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UDance: A look inside the planning process, five weeks out

JACOB WASSERMAN
Senior Reporter

Each spring, thousands of students congregate in the Bob for the 12-hour UDance dance marathon, following months of preparation and fundraising. Occurring on March 24 this year, those responsible for the behind-the-scenes preparation of UDance find themselves in the annual planning chaos of the final weeks.

And the expectations are high — last year's UDance saw record-breaking success, the first ever to beat the two-million-dollars-raised threshold.

The executive board and groups planning the event are made up of 58 students broken into 15 teams, not including the many engagement coordinators, along with several faculty members and many other students. Each committee, with between two and six students, works on a different aspect of the event, all working towards a common goal: a successful event that raises as much money as possible for charity. Especially in these final weeks, each team spends an increasing amount of time together, working on their specific area.

The campus engagement team, for example, works to increase awareness, engagement and participation among different groups on campus. One of those groups is residence life.

Curtis Staropoli, a senior at the university, is one of the two co-residence life chairs and works with the representatives of each dorm to target people not in Greek life or a participating Registered Student Organization (RSO).

He said that he and his co-chair, Tesa Stone, work together well, complementing each other's skills. For instance, Stone was previously a resident assistant, and has been an engagement coordinator for UDance for three years, and Staropoli said she uses that experience to make their team more successful.

"When it comes to our fundraising totals and our community outreach so far, I attribute a lot of our success to Tesa's abilities," Staropoli said.

The three students overseeing the whole apparatus — comprising the executive board — are Kiera Meighan and Maddie Mahoney, who are co-executive directors, along with Grace Perigaut, the assistant director.

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"There's so much passion at our school," Meighan said. "Between the reps for athletics, the reps for RSO's and the reps for Greek life, it's pretty cool to see them want to kick it in high gear and find their why's ... and really put them into motion."

Every year, UDance is centered around a central theme. While this year's is still under wraps, it will be revealed on March 10 exclusively on social media, following a week of clues and teasers.

One other piece of the planning puzzle is booking entertainment, such as musical performances. Tryouts were held by the Entertainment Team to see which local talent will perform on March 24.

"They're doing a great job making sure we have the best acts that we took from last year that people really enjoyed, as well as some additional new entertainment," Staropoli said of the Entertainment Team.

Meighan also said that two crowd favorites from last year — Waldo and the Cardinal Shehan Choir from Baltimore, Md. — will be making return appearances due to heavy demand.

Meighan, rather than critiquing previous UDances

Rush week takes over the university

SHREYA GADDIPATI
Senior Reporter

With rush week upon the university, upwards of 1000 girls are searching for a sorority that is a perfect match for them. A walk through Perkins Student Center over the weekend made this much apparent, as Perkins and other campus buildings were filled with sorority members and prospective members, attending various meetings and events involved with the process.

The university has 114 years of Greek life under its belt. Currently, 28 percent of undergraduate students are involved in Greek life — about 4,900 members. The university's Panhellenic Council consists of 13 sororities, which encourage students to have "Strong focus on finding a chapter filled with women whose values align with yours."

Sorority recruitment is a two-week process, with most of events taking place over the weekend. As time goes on, potential new members (PNMs) must go through series of rounds, during which PNMs must visit a select number of houses and engage in a number of activities in order to find an environment that best suits them — such as the Open House Round, Sisterhood

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When world scholars and campus life collide

ALEXIS CAREL
Senior Reporter

In fall 2015, the university created the World Scholars program, targeting prospective students with wanderlust and who want to make travel a large part of their college career.

Students enrolled in this program study abroad for their first-year fall semester, choosing from what are now four countries: Italy, New Zealand, Spain and the newly-added option, Greece. These students then receive the opportunity to study abroad again their junior year, choosing from the greater pool of forty countries that the university offers trips to.

The university describes the "spirit of adventure" as being "part of our DNA." There is certainly an emphasis on the option to study abroad during the four or so years spent on campus, but the World Scholar program takes it a step further — ensuring a full semester abroad from the beginning, and at least one more trip within two years, all culminating in a senior year symposium showcasing the entire experience.

Elizabeth Kukulich, who returned from Rome in December and was itching to be on campus after the long winter break, was the second art major to be accepted into the World Scholars program. Although her intentions are to declare her concentration in Visual Communications her junior year, she spoke to several elements of the magic of being abroad in a city full of art her first semester of college.

Naturally, this included taking an art history class "on-site," where she got to see major pieces of Roman antiquity, including the Roman Forum, the Imperial Forum, the Coliseum, the Mausoleum of Augustus and Pompeii.

A Delaware native, Kukulich noted that the first week she spent in Rome was busy, as she was always doing something or walking somewhere, mentioning how each building ran along the Tiber River, so she couldn't have gotten lost even if she tried.

Kukulich had never left North America before and had always wanted to travel. She remembered being in-between the University of Delaware and her older brother's school, Saint Mary's College in Maryland. She said that the World Scholars program was the main reason why she picked the university, but preferred it regardless due to its busier city feel.

On the other hand, Alicia Stratman, an international business major from Kennett Square, Penn., found out about the program through the Common Application when applying to the university, where there was a "Tiny box asking 'Would you be interested in joining the World Scholars Program?'" which spurred her on to do research and inevitably apply.

Stratman had a long history with travel — she and her family

PHOTO COURTESY OF
ELIZABETH KUKULICH AND ALICA STRATMAN
Elizabeth Kukulich (left) and Alica Stratman (right)

PENCIL IT IN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16	SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18
Study Abroad and Global Studies Fair, 2 p.m., Trabant Multipurpose Rooms Spring career and internship fairs, 3 p.m., Bob Carpenter Center Visiting artist lecture: Jeremy Boyle, 5:30 p.m., Smith Hall Rm 130 Quizzo, 7 p.m., Perkins West Lounge	Lunar New Year celebration, 4 p.m., Perkins Rodney Room Adventures in Armenian Art, 5:30 p.m., Memorial Hall Rm 127 Recovery Yoga, 7 p.m., Christiana Engagement Center, Meeting Room B	Nutritious Newark Cook Off, 4 p.m., STAR Tower Black History Month Extravaganza, 7 p.m., Trabant Multipurpose Rooms	Deadline for changing meal plan Last day to add classes Perkins Live, 10 p.m., Perkins West Lounge	MLK Day of Service, 10 a.m., Perkins Delaware men's lacrosse v. Monmouth, 12 p.m., Delaware Stadium Delaware women's lacrosse v. Rutgers, 3 p.m., Delaware Stadium	Delaware men's tennis v. Johns Hopkins, 12 p.m., Elkton, Md., Elkton Indoor Tennis Delaware men's tennis v. Rider, 5 p.m., Elkton, Md., Elkton Indoor Tennis	Book talk and signing, Stephen Gavazzi, 10 a.m., Mitchell Hall 4th Annual African American Read-in, 4:30 p.m., Morris Library 33rd Annual Women's History Month Film Series, 7 p.m., Kirkbride Hall Rm 004

#TBT

Feb. 16, 1996

ESP class expands students' minds

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Meet the Mayoral Candidate: Jerry Clifton

JACOB BAUMGART
Associate News Editor

This article is the first installment of a series profiling candidates for the mayor of Newark. The election will take place on April 9.

Jerry Clifton started his political career when he was nine years old.

When most kids were oblivious to governmental workings, Clifton, the Newark City Council Member from the second district, was already immersed in it, delivering political literature for Wilmington's mayor, he said.

Clifton's interest in politics stems from his father's time at the Delaware News Journal, where Clifton said his father worked for 47 years.

"Through [my father], I got to know a lot of the people in public office, and I've always had an interest in it," he said. "So I grew up around this."

After almost two decades on the city council, Clifton is now running for a new position: mayor of Newark.

"I have 19 years of experience," he said. "I have 19 years of institutional knowledge ... There's no substitute for institutional knowledge or just experience dealing with the issues that we have."

Clifton said his take on government draws from his almost 21 years of service in the army and Delaware National Guard, where he learned the importance of leadership and collaboration.

"I think that we are going to have a more collaborative government," he said. "The next mayor has got to to make this a team sport."

Clifton, who described himself as fiscally conservative, said he occasionally has to vote in favor of costly projects because they are necessary to ensure the well-being of the city's long term future. As a politician in a representative government, Clifton said he sometimes has to advocate for what his constituents want and need, rather than promote his personal agenda.

"The answers all aren't sitting at the dais on council," he said. "The answers are in the neighborhoods."

Some of Clifton's most notable stances include opposing the university's acquisition of the Courtyard Apartments, expressing concern for potential lost business revenue during future Main Street construction and voting against increasing parking fees.

Though Clifton's history is in city-level government, he has previously debated whether he should run for a seat in the state legislature. He said that when an opportunity to run for the legislature presented itself, he opted to continue serving on the city council because he thought the council's services had an impact on residents' daily life.

"Delawareans expect to have a strong connection with their government," Clifton said. "That's not a 'nice-to-have.' That's a 'must-have.'"

Protecting this connection and quality of daily life is one of Clifton's frequent talking points, which ultimately leads to his search to better synthesize university students' lives with permanent Newark residents' lives.

Full-time residents frequently say the students' partying hurts the community, however.

This frequent complaint led the city council to develop "The Unruly Gathering Ordinance," which the council will read during next Monday's meeting. Clifton said he hopes the ordinance, if passed, will prevent some of the city's unlawful parties hosted both by students and permanent residents.

"We just want to have some teeth that, when those events occur, that the message sent that this isn't acceptable behavior," he said. "We welcome you into our town, but we want to know that you're not going to be a burden on your neighbor. And quite frankly I think that is a reasonable request ... You wouldn't act that way if your grandmother lived next door."

