Elena Delle Donne put Delaware sports on the map. But did she help get your consideration, students? Unless friends or peers with an athlete, the majority of students could not name one varsity competitor besides Delle Donne; not even the women she played with on their Cinderella run (the likes of Lauren Carra and Kelsey Buchanan), or the Tina Martin, who guided the team there.

That all changed when the 2013-2014 men's basketball team captured the hearts and the attention of nearly everyone who saw them. Captivated by moments like Devon Saddler's capturing the all time scoring record, the men's team appeared in the NCAA tournament for the first time since

the 1999 season.

Also for the first time, thanks to the mayhem that is "March Madness" and the press that comes along with it, the Blue Hens were noticed not only by the local market but also by a national audience. There's a good chance that the amount of Americans who can now locate the state of Delaware on a map increased tenfold after March.

The fairytale story ended abruptly in Spokane, Wash. when they were swiftly defeated by the Michigan State Spartans. Perhaps they did not claim their ultimate goal, but they made a little town in a little state the proudest it's been in awhile.

But what lies next? Most of the men who lead the Blue Hens to the national spotlight will all receive their diplomas at the end of the semester. Chances of appearing in the NCAA tournament again are slim heading into the 2014-2015 season. But is that the only reason attendance soared? Are Blue Hen fans just jealous of the limelight? Was the passion true or forced?

Walt Disney once said, "I always like to look on the optimistic side of life, but I am realistic enough to know that life is a complex matter." Life in Newark, as most students can attest to, is complicated. To predict the future turnout of any team is a daunting and quite doubtful task to guess.

The optimist in me wants to believe people like Elena Delle Donne and Devon Saddler brought a noticeable change of heart. They shaped opinions that had not been thought about in years and gave past, current and future Blue Hens a reason to be proud of their school.

The realist in me, however, knows old habits die hard. About to enter my fourth year at the university, I have met nearly every kind of student Delaware has to offer. I have gone through the ropes, I have felt the stress, I have heard the desires. Although the men's basketball team did attract a large audience, the crowd wasn't truly seen in the stands until reports notified the public of their impending chances of playoff victory.

Where do we stand now, Blue Hen fans? What will it take to retain your devotion? Are you proud? Are you not entertained?





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