

The McDaniel Free Press

Volume 23, Issue 1 | September 4, 2019

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McDaniel Local students return to community, receive warm Westminster welcome

Marya Kuratova
Editor-in-Chief

On Saturday, August 24, first-year students and peer mentors followed President Roger Casey down Main Street. For most students, however, this was not their first introduction to the Westminster community.

Ninety-eight percent of the incoming class participated in McDaniel Local, the fairly new three-day, two-night summer program introducing first-year students to McDaniel and downtown Westminster before classes even start. As an ongoing effort to better unite the College with the surrounding community, McDaniel Local included volunteer hours at the Boys & Girls Club and lunch at local restaurants.

Now back on campus for the fall semester, students returned to Main Street Saturday morning to revisit their favorite businesses. Students gathered outside the Westminster Public Library to meet the Green Terror and enjoy music



First-year students pass by JeannieBird Baking Company on their way downtown on Saturday, August 24. (Marya Kuratova/McDaniel Free Press).

from Rachel Gunnerson and Jake Fine, leaders of McDaniel's Live Music Club, before hearing from Casey, Associate Dean of Campus and Community Engagement Josh Ambrose, Westminster Mayor Joe Dominick, and several local business owners and community members.

Dominick, a McDaniel alumnus, briefly shared his experience at the College and how it brought him to serve and love the community today,

urging students not to hesitate when pursuing opportunities McDaniel and downtown Westminster can offer.

"You are all just starting this journey and it can take you so many different places," Dominick said. "especially since downtown is so intertwined with the College."

Christina Kuntz, branch manager of the Westminster Public Library, also took the time to welcome the incoming class. Kuntz

shared ongoing plans to convert the library's 14-thousand-square-foot basement into a common meeting room and "maker space" with 3D printers, audio equipment, and culinary centers. With an anticipated completion in fall of 2020, the Exploration Commons will be available for the class of 2023 in their second year at McDaniel.

Then, students heard from Atlas Premier Realty owner Greg Brock, *See LOCAL, page 3*

Office of Residence Life converts 8 houses to undergraduate housing



Harrison House has been converted into upperclassmen housing; Marketing offices were moved to Winslow Hall. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Laurel Pogue
Editorial Staff

One of the most frequently shared pieces of news about this school year is the record-breaking number of new students in the class of 2023. Of course, while housing options have shifted for these incoming first years, there have also been changes in upperclassmen housing that are somewhat less well-known.

According to information from Associate Dean of Students Michael Robbins, in order to fit the increased number of students, the college has changed the use of some buildings and converted them into undergraduate housing.

Five houses on Pennsylvania Avenue are now also used for undergraduate housing - 144, 154, 171, 173, and 175. House 144 currently only includes one

apartment of McDaniel students, as standing leases with the previous owner are being honored for their duration, but it is likely that all four apartments will be used by McDaniel next academic year.

Houses 154 and 175 were previously used as housing for graduate assistants. House 171 was previously used as an office for the construction team from Whiting Turner that was working on the Gill Gymnasium renovation project, though it had been student housing before. The final house on Pennsylvania Avenue is 173, which was rented out to faculty and staff before being converted to student housing. These houses are being overseen by Kate Charles, the area coordinator for independent housing.

There are three other houses located elsewhere that have recently become undergraduate housing. Harrison House previously housed the department of Marketing and Communication, which has now relocated to the second floor of the Winslow Center.

McDaniel House, which was previously used as student housing before some damage prevented this, has been repaired and used for undergraduate students as early as this previous summer for research assistants.

The final newly used house is 257 West Main St., which is located near the tennis courts. This house is divided into two completely separate and unconnected halves—

the top remains a rental space for faculty and staff, while the bottom has been opened for student use. These houses are being overseen by one of the new area coordinators, Marcnoy Anozil.

While some rooms were originally reserved in the local Best Western hotel in anticipation of the large incoming class, the addition of these houses meant that the College had access to enough rooms on campus to house all the students who had signed up for a room through the Office of Residence Life.

The reservations were cancelled, and no students were placed in the hotel by the College.

These houses are being used for returning students and some transfer students, as opposed to first year students. Some students living in McDaniel Hall were given the opportunity to move into these buildings as part of Residence Life's process of consolidating first year students into this hall, in addition to the three previously used first year residence halls.

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Guenther named new chair of Board of Trustees

Molly Sherman
Staff Reporter

This summer, a veteran of the U.S. Army and McDaniel College was chosen to command as the new chair of the College’s Board of Trustees.

Lt. Gen. Otto J. Guenther takes the reins from Martin K.P. Hill, who held the position since 2007 and served on the College’s Board of Trustees since 1993. Hill worked tirelessly for the students at McDaniel and across Carroll County. Additionally, he was integral to the evolution of McDaniel’s landscape, guiding the renovation of every academic building on campus.

Like Hill, Guenther celebrates a long history with McDaniel. He graduated from the College in 1963 with a bachelor’s degree in

economics and was commissioned in the Green Terror Battalion Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) program as a Signal Corp Officer in the Army. He continues the tradition as a mentor for students in the College’s ROTC program.

He went on to earn a master’s degree in procurement and contracting from the Florida Institute of Technology. Additionally, he completed all levels of military education and training, graduating from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Army War College, and specialty training at the Defense Systems Management College.

Guenther served in the U.S. Army for 34 years and was recognized for his service with numerous awards and decorations,

including the Distinguished Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious service. In just 2019, he was inducted into the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) Hall of Fame to commend his selfless work for the government.

In closing his military career, he served as the Army’s first chief information officer in 1995 and acted as the director of information systems at the Pentagon until he retired in 1997. He transitioned into leadership roles in Computer Associates and Northrop Grumman Mission Systems’ Tactical Systems Division.

Guenther has been commended by the College on multiple occasions, having earned himself the Trustee Service Award in 1996, the Alumni Community Service Award in 2013, and the Alumni College Service Award in 2016. He has served dutifully on the Board of Trustees since 2006, functioning as a member of an abundance of committees, such as the



Lt. Gen. Otto J. Guenther. (Photo courtesy of mcdaniel.edu).

Executive, Buildings and Grounds, Institutional Advancement, Enrollment Management, and Student Affairs committees.

CECOM Commander Maj. Gen. Randy Taylor, amidst Guenther’s induction, thanked those being accepted into the hall of fame for setting an example for all of us to follow. McDaniel hopes to follow Guenther in the prodigious direction he has already pioneered for himself.

Largest incoming class in history poses logistical challenges



McDaniel College President Roger Casey addresses the first-year class during the Introduction Convocation ceremony on Aug. 23, 2019.

(Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Gillian Barr
Contributor

As the largest class in history has come to take over McDaniel College, a number of new challenges have arisen.

When the 587 first year and 50 transfer students came flooding onto campus, first year student Jill Hoffman asked, “Why accept so many students if the school doesn’t have room for all of them?”

There is a total of three dorms that are supposed to house first year students: Whiteford, Rouzer, and Daniel MacLea Hall (reserved for students in the Honors program).

The housing coordinators, including Associate Dean of Students Michael Robbins, had to make special accommodations because of the historically large number of students.

The adjustments made, according to Robbins, include “Rouzer lounges [turned] into quads

[and] double rooms in both Rouzer and Whiteford [were] converted into triples.”

This year, according to Robbins, first year students have been spread to the first floor of McDaniel Hall, and parts of the Forlines House. However, they have put up blocks to isolate first year students from the upperclassmen.

Additionally, teachers in all different departments had to add 1000-level courses to their curriculum to offer relevant classes to the first-years. More students also meant more First Year Seminar (FYS) classes had to be created, in order to preserve the small nature of the seminar.

During first-year orientation at the Introduction Convocation, President Roger Casey told everyone, from the students to staff members, of the student-based statistics that have increased because of the class of 2023’s size.

Fifty percent of the college’s entire population is of different multicultural authenticities; the male to female ratio is split by 49:51; those who are first-generation college students take up 49 percent of the incoming class.

“The class is larger because the pool of applicants was larger this year, up more than 1,000 from the year prior,” said Janelle Holmboe, vice president of enrollment management and dean of admissions.

McDaniel faculty and staff members have done all they can to anticipate the challenges this large class brings, and they are excited for the year ahead.



Crime Log

Reported 8/20 Off Campus
Larceny from motor vehicle—closed

Reported 8/21 Rouzer
Social Media Harassment – closed

Reported 8/22 Campus Wide
Sexual Assault: Rape – active

Reported 8/23 Rouzer
Sexual Assault: Rape – active

Reported 8/25 Gardens 161
Controlled Dangerous Substance Possession – closed

Reported 8/25 Gardens 161
Student Conduct Violation – closed

Reported 8/25 Doctor’s Office
In-person Harassment (2 counts) – active

The Daily Crime and Fire Log is available for public view in the Campus Safety office, located at 152 Pennsylvania Ave. The most current 60 days of information is available from the dispatcher; archived records up to 7 years can be requested.

Fall 2019 Editorial Team

Marya Kuratova ‘20
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Erin Pogue ‘20
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Professor Daniel Schafer returns to campus

Erin Pogue
Editorial Staff

To some people, there may appear to be a new face in the English Department, though seniors, faculty, and staff are excited to welcome back professor Daniel Schafer.

He first came to McDaniel in 2013, and was a visiting professor for four years. Schafer previously taught and worked in publishing and non-profits, and applied to work at McDaniel after being told about an opening from another English professor, Paul Muhlhauser, who he knew previously from graduate school.

After his fourth year, he returned to his home state of Washington, but continued to offer several online courses to students and stay connected with the McDaniel community.

While in Washington, he spent some time taking care of his son, as well as working with a public health non-profit. He worked to transform the Medicaid system to be more effective, and also worked with medical clinics on tribal lands. He continues to be involved in public health in Maryland, with a global

health initiative in Bethesda. Schafer has taught a wide variety of courses in the English department, often on the topic of composition and design, but also ranging from technical courses to more literature focused ones. While it is difficult to pick just one course that he likes the most, he offers Professional Communication most often, and also enjoys teaching Baseball Nonfiction and Editing and Desktop Publishing.

This semester he is teaching an FYS course for the first time, America’s Game: Baseball, which was previously taught by coach David Seibert, who retired in 2018. Having already taught a course on baseball writing in the past, this combination seemed like a winning match.

Schafer hopes to highlight many different perspectives in his course, showing how baseball writing can tell rich stories, show interesting characters, and mirror social and cultural issues of the time. He is also allowing students to take a hands-on approach to writing by holding a Wiffle ball game in the Quad during class, and then having students write about the game using techniques they have previously read about.



Daniel Schafer relaxes on campus in 2014. (McDaniel Free Press staff).

One thing that Schafer is looking forward to this semester is being able to teach classes in person. While he enjoys online classes, and continues to offer them, he recognizes the benefits to teaching in person. He appreciates being able to interact with students face to face, and being able to be more responsive to student questions and needs. He also enjoys being involved in campus and community activities.