Clifton also wants to address developing more student housing to remedy the current deficit. He said he wants to do this by building newer housing close to campus without infringing upon local neighborhoods.

Clifton said that the university and Newark are intertwined. With that, he said he aims to assure both parties have the best possible experience while they live here.

"I think the initial [reason to run for mayor] is to preserve the quality of life in the city," Clifton said. "But with that being said, you can't remain stagnant. Just as we were looking at 'The Unruly Gathering Ordinance,' it's a matter of collaborating with the most important stakeholders, the residents, and listening to their concerns and moving forward with what they see are the issues."

Clifton, who has lived in Newark since 1992, said local politicians should be the cheerleaders of the town, always pushing it to grow.

"The work is far from being done, and it'll never be done, no matter who the mayor is, because we're a progressive city, and we're always going to be moving forward," Clifton said. "I look back. I'm proud of what we've done, and one thing about Newarkers: they got a lot of pride in the past, but they have more faith in the future."

UDance: A look inside the planning process, five weeks out

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

and identifying areas for improvement, praised past events, saying that a shared goal every year is to keep increasing attendance and participation.

"It wouldn't be possible without the entire UD community," Meighan said.

She also said that a major priority of hers is to allow the families of the B+ Heroes, the children battling cancer, to tell their stories. They have all gone through so much, and each individual story provides even more meaning to the work that UDance is doing.

"It is very special, because it means that they're very comfortable around us, and appreciate us so much that they're willing to be vulnerable in front of thousands of people, which isn't easy," Meighan said.

Staropoli echoed a similar sentiment.

"Our biggest concern is making sure the B+ Heroes are as comfortable and happy as possible."

The money raised every year goes towards the Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation, a charity that honors Andrew McDonough, a Wilmington. teen who died of leukemia at age 14 in 2007. B+ was his blood type, and serves as an inspirational message for all of the families that the charity has been able to help.

"[The amount of money raised] really represents how many families we were able to help, and how much we were able to help them," Meighan said of her fourth UDance event. "So, I really just can't wait to meet the families this year ... even more families than we were able to help last year."

When world scholars and campus life collide

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

have been to London, Paris and Frankfurt, and she took five years of Latin in tandem with learning about ancient sites, myths and stories about Rome. This ended up being the catalyst to her commitment to both the university and the program itself.

Both Kukulich and Stratman managed to visit other cities and countries during their semester abroad — Kukulich packed up and went to Ireland for six days during Thanksgiving break, and Stratman went to Munich for Oktoberfest, Milan for her birthday and went on the offered Morocco exchange trip with a few other World Scholars.

Both girls spoke heavily to the experiences themselves — not just being able to see structures and pieces of art they'd seen online in real life, but also experiencing and understanding the culture on different levels.

Kukulich reconnected with her Irish roots and enthused about her favorite rainy day at Blarney Castle. She mentioned the feelings of contentment and acceptance at natives validating her as Irish looking due to her fiery-red hair.

Stratman spoke about the incredible four days she spent in Morocco talking about gender roles with native students, discussing the hijab in a conservative city (around Tangere), meeting with a family in a rural village near the Rif Mountains and learning about Islam and dating, laughing as she said she could talk about the country for hours.

Neither girl is crazy about drinking, and although neither really had an issue with it abroad in Rome, they confirm the general notion Americans drink to get drunk rather than the more casual association drinking may have in Italy (like having wine with dinner).

They both also experienced anxiety at the thought of coming back, describing the concept as overwhelming, balking especially at the idea of moving into a dorm halfway through the year and having to make friends with people that may already have social groups.

Kukulich reconnected with her high school friends that ended up at the university, and is already getting involved on campus, considering a theater minor (with her background in stage crew) and making friends with students in the International House. Stratman, who was most nervous to meet her new roommate, clicked with her immediately. Her fears were quelled as she made friends quickly in her Calculus class over winter session.

But Stratman still sighed wistfully as she remembered life in Rome — "Italians know how to live," she said, speaking to the slower lifestyle in Italy in comparison to the busy campus life, especially during the winter-spring transition when thousands of students returned to campus.

Although the girls are back in America, they're excited to be matriculated and begin their lives in Delaware. Stratman was left feeling even more excited about her international business major, stressing how there is so much more to the world than what we see.

"I want people to know that what you see and experience in America, and what you think you know — there's so much more to the world than that," she said. "You really don't know what's out there until you go out and experience it yourself. I think it's great to even just go to the next town over by yourself and see what you can learn from it — there's really so much you can learn from a single person or a single place."

JACOB BAUMGART /THE REVIEW
Jerry Clifton, a Newark City Council member of 19 years, is running for mayor. His campaign centers around his political experience, commitment to developing the future of Newark and integrating student and residential life in the city.

Propane Spill at EZ-MART

Mitchell Patterson
Associate News Editor

A sizable propane spill occurred outside of the BP gas station on the corner of South Main Street and Beverly Road, near the University Gardens Apartments on Friday. The intersection was shut off entirely from approximately 9 p.m. onward, although South Main Street was reduced to one lane after 10:40 p.m.

The spill was initially attended by multiple fire engines from the Aetna Hook, Hose & Ladder company from Newark, but they were quickly reinforced by firefighters from Christiana and Belvedere, Del. The fire chief arrived at 11 p.m. with a Hazardous Materials Response vehicle.

The presence of propane fumes in the air near the spill required the use of oxygen masks by the firefighters present. They first attempted to flush out the spill with water from a nearby hydrant.

Rush week takes over the university

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Round, Philanthropy Round and Preference Round — before winding down their potential new sororities and finding a perfect match.

The first week of sorority recruitment took place this past weekend, with sororities all over campus participating in a formal recruitment process in order to acquire a certain number of girls determined by their national organizations.

"Since this is a mutual selection process, both the chapter and the PNM has the opportunity to express their interest in each other," Carly Sinisgalli, a 2019 Spring Recruitment officer for Rho Gamma, a council to guide the recruitment process, stated in an email.

First-year student Caroline Barkley visited 10 chapters during the second day of recruitment in order to find her perfect match and got up at 5:30 a.m. to make it to her meeting at Clayton Hall. Barkley already has a couple of chapters she likes in mind — sucas Pi Phi and Phi Sigma.

When looking for a sorority that would be a good match for her, Barkley said, "I'm just looking for a group of genuine girls that have different interests that are nice people and passionate for service and getting involved."

In fact, the rush process has already been a bonding experience for Barkley: "A lot of people in my hall are rushing which is nice since I have somebody to get ready with — a lot of my best friends are rushing," Barkley said.

Each sorority has their own identity and aims to find members that support their cause. For example, Alpha Xi Delta are advocates for the organization Autism Speaks, while Alpha Delta Pi supports the Ronald McDonald House.

Sinisgalli said that "Sorority girls get a pretty bad reputation for being self-centered, absent-minded mean girls but the fact of the matter is that the women I have met through this community have been the most loyal, patient, hilarious, humble, ambitious people I've ever met."

Although sororities' public perception seems to be focused on partying and drinking, the reality may be quite the opposite. In fact, during the 2013-2014 academic year, the NIC found that all Greek houses raised a total of $20.3 million dollars for charity and served a total of 3.8 million hours in their local communities.

"These next five weeks we have to treat each one like they're the most important on the schedule," quarterback Pat Kehoe said. "Because each one is, because it's the next one and that's the system mentality we gotta approach it with."

COURTESY OF CARLY SINISGALLI
Rho Gammas, spend long hours working to ensure the rush process runs smoothly.

Italy, Spain and Portugal: a photo story

Photos by Katherine Nails

Pops' perspective: One man's view of life on the street and the Newark government

Mitchell Patterson
Associate News Editor

Just outside the Bank of America on Main Street, a man, bundled in multiple heavy layers despite the burgeoning spring weather, sits with a cart and a sign which reads "Homeless Veteran Nam." The man identifies himself only as "Pops," and he is just one of over two dozen other homeless individuals on the streets of Newark.

Pops, 70, said he served in the army stationed near Saigon (modern day Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam, with the 82nd Infantry Division from 1970 to 1971. In an all-too-familiar story, he returned from the war to find his country engulfed in anger and protest toward government and a divisive war, yet, to Pops, his countrymen decided to direct their anger towards veterans like himself. After difficulties finding work, he served multiple stints in prison and found himself homeless by 1989.

Having found Wilmington too dangerous, Pops migrated to Newark. His hopes that a safe college town would yield a better life for him on the streets have so far been confirmed, but he worries that the Newark city government is indifferent to the homeless.

"The government here, they don't much try to help you," Pops said. "They try to run you out of town is what they do. I mean, I get we can be an eyesore, but they've never done one thing that might make things easier out here."

Pops said he has a good relationship with the officers of the Newark Police Department, (NPD) who usually spare him a few dollars or bring him food as they pass by, but he's noticing a trend of increasing aggressiveness toward other homeless people in Newark.

"Matter of fact, I've been seeing cops going around the place and pulling guys like me out of restaurants and stores," another homeless man on Main Street, who asked to be identified only as Gregory, said. "They didn't do that much before, but I saw that just yesterday."

Pops spends his time off the street at the Newark Empowerment Center in the Newark United Methodist Church. The church provides the homeless with a hot meal five days a week and assists them with finding clothing, restrooms and access to phones.

Pops believes that nonprofits can only help so much. The largest problem facing Newark's homeless, Pops believes, is mental health.

"I'm one of the lucky ones out here," Pops said. "I've got congestive heart failure, pneumonia occasionally, but that's fine. I've still got my head. Other guys have really lost it, and if I could talk to the City Council or somebody, I'd ask to create some sort of treatment center."