His last year on campus was the class of 2020’s first year, so he has enjoyed seeing how students have grown as students and people. He has also missed the friends and community at McDaniel. He believes that the community is outstanding and the supportive, kind, and caring people in the English department, McDaniel, and Carroll County as a whole are what has kept him connected to the College.

Radio club unveils new website



(Photo courtesy of Pixabay user 3910743)

Marya Kuratova
Editor-in-Chief

McDaniel’s radio station, MGTRadio, is excited to announce some substantial changes for the new school year.

This past semester, the radio club focused on rebuilding its brand and has since unveiled a new and improved website.

“Over the past two years, MGT Radio has evolved into a digital radio station. Gone are the days of antenna broadcasting,” said Robert Lemieux, faculty adviser to the club. “As part of the transition to digital, we’ve created a website that highlights the station’s many

features and a link to the digital player.”

The website also features details of their booking services. The campus community is welcome to rent MGT Radio sound equipment for various events, and even request the help of club members. Pricing and contact information appear under the “book us!” tab on the site.

In addition, the club took the time last spring to organize all its music and create sub-libraries for smoother playing. Quite a few songs had been purchased by members who have since graduated, which made those files inaccessible and caused unfortunate gaps of silence in the online player.

Lemieux requested outside help to remove the duplicate and inaccessible files, offering junior Jake Fine credit for an independent study in exchange for the meticulous work.

“It was a huge challenge, sorting through a catalog of around 12 thousand songs, but I was able to

complete the task,” said Fine. “And now every song has at least one genre folder that it belongs to.”

This semester, Lemieux and the rest of the club plan to focus on reaching more listeners and hope to expand their selection of student-run shows. Though not a member of the radio club, Fine had some ideas as well.

“I think it would be awesome if locations on campus could stream audio from our radio station if there are shows being held at that time. Students in the Pub or the Gill gym could hear their music curated by their peers while they’re out and about,” he said. “It would also be cool to see the radio club DJ more events on campus.”

The club will meet in Lewis on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and is optimistic about the semester ahead.

“We anticipate that our momentum will lead to a more vibrant campus presence, as well as an increase in listeners,” said Lemieux.

The McDaniel Free Press is excited to partner with MGTRadio. We have included a permanent link to the radio club website beneath the “Media” tab.



The *Free Press* is excited to continue partnering with *Contrast*, McDaniel’s literary magazine and purveyor of the literary arts.

We’ll be working closely to bring you the latest creative short stories and poems written by McDaniel students. Each issue, we’ll publish a creative writing prompt for you to respond to, and you’ll have about a month to submit for the chance to be published.

Contrast will be holding writing workshops throughout the semester. You are welcome to bring your drafts to these meetings for feedback.

Email your submissions to contrastlitmag@gmail.com. Winner(s) will be chosen based on the discretion of *Contrast* editors Marya Kuratova and Nathan Wright.

This month’s prompt:

Describe something ordinary in an unrelated genre style. For instance, you could describe your dorm room in the style of an epic fantasy, a squirrel in the style of a western, your breakfast in Glar as a steamy romance, or an academic building on campus in the style of a sci-fi thriller.

Please submit either a short story no longer than 500 words or up to 50 lines of poetry no later than 11:59 pm on Sunday, September 22.

McDaniel Local students return to community, receive warm Westminster welcome

LOCAL from page 1

who also encouraged students to keep visiting Main Street.

“Explore downtown, pop in to businesses, and take the opportunity to get to know business owners for employment opportunities,” he advised. “Make the best of your time and get off the Hill to introduce yourself.”

Finally, Cultivated boutique owner Tiombe Paige shared her enthusiasm for welcoming the

incoming class.

“We are so excited to weave you into the fabric of what we call home,” Paige said.

Paige reminded students that the Boys & Girls Club is always looking for interns and “a number of businesses want to extend a warm welcome.”

As Rachel Gunnerson and Jake Fine took to the stage again, students were encouraged to spend McDaniel Bucks at participating

restaurants for lunch, visit an ice cream truck, and stop by the farmer’s market. Nearly two dozen downtown businesses offered discounts and free giveaways and students were encouraged to stamp a “passport” at each participating business for the chance to win 50 dollars.

This “Westminster Welcome” event is now in its second year.

New Student Orientation Photos

Marya Kuratova, Editor-in-Chief



R.J. Kimmerle and Lauren Beckjord, part of the Move-In Crew, help new students move in to Daniel Maclea Hall.



The Move-In Crew, which consisted of peer mentors, resident assistants, and members of McDaniel ROTC, helps unload a car.



Erin Benevento and Tommy Schoolman from First Stop helped provide directions on Move-In Day.



A first-year student asks for directions to find his peer mentor and First Year Seminar classmates.



Peer Mentor Zach Ruggerie assembles his First Year Seminar group.



A new student joins Dean Towle to ring in at the Old Main Bell.



Dean Towle pauses to take a picture with a first-year student ringing in.



A new student joins President Casey to ring in at the Old Main Bell.

Follow us on Facebook for the complete album of Orientation photots.

New Student Orientation Photos

Marya Kuratova, Editor-in-Chief



After ringing in, new students passed through a line of Peer Mentors and RAs.



Peer Mentors and RAs congratulate new students on ringing in.



New students celebrate ringing in.



New students celebrate ringing in.

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Students pose with the Green Terror downtown during the Westminster Welcome.



Mayor Joe Dominick speaks to the incoming class during the Westminster Welcome.

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Gwen Coddington begins her first semester as archivist and librarian



Gwen Coddington is McDaniel's new archivist. (Photo courtesy of Hoover Library).

Laurel Pogue Editorial Staff

If you stop by the library this semester, you may see a new face in the archives - Gwen Coddington, the new archivist and special collections librarian. Coddington began working at McDaniel in mid-August, prior to which she was working on her Master of Science and Master of Library and Information Science at the University of Maryland. How did she end up on the Hill? "I'm a Carroll County resident," she said, "And I wanted to be at an institution that actively contributes

to my community." She was also attracted to McDaniel's academic orientation as a liberal arts school and its similar size to the College of Wooster, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in history. "I like the idea of participating in a campus-wide community that values a well-rounded education," Coddington said. Like most librarians, she's a self-described avid reader. "Right now I'm reading Madeline Miller's book, *Circe*, and I recently finished Pierce Brown's *Dark Age*," she said. "I also play piano, sing a little, and sometimes

make an appearance in community theater productions." But why archival work? Coddington cites a passage in a Chekov short story, "The Student," where he writes, "The past...is joined to the present by an unbroken chain of events, proceeding one out of the other. It seemed to him that he had just seen both ends of that chain. As he shook one end of the chain he was able to touch the other." "Reading histories and other interpretive works is crucial to the intellectual process, but I think working with primary documents gives an emotional intelligence that's hard to reproduce," Coddington said. "It shortcuts time and space and helps you connect with the dozens of other people who might have handled that record, whether they be creators or caretakers or researchers. Well, it's a bit like pulling the chain of history and watching the other end move." In terms of her goals moving forward in this position, Coddington hopes to build on the work of the previous archivist, Andrea Briggs, to further the organization and intellectual control of the collections. She also plans to expand the library's outreach on campus and in the community. In just her short time here already, she has already started to discover interesting things. "Exploring the collections has been fascinating," she shared. "For example, I've been helping a researcher find information about a former WMC grad, Sadie Kneller-Miller, who was a photojournalist at the turn of the 20th century. Come to find out, she was the first woman baseball reporter and a stunning world traveler. She

McDaniel Compliments

"Welcome to all the new students that are part of class of 2023! It's always so exciting to meet all the new freshmen and hear about why they fell in love with McDaniel. I hope you have a great first semester!"

"Hailey Hawkins is one cool cat."

"Kiersten Reed is amazing and she's doing such a good job balancing all of her obligation. She is such a role model!"

Want to brighten someone's day? Need a way to fulfill your random act of kindness for the day? Message *Dean McDaniel Compliments* on Facebook with a compliment and we'll post it anonymously for you.

Here to spread some happiness on the Hill, we'll make sure your friend, classmate, or professor has the chance to smile and feel appreciated. Your compliment could be featured in the next issue of the *Free Press*!

covered events like George V's coronation, a National Convention (as the only woman photographer) and photographed military bases at Indian Head and Newport where no other photographer had been admitted before." As a final thing to share, she would like to remind students to explore the Archives web page on the Hoover Library website. They have digitized back issues of student newspapers, yearbooks, catalogs, and more. "And if you can't find what you're looking for, please ask!"

Pam Regis assumes role as acting dean, Robert Kachur steps up as English department chair



Pam Regis, center, is surrounded by English department faculty. (Photo courtesy of mcdaniel.edu).

Ciara O'Brien Staff Reporter

After serving as the English department chair for three years, Pamela Regis, Ph.D., has decided to step up and serve as the new dean of graduate and professional studies. "I enjoyed [my time as the English department chair]," Regis said. "The English department is an interesting and happy place."

Her favorite part of being chair was helping others, which she will be able to carry forward into her new role. "My time as acting dean of graduate and professional studies will include overseeing the programs that GPS offers, and collaborating with GPS colleagues to deliver those programs," she said. She mentioned that a "new challenge" sparked the

decision to change and she is "looking forward to learning about GPS and lending a hand." Although she is still a tenured member of the faculty, and a member of the English department, Regis is not currently teaching. Before she officially became acting dean, her position as chair was mostly administrative. However, the professors in the English department are working hard to fill the gaps and allow the classes that she once taught to continue being offered. The American literature classes that Regis taught will be covered by professors Mary Bendel-Simso, Ph.D., and Suzanne Nida, and her class on Jane Austen's novels will most likely be taught by Robert Kachur, Ph.D., when it is next offered. Her new business writing class will be taught by Daniel Schafer. Not only is Kachur taking over Regis's Jane Austen class, but he is also replacing her as chair of the English department. A professor at McDaniel for 21 years, Kachur can't imagine being anywhere else. "The English Department faculty and staff are family," he said. "And the bright, creative and big-hearted students I've taught over the years have brought me much joy and made me want to be a better person." Since Kachur once served as chair of the English department for a five-and-a-half-year stint, he expressed willingness and interest

in filling the role again. During his stretch of time as chair, he got the opportunity to personally oversee the hiring of many wonderful professors and work closely with Kathy Edmondson, the department's academic secretary. "She is not only extremely competent and hardworking, but makes me laugh until my stomach hurts," Kachur said. "In addition, she also thinks I am hilariously funny, which shows her good taste and keen judgment." Although he wouldn't consider his new administrative duties "exciting," he is enthusiastic about his new ability to care for the well-being of his fellow members in the English department. "If an English colleague needs a resource, has a concern, or wants to grow professionally in a particular way, I as chair can support them not only as a friend, but as a department chair who has some resources at his disposal," he said. Kachur gives Regis his well wishes, declaring that "any department is lucky to get her, and I am sure her new colleagues will appreciate that." *Regis assumed her new position on June 1, 2019.*

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Updated Student Handbook reflects new state regulations



Dean Towle spoke to first-years during Introduction Convocation on August 23, 2019. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Molly Sherman
Staff Reporter

This year, the College made significant updates to the McDaniel College Policy Against Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct and Other Forms of Personal Violence Policy in accordance with the new regulations implemented by Maryland.

The 2019-20 McDaniel College Student Handbook underwent routine updates for the new school year. The Handbook provides policy content and vital

information. It is intended to be utilized by students as a guide for conduct and processes at the school.

Dean Elizabeth Towle sent out an email to all students on the first day of the 2019 Fall semester, providing access to the Handbook itself, as well as a bulleted list of the key content in the book. Additionally, Towle shared McDaniel College’s Statement of Non-Discrimination and summarized the changes made to the policy, citing page numbers to benefit further interest.

The policy clarifies the availability of resources on campus to include Campus Safety and the access they provide to a SAFE exam at Carroll Hospital Center. It also clarifies the reach of Title IX of the Educational Amendments, a law that’s primary purpose is to prohibit discrimination in education, now extending to parents.

Towle clarified the differences

between the complainant and the respondent, in the context of misconduct, explicitly. This distinction is necessary to understand the rules and rights for grievance procedures for alleged violations of the policy against sexual misconduct and sexual and gender-based harassment and discrimination, beginning on page 20 of the Handbook. The complainant is “the individual who experienced an alleged violation,” while the respondent is “the individual who allegedly engaged in a policy violation.”

In the section regarding the rights of the complainant and the respondent, it is provided that an individual can decline to participate in any phase of the process, but it will not inhibit the College’s ability to proceed with the process. This renders the acting power of the individual’s decision, be it from the complainant or the respondent, somewhat obsolete.

Additional changes Towle summarized included the use of prior sexual history and mental health as evidence. The complainant’s prior sexual history is not considered relevant, their

current relationship to the respondent may be considered, but not as sufficient means to constitute consent in sexual misconduct, and only under very limited circumstances is information outside of the complainant and the respondent’s history considered. As for mental health, a party’s history will not be considered or documented without consent of the party.

The policy has also clarified the right to support advisers, submission lists of witnesses, questions, and direct testimonies. It also includes detailed considerations to the punishments for respondents if they are found responsible.

Other content that has remained unchanged is still just as relevant as these clarifications and additions. The content of the Handbook in its entirety is valuable for every student to know.

Towle encourages students with questions to reach out to her directly.

Read more articles at
www.mcdanielfreepress.com

McDictionary

Erin Pogue
Editorial Staff

ANW

Albert Norman Ward Hall

An upperclassman residence hall next to the gym.

Big Baker

Baker Memorial Chapel

The church that is in front of the fountain.

Blackboard

An “online classroom” website where your professors can give assignments and upload grades; it is important to check this often.

Caboose

The caboose by the football field is a reminder of the Western Maryland Railroad which McDaniel was originally named after.

Campo

Department of Campus Safety

Our campus police, whose office is located at 152 PA Ave., across the street from Gardens Apartments.

Caseys’ Corner

A coffee shop inside Hoover Library serving Starbucks products.

CEO

The Center of Experience and Opportunity

Located around the corner from the dining hall, they can help you write a resume, decide your major, or any number of other professional things.

Contrast

A literary magazine on campus that takes student submissions and is released every spring.

Decker

May refer to Decker College Center, the building in the center of campus containing many offices and the dining hall, or Decker Auditorium, an auditorium located in Lewis Hall of Science.

DMC

Daniel Maclea Hall

A mixed-year Honors Program residence hall located across the parking area from Rouzer.

First Stop

Located on the second floor of the library, First Stop is an office designed to help first-year McDaniel students with anything they need to have a successful first year.

Free Press

McDaniel’s school newspaper, which you’re reading right now! We’re always looking for writers.

Free Shelf

A bookshelf by the mailboxes where people can put things they no longer want and others can take. No trash, please.

Funion

The satirical issue of the *Free Press* released each April Fool’s Day.

FYS

First Year Seminar

A course required for each first-year student as part of the McDaniel Plan.

Gardens

The apartments down the steps from the Rouzer parking lot, across the street from Campus Safety.

Gill

The gymnasium complex.

Glar

Englar Dining Hall

The dining hall on campus, located in Decker College Center.

Green Terror

McDaniel’s aptly named mascot.

GTP

Green Terror Programs

A student organization that puts on free weekly events such as trivia, Weekend Blitz field trips, and game shows.

The Hill

A nickname for McDaniel, as well as the name of the alumni magazine.

Hoover

The library, which is located across from Hill Hall.

ILL

Interlibrary Loan

A way in which students can borrow books, articles, and magazine from other schools through the Hoover Library website.

Jan Term

During the extra long winter break, students have the option of taking a class either on campus or abroad.

Klitzberg Pavilion

An area just inside Gill where students can chat, do homework, and hang out.

Little Baker

Baker Chapel

Located in between the theater and Peterson Hall.

McSwagger

A term coined by President Casey, used often during important speeches.

Meal Exchange

Each meal plan comes with a certain number of “meal exchanges” which you can use at the Pub. These do not come out of your standard dining hall swipes, but are a separate tally.

Memorial Bell

The bell in Red Square, used to “ring in” during New Student Orientation and “ring out” after graduation.

North Village

An apartment complex located beyond the gym.

ODI

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Located beneath Rouzer, this office-coordinates events and programs and works with multicultural student organizations.

1Card

Your ID card, which is used to swipe into Glar, check out books, and at various vendors on and off campus.

OSE

The Office of Student Engagement

Located beneath Rouzer, this office aids student organizations and Greek-lettered organizations, and hosts events.

PA Ave.

Pennsylvania Avenue

A street bordering the far side of campus where many student houses are located.

Pub

Another dining option located across from the bookstore where you can pay with meal exchanges, McDaniel Bucks, cash, or card.

Red Square

Memorial Plaza

The gathering space between the library and Hill Hall.

Roger Casey

The current president of the College. His house is across from the theater.

Rouzer

The first-year residence hall located next to/attached to Decker College Center.

SASS

Student Academic Support Services

An office located in Merritt Hall that provides aid to students with documented disabilities.

Spring Fling

A celebration during the spring semester with inflatables, food, tie-dye, and other fun activities.

WMC

Western Maryland College

The former name of the College until 2002.

Whiteford

One of the first-year residence halls, located behind Hill Hall.



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The McDaniel Free Press

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Decker College Center construction displaces Pub, offices, and meeting areas

Erin Pogue
Editorial Staff

As discussed in February, Decker College Center will be undergoing renovations to better equip it with being a more effective meeting place for students. While these changes are in effect, some offices and spaces have been moved to accommodate construction. The Office of Student Engagement (OSE) and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) have shifted slightly to be next to the Center for Experience and Opportunity (CEO), in the basement of Rouzer Hall.

The Rec Lounge has also moved, and will now be permanently located underneath Englar Dining Hall in Gold Room A. With the new location comes the addition of three new game machines: Donkey Kong, Dance Dance Revolution, and Ghostbusters Pinball.

While originally thought to be unavailable, the Forum will now be open and able to be used for the rest of the fall semester. While



Construction on Decker College Center has closed the road leading up to Whiteford Hall and displaced multiple offices. (Marya Kuratova/McDaniel Free Press).

the front door will be blocked, the side doors next to the former Rec Lounge will be accessible. Despite the space being open, it will be a smaller space, and there will be ongoing construction, especially during the week. This space will remain open until Dec. 16, when it will close until March. It will re-open for the rest of the semester, but will close again on June 1 until the construction is complete, which

is expected to be Aug. 19.

As construction continues throughout the semester, more aspects of Decker College Center will shift to accommodate this, as detailed in a campus-wide email on Sept. 18. After fall break, the outside doors closest to the Forum will be unavailable, and will remain closed until the end of the project. At the end of the fall semester, the staircase from the mid-level

of Decker to the bottom level will be closed until the end of the construction project.

The Pub will also be moving after this Fall break, and will relocate to Klitzberg Pavilion in Gill Center until August. This renovation will also include a new menu called "Freshens." Some new menu items include fresh flatbreads, nachos, chicken tenders, and hot
*See **DECKER**, page 3*

Financial Aid Office has yet to process financial aid



Elderdice Hall houses the financial aid department. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Marya Kuratova
Editor-in-Chief

While the original deadline for paying for the fall semester was July 1, the Financial Aid Office is still processing and awarding financial aid well into the start of the semester, which has prevented many students from knowing—and, consequently, paying—their fall balances.

"Because we are continuously processing payments and working with students and their families, we cannot provide an accurate number

[of just how many students still haven't paid for the fall semester]," Janelle Holmboe, vice president for enrollment, said.

On Aug. 21, Holmboe sent an email to all undergraduate students to address some common financial aid concerns.

Holmboe apologized for the frustrations many students and parents experienced over the summer, citing "a perfect storm of staff departures, regulatory changes, college closures, and significantly more students" responsible for the

delays in awarding financial aid.

With many students still unaware of their final tuition balance due, Holmboe explained that the College will not be applying late charges to those students still waiting to pay for the fall semester due to slow processing times.

Holmboe's email also specified several proposed changes to improve office efficiency in the future. She detailed the Financial Aid Office's plans for hiring three full-time staff members and auditing the existing software to identify ways technology can help process aid, as well as her plan to implement customer service training for staff to better address student and parent frustrations.

"Because financial aid is such a complex field, it can be very challenging to find people [to hire] with existing financial aid experience, so we also seek professionals with transferable skills," Holmboe later shared with *The Free Press*. "In these cases, training typically takes one full year—we want staff new to financial aid to see an entire financial aid cycle before we would consider them trained."

In regards to changes to existing software, Holmboe explained to *The Free Press* that the office will be moving to an automated system, as it has previously been manually processing aid and individually keying in student data.

"[The automated system] will

make this process more efficient, accurate, and consistent," Holmboe said. "The College has contracted with Ellucian, the software provider that supports our financial aid module in our student information system, and will be bringing them to campus over the course of this year to implement improvements."

Ellucian is already scheduled to be on campus the first week of December and the first week of January, she said.

The office's goal is to finish awarding the pending aid by Nov. 1 to avoid negatively impacting spring registration. While admitting that the office has fallen behind in processing aid, Holmboe also explained that the office is still waiting on "quite a few" students to submit necessary documents.

"Even small oversights (like forgetting a signature, for example) can delay the process," Holmboe said.

On Sept. 22, Holmboe addressed the student body once more by following up with some updates to her initial email.

She shared that an on-site temporary staff member and a remote temporary staff member
*See **FINANCE**, page 5.*

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Deans hold first ‘Ask McDaniel Anything’ forum of the semester



Dean Towle listens to a student's question during the “Ask McDaniel Anything” forum on Tuesday, Sept. 24. (Erin Pogue / McDaniel Free Press).