One of Pops' most frequent visitors is former Newark Mayor Vance Funk III, also a Vietnam War veteran. Pops has expressed his concerns to Funk about the city government's indifference several times, but has not seen any substantive changes.

Pops said, laughing, that this year he has "one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel," but he stressed that it should not be the same for the other homeless in Newark, who he believes could benefit from increased government assistance.

"It's not because you can't find food," Pops said. "It's actually hard to go hungry around here. No, I lost those friends because they lost their minds, and stopped eating because of that. We've got food out here, but if the City Council did one thing, or the mayor did one thing, don't build a shelter, no, build a mental health center. That's what we need out here."

Newark's City Manager's office and the NPD did not respond to The Review's multiple requests for comment.

MITCHELL PATTERSON/THE REVIEW
Pops offers insights on the Newark homeless experience with the city government.

Caleb's Corner: We need an honors college, not a graduate college

CALEB OWENS
Editor in Chief

With last week's Faculty Senate passage of the graduate college's draft bylaws, meeting only tepid resistance when the time came to cast a vote, the still-ambiguous and still-pointless graduate college appears all but secured. I won't spend another week rambling about what a bad idea this is — instead, I'd like to reflect on the ways in which two years of time and drama and energy might have been better spent.

Two years ago, during Assanis' first year, conversations about the university were different. In interviews I would conduct, spanning various colleges and departments, talk of our "teaching tradition," of our "undergraduate focus," would invariably arise. Following the tyrannic Reign of Harker, there was a sense that, even if morale remained bleak, this core ideal may have survived.

Such talk is no more. Now, as the university sells itself to corporate money in its unrelenting effort to build fancy things as fast as possible, and as numbers — doubling graduate students, increasing undergraduate enrollment and faculty, and, above all, increasing revenue — inform decision-making more than anything substantive, any talk of "ideals" and a central message can be dismissed. If I were a faculty or staff member outside of the college of engineering, I would not be asking, "How can we continue to preserve an undergraduate-driven, instruction-focused tradition?" but rather, "How can I ensure my department doesn't get decimated in the next decade?"

In other words, the window of hope was brief, and an identity crisis has ensued, pushing the university into terrain it's not built for. But there was, and remains, a way for the university to try to correct things, something that would prove far more beneficial to this institution than a "graduate college." If even half as much effort were directed toward founding an undergraduate honors college, the university's undergraduate mission could not only survive but thrive, rebuilding a lost intellectual core that would prove both a reputational and economic boon with lasting impact.

At present, we have an Honors program, not a college. It resides on South College Ave., and is staffed by some brilliant and lovely people who do everything they can to improve the Honors experience for students. Any shortcomings in the program are not attributable to its current staff or leadership — they're structural. As such, the current Honors program — aside from offering occasionally successful first-year colloquia and ENGL 110 courses for Honors students, as well as a first-year living experience in Redding that people tend to find dreadful and stimulating only to the more primitive urges — exists largely for the benefit of a select, overachieving couple of dozen students, those eligible for extremely competitive national scholarships and the like.

Needless to say, the current program is extremely restricted in its ability to lift and maintain the intellectual standards of the university. And the university's demands of increasing Honors enrollment within the current setup will do nothing but dilute the quality of an average "honors student" and strain resources, the plan looking simply to dangle something before an unwitting prospective student's eyes.

An honors college, however, housing its own curriculum, its own faculty and its own "outdated" but essential mission, could make tremendous strides in restoring the university's intellectual mission and in attracting top-notch students.

The timing couldn't be more ripe. Nationwide, traditional liberal arts schools are either skyrocketing in cost or preparing to close. A traditional, humanistic education — ever-important in today's world, one subject to constant flux and uncertainty, and one in where literacy is in decline — is increasingly inaccessible. Students instead turn toward more "practical" options, both financially and educationally, such as state schools like our own, which come cheaper and with a wide variety of vocational majors (engineering, accounting and so on).

It's not that things like reading, writing, classroom dialectic and historical perspective are any less important now — if today's political mess reveals one thing, it's that the need is more urgent than ever. The problem is that the schools that previously served as hubs for this tried-and-true pedagogy — the idea that cultivating a self and engaging in deep intellectual exploration might actually be an important and complementary part of adequate preparation for a career in the real world — are no longer viable in today's economy. Many students still have an interest in pursuing a liberal arts education, but their options are dwindling, and most schools don't offer it all.

But, for now at least, UD can. An honors college would be not only a righteous addition to the university — one that actually embodies those Latin words on our seal — but also an admissions-attractive and financially opportune one. An honors college, properly designed, could restore a pulse to this campus's lost intellectual heart, bringing a full and fulfilling education to hundreds of students currently shuttled into the technocratic streamline of a UD degree. Students in the college would still pursue degrees in the usual colleges, but could do so alongside a curriculum in the honors college that would offer more resources, smaller classes and more interesting, intellectually focused and enriching opportunities than the current program can.

An honors college, of course, would still be an elite and exclusionary thing, and would still draw resources from others who want them. But direct benefits would reach far more students than the current program, and the intangibles — a shift toward a culture in which students challenge one another, a more lively and interesting education — would reverberate far beyond the college.

At present, this is a campus at which there are anywhere between zero and one courses offered in a given year that provide students with the opportunity to read Nietzsche and Kierkegaard. A place where names like Hegel and Confucius and Plato and St. Augustine and Jane Austen and Frederick Douglas only show up on syllabi if a student has enough prior knowledge and intention to actively seek them out. Readings by thinkers once thought essential to any young person's personal development and education are no longer available, even at a place of so-called higher education. As many departments remain unable to demonstrate their pragmatic utility, it will only get worse.

An honors college can salvage all of this, a practical and important addition to the university that will endure the surrounding crisis of higher-ed. If we can get this graduate college through a vote, I see nothing obstructing the creation of an honors college.

In this mostly vague and brief outline, I've already provided more details than exist for the graduate college. If the university's priorities are what they purport to be, it ought to take the idea of an honors college seriously.

CORRECTIONS

The Review staff is dedicated to accuracy and fair representation of all sources. If you notice a factual inaccuracy in a story, please email a correction to eic@udreview.com.

EDITORIAL

Editorial: The Green is gone — what's next?

Spring semester is a time at which many students mob the green with towels and blankets, wide-eyed high schoolers tour campus with apprehensive parents and graduation pictures abound both in and around the fountain. Most of these moments are happy, or at least appear that way, and, while not without their apparent frivolity and cliche, are the backdrop of lasting memories of students' time at the university.

In other words, the spring semester is a most unfortunate time to rip the South Green apart.

The otherwise picturesque facade is currently being plowed away by construction vehicles almost as hideous as the underground pipes and dirt that they expose. We presume, of course, that it needed to be done. But this sudden, unannounced and apparently overdue project is but one of many to come on a campus with billions of dollars in deferred maintenance. The construction is just a reminder of administration's lack of transparency with regard to spending habits and maintenance commitments, and its tendency to leave students out of the loop.

One does not have to look far to find a building with cracked ceilings, broken windows or questionable water. And, yet, one also does not have to look a long way into the distance to notice the shining, glass-panelled exterior of the newly constructed STAR campus. It seems as though the university is not willing to spend money on updating existing structures until they are already falling apart, its sights and funds set elsewhere, particularly down south, where the new and shiny beckons.

The contrast between the dilapidated buildings populating the North Green and the shiny pennies being poured into seemingly unnecessary projects that have yet to demonstrate their worth to the undergraduate population is concerning. It is unnerving to witness so many dollars being spent on glitzy new structures when commonly used classroom buildings, including Gore and McDowell, could have long ago benefited from extensive updates.

The university should provide students with reason believe that tuition dollars are not being thrown toward the prospect of prestige over the promise of safety and practicality. The recent construction and development of STAR campus is the most glaring example of how steadfastly the university ignores maintenance concerns, mentioning them only when claiming there's not enough money to go around.

Many students agree that the traditional and collegiate architecture of this campus is one of the enduring reasons for its popularity and appeal. Despite this, millions of dollars are being funnelled into the construction of STAR campus, establishing a Silicon Valley vibe that directly contrasts what many undergraduates love most about the university.

When maintenance gets postponed because other, superfluous matters demand more attention, students feel consequences, and not the good ones. The construction on the South Green, concurrent with the construction of the new stadium, offers an illustrative contrast, both projects ensuring that graduating seniors will have a less-than-memorable commencement — one limited by the stringent ticket measures, and one without the usual photos.

TAYLOR NGUYEN/THE REVIEW

The Review is accepting submissions of student work to be featured in the Mosaic section of upcoming issues! Send any photography, illustrations, paintings,drawings, sculptures, collage etc. to julias@udel.edu with a title, your name and any brief description you'd like featured with the piece.

Opinion: A call for transformative justice

The need for change in our current criminal-justice system is not a new concept. Prominent criminologist Howard Zehr has observed that our current justice system asks two questions: who did it, and how can we punish them? Zehr, however, advocates instead that the justice system ask these questions instead: who has been hurt, and how can we heal them?

Throughout my four years of college, I have met numerous people who have been severely impacted by the failures of the justice system. I have also seen many of my peers react to a wide array of events with helplessness or anger. As my time in college comes to an end, I want to share a helpful approach to fully address crime and positively move toward change.

Transformative justice is an approach to facilitating change that uses a broad lens to consider more than just the victims and offenders of a singular event. Instead, this holistic method works to address pervasive social norms and conditions that are at the root of crime. Rather than considering just the specific people involved, transformative justice goes beyond the event to address complex systems and structures, and includes victims, offenders, their families and their communities.

Our current justice system falls flat in various ways; it, among other things, fails to address socioeconomic factors of crime, prevent recidivism and meet the needs of victims. Many of the failures of this system stem from a refusal to acknowledge the complex factors that play a role in crime. Addressing these factors assists in strengthening the entire community, as well as preventing future crime.

The wide lens used in transformative justice helps to identify and address harmful community issues that may be a root cause of violence. In this way, transformative justice also plays a large role in preventing future crime: by addressing social and structural issues within communities, transformative justice brings society closer to real solutions and strengthened prevention techniques. This approach creates stronger and safer communities by prioritizing an awareness of local needs and the prevention of future conflict.

Transformative justice is a powerful approach that has the potential to fix gaps in a broken system. Many successful organizations, such as Generation Five and Know Your IX, have adopted transformative-justice frameworks that have been successful in addressing complex issues, such as child sexual abuse and campus sexual assault.

To be successful in addressing and preventing crime, our justice system must stop using band-aids that offer nothing more than a temporary solution. I call on the university to make impactful changes: the university needs to incorporate transformative justice in Title IX and Office of Student Conduct proceedings. In order to foster a strong and safe community, the university must stop just considering the people involved in singular assault or conduct cases, and, rather, take a step back to consider the more complex factors that impact students.

This approach could bring the entire university closer to changing harmful attitudes, ensuring the safety of students and fostering a strong community. We need to adopt a transformative-justice framework that allows us to see the entire picture, understand the context of the crime and move toward real solutions.

Amanda Paul is a senior pre-veterinary medicine and animal biosciences major at the university. She can be reached at apaul@udel.edu.

Opinion: With tuition so high, why are we paying so much for parking permits?

BRIDGET DOLAN
Copy Desk Chief

This year, I haven't gotten a single parking ticket.

I've been lucky enough not to leave my car in a different lot one evening where parking is unrestricted after 5 p.m. and then forget to move it back to the approved lot. Or I guess I just remembered enough this year.

My wallet is grateful. Parking on this campus is expensive enough. This past fall, I paid $540 to park in Lot 6 on North Campus. That was the most affordable (i.e., least expensive) option.

I live on the South Green.

It is about a 30-minute walk for me to get to my car if I don't take the buses (and they don't run before noon on the weekends), and I find it ridiculous to pay so much to keep my car so far away. Now, I know that my other option would have been way down on South Campus, but North Campus is closer to my workplace, making it slightly more beneficial for me.

Nonetheless, it's still an exorbitant amount. My total, bank-breaking bill for this spring semester was about 23,000 — and then on top of that, I had to buy a permit.

I'm an out-of-state student, and I keep my car on campus for a couple of reasons — the main being that I need it for regular doctors' appointments that I have in Newark, and paying for a ride-hailing service every other week that amounts to $50 round trip would end up being more expensive.

Still.

540 dollars.

That's a lot of money. 23,000 is even more.

You would think that with all the money that goes to my tuition, the university might consider not making me pay so much for parking on top of everything else. I mean, not only do I have to drive to school and frequently go to the doctor to be able to stay in school, I have to pay even more.

I understand the importance of having parking permits, and I think that students should register their cars and get permits, but I don't think that we should have to pay so much for them. Frankly, with the tuition we pay, we should only have to register our cars and not have to pay for the permit at all.

Unregistered cars would remain open to parking tickets, but students who register their cars should be able to park for free.

For some of us, having a car on campus isn't a choice but a necessity, and the high cost of parking makes me wonder how much the university really does care about its students.

The Review encourages all members of the university community to submit opinion pieces. Letters to the Editor and op-eds can be submitted at *opinion@udreview.com*

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Totally witchin': Unpacking witchcraft and its surrounding stigma

BIANCA THIRUCHITTAMPALAM
Column Editor

Bringing up witchcraft in a room full of people elicits a strange response: typically, people immediately become skeptical and scared, associating the practice with satanism and the past. However, witchcraft still thrives today, even on university campuses. With solitary witches practicing throughout the university's campus, as well as a few covens — groups of witches that choose to practice together — scattered throughout the state, the misunderstood practice still remains more topical than ever.

One of the largest misunderstandings surrounding modern witchcraft is its association with religion and satanism. As Wren Lewis, a junior studying applied nutrition and a practicing witch, explains, witchcraft is less of a religion and more of a spiritual practice.

"Some people are even Christian, but they're also witches," Lewis says. "Witchcraft itself is a practice, kind of like meditation is a practice, and meditation has really strong ties with religion and philosophy, but anyone can do it."

Often, when people mistake witchcraft for religion, they are confusing it with Wicca. Payton Eubanks, a senior at Full Sail University and a Wiccan, breaks down the difference between the Wiccan religion and witchcraft.

"[The Wiccan religion] has things of paganism and witchcraft mixed together," Eubanks says. "It's like if paganism and witchcraft had a baby."

Lewis also makes a clear distinction between witchcraft and the Wiccan religion, emphasizing witchcraft's spiritual aspects. For their daily practice, Lewis — who practices "eclectic witchcraft," defined by an amalgamation of different ideas and religions — typically lights candles in a small altar at the beginning of the day. They also practice tarot as a form of divination, doing readings for themself and their friends.

SAM FORD/THE REVIEW

Although currently a Wiccan, Eubanks was initially a witch. For her practice, she enjoyed collecting gemstones and creating potions, acknowledging that she likes to practice "a little bit of everything." She also mentions the importance of the pentacle motif.

"People think the pentacle is some evil satanic symbol, and it's not," Eubanks says. "The pentacle just represents the five elements that we use. Everyone thinks it's satanic and unholy but it's not."

Society's association with symbols of witchcraft and satanism make it difficult for witches and Wiccans like Lewis and Eubanks to be open about their religion and spiritual practices.

"When you tell the average person, 'Yeah, I'm a witch,' they're going to think of Harry Potter and that you believe in all this weird stuff," Eubanks says. "It's actually not like that. It's more spiritual."

Lewis echoes her sentiments, describing the reactions of her parents and others to her spiritual practices.

"People have generally been very speculative, but as soon as I explain, they understand," Lewis says. "Older generations are not so much that way. For example, my parents just think it's like some weird fanatic hobby. That's kind of disrespectful."

Like other spiritual practices, such as meditation, both Eubanks and Lewis believe that they have found peace through witchcraft. Lewis, who did not grow up a religious person, finds that witchcraft has added some routine to their daily life. They explain that they view the daily practice of witchcraft as equivalent to acknowledging a god or goddess, making a gratuity list in the morning or even sitting down to a meal with one's family.

"It's made me a more relaxed person, [and] given me [a] daily ritual that I think modern society has lost the significance of," Lewis says. "It's given me a sense of inner peace I've never had before."

Newark punks Driver's Ed stun with energetic and emotional single, "One Under"

EDWARD BENNER
Music & Society Editor

Packing into a nondescript house only known as "The Golden Goat," with inscriptions and drawings covering every square inch of its then-standing walls, a hieroglyphic monumentality was given off: never before had I felt such exhilaration. With amps larger than the living room they were placed in and a drum kit compactly tucked in the hall, the stifling heat and claustrophobia of shoulder-to-shoulder punks left my palms sweaty and heart racing.

Emerging from the crowd itself, the band awkwardly wielded their instruments and turned the volume all the way up. The lead singer pierced with her powerful voice, the drums crashed, the bass moved energetically and the guitar bit with it's menacing crunch, collectively melting the surrounding room and transporting the audience to a place of sonic ecstasy. This was a rare moment of pure magical energy that will forever be ingrained in my memory.

This was the very first performance of a band known as Driver's Ed in the fall of 2017, which happened to coincide with my own baptism into Newark's DIY scene: a collective of independent musicians and artists functioning as a supportive, creative community. Driver's Ed has played tirelessly since then, and has become a foundation of the community, attracting larger and larger crowds at each show due to their incredible talent and humor.

The lineup consists of Allison George on vocals and guitar, Mitchell Bollinger on drums, Nic Pirhalla on bass and Liam Warren on guitar. Formerly, Ryan Geary was on guitar, but he left the band in 2018. The lineup-change, along with various other factors, delayed the release of any recorded material until now; the single "One Under" just dropped, and a full EP is coming on March 5 from Impetus Records.

Wearing emo and indie-punk influences on its sleeve, "One Under" mixes personal, melodramatic and catchy lyricism with a math-like guitar riff and an instrumental build leading into a breakdown as part of the bridge.

The song uses disturbing imagery — including organs being laid out and allusions to hara-kiri, the Japanese ritual-suicide practice — to describe feelings of alienation and resentment of love lost. The narrator's great pain has led to being "full of bloodlust" — a seemingly appropriate reaction given the harrowing nature of the emotional trauma the speaker has endured.

While the production of the recording is excellent, not all of the band's raw energy showcased in their live performance is truly captured — mainly the grit in Allison's voice. The added guitar solo, however, is phenomenal, and elevates the track to a whole new level.

Driver's Ed has transcended their position as just another college band, becoming a totemic symbol of the power and potential success of a DIY ethos. In doing so, they have become treasured in the Newark scene; as they continue to advance, their accomplishments feel communal for those of us in the scene, and a sense of pride in their origin is apparent.

Despite my own personal connection with Driver's Ed, I can genuinely say that of the dozens of bands currently functioning in the Newark scene, they remain at the forefront and are on the verge of a larger breakthrough. This band deserves your time. Support your local scene and catch them at a show.