Erin Pogue Editorial Staff

On Tuesday, Sept. 24, Dean of Student Affairs Liz Towle and Associate Dean of Campus and Community Engagement Josh Ambrose hosted the first “Ask McDaniel Anything” session for the semester. Also in attendance were Director of Student Engagement Amanda Gelber and Associate Director of Student Engagement Manuel Rodriguez. These sessions are open forums for students to ask questions about the College. In an email to students advertising the event, Ambrose described it as a way to “have your voice be heard and to brainstorm together about solutions to better our community.”

Some of the main topics discussed were the Decker College Center renovations, sexual assault policies, and accessibility on campus.

Decker Renovations

One of the main concerns of students were the Decker College Center renovations, as visible construction has recently begun on campus.

Every few weeks, Dean Towle attends a meeting with Whiting Turner, along with Campus Safety, Conference Services, and “anybody who is operationally impacted by the renovation.” These meetings help to provide updates, keep the campus informed, and troubleshoot any issues that may arise.

This project will be continuing throughout the year, and into the summer.

As many students are aware, the first step was to move the Rec Lounge into Gold Room A, located next to Harlow Pool. The next steps are electrical work, the HVAC system, and other behind-the-scenes things that are important for building maintenance. After this is complete, they will begin work on the new bookstore, which will be located in the former Rec Lounge location.

The bookstore will likely be moved to this location during the spring semester, around January or February. After this, the middle section of Decker will be closed to work on the new student center in the former bookstore area. During this time, the bookstore, Pub, and staircase from this level to the lower level will be inaccessible, though the Post Office, Copy Center, and ATM will remain operational.

Another topic discussed was

the funding of the renovations. Ambrose explained that this was “money that a donor expressly gave with strings attached for this project,” and that it is not “coming out of the operating budget and it is not impacting other programs on campus.” As with recent stadium renovations, donors are able to determine where money they donate goes to on campus, to highlight particular issues they would like to address.

“This particular project is part of a larger \$50 million fundraiser where 40 million of that is chiefly allocated to student scholarship, faculty and staff development, travel expenses for students, so forth and so on,” Ambrose explained. “It’s not like they chose building a building over scholarship; a bigger amount of money is going toward scholarship. A donor stepped forward and said that they want to see this particular project happen.”

Accessibility

A big question surrounding both the Decker Renovations and the College as a whole is accessibility. One specifically is the availability of the elevator in Decker during renovations. Initially, the elevator will remain untouched, though there will likely be a time during the spring where construction will prohibit students from getting very far into that area, thus it will only be available to students who require it for access. Towle clarified that this will require students to be escorted to the elevator by construction staff, but there will be signs that provide people with information about what’s happening and how to access the elevator in order to “make it as user-friendly as possible” and ensure that people are not deterred from using the building.

There is also the question of ramp construction during the renovations, as discussed in a previous commentary article. In response to this, Towle asked to be shown the specific locations after the meeting, to make sure to convey the specifics of the requests to the construction crew to ensure that accessibility is being considered. She also said that as they get to different stages of the Decker renovation project, she has already talked to people working on campus to clarify which routes people can take due to the renovations.

There will likely be a time during the spring semester when Decker

will only be accessible through the Rouzer entrance, but this will be communicated to students as it happens.

Some other buildings have had issues with access, specifically mentioned was Daniel MacLea Hall, and the question was raised as to whether there were any plans for older buildings to have renovations to make them more accessible. Towle answered that “Whenever an older building is renovated, depending on the type of renovations, there can be different types of building requirements to what kind of accessibility renovations need to happen in conjunction with whatever renovations we want to do to a building, so it depends on the building and the scope of the renovations, which sort of dictate what could happen.” While it is unlikely for large renovations to happen in the future, such as installing an elevator in DMC, “students who are experiencing specific issues related to buildings and accessibility” are asked to share that information to help “guide efforts as to where we go next.”

Another question was whether there would be a gender neutral bathroom installed in Decker during the renovations. The staff asked the architect to focus on including these, and there will be some in the space across from Englar Dining Hall.

Resources

Another cause of concern for students is the amount of resources and staffing on campus, and how that has been impacted by the record-sized first-year class. Some of these concerns included “staffing the library, staffing the Writing Center, staffing offices, and better internet connectivity.”

In terms of the internet, “speed has never been the issue,” but students have had issues connecting to different websites using either McDaniel ResHall Special or McDaniel Secure, or having websites load and apps never loading. While neither administrator who was present is involved in I.T., they mentioned that they have been “putting in more hotspots, recently signed an agreement with Ting about faster, high-speed, local internet on campus,” and that further questions and issues will be passed along to the I.T. department.

Another concern was the availability of spaces for students to hang out during later hours, besides their dorm rooms. With the larger first-year class, many common areas in Rouzer Hall have been converted into dorm rooms, and the library is no longer open as late, both limiting the amount of spaces students can do work late at night.

Once Pub is moved to Klitzberg Pavilion, it will be open until midnight, so Gill Center and the Fitness Center’s hours will be open later to reflect that, which will give students another location.

The new student center in Decker will ideally be open 24 hours, though the deans also asked for short term suggestions for locations that students would like to be open later in the interim period. After a brief discussion, they agreed to look into the logistics of later

library hours, and having Ensor Lounge be open later as well.

Student Involvement and Transparency

Another concern raised was the range of administrators present for the meeting, as all three sessions have been run by Towle and Ambrose. It was admitted that while the two are very knowledgeable, some decisions are above their heads and they are not able to make decisions on all topics of campus life.

While both Roger Casey, the president, and Julia Jasken, the provost, have agreed to attend a session, they were unable to come to this one due to work-necessitated travel. Additional administrators will be present for the next “Ask McDaniel Anything” in November.

The deans present elaborated that while some decisions “come straight from the President’s Office,” others they are able to talk to the people involved and “can take direct action on.”

Towle said that often the steps to making things happen on campus are to work together to gather information about what students want and present the information to the provost, “and there’s very few times she’s said ‘no we can’t do that.’”

Ambrose also asked if students would be interested in access to an organizational chart “so you all know who reports to who and what the chain of command is and how it reports to the Board of Trustees,” which students were in favor of.

Another question was on the transparency of the budget, and if we would be able to access “some level of student engagement with the actual budget” such as “students being able to look at some breakdown of the budget.” The deans agreed to ask Tom Phizacklea, the vice president for administration and finance, to come talk at the forum in November or in the spring and explain the budget to students.

There was also a discussion of the best way to provide answers to all questions asked, not just to the students who asked the questions, but to all students who may be interested in the answers. Some solutions proposed were posting minutes of these forums with updated answers, a frequently asked questions page on The Arch, or a forum where students can ask questions and have them answered online. The viability of these options will be looked into.

Dining

The consideration of other dining options on campus for when the Pub and Glar are closed was also questioned by students. There will be “a redone convenience store area that will be accessible 24 hours a day by card access” at the new location of the Pub in Fall 2020. This will be a location for students to acquire food, not just snacks, at all hours of the day.

Students also asked why we are not allowed to take leftover food outside of the dining hall, as they are concerned about food waste that could be easily prevented. The deans said that they were unsure about the reasoning behind the

See **ASK**, page 3.

New laundry system has rocky start

Jordan Wood
Contributor

Ahead of the start of the fall semester, the Office of Residence Life announced the installation of new washers and dryers on campus, powered by Speed Queen.

The idea to start the system came from Res Life, who thought that the change would help students know which laundry machines are open and which are not so that they don't have to lug a heavy laundry bag down the steps just to walk back up them again.

Along with that thought, the system would alert students when their laundry is nearly finished so that they won't forget about it and leave their laundry in for hours.

Perhaps most exciting, the new laundry service automatically provides each student with three loads of wash and three loads of dry per week for the semester, which equates to about \$90. Students can still use quarters if

they choose, and they can add more money to their account within the app.

While this system shows promise, some things that are new may have some difficulties that are unforeseen. With the app malfunctioning on the week of Sept. 1, seven work orders that were put in within the first week and a half of classes, and the flooding earlier in August, there were many things that were out of both Res Life's and Conference and Auxiliary Services' control.

In the first week and a half of the semester, four of the work orders were for North Village, one was for Gardens, one was for Rouzer Hall, and one was for Whiteford Hall. Some common problems included leaking washers, machines taking payment without starting, and dark screens not communicating alerts.

"Since the system is brand spanking new, we're just finding out about the good and bad," said Mary Jo Colbert, the director of



The new washers and dryers are operated via an app, though students can still use quarters to pay for laundry. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Conference and Auxiliary Services.

One thing that Colbert hopes can fix the situation is that students report any problems to both the app and their RA. The problem automatically goes through Speed Queen and their partner in providing appliances, Gregory and Caldwell. However, if the RA doesn't know about the

problem, it doesn't get through to Conference Services, which leads to miscommunications between them and G&C regarding work orders.

If students want to report a problem themselves, they can e-mail Mary Jo Colbert at mcolbert@mcDaniel.edu.

Marya Kuratova contributed to this article.

Decker College Center construction displaces Pub, offices, and meeting areas

DECKER from page 1
sandwiches. There will also be a rotating feature of hot food, and pre-made options for quick meals. While in the new space, the hours will be 6 p.m. to midnight, Monday through Sunday.

In an "Ask McDaniel Anything"

forum on Sept. 24, Dean of Student Affairs Liz Towle also revealed that "part of the renovation to the Pub is that there will be a redone convenience store area that will be accessible 24 hours a day by card access." This will fulfill the same purpose of the current Green N' Go, but will include food other than snacks, and will be a food option

open later than others on campus.

While the Forum is not being moved, it may be difficult to use for the remainder of the semester. In an email sent Aug. 15 to student organization leaders, Associate Dean of Campus and Community Engagement Josh Ambrose explained how the dining hall can be used to host events during this time. Clubs must reach out to Ambrose a month in advance to reserve the space. No outside food vendors may be used in this space, but AVI may be contacted

to provide food for the event. Students with a meal plan can swipe in for food, and organizers will not be charged for food. Outside visitors without meal plans will pay \$17 to cover food expenses. All music, dance, and other events can be held in Glar after 7 p.m., with a faculty or staff sponsor present for the entire duration of the event.

Construction has also blocked off walkways between Decker and Whiteford, raising concerns of accessibility.

Deans hold first 'Ask McDaniel Anything' forum of the semester

ASK from page 2
policy, and that they would look into a compromise that could be formed. They also reiterated that "dining services is wanting to hear suggestions from students about how things are going and take suggestions."

Sexual Assault Policies

There were several questions surrounding the sexual assault policies on campus.

The first question asked what the interim measures for sexual assault cases were and how they were determined. These are on a case-by-case basis, in which "the College has the ability to restrict students from locations on campus, buildings, or events." Part of this is mandated by the Department of Education, which mandates that the College "cannot make unilateral decisions without a finding." As such, "the College has to be careful about what sorts of access and rights [they] are taking away from that person when they haven't been found responsible," while also ensuring the security of students who may be affected.

Additionally, there have been some new changes in policy as dictated by new legislation in the state of Maryland, which was sent in an email earlier in the semester, was covered by The Free Press, and can be found in the Student Handbook.

Students were also concerned about the minimum consequence

for sexual assault. Currently the policies state suspension or expulsion, with students wondering when suspension would be considered, and "in what context could we find a person responsible and then allow them to continue to be a student on this campus." Towle said that "the definition of sexual assault is broad. It includes more than rape, so therefore, there is a range of behavior that falls under the heading of sexual assault, so the College has made the decision that it will include suspension or expulsion in the minimum sanctions."

This caused students to ask if there were any guidelines given to what behaviors would be considered for suspension or expulsion, and if there were any statistics available to which decisions were more likely. The deans said that they did not have the statistics in front of them, but they would look into finding and reporting back that information.

When asked about the statistics of repeat offenders, such as people being suspended and then accused again, Towle stated that "we've never had an individual on this campus who has been found responsible under this policy and had another case occur."

Additionally, Gelber stated that in some cases, "expulsion isn't always the best method if another educational avenue can be taken. It doesn't excuse that they did

something, but there can't just be one prescribed method if there's other things that can be done to educate that student and help rectify that situation."

Another question was the viability of a confidential student support group, and it was confirmed that one can be formed if there is student interest.

Students were also concerned about the training materials for students, faculty, and staff, and determining if they were up to date. All training information is given to staff and faculty during their orientation and at regular intervals, and "is all up to date and current with the College's policy and federal standards."

As mentioned in the article from the second "Ask McDaniel Anything" forum, the College has shifted to Step UP! training to replace the former Green Dot training. RAs, peer mentors, student leaders, and first-year students participated in that training at the beginning of the semester, and it was used as the first session of Greek 101.

Additionally, a new Title IX coordinator, Jennifer Kent, has been hired in the HR office and is planning to collaborate with campus life staff to continue these trainings and other programs.

Gelber also said that they welcome topics and input on these as they are "currently going to be conducting assessment of what

[they've] done over the last year, especially in terms of bystander awareness."

Wrapping up the discussion of sexual assault, Towle reminded students that her "responsibility is to enforce something that is fair and that brings about a resolution on certain issues that are in the best interest of the parties involved and the safety of the campus," and Ambrose thanked the students for their important questions.

There will be another "Ask McDaniel Anything" forum on Friday, Nov. 11.

Jake Fine contributed to this article.

Fall 2019 Editorial Team

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I.T. implements campus-wide updates

Laurel Pogue
Editorial Staff

Over the summer and in the past few weeks, the McDaniel networks have undergone a few changes and had several instances of maintenance. The I.T. department has sent out regular updates about these changes via email.

The MyMcDaniel Portal had sporadic availability on June 26, due to maintenance taking place in the standard scheduled Thursday morning maintenance. Between the evening of July 3 and the morning of July 4, the MyMcDaniel Portal was moved to a new server, during which some systems were unavailable. Colleague Self-Service and Archway were also briefly unavailable on July 9 for critical systems maintenance.

At the end of July, continuing into the beginning of August, the campus system underwent a major migration to a new hardware system, during which the operating system was also upgraded. Much of this upgrade was planned to occur during the total system outage on Aug. 8, though some occurred as early as July 29 or as late as Aug. 11.

This transition impacted the email distribution service Noma,

the audio/visual server Ensemble, Colleague Self-Service, Portal, SSO, Web Advisor, mail relay systems, and miscellaneous non-marketing web pages hosted through mcdaniel.edu, which were listed in the email announcing the migration. The transition was successfully completed, and the campus was updated about the sites’ status as operational on the afternoon of Aug. 9.

General maintenance of the portal and Colleague occurred on Aug. 15, which included temporary breaks in availability. Security enhancements were also enacted on the firewall and core switch security systems of the college. These updates occurred on Aug. 16, and led to outages of the College network, the MyMcDaniel portal, BlackBoard, and Colleague Self-Service. On the same day, Microsoft Online, including Overdrive, was experiencing outages, though this was determined to be occurring on a scale beyond McDaniel, and was resolved a few hours later.

On Aug. 19, login issues occurred across the McDaniel network, including issues with network share, which were fixed the same day.

With the new semester approaching, I.T. also sent an



The new printers in Hoover Library work with students’ PaperCut accounts. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

August 2019 update to the campus body over email. In this message, they shared reminders about the different wireless networks, Xfinity on Campus, and a warning about a recent email scam.

The largest update was the introduction of new multifunction printers (MFP) in the library, replacing the high volume printers that were used previously. These printers, purchased as part of the college’s “Printer Efficiency Program,” have Near Field Communications (NFC) chips that read the McDaniel ID card so that students can access their PaperCut

accounts to pay for printing or scan files to OneDrive.

The printers have already experienced one issue, with a high number of print requests creating a blockage and shutting down the system on Sept. 11, which was cleared within the hour. Later that day, I.T. also sent an email to the campus requesting that students, faculty, and staff refrain from using the McDaniel Guest wireless network.

Thus far, these are the only updates from McDaniel I.T. this semester.

Climate walk-out boasts large turnout

Molly Sherman
Staff Reporter

On Friday, Sept. 20, McDaniel students and professors filled Red Square in solidarity with protesters worldwide.

Millions are responding to the inaction of officials and corporations to take adequate measures towards sustainable development. McDaniel is doing its part to be active in the discussion of climate change. This movement was the first of many to take place during “Week for Future” from Sept. 20 to 27. Greta Thunberg, an

internationally recognized young activist, inspired the movement through her protests in Sweden and her voice in front of governing bodies and on stages around the world.

In organizing McDaniel’s events, environmental studies and political science professors met with members of Green Life and the Progressive Student Union (PSU) to organize the gathering. Green Life is a relatively new organization on the Hill. They are an environmental club dedicated to fostering a greener campus and community. PSU is a student organization focused on political activism and social reform. At noon Friday, people stood

up and walked out of their dorms, classrooms, and offices. This disruption in their normal routine served to focus attention on climate change and represent resistance to the lack of measures being implemented to stop climate change world-wide.

The event began with Live Music Club members Jake Fine and Rachel Gunnerson singing while everyone was encouraged to create protest signs. The atmosphere fostered camaraderie among participants. They discussed policies, politicians, and environmental indicators troubling them most and considered future movements to remedy the troubling future of our planet.

During an open mic available to everyone, speakers volunteered

to walk up the steps in front of Hoover Library to voice their frustrations and share calls to action with the crowd. They emphasized the importance of continuing the conversation around climate change in every space and participation in government. The event closed with a group song and a reminder to register to vote in Hoover Library.

The resounding message from the day was to continue to demand change and respect for our shared Earth, home, and McDaniel because, although we are currently surrounded by the privilege of clean air to breathe and food to eat, our future is not guaranteed by the lifestyle we are living now.

View a photo essay of the walk-out on page 6!

Faculty votes to cut physical activity requirement



The Gill Center houses the Merritt Fitness Center, Gill Gym, and kinesiology department where most activity classes are held. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Marya Kuratova
Editor-in-Chief

Starting this fall, both current

and future students will no longer be required to take two gym classes in order to graduate.

On Thursday, Sept. 12, Provost

Julia Jasken sent an email to all undergraduate students detailing the removal of the physical activity and wellness requirement from the McDaniel Plan.

“Given the reality that over one-third of our student population receive waivers due to involvement in athletics and other recreational activities, and given the desire for other students to independently determine a level of physical activity that works best in their busy lives,” the email read, “the faculty voted earlier this week to no longer include physical activity and wellness credits as a requirement for graduation.”

Jasken stressed that this is not a budget-related decision, nor will it limit the variety of gym courses offered at the College.

Students are still welcome to take these courses if they are interested, and those who are majoring or minoring in a field that requires activity courses still must fulfill this requirement.

Though the deadline for dropping session A activity classes has passed, an exception was made

for students who no longer wished to continue the course. They were encouraged to email regoffice@mcdaniel.edu no later than Monday, Sept. 16.

Students enrolled in session B and C courses can use the Student Planning site to drop the activity classes.

Sandy Clark, College registrar, followed up on Jasken’s email to explain that the requirement may still show up on student accounts on the Student Planning site. The Registrar Office hopes to update the change in requirements across student accounts by the end of the fall semester.

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Climate Strike Walk-out

On Friday, Sept. 20, McDaniel students and professors filled Red Square for a climate walk-out in solidarity with protesters worldwide.



Gunnar Ward holds a protest sign at the Climate Strike. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).



(Shaquille Tairellil / McDaniel Free Press).



Professors joined the walk-out as well. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).



(Shaquille Tairellil / McDaniel Free Press).



Maddy Lee shows off her protest sign. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).



(Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).



Jacob Summerlin shows off his protest sign. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).



Sam Bouton speaks at the strike. (Shaquille Tairellil / McDaniel Free Press).

Tu Style Salon and Barbershop prides itself in creating community

Molly Sherman
Staff Reporter

For a long time, the only person to cut Jordan Parry’s hair was his mom until he went to get his hair cut by a woman from Mexico, who had been cutting hair since her junior year in high school. Little did he know that the first person to cut his hair other than his mom would become his wife, Lorenia. Today, the two run Tu Style Salon and Barbershop on John Street.

They are attracting the people of Westminster with what Parry describes as a “modern barbershop experience.” The establishment is building a hub for creativity and community, inclusive of a diverse array of customers and artists.

Tu Style kicked off in 2014 with a single suite salon on John Street. Realizing a need for more space, the business expanded into the neighboring suite. In February of 2019, the new area was completely renovated into a barbershop to serve the abundance of male clientele coming in. Since adding the extra space, they have been rapidly attracting many new customers in the area.

This new area, with its modern, masculine look, contrasts the warm ambiance of the adjacent salon. Silver accented black leather chairs sit confidently in front of the Husky brand lockers, all illuminated by ring lights standing squarely in each cor-

ner. The space showcases the work of the barbers and makes a place where men can feel comfortable caring for their appearance and self.

Parry, reflecting on the products of the barbers, notes that the place “looks like an art gallery more than a barbershop.”

The environment has been able to attract workers. They find the place on their own, like one Westminster local and perfectionist at his craft, Quinton. He had been considering a place more local to him to work at and, in noticing the then freshly installed barber polls, he walked from his home just down the street to visit the shop and ask questions. Today, you can find him honing his craft from the middle chair in the barbershop, among many other talented workers.

“They are all just perfectionists... everyone in here, this is their passion,” Parry said admiringly. “There is not a single person in here that is just doing this for a paycheck.”

The shop’s social media showcases just how meticulous and passionate the staff is in every cut, stroke, and color. High quality pictures adorn their Facebook and Instagram accounts featuring the artists, their work, and the customers that come in to experience a high-quality chop close to home.