Courtesy of Driver's Ed

UNPACKING RUSSIAN DOLL
The future of television is in good hands.
PAGE 10

REVAMPED REBOOTS
Women are transforming cinema.
PAGE 11

RACKING UP ASSISTS
Mia DeRuggiero is a steady fixture for the women's lacrosse team.
PAGE 14

TV Review: "Russian Doll"

MAYA WALKER
Senior Reporter

With its recent release of "Russian Doll," Netflix once again delivers — this time with an unrestrained, New York-based take on the "Groundhog Day" narrative. Created by Natasha Lyonne, Leslye Headland and comedy mastermind Amy Poehler, in only 30 minutes per episode "Russian Doll" fine-tunes a formula that keeps all eight episodes fresh with every twist and turn.

Lyonne plays Nadia Vulvokov, a nihilistic, self-absorbed New Yorker with seemingly little regard for the effects of her actions. The charm of her character, though, lies in her wit: a veil for her deep-rooted childhood trauma. Lyonne's portrayal of Nadia hits the nail on the head with both her comedic approach and her emotionally raw acting in the show's most climactic scenes.

We follow Nadia at her 36th birthday party, not so coincidentally the night she turns an age that carries tremendous baggage for her. The night ends with her on a mission to find her cat — the instigator of her worries and the ultimate cause of her death.

CREATIVE COMMONS

Her first death, that is.

Immediately after dying, Nadia finds herself back in the bathroom that opened the episode, once again reliving her 36th birthday party. After she dies again and again, it becomes evident that she is trapped in an inexplicable time loop. She continually restarts her day staring at her reflection in the bathroom mirror, forced to face her inner demons while reality and the future unravel at once.

"Russian Doll" tackles mental health in a unique style: representations of trauma and depression frame the narrative arc as Nadia longs to break free of her haunting past and her dispiriting, inescapable loop. As she continues to face these daily deaths, she is also forced to confront the question of why she keeps dying, which is, essentially, the central mystery of the show.

The show is just as comical as it is dark. A dramedy in its truest sense, Netflix ups the ante as episodes progress, and the absurdity of Nadia's deaths are at times laugh-out-loud funny.

Even the musical choices are fitting: Harry Nilsson's "Gotta Get Up" indicates each new day in a surprisingly pertinent manner. In the opening lines of the song, Nilsson announces, "Gotta get up, gotta get out, gotta get home before the morning comes" — lyrics that become Nadia's rallying cry as she grows increasingly desperate to escape what has become her personal purgatory.

"Russian Doll" promises further success from Netflix — and television in general. With a writer's room of all women, the show undermines the notion that women can't write and direct good television. Women know women better than anyone else. The future of television is in good hands.

Vintage album review: Robert Johnson's King of the Delta Blues Singers

ALANA DUKE
Senior Reporter

In his 1937 recording of "Love in Vain," Robert Johnson laments, "Well, it's hard to tell, it's hard to tell / when all your love's in vain," a simple sentiment that has resonated through rock music for nearly a century.

When Columbia Records released Johnson's 1937 recordings on the album "King of the Delta Blues Singers .Volume 1" in 1961, the album reached a new wave of legendary rock acts like Bob Dylan, The Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, The Allman Brothers and Fleetwood Mac. For its immense influence on rock history, "King of the Delta Blues Singers Volume 1," along with the 1970 release "King of the Delta Blues Singers Volume 2," is ranked 27th on Rolling Stone's "500 Greatest Albums of All Time." The most incredible aspect of the compilation's status as the foremost blues textbook is the fact that Johnson remains more myth than man.

Johnson began playing the blues as a teenager, tagging along with blues musicians Son House and Willie Brown, who viewed him as an annoying, if earnest, kid who lacked talent. A few years later, he introduced himself as a guitar expert with a massive repertoire who could pick up any song by ear. The bluesman traveled all over the country, playing everything from the blues to Bing Crosby. His songs reflect his life — often making geographical references, like the standout "Sweet Home Chicago" — and were always seated in the loneliness of the road.

From Johnson's virtuosic transformation arose a tall-tale that the young guitarist had met the devil at a crossroads and had traded his soul for skill. "The Crossroad Blues" itself, Johnson's 1936 song, as well as many recordings on the 'King of the Delta Blues Singers," sound as if they feature two or three guitarists, when in reality, Johnson recorded them himself in two or three takes — each in a hotel room.

Little did he know that these humble recordings would be the difference between immortality and obscurity after a mysterious death at 27. Elements of Johnson's style, like his irregular basslines, and his ability to layer those basslines with other unusual riffs and progressions augments his haunting vocals, result in songs that convince the listener that he had in fact shaken hands with the devil.

SAM FORD/THE REVIEW

Johnson's blues cannot help but reflect the hardships of a black man in the Depression-era Deep South; at the same time, the lyrics center around enduringly familiar topics. Sardonic humor in songs like "Come On In My Kitchen" and "I Believe I'll Dust My Broom" balance more outright sexual innuendos in "Terraplane Blues" and "They're Red Hot." The motif of an unfaithful woman dominates most of the recordings; in a reversal, "Kind Hearted Woman Blues" is a warning from a repentant narrator: "When you got a good friend, that will stay right by your side / Give her all of your spare time, love and treat her right." The timeless lyrics of "Love in Vain" speak so cuttingly to an essential truth about unrequited love — like the poetry in so many of Johnson's songs, one could believe they were written yesterday.

A few numbers, like "Me and the Devil Blues" and "32-20 Blues," give the album a layer of chilling realism with their disturbing promises of domestic abuse, seemingly ordered by the devil himself. Whether or not Johnson really met the devil, he documents their relationship well enough in the "King of the Delta Blues" volumes. Throughout the albums, the repeated image of the devil and the narrator as friends, always at each other's side, is the common thread, tying the songs together into more than a compilation. The "King of the Delta Blues" volumes prove Johnson's canon a deeply intriguing reflection of a virtuoso who lived the blues, independent of his personal mystique.

A (Wo)man's World

NUSHI MAZUMDAR
Staff Columnist

It's no longer just a man's world. Times have been shifting fast, and to keep up with our ever-changing society, movies have been changing to reflect this gradual transformation. The rise of the #MeToo and Time's Up movements has assisted in this change for women. With support for victims of sexual assault and the take-down of many once-renowned male celebrities — such as Harvey Weinstein, Bill Cosby and Kevin Spacey— the prominence of women in films has grown.

Classic films like "Ghostbusters" and the Ocean's franchise recently experienced a modern twist: their traditionally male-dominated casts were replaced by a female-centric ensemble. These recent reboots represent a new age in the film industry, wherein women are projecting their voices across Hollywood and the nation.

Steve Tague, a professor in the theatre department at the university, attributed this recent inclusion of women in male-dominated films to the #MeToo and Time's Up movements. He further noted that this change was bound to occur, as many films "do not accurately represent society." Although the updated versions may represent society more accurately, this transformation doesn't always translate into a high-quality film that surpasses its original.

Considering how revered the classic versions are in American culture, the updated versions were less successful in capturing the hearts of viewers: both the new "Ghostbusters" and "Ocean's 8" movies

were unable to match the popularity and hype of their predecessors. Moreover, both films were unable to garner much profit despite large gains from the box office.

The cause for these net losses, however, may be more complex than an all-female cast."I don't think it has anything to do with the women. I think it just got tired," Tague says.

For example, the last film within the Ocean's series, "Ocean's 13," received dismal reviews compared to the original film. Thus, in this case, the gender of the cast does not seem to be the root of the issue as many Hollywood executives have often been led to believe, preventing the prominence of women in films in the past.

In fact, the reviews for both updated films were decent, and complimented the work of the all-female casts. For example, "Ghostbusters" received a favorable review from New York Times writer Manohla Dargis.

"[The film's] excellent cast deepen with real comedy chemistry and emotionally fleshed-out performances," Dargis wrote. "It allows women to be as simply and uncomplicatedly funny as men."

On the other hand, "Ocean's 8" did not impress critics as much. "[Ocean's 8] changes things up with an all-female gang," Dargis wrote, "but there's a boyfriend angle, so even when women are running a multi-million-dollar con they have to make room for guy troubles, which is a drag." Therefore, the film would have benefited from a more female-centric plot.

Yet, both films represent a new America where women's voices are louder than ever before. Films now seem to provide viewers with a more authentic experience that is relatable to all kinds of viewers. Hopefully, in the future, all-female casts will become more commonplace within Hollywood, as we see a rise in the power and voices of everyday women in America.

From hypothetical to The Hague: A semester abroad in the Netherlands

ELLIE CANNING
Study Abroad Columnist

Before setting out for abroad, I planned frantically. Spending five months away from home meant a lot of items had to be arranged in advance; forgetting something important is not a viable option when trans-Atlantic mail is slow and sometimes costly. In fact, it was like getting ready for college all over again, except all my possessions had to fit in two suitcases. I was terrified of the unknown newness — especially of the people I did not yet know and would have to meet upon arrival.

Boarding the plane gave me comfort. The routine of flying calmed my wild hypothetical questions for a while. Setting my feet on the ground in a concrete location gave me purpose: it was no longer imagination, it was real, and I had to find baggage claim.

Although it was my first time being alone in Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, I was calm while collecting my bags, buying breakfast and getting a train ticket. Among the mix of new voices and new languages, I was suddenly comforted. I love the chatter of other languages around me — though it is unusual where I come from. It means not one, but many are accepted, they have a legitimate place to be heard. The multicultural society of the Netherlands drew me here, and The Hague is home to a myriad of citizens.

After three weeks of being here, The Hague is slowly unfolding before me. I'm becoming accustomed to its rhythms and patterns: I look

ELLIE CANNING/THE REVIEW

both ways before I cross bike lanes, I have a public-transport card and I don't get lost. This is just a scratch on the surface of The Hague's culture, as my Dutch language skills are limited to three weeks of in-class learning. I anticipate that both language mastery and time spent in the city will enrich my experience.

At the university, I am a World Scholar, so I spent my first semester in Madrid. Now, two years later, I'm constantly weighing my current experience against the last one, even as I try to shake comparison from my mind. Madrid enchanted me, but looking back, my anxiety of encountering situations I couldn't handle made me timid.

This time, I'm not looking before I leap because I know I spent time on fear. As a study-abroad location, the Netherlands is ideal — exploring is safe on a bicycle, and the bilingual Dutch make their country welcoming for native speakers of English. Fear is a survival instinct, but this is not a city to be fearful of; it's a city to embrace and become acquainted with.

Adaptation to the city was quick — I morphed into one of the thousands of students who live and study in The Hague, but my university here is the unexpected surprise. Coming from such a large school, I should feel at home among a wash of students, but somehow it feels like I stick out.

Paranoia tells me the Dutch students know that I am not from here, that I am obviously an American, that they'll make a big deal of it. Happily, this has not been the case. I am simply one among many, my bicycle safely hidden among the hundreds parked casually around the city.

My accent is not odd; it is one among a variety now.

I fit in here; miraculously, I am where I need to be. It assuages my fear that my adaptation has been smooth because I forgot, in my worry, that the prevailing draw to study abroad is the incredible feeling of freedom. Being alone in a new place is scary, solo travel is scary, but the reward on the other side is freedom and personal achievement, and that is worth every day of preparation.

Growing pains: The beginning of a semester abroad in Chengdu, China

MATTHEW ANDERSON
Study Abroad Columnist

As I prepared for my semester here in Chengdu, China — using my previous experience abroad in Spain as a guide — I grossly underestimated the impact of culture shock.

In Spain, although in a different city, I quickly felt quite at home. It was like meeting an old friend again: brief initial awkwardness soon gave way to the exhilaratingly comfortable and familiar relationship I had cherished before.

On the other hand, these few weeks in China have been like being in a room packed with new people, some of whom you like and some of whom you really don't, all constantly demanding your attention (and I'm an introvert). Sometimes I am left in awe by the lively fusion of traditional temples and record-breaking skyscrapers. Other times I look out the window and just see smog.

What is culture shock anyways? Hard. Self-defined. Children pointing at you and shouting "outer-country-person" in Chinese. A random American documentary provoking nostalgia for a place in Texas you've never heard of. Jumping through (or failing to jump through) a variety of bureaucratic hurdles just to order takeout.

I soon felt disheartened after realizing that adapting in China would be an uphill battle. I felt guilty about expressing negative feelings while knowing how lucky I am to have this experience. I've always aspired to be donned a "Certified World Traveler," a wholly externally determined title that I nonetheless crave.

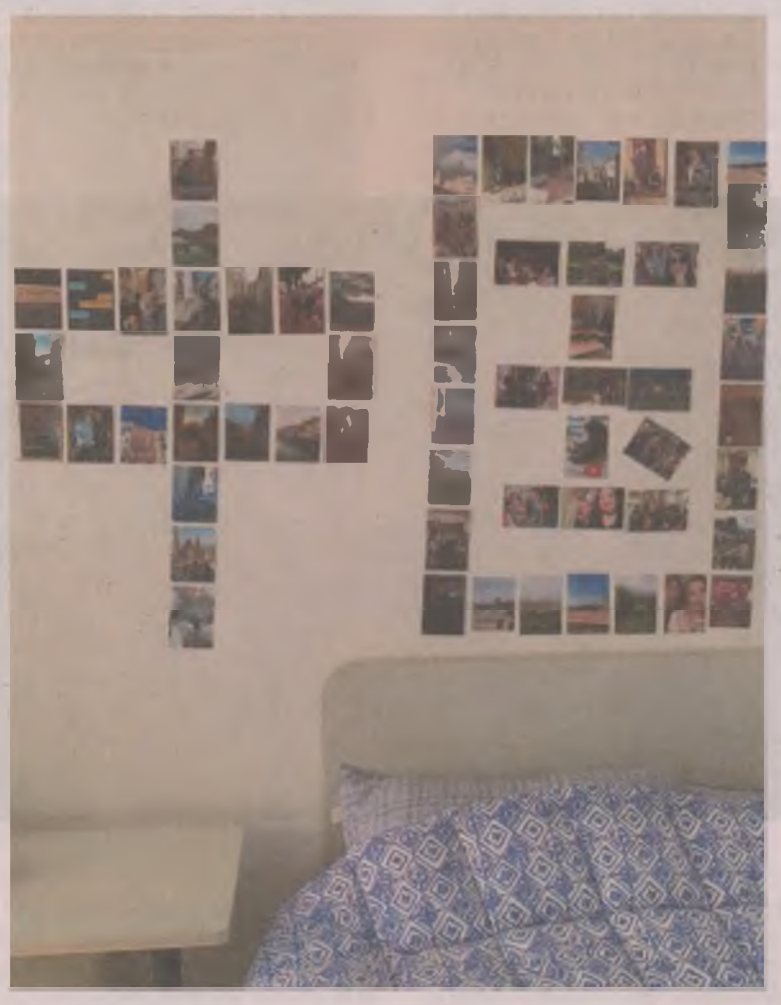
I constantly evaluate myself — and adjust accordingly — based on certain criteria to arm myself in case someone's perception of me starts to threaten my title: how many mistakes have people heard me make in their language? How much effort am I putting into meeting locals? How long can I publically resist wanting to go home?

Once I came to China, the only question I had the energy for was, "Who am I?"

I feared losing my passion for travel. Clearly others felt similarly deep down, because competition became a short-term coping mechanism (and a long-term detriment) between my classmates and me.

In the midst of the initial awkwardness of social speed-dating and exaggerated social niceties, the race to find America's Most Worldly was on. You may recognize subtle one-liners, such as, "I'm never going home"; "The food here is, like, so good"; "Yeah I definitely want to live here after I graduate"; and, "Yeah I always sit in the front seat of the taxi to practice Chinese."

Right when I was feeling most vulnerable, I was pressured to establish myself in the globetrotter pecking order. I could either establish dominance as a makeshift replacement for comfortable assimilation or face the consequences of confronting my true feelings. I didn't want to admit that sometimes I missed greasy pizza and lousy strip malls, in fear that my "Certified World Traveler" status would be swiftly revoked.



MATTHEW ANDERSON/THE REVIEW
A collage of photos of Matthew's friends and previous travels that spells "China."

A major breakthrough for me began when I realized that you don't automatically become a provincial simpleton every time you think about Wawa mac and cheese. It's simply difficult to get outside of our comfort zones. Growth always brings challenges, especially in a culture enriched by thousands of years of semi-isolated development.

After my initial back-and-forth between "This country is so amazing" and "When's the next flight?" it just became clear to me that growing pains are a sign of strength, not weakness. In other words, it's totally natural to miss "home," in all of the various meanings of the word, because this shows us how much energy we're putting into learning from our new home.

As much as we should reflect on our frustrations (as I've just done at length), why not also get used to celebrating our small triumphs? A new word mastered. A positive interaction with a Chinese person. A bureaucratic process figured out. This country has so much to offer, with its age-old customs, wisdom-filled sayings and spice-laden noodles. My own struggles — and anybody else's — to integrate just reflect the desire to grow in a new environment.

Whitewashing: The way history celebrates civil-rights leaders intentionally undermines their causes

MADELINE MCGHEE
Staff Columnist

Whitewashing is a practice that, for all of American history, has glorified powerful, white and overwhelmingly male figures, while ignoring their atrocious treatment of minorities. This practice frequently condones, denies or understates the transgressions of white people, and it misrepresents people of color by disparaging or trivializing the weight of their accomplishments and practices.

We have all sat through history lessons on America's heroic founding fathers and their tenacious aspirations for a free nation. However, we rarely highlight the slavery on which their livelihoods were built. Thomas Jefferson, for instance, is described as a slave owner — though the gravity of the suffering he caused is never conveyed. We rarely note the utter hypocrisy of white men fighting for their freedom while keeping others in literal chains.

The 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom received no less criticism than Colin Kaepernick's kneeling in protest during the national anthem or the protests and calls to action of the Black Lives Matter movement. It is but par for the course in American history that activism against oppression is immediately met by accusations of unpatriotic sentiment and inciting violence.

MADELINE MCGHEE/THE REVIEW

The central theme our history classes teach us about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is his belief in peaceful protest and nonviolence. This theme is frequently conflated with the flawed notion that the criticism of white people for their role in upholding systematic racism is, in fact, a form of racism against white people.

"I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council-er or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to 'order' than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: 'I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action'"
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Though we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr., Day every year and purport to uphold his values, research has indicated that over half of white people believe racism against white people exists in the United States.

This is driven by the notion that peacefulness and politeness are of the utmost importance and are valued over justice and actual equal treatment of people. Any words spoken against white people and their privilege are seen as a disruption of this peace and are therefore calling for discrimination against white people.

Burned film — the woes of the Oscars, an institution fighting for relevance

EDWARD BENNER
Music and Society Editor

For the past seven years, it has been tradition for my aunt and me to embark on what we have dubbed "The Oscar Quest" — that is, to view all the Oscar-nominated films in the Best Picture category. The excitement of traveling to different theaters, spending time together and, most of all, discussing the films at great length has been a mainstay of my youth, as well as a formative experience for me in terms of inspiration to write about entertainment and appreciate the arts.