On a busy day, all of the stations



Tu Style Salon and Barbershop is located at 18 John St. in Westminster, Md. (Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press).

fill in and jubilant conversation swirls in the air. When making an appointment, users have an array of services to choose from. Tu Style offers their customers cuts, fades, designs, colors, nail services, and much more. Westminster has welcomed the business with open arms, embracing the space and its many amenities.

Additionally, Tu Style does their part to return the love. They have provided entire baseball teams with hair cuts and are interested in

doing more for local sports teams and organizations. They even offer complimentary beer to customers on the weekends.

At Tu Style Salon and Barbershop, it is all about looking good, feeling good, and good company. Some may think that getting a haircut is just an errand to check off but here, it is about bringing people together and artists sharing their passion and creativity with the world.

Green Terror garden produces bountiful harvest



Engle, Findeisen, and Ward. (Photo courtesy of Elly Engle).

Ciara O’Brien
Staff Reporter

The Green Terror garden, McDaniel’s own organic, student-run plot, stands proudly tucked behind North Village. Although it is slowing down as the growing season comes to an end, the garden was in a lively full bloom over the summer.

The Green Terror garden plot sat unused for years, but was brought back to life last October. Elly Engle, Ph.D., was asked to help give the garden some much needed care after it had been left neglected for so long when she became part of the environmental studies department last fall.

“Everyone told me not to expect much when we hosted a

weed pulling day last October, but it was heartwarming to see so many students come out on a Saturday morning just to pull some weeds,” Engle said.

In addition to being a pilot-program for the upcoming Singleton-Matthews farm, Engle utilized the garden primarily for her sustainable agriculture course. The class intended to create a pickle and pollinator patch for growing vegetables that could be canned, such as cucumbers.

This summer, the garden produced 18 pounds of tomatoes, 15 pounds of yellow onions, 12 pounds of hot peppers, (including 540 jalapeño peppers), and so much more, totaling about \$410

equivalent in fresh produce that was dispersed around campus.

The garden also features flowers such as marigolds and zinnias that simultaneously invite pollinators and work as pest defense.

“Even if the flowers die, they’ll come back later. They attract bees and butterflies,” Gunnar Ward, student researcher for the garden, said.

Since the garden is student-run and completely organic, there has definitely been a fair number of obstacles.

“We can’t spray the bugs, so we have to squish them by hand,” Engle said.

In addition to braving the bugs and a plethora of weeds, groundhogs were a huge problem in the garden this summer.

“The groundhog was very aggravating. We do not have the funds to build a fence to keep the groundhog out,” Emma Findeisen, student researcher for the garden, said. “We did not get a chance to harvest any watermelon or cucumbers because the groundhog decimated those plants.”

This year’s harvest from the garden went to the Home on the Hill Charity Fund, students and professors on campus over the summer, a few pesky groundhogs, and AVI Foodsystems, which was able to use nine full grocery bags of basil in the



The garden. (Photo courtesy of Elly Engle).

dining hall earlier this semester.

Despite the struggles, everyone involved in the garden is selflessly dedicated to providing fresh foods for others.

“There is a lot of pride in growing it, but only if someone gets to enjoy the fruits of your labor,” Ward said.

“I really believe in making the world a better place, and if this garden makes a difference in a handful of people’s lives, then all the hard work has paid off,” Findeisen added.

As for Engle, she is also grateful for the opportunity.

“One of the best parts was watching Emma and Gunnar grow, not just the plants, but as people, too,” Engle said. “It has been a really great learning tool. We’ll see what next year brings.”

Students interested in getting involved can participate in the garden clean-out on Oct. 26.



The garden. (Photo courtesy of Elly Engle).



Amanda Bailey, Ph.D., presents 34th annual Holloway Lecture



Amanda Bailey, Ph.D., presented the 34th annual Holloway Lecture on Tuesday, Sept. 10, in McDaniel Lounge. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Marya Kuratova
Editor-in-Chief

When Amanda Bailey, Ph.D., told her daughter she would be presenting on Shakespeare to an audience of McDaniel students, faculty, and staff, the 10-year-old asked, “Shakespeare, seriously?” with obvious confusion. This reaction became the inspiration for Bailey’s presentation.

Bailey, professor and chair of the English department at the University of Maryland, visited McDaniel Lounge on Tuesday, Sept. 10, to present the 34th annual Holloway Lecture. Her talk addressed the value of the humanities in today’s career landscape.

President Casey began the evening with a few words of praise regarding McDaniel’s recent achievements in the news. Then, Professor of English Rebecca Carpenter, Ph.D., briefly introduced Bailey.

“Bailey’s work reminds us of the continuing resonance and relevance of Shakespeare’s work some four centuries after his death,” Carpenter said.

And yet much like Bailey’s daughter’s dubious reaction, more and more people today are questioning the value of Shakespeare and the humanities as a whole. Students are encouraged to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and

mathematics to ensure financial stability and success. However, Bailey argued Tuesday night that no other discipline is as resourceful and portable as the humanities, which emphasize the benefits of risk-taking, flexibility, and adaptability.

“Most of you under the age of 23 will eventually work in a job that does not yet exist,” Bailey said. “An education in the liberal arts is the best preparation for that job that does not yet exist. Professional success in the 21st century is predicated on the capacity to adapt to new situations and challenges and the ability to be curious.”

According to Bailey, a liberal arts education teaches this ability to adapt, yet a STEM education or training for a specific piece of machinery can be rendered obsolete, thanks to new technological advances.

Bailey further emphasized the significance of teaching Shakespeare, both in the classroom and in programs like Shakespeare Behind Bars. She stressed the importance of simulating life-altering choices—such as those present in many of Shakespeare’s plays—without experiencing any consequences.

With the boundary between work and play more permeable than ever, playing and being open to games simulating difficult situations is crucial, she said.

“21st century workers need to be innovative, nimble, and inventive,” Bailey said. “It is the lack of seriousness undergirding humanistic inquiry that has produced audacious coders, disruptive start-up leaders, and groundbreaking risk-takers.”

McDaniel Compliments

“Thanks Dean Josh Ambrose and Dean Towle for holding the “Ask McDaniel Anything” forum today! It’s so refreshing to see administrators take steps towards being more transparent and we all really appreciate the time you took to answer our questions.”

“JP Kim always has my back. Thanks, man.”

“Sophie Gilbert is absolutely stunning. I’m mesmerized by her smile!”

Want to brighten someone’s day? Need a way to fulfill your random act of kindness for the day? Message Dean McDaniel Compliments on Facebook with a compliment and we’ll post it anonymously for you.

Here to spread some happiness on the Hill, we’ll make sure your friend, classmate, or professor has the chance to smile and feel appreciated. Your compliment could be featured in the next issue of the Free Press!

www.mcdanielfreepress.com

Global Fellows host documentary screening

Soli Barrera
Staff Reporter

On Sept. 23, the Global Fellows program hosted a screening of the World Wise Documentary Film, “Complicit.”

The documentary follows a man named Yi Yeting, an activist working with the nonprofit Labor Action China to challenge the irresponsible use of chemicals in the Chinese electronics industry. Yeting, who suffers from occupational leukemia himself, discovers other young-adult workers who developed occupational illnesses caused by the chemicals benzene and n-Hexane, just as he did when he was only 24 years old.

Yeting and the other individuals featured in the film developed these diseases as a result of unsafe work-

ing conditions in China’s manufacturing industry. While Yeting received compensation for his medical care, others were not so lucky. Labor Action China works with these victims who struggle under the weight of health care costs in order to bring them justice and to fight corporate greed. While struggling to make the general public aware of this life-threatening issue, Labor Action China and other NGOs face government censure. Many activists have been arrested and one man has disappeared as a result of his public protests.

China produces an enormous portion of the world’s electronics, many of which are exported to the United States. The corporation that the film focuses on most is Foxconn, Apple’s main supplier. Throughout the film, representatives of Foxconn deny that workers

were ever exposed to these dangerous chemicals. Meanwhile, several workers claim that they were not informed of the risks of working around these chemicals or even of what an occupational illness was before hospitalization.

However, even if these workers were aware of the health risks that they could potentially face, many would be forced to work anyway to support their families. Yeting, Labor Action China, and many other organizations across the world work to raise awareness of the industry-wide issue of harmful chemicals in electronics manufacturing; this documentary film serves the same purpose.

“The main thing is that [the film] raises awareness about an issue that seems insurmountable,” commented Global Fellow Ariana Schneider. “It reminds us that it is important to look beneath the surface of an issue. We have to look past the technological advances and the brand new



“Complicit” is a documentary investigating occupational illnesses in China. (Photo courtesy of Amy McNichols).

iPhone that everyone wants. There are human lives at stake.” The film has garnered global attention and has been featured at several Human Rights Film festivals world-wide.

The Global Fellows program will also host a Global Issues Colloquium titled “The World in Your Hand: Africa, China, Mobile Devices and You” on Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m. in McDaniel Lounge. The colloquium is designed to connect to the “Complicit” film but all are encouraged to attend.

GTP offers escape room fun



Players had to save a stuffed lion named David from the rival ring-leader. (Photo courtesy of Pixabay user Alexas_Fotos).

Sam Robertson
Contributor

On Thursday, Sept. 19, Green Terror Programs hosted Escape Adventures, a family-owned escape room company based in Finksburg, Md. The Freeman Room on the lower level of Decker College Center was converted into a carnival, where groups of up to four had 10 minutes to solve puzzles and get three tickets in order to escape.

The event seemed to be a huge hit, with all the spots filling up even though the time in the room itself was greatly shortened. GTP also extended the event length to accommodate for all the interest. Everyone worked together frantically, united under one goal: to free a stuffed lion. Since the event was so popular, there is a chance that a similar event may take place in the spring.

Offering five different adventures with varying difficulties, Escape Adventures have puzzles that can appeal to everyone. In “School

Daze,” players are given one hour to escape from detention before their parents arrive. “Edge of Space” transports up to 10 players to station Titan Research Six, which has been taken over by a shape-shifting alien. In order to solve these puzzles, players have to think outside the box and explore every option.

Due to the proximity to campus (about 10 miles southeast), Escape Adventures loves working with McDaniel students and is always hiring.

‘Best of Enemies’ is McDaniel’s first co-production

Maddy Lee
Staff Reporter

McDaniel College Theatre is currently putting on the show “Best of Enemies” alongside Coppin State University, located in Baltimore. This is the first time the theatre has put on a production with another school, and students are abuzz about the experience.

Written by Mark St. Germain and directed by Coppin Assistant Professor of Theatre Willie Jordan, the show centers around a rivalry between Civil Rights activists, and comments strongly on race-relations in America and their impact on both people of color and white communities. The cast features Dorrian Wilson and Jermaine Jackson from Coppin and McDaniel students Matthew Foley and Anna Rozier.