The Oscars are an outlet to expose the public to films that have great cultural, artistic and technical merit, regardless of popularity. Getting to see films that aren't necessarily massive box-office successes but instead challenge, confuse and entertain in a unique way was, and continues to be, appealing to me.

After paying attention for several years, it has become increasingly and dishearteningly evident that trends, quotas and agendas are what fuel nominees more than ever.

Many of the Best Picture nominees this year were simply undeserving and tarnish the legacy of past winners while increasing the blow for more deserving films.

Freddie Mercury, the legendary lead singer of Queen, was given a shallow greatest-hits compilation of his life with "Bohemian Rhapsody." Dick Cheney was lambasted in what amounted to an exhausting — and at times inaccurate — smear campaign in "Vice."

"Black Panther," a slightly better-than-average superhero movie with an all-black cast got a nom in the Popular Film Category. And, what could have been a thrilling historical drama was made into a somewhat boring but well-acted critique of racism in "BlacKkKlansman."

The story of a real-life jazz pianist and his driver, "Green Book," stood out from other nominees but didn't offer anything truly unique or revolutionary in terms of an American narrative about the segregated south.

While all of these films had merit in some aspect, Best Picture nominees should be the full package and be honored for the summation of the performances, screenplay, cinematography, score and editing. Choosing films based on popularity, the "important" political message they project or the diversity quotas they fulfill takes away from the artistic integrity of the Academy and diminishes the Oscar award.

Furthermore, making the decision to hand out the "less popular" technical awards, such as cinematography and sound editing, during commercial breaks when the ceremony airs serves as a final slap in the face to not only the deserving artists but those who are truly interested in film. This is the first year I am blatantly angry and frankly offended at the Oscars.

SAM FORD/THE REVIEW

"A Star is Born," "The Favourite" and "Roma" were the only three films that felt worthy of the award. What made these films stand out was how fresh and inventive they felt in their artistry, especially in comparison to the other nominees. Their stories were gripping, the performances stunning and their technical features nothing short of awe-inspiring — as nominees should be.

"A Star is Born" painted a devastating portrait of the inner-workings of the music industry, the price of fame and the power of true love with one of the most memorable movie soundtracks in recent memory.

"The Favourite" subverted the period piece and made it into a zany satire of court culture, exploitation and excess with eclectic cinematography and an added queer angle.

Finally, "Roma" gave a beautifully poignant and brutally honest look at the realities of poverty, womanhood and political upheaval, and managed to have a captivating vibrance despite being shot in black and white.

The aforementioned films stood out in 2018 but the amount of blatant nomination snubs is truly perplexing and begs the question, "How is the Academy so out of touch?" In their attempt to be relevant and political, they missed some of the most socially conscious and impactful films of the year, including the haunting tale of modern disillusionment that was "First Reformed" and the window to the struggles of adolescents growing up in the digital age that was "Eighth Grade." The moving Mr. Rogers documentary "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" and the powerful drama chronicling struggles of the black experience "If Beale Street Could Talk" are also among the snubbed.

The Oscars are losing a lot of steam and their attempt to appeal to popular sensibilities and increasing viewership by streamlining the broadcast is not the answer to their woes. They have only succeeded in alienating the people who are truly interested, like myself, by sending messages that they don't care about what is most important and should be the central focus — film as an art form.

Chicken Scratch

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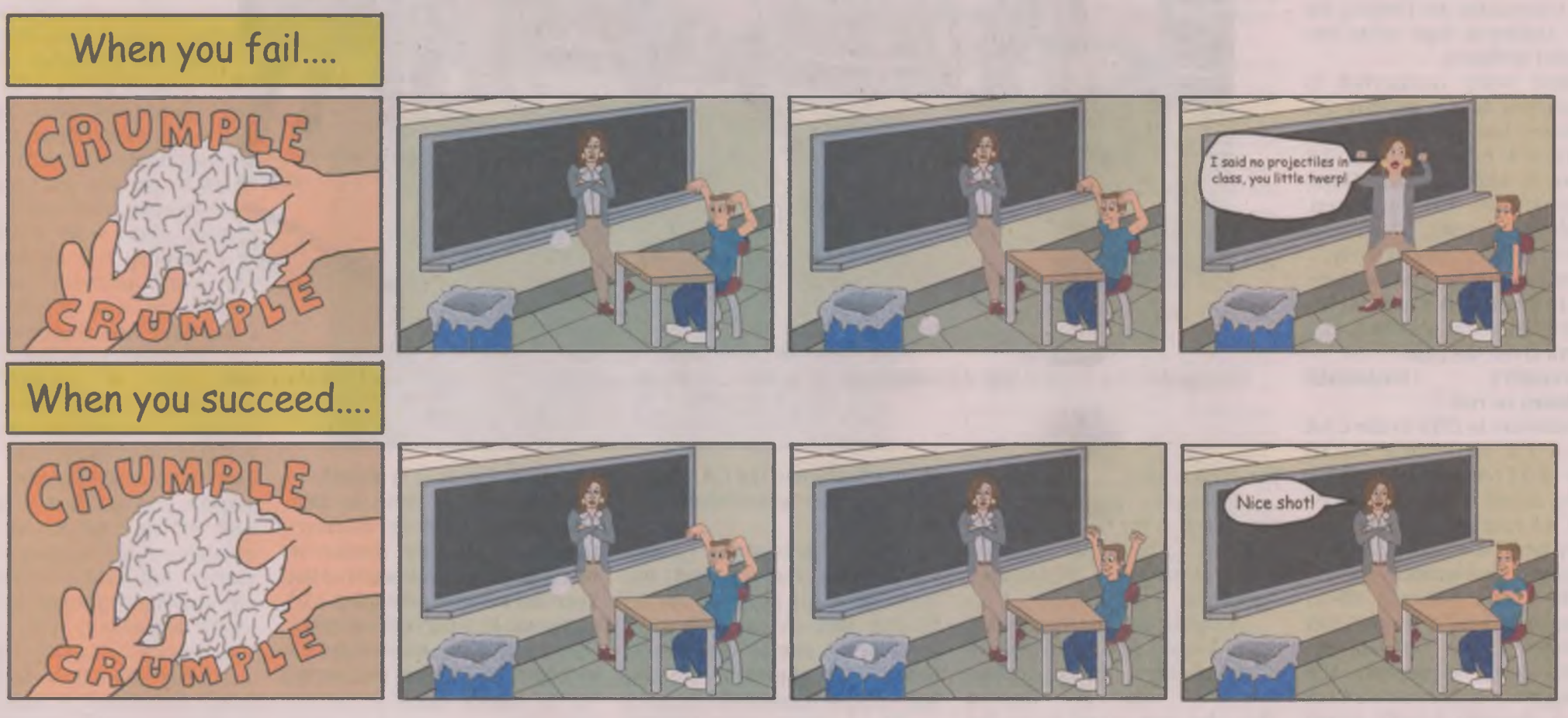
TAYLOR NGUYEN/THE REVIEW



Junior Mia DeRuggiero looks to assist Hens to CAA women's lacrosse championship

DAN ROSENFIELD
Senior Reporter

When one thinks of high-profile athletes, normally the high scorers come to mind. Whether it's Eric Carter scoring 32 points for men's basketball or Pat Kehoe throwing for over 200 yards at Delaware Stadium, people notice the big scoring plays. However, a team needs someone to get those players their shots. And perhaps no one has embodied this role more than women's lacrosse junior midfielder Mia DeRuggiero.

DeRuggiero led the team last year with 36 assists — the second-highest single-season total in program history. DeRuggiero accounted for half of the team's 72 assists in 2018.

"I think that's just like part of being a teammate," DeRuggiero said of her high assist total. "I mean, I want to make my teammates look good and a big part of that is just like knowing when to get rid of the ball and like what to do with it. I think I enjoy my teammates getting goals more than myself to be honest. Seeing them happy, I'm happy."

During her freshman campaign, DeRuggiero only started eight games. She knew that she had to outplay and outhustle everyone else in order to crack the starting lineup.

COURTESY OF DELAWARE ATHLETICS
Delaware's Mia DeRuggiero works against a Drexel defender in Delaware's final home game of the 2018 season.

"I remember when I was a freshman I didn't start the first half but I did start the second half and I think part of that was because I started doing things that no one really wanted to do, like redefending, chasing ground balls," DeRuggiero said. "And that's when I started assisting too because not a lot of people like to drive. So, I was like, 'I'll be the one who throws the ball in, help people get goals.' I decided to do the things that we needed but weren't necessarily the easiest or funnest things to do."

Last season, Delaware went 8-10 overall with a 3-3 record in the CAA. The five seasons before that, they finished with a winning record, but Delaware is still in search of its first-ever CAA championship in women's lacrosse.

Delaware opened up its 2019 campaign last Friday with a 7-4 victory against the Owls of Temple. The Hens did have 25 turnovers opposed to Temple's 16, but only attempted 23 shots against Temple's 29.

Delaware's home opener is Feb. 16 against No. 10 Penn at Delaware Stadium at 1:00 p.m.

"It's a really big confidence builder," DeRuggiero said of the win against Temple. "We have Penn coming up, so I feel like it's important that we go into the game with the confidence that we won, but also realize that this is an opponent that we lost to the past two years. So I feel like it's a great start and it's something that we can build off of, but we also just need to keep working hard and remember that we have some really tough competition coming up."

As much as she contributes on the field, DeRuggiero was hesitant to give herself credit.

"I don't think that it's me, I think that it's my teammates helping me and me helping them," DeRuggiero said. "So I don't think of myself as a big contributor I feel like it's just the chemistry within the team and we're all just helping each other."

BLUE HEN BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK: SAMONE DEFREESE NAMED CAA PLAYER OF THE WEEK

BRANDON HOLVECK
Executive Editor

After scoring a career-high 31 points Friday in Delaware's win against Northeastern, junior forward Samone DeFreese earned her first-ever CAA Player of the Week honors on Monday.

DeFreese, who recorded her third double-double of the season with 11 points and 10 rebounds in a win against Hofstra Sunday, has helped the Blue Hens to wins in seven of their last eight contests.

"It's fun, it's really fun when your teammates are looking for you," DeFreese said after her 31-point outburst.

Since being re-inserted to the starting lineup on Jan. 20, DeFreese has averaged 14.5 points, 8.4 rebounds and 3.1 assists in eight games. Those numbers, over the full season, would rank ninth, third and ninth in the CAA respectively.

DeFreese is now has a team-high 10.9 points per game (15th in the CAA) and is shooting 41.2 percent from the field.

COURTESY OF DELAWARE ATHLETICS
Samone DeFreese is introduced at Drexel on Feb. 10. DeFreese, since rejoining Delaware's starting lineup, has been a major contributor.

Women's Basketball continues to roll

Delaware is fifth in the CAA with a 7-5 conference record and a 12-12 record overall. If the season ended today, Delaware's first CAA tournament opponent would be UNCW (15-9, 8-5) in the quarterfinal round.

The Blue Hens' 65-53 win against UNCW at the Bob Carpenter Center on Jan. 25, at this point, represents the turning point in Delaware's CAA season. Natasha Adair's squad entered that game 1-3 in CAA play. Since, they've won six of seven.

"You find a way to win these games," Adair said after Sunday's win. "It might not be a pretty game, but we talk to the players about doing other things, for us to come out of this with a win."

Delaware has six games remaining in the regular season, half of which are against teams above them in the CAA standings.

A career day for Ryan Allen

It looked like Ryan Allen's 30-point night in a double-overtime win at Towson Thursday was going to be the talk of Delaware's weekend. That was until DeFreese dropped 31 the next day.

Still, Allen has been a bright spot for an up-and-down Delaware men's basketball team. The Blue Hens, after the Towson win and a 68-61 loss Saturday at James Madison, are in fourth place in the CAA at 8-7 in conference action and 16-12 overall.

"My three-point shot was falling tonight and my teammates did a great job of finding me," Allen said after the Towson game. "We were in some tough situations tonight, but we're battle-tested."

In 17 games since making his season debut against Stony Brook on Dec. 16, Allen has averaged 16.2 points on 40.0 percent shooting from the field and 36.9 percent shooting from three.

Any early signs of discomfort stemming from the foot injury that forced Allen out of action for over a month to start the season seem to have disappeared. Allen's numbers this year are very similar to when he won CAA Rookie of the Year last season, averaging 15.3 points on 40.6 percent shooting. Over the last two weekends he's averaged 18.3 points per game.

BLUE HENS PINK OUT, SHUTDOWN NORTHEASTERN

MEAGAN MCKINLEY
Associate Sports Editor

After a night dizzying night of back-and-forth scoring between Delaware's women's basketball team and Northeastern on Feb.15, the Blue Hens bounced back from Sunday's loss at Drexel with a 77-63 win.

Women's basketball celebrated the day of love with the Pink Game Friday night at the Bob. In honor of women's health awareness, the players wore pink uniforms and headbands, Head Coach Natasha Adair rocked a solid pink suit, and the officials sported pink whistles. Delaware is indefinitely without standout Jasmine Dickey after the freshman had surgery a week ago on a broken hand sustained in practice.

Scoring got off to a quick start for the Huskies with a layup by Ayanna Dublin, only to be answered eighteen seconds later by Delaware's Lizzie Oleary. The first minute would set the tone for the game, neither team able to establish an offensive or defensive dominance.

Northeastern only managed a lead of three, Delaware seven through the first half. It wasn't until a three from Abby Gonzales in the third that Delaware advanced to a double-digit lead of ten. A Samone Dafreese layup pushed Delaware up 36-24, only for Northeastern to chip away for the next minute and a half.

It wouldn't be until the last 30 seconds of the game that Delaware secured a double-digit lead to come out on top 77-63.

Northeastern's Dublin and Stella Clark, as well as Delaware's Rebecca Lawrence, fouled out of the game in the fourth quarter.

Offensively, Delaware's Samone dominated with 31 points while Paris McBride racked up 14 all on free throws. Defreese led with nine rebounds; Gonzales rounded out the leaderboard with five assists. Only Shannon Todd had more than McBride for Northeastern with fifteen points.

Defensively, Northeastern's total blocks tied Lawrence's three. Delaware doubled in total with two from Makeda Nicholas and one from Gadson Lefft .

Delaware advances to 6-5 overall in the CAA, Northeastern dropping 5-7. The Blue Hens will return to the court Sunday, hosting Hofstra University at 2:00 p.m. That game will be followed by post-game autographs with the team.

THE REVIEW SPORTS ROUNDTABLE: WHAT TO EXPECT THIS SPRING

With the spring sports season fast approaching and Delaware's basketball teams less than a month away from the postseason, The Review's sports staff was asked to answer a series of questions to prepare Delaware fans for what's to come.

Which season are you most looking forward to this spring?

Meagan McKinley: I want to say baseball because it's my favorite spring sport, but I can't wait to see how men's lacrosse progresses after last year's CAA playoff loss.

Tye Richmond: Men's Lacrosse. I want to see how the teams improves from their tough one-goal loss to Towson in last year's playoffs. Also, I want to see if anybody can step up for the team. Delaware is looking for its first winning record since the 2010-11 season.

Dan Rosenfield: Basketball, if that still counts as spring, because the team can be fourth in the CAA and thus earn a bye for the first round of the CAA tournament. After that, anything can happen.

David Russell: I'd have to say men's lacrosse, partially because it's my third favorite sport behind hockey and soccer. But more importantly, I feel this team has yet to fully realize its potential, and it has the chance to prove it this year.

Who or what is most important to Delaware having success in men's basketball?

McKinley: Eric Carter and Ithiel Horton. If Carter can bring his scoring back up to the level he started the season with, he's going to be one of the best in the CAA. Horton, as a freshman, could very well be the third straight Blue Hen to win CAA Rookie of the Year. As long as he stays consistent in beating the pace of both the winners before him, I don't see why he couldn't.

Richmond: The most important thing for the team to have success is their defense. In the recent three-game losing streak, the opponents each shot over 48 percent. So if they can play better team defense then they wouldn't blow or surrender the leads they've had in the first half of games.

Rosenfield: Holding on to big leads. Too many times this season Delaware has surrendered huge leads they built from the first half. The team needs to take every opponent seriously and play like it's their last. Never put your gas off the peddle and always play to win, not play to not lose.

Russell: The top players producing goes without saying, but what truly separates the contenders from the pretenders is the contributions of the depth players. Balanced scoring takes the pressure off the big guns and can help make up for a lack of star power.

COURTESY OF DELAWARE ATHLETICS

Delaware baseball opens its season Feb. 15 at Charlotte

How far can Delaware make it in the women's basketball tournament?

COURTESY OF DELAWARE ATHLETICS

Delaware is 5-5 in CAA play with eight games remaining in the regular season.

McKinley: Women's basketball has struggled without reigning CAA Player of the Year Nicole Enabosi. With the offensive going dry, hopes have leaned away from freshman Jasmine Dickey, even though she's second in the conference in rebounds. Enabosi is a dominant player and perhaps that's a learning opportunity without her, trying to balance out the gaps she's left. If they don't do that soon, they're not going to get the surge they need to push through CAA's.

Richmond: I don't think the team will make it that far in the tournament. With the loss of Nicole Enabosi the team has been struggling and could have its first losing year since the 2014-15 season. It will be a tough challenge for Delaware going up against teams like JMU and Drexel, who they just lost to by 17.

Rosenfield: Without Nicole Enabosi, I don't see this team making it very far. They struggled early on in the year but have bounced back a little bit. That being said, I don't see them having enough offensive firepower to get through the top of the league like JMU and Drexel. Without Enabosi, everything will be a challenge.

Russell: It all depends on if they can harness that go-for-the-throat mentality that all champions possess. Many times in sports I've seen the touted favorites lose to an ostensibly lesser team simply because they lacked that extra gear. Some may scoff at intangibles such as this, but I'm of the mindset that it can take you farther than you otherwise might have without it.

Which spring sports athlete should Delaware fans look out for?

McKinley: Baseball's Billy Sullivan IV. He turned down the Phillies after the 2017 draft to play for Delaware and will be eligible for the draft again after this season. With 14 starts as a freshman, Sullivan had a 2.97 ERA and 95 strikeouts; batters were .199 against him. It'll be really interesting to see what he's capable of with a season already under his belt.

Richmond: People should look out for baseball's Kyle Baker. He led the CAA with a .354 average with 75 hits in 212 at-bats. He had 11 doubles, five triples and two home runs, along with a team-high 39 runs batted in. Last season, he earned All-CAA First Team accolades and this season the he earned Preseason All-CAA. So, if the Blue Hen want to go far this year Baker will need to play a big role.

Rosenfield: People should look out for Anna Steinmetz on the softball team. She was selected to the All-CAA first team for the second year in a row in 2018. Last season, she led the Blue Hens with 12 doubles, 10 home runs and 38 RBI. She also had a .341 batting average.

Russell: I realize this is quite the sleeper pick, but I'm going with Bryce Reid of men's lacrosse. He netted 20 goals last season, good for fifth on the team, and picked up four in Delaware's 11-8 win at the mount. If his first outing of the year is any indication of things to come, we could see a breakout season.

BLUE HEN SPOTLIGHT

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