Heavy in its subject matter, the show has thus far gone off without a hitch. The opening performance was given at Coppin State between Sept. 18 and 21, and the secondary

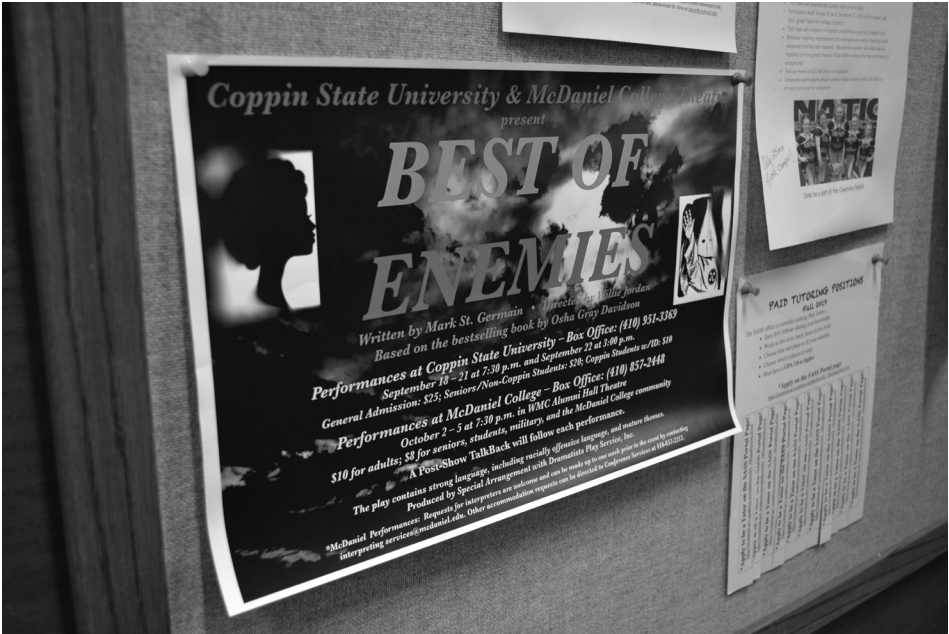
performance will be given here on campus between Oct. 2 and 5.

Elise Simons, stage manager for the show, described her experience in the show and working with another theatre.

“Being from Baltimore, it wasn’t so much as a culture shock as it was a practice shock,” Simons said. “Not every college theatre operates the same way and we learned that really fast.”

Despite the shock of integrating two theatres, the actors reportedly took well to the challenge and have stepped up to the plate. While Coppin’s theatre has many more graduate, post-graduate, and non-traditional students than McDaniel, our younger members took the opportunity to learn from their cast mates.

“Because a lot of the Coppin people are older, some in their 30s, it feels like you’re talking to someone infinitely wiser than you,” Simons added. “And in some cases, you are.”



A flyer in Hill Hall encourages McDaniel community members to attend the “Best of Enemies” production. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

While many theatre students at McDaniel are non-majors, those who are found the experience enriching and hopeful. To see actors, well into their adult years, still on the stage and performing their art, was a breath of fresh air.

“When you’re in college, it’s easy to think you are in the real world, when it is actually just a liminal space,” Simons said. “And meeting people and talking with them helps

you realize that there really is a lot more out there to do and experience—and it’s up to us to go get it.”

“Best of Enemies” will perform in WMC Alumni Hall Theatre Oct. 2 through 5 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors, students, military, and the McDaniel College community. The play contains strong language and mature themes.



The *Free Press* is excited to continue partnering with *Contrast*, McDaniel’s literary magazine and purveyor of the literary arts.

We’ll be working closely to bring you the latest creative short stories and poems written by McDaniel students. Each issue, we’ll publish a creative writing prompt for you to respond to, and you’ll have about a month to submit for the chance to be published.

Contrast will be holding writing workshops throughout the semester at 7 p.m. in Hill Hall 208. The next few upcoming workshops are on Oct. 8, Oct. 22, and Nov. 5. You are welcome to bring your drafts to these meetings for feedback.

Email your submissions to contrastlitmag@gmail.com. Winner(s) will be chosen based on the discretion of *Contrast* editors Marya Kuratova and Nathan Wright.

Paradise Lost, Eternal Hell Found

Sophie Gilbert
This month’s winner

I could see it in the dark corner of my room, peeking out from the desk. A quick flash of red in the light of a passing car and then darkness again. It had followed me. I thought I had escaped it when I graduated high school and moved away, but no. There was no escaping it. This damned thing was going to follow me straight into hell. I risked another glance towards the desk where it was hidden and shuddered. This was going to be the end, then. I was going to have to face up to it after all. All the delay and procrastination in the world wouldn’t be enough this time. I would have to face it like the adult I now was. I slipped quietly off the bed, not daring to make a sound. The least I could do was not wake up my roommate. She wasn’t going to want to experience this. It was far better to face the devil on my own.

There were only about eight feet to the desk, but I took them as slowly as possible, trying to appreciate my last few moments as an innocent before coming to stand in front of that infernal desk. God

help and forgive me, but I had to face this creation of hell face-on if I wanted to see another day. Hands shaking, I took those eight small steps and stopped, staring at the infernal thing in front of me. It was small, all things considered, though this was in no way an indicator of the misery it was about to bring me. I summoned all my courage, took a deep breath, and reached out my hands.

They touched the cool, smooth cover of the book. *Paradise Lost* by John Milton. I had been assigned passages of it for my high school AP English class but escaped with my life due to some light skimming and vague answers. That wasn’t going to work this time though. This time, I had to fill out a worksheet full of questions on it. The old-timey English. The small print. The meandering sentences. How cruel that the English classes I loved so much had brought me here. As I opened up to the story, I felt something die within me. I could see my life flash before my eyes, all the free time I was going to lose reading Milton. There was nothing more horrifying. As I cast my eyes upon

the first sentence, a tear ran down my face.

At this point, I’ve been reading for 65 days. I don’t have much left in me. The very least I can do is leave this note at the beginning for some other poor soul to find. If you’re reading this, it means I’ve died from boredom in the extreme. Heed my words, put down the book, and pray to god you won’t meet the same fate.

This month’s prompt:

You’re on your way out the door when you catch a look at yourself in the mirror. You realize you’re missing something, something you can’t just lose like a phone or set of keys.

Please submit either a short story no longer than 500 words or up to 50 lines of poetry no later than 11:59 pm on Sunday, Oct. 13 for the chance to be published in the next issue. Email to contrastlitmag@gmail.com.



Arts and Culture Calendar: Upcoming Events

Global Issues Colloquium: The World in Your Hands
Oct. 1, 6:30 p.m., McDaniel Lounge

“Best of Enemies”
Oct. 2-5, 7:30 p.m., WMC Alumni Hall Theater
\$8 for students, \$10 for adults

Common Ground on the Hill presents the Sisters of Slide
Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m., Carroll Arts Center
\$22 for students, \$25 for adults

Annual Hispano-Latinx Alliance Dinner
Oct. 8, 6 p.m., Gill Gym
\$10 for students, \$13 for faculty

SmartTalk with Frank Kratovil
Oct. 10, 7 p.m., McDaniel Lounge

“Let me recite what history teaches”—an exhibit by Thomas Lail Reception
Oct. 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Rice Gallery

Oyster Stroll and Car Show
Oct. 12, 12-4 p.m., Main Street
\$20 advance, \$25 day of

Monday Night Music presents Original Compositions by Tim Jenkins, featuring the Tim Jenkins Quartet
Oct. 21, 7 p.m., McDaniel Lounge

Guest Artist Lecture by Dr. Robert R. Shane
Oct. 22, 6 PM, Peterson Hall 104

PBK Visiting Scholar Lecture “Baby Bust” by Paul Robbins
Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m., McDaniel Lounge

Chamber Music on the Hill presents “The Left Bank Quartet”
Nov. 3, 3 p.m., Little Baker

“Arrangement for a Silent Orchestra”—an exhibit by Julie Comnick
Nov. 7, 5:30 p.m., Rice Gallery

We don't need the glitz and the glam, make the Hill more accessible instead



Construction teams put up fences between Decker College Center and Whiteford Hall to begin renovations. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Patrick Hardy
Contributor

New changes are in progress on the Hill. These past few weeks everyone has seen the construction cones and materials arriving. It was only this week that they closed off the sidewalk leading into Decker College Center and walled off the Forum. The renovation is underway. In Ensor Lounge, you can see what the building will look like when renovation is complete. It looks nice, yes? A much-needed change for a building built just over 40 years ago.

But don't be distracted by the modern glitz and glamour of those simulations. There is an overlooked issue that this renovation is planning to just gloss over: handicapped

access to Hill Hall. Now you might be wondering what I mean by this, considering that it is Decker, not Hill, being renovated. While true, the public space outside Decker is also being renovated, and one aspect of this renovation includes the way Hill Hall is accessed from this space.

In front of Decker, next to the Forum, there currently sits a brick retaining wall. This wall will become new, direct stairs and what has been described as "a mini amphitheater for student gatherings and performances." As interesting as this may be, the space used by the stairs and amphitheater would be better used for a wheelchair-accessible ramp connecting to the sidewalk and the

basement floor of Hill.

Currently, an individual on wheels who wants to reach the basement of Hill Hall from Englar Dining Hall has two options. The fastest relies on two elevators: one in Decker to reach the top of the hill, and one in Hill to go back down. The second requires them to exit the lower entrance of Decker, roll down the sidewalk past Whiteford Hall (nearly all the way to Blanche Ward Hall), before backtracking up the (rather steep) hill past the Gazebo to Hill Hall. Both are unnecessarily inconvenient. A ramp outside Decker would shorten these treks tremendously.

It is common knowledge that McDaniel College is not the most handicap-accessible campus. We have received criticism in the past for this. Consider the lack of elevators in most campus dorms and administrative buildings. It is difficult and sometimes impossible to reach certain locations on campus on wheels.

A student who is handicapped could attend McDaniel for four years and graduate, but as an alumnus be unable to visit Alumni Relations on the second floor of Elderdice. Such irony! It would be fair to say the College has more public staircases than handicapped students. I am positive there is a correlation between the two.

Even as the renovation is going on, accessibility is limited, more so than usual. The new location of the Rec Lounge is difficult to reach as a handicapped student. Now located in what was Gold Room A, the Rec Lounge is a floor below the pre-

vious location, where the elevator does not reach.

Before the fence went up, one could access it by exiting the entrance of Decker, rolling down to Whiteford, then backtracking across to the pool door. Of note, this door is the only way for a handicapped student to enter the floor with the Rec Lounge. They would then have to make their way around the pool, before going through a set of doors into a stairwell. The Rec Lounge is entered from this stairwell landing.

Any non-handicapped students only have to walk down the flight of stairs next to Glar to get there. This was before the fence was put up. Now to reach the Rec Lounge, the common gathering area for the student body, handicapped students will not be able to use the lower doors in Decker, which would add even more time and energy to their commute.

The College has been taking steps to make campus more accessible. They have added automatic switch buttons on all major doors in the past few years. What they should be doing is literally taking the steps and replacing them with ramps. I find it hard to believe that when given the chance to improve accessibility on campus, the College would turn it down. If they have the money for a renovation, a ramp in place of an amphitheater would be a much better use of funds.

It would be cheaper in the long run to take small steps toward accessibility now, rather than replace everything later. I ask that the Board of Trustees consider adding this ramp to improve accessibility the next time they meet. It's the least they can do.

Decker renovation funds should be used elsewhere

Maddy Lee
Staff Reporter

McDaniel College is currently in the process of remodeling Decker College Center, adding an amphitheatre and modern design to renovate the building into something more attractive to prospective students. The project, in its entirety, will cost approximately \$10 million. Many students have voiced their complaints, hesitations, and (quite plainly) confusion as to why the building is even being remodeled in the first place. Of all the buildings on campus that could use a modern touch, is Decker really the priority?

The truth of the matter is no. An alumna and Board of Trustees member donated \$5 million of the funds, and an additional \$2 million was donated by various other trustees, many of which are also alumni. This demonstrates just how out of touch the alumni, Board of Trustees, and College as a whole are with the actual needs of the student body. What other things could \$10 million cover?

They could have renovated Hill Hall, the central academic building on campus. Any student who has ever dabbled in the McDaniel Plan has likely taken a course (or several

in Hill Hall. The building is old and small with easily destroyed carpeted floors, cramped desks, and chalkboards with so much residual use on them, it is sometimes difficult to make the writing on them legible at all. They could have provided desks that are actually large enough for adults and don't necessitate being right-handed. They could have swapped the blackboards out for whiteboards, smart boards, or even just cleaner replacements. They could swap the carpet out for something more durable, or simply less dirty.

They could have renovated the sidewalks. McDaniel has often received criticism for being an inaccessible campus to wheelchair-bound students. Several buildings are near completely unreachable, or dangerous to reach. Only a handful of rooms in Daniel Maclea Hall can even be occupied by these students. The Wellness Center involves traveling in the actual street. The path from Whiteford Hall to Merritt Hall involves either a service elevator (with a well-known lag) or a complete lap of campus. That we have resources for students with learning disabilities (the Student Academic Support Services Office) is a hallmark of the College's intent, but the complete lack of ramps, elevators in all dormitory buildings, and handicap buttons for doorways, demonstrates how flimsy that intent actually is.

They could have renovated the residence halls already in existence. Instead of admitting so many students and having to buy out the



The fence surrounding the construction site has closed off the pathway between Whiteford Hall and the Center, raising concerns of accessibility. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

entirety of Pennsylvania Avenue, they could focus on making the living situation of the currently admitted students better. The decision to turn doubles into triples, lounges into quads, and placing first-years in whatever building could hold them was practical considering their numbers, but ridiculous considering the quality of life they are supposedly supposed to be carrying into their first year of college.

Juniors and seniors have been exiled to Pennsylvania Avenue, known for being one of the sketchier neighborhoods past dark. First-years are living practically on top of one another. In the case of triples and quads, they are. The money could just have easily been spent improving the spatial usage of these buildings. They could have made rooms that reasonably house

the students, continued to provide lounges for socialization, and updated the communal bathrooms to accommodate their heavy traffic. Say, for example, having more than one drain in the middle of the floor in Rouzer Hall.

The point being, we all came to this college for a reason. Everyone's reason was different. The same can and will be said for the incoming classes in future years. Some of us liked the small class sizes. Some of us liked the amount of financial aid we received. Some of us thought the campus was cute. But I can assure the alumni and College, no one came here for Decker—and no one is going to. It would be better to spend the money on improving life once you are a student—not pulling the rug once enrolled.

Men’s soccer off to best start in College history

Gunnar Ward
Editorial Staff

After a dominant performance on Tuesday defeating St. Vincent 8-0, the men’s soccer team pushes their win streak to 9-0. This is the best start in the program’s history. Despite the streak and claiming the number one ranking in the Centennial Conference, the team looks to remain focused on continuous improvement. “Something we say before every game is to make sure we stay humble,” men’s soccer Head Coach Steve Corrieri said. “You can easily get ahead of yourself and start thinking that you are too good to lose and the minute you start thinking like that, it becomes a dangerous game.” In the last win over non-conference opponent St. Vincent (1-8), sophomore Liam Ireland led the team in goals with three in his first collegiate hat trick. Ireland was followed by Nick Starr, who bagged two goals of his own.

“It was a great team win,” sophomore Starr said. “We all did our part.” Firing on all fronts, the Green Terror squad has netted 25 goals in nine games. Leading the scoring attack so far is junior Jacob Wells with seven goals. Starr, the recently announced Centennial Conference player of the week, leads the team in assists with six. Defensively, the team has proved to be just as much of a force as their offensive firepower, holding their opposition to only three goals in nine matches. However, for the team, the goal still remains to keep the winning momentum going. “We just have to do anything we can to keep winning; it’s a high,” Ireland said. “We want to work even harder and bring intensity day in and day out.” With the team’s focus on winning clear, the unit directs its attention to the remaining week’s practice in preparation for their second conference match-up on Saturday as they travel to face Dickinson (3-4).



The men’s soccer team celebrates a win against St. Vincent on Tuesday, Sept. 24. (Gunnar Ward / McDaniel Free Press).

“Practice and practice to get better every day,” Corrieri said on what the game plan is heading into Saturday’s match-up. “If you just show up on game day hoping to win, you will be sorely mistaken, it’s [every]thing done in practice that is implemented on game day.” The attention to improvement has been evident thus far as the team has already secured more

total wins than last season’s record of 6-7-3. A win over Dickinson this weekend would see more conference wins than last season’s one win. “We want to keep playing as a team. We all know our roles,” Starr said. “[We plan] to keep playing hard and playing for each other, really.”

Habeeb Baba: driven on and off the field



Habeeb Baba, number 6, poses with some team members during practice. (Sam Robertson / McDaniel Free Press).

Eric Chung
Staff Reporter

If there’s one word to describe McDaniel College football player Habeeb Baba, it’s “contagious.” Just a sophomore, Baba has already established himself as a leader on and off the field through his tenacious effort and powerful energy. A ballhawk who never gives up on plays, his work ethic and attention to detail have earned him a starting role as a safety for the Green Terror. Although he is young, Baba is already well-respected by his teammates and coaches, who praise not only his feats of athleticism and pure skill, but also his unmatched humility when he interacts with other people. “With Habeeb, it all starts with his personality. He is a very humble young man who has a great sense of direction and focus,” Head Coach Demarcus White said. “His teammates love him, his friends love him, his professors love him. He’s a standup guy and is always the life of

the party.” Baba’s outgoing personality makes people relaxed and comfortable talking to him. As a communications major, he plans on using his time and education at McDaniel to work with others. “I don’t really know what I want to do, but I love to interact with people,” Baba said. “A communications degree is broad enough so that when I go into the workforce, it will help me with whatever I choose to do.” He has had some experience at McDaniel assisting people, working as a desk attendant at Gill Center, as well as a referee for intramural sports. Although his character makes him a lovable figure on the Hill, Baba knows that there is a place for fun conversation, but there is also a place for hard work. “I’m a goofy person,” Baba said. “On the football field I’m always joking around, but when it comes to my work, I’m pretty strict on it.” White said that there is no substitute for a player like Baba: “he

is always getting everyone organized in practice and the film room.” When approaching either football or school, Baba said confidence is key. “On the field, you can’t be timid, or you’re likely going to get hurt or embarrassed,” Baba said. “I take this mentality over as a student, too, because I take on hard assignments as a challenge I need to get through.” Much of the passion in his pursuit for excellence can be attributed to his adopted mother. “She is my biggest influencer. She always made sure that I had everything that I needed to be successful,” Baba said. “She knew I wanted to be great, and she wanted me to be great, so she was always on top of me.” Baba’s grit and perseverance started early in life, when he immigrated to the United States at age five. Although from Bristol, Pa, Baba is originally from Lagos, Nigeria. Baba’s move to America was part of the efforts of his father, whose plan was to bring the entire family to the U.S., but was prevented from doing so because of financial restraints.

“I have a lot of respect for my dad for it because it was one of the best opportunities that he gave me,” Baba said. “If I didn’t come here when I was five, I wouldn’t be in the position I’m in today.” Although physically separated from the other members of his birth family, Baba still maintains regular contact with them. “I keep in touch with my mom and my sister. I call every Friday. Other than my [adopted] mom, they’re my biggest motivators,” Baba said. “I was given the opportunity to become great and successful. That’s why I’m trying to give them that same opportunity. My end goal is to bring my family over to America and provide for them.” He feels a sense of responsibility in finishing the mission that his father started; his motivation to work hard at McDaniel is driven by

his family. “I take my education so seriously because I have a lot on my back and have a lot of pressure, but I don’t back down from pressure,” Baba said. Although he sets big expectations for himself, Baba has the will to step up to the challenge and succeed. When he’s given the spotlight, he doesn’t shy away from it; he embraces it. When Baba was given a chance to start as a freshman, he responded with eight tackles, two pass deflections, and one interception in his debut. “After my performance, my coach put the utmost trust in me,” he said. For his personal goals this season, Baba has his sights set on becoming an All-American, and for the team, he said, “we want to prove that McDaniel is not the floormat anymore. We’re calling this season the ‘Revenge Tour.’ We’re not the old McDaniel. We’ve taken on a new mentality, and we want to send the Centennial Conference a message.”



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The McDaniel Free Press

Volume 23, Issue 3 | October 18, 2019

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Homecoming week encourages spirit on the Hill

Jordan Wood
Contributor

On Monday, Sept. 30, this year's Homecoming week kicked off with a pep rally hosted by the Student Government Association.

It was an interactive event with students from all classes participating in games like three-legged races, a 100-meter dash, dance battles, and an egg race. There were performances from the cheer, dance, and Africa's Legacy dance teams that had everyone in the stands cheering after each dance.

The rest of the week featured other spirit activities. Students were encouraged to wear their class colors on Monday, dress like a twin with a friend on Tuesday, dress like a favorite character or celebrity on Wednesday, wear a vintage look for Throwback Thursday, and dress in formal wear on Friday.

Then, on Oct. 5, McDaniel students, faculty, and alumni gathered on the Hill for the Homecoming football game, along



Students, faculty, and alumni set up tents to tailgate the Homecoming football game on Saturday, Oct. 5. (Jordan Wood / McDaniel Free Press).

with a small carnival with local food trucks like Mad Cow and bakeries like Rare Opportunities Bakery. As the day progressed, the campus community enjoyed the endless supply of food like pupusas, tacos, Italian ice, crab cakes, cookies, hand

pies, and much more, leaving no food truck without customers.

Along with food, there were also face painting stands and bounce houses that kept children entertained throughout the day. The whole event was brought

together by live music performed by McDaniel's Jazz Ensemble and student group Bottom Dollar. While the football team did not win the game, the community still came together to share some school spirit and make new memories.

Annual Fire Safety and Security Report released



One of eight exterior "blue light" emergency phones across campus, which provide direct voice communications to the Department of Campus Safety Communications Center. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Marya Kuratova
Editor-in-Chief

On Sept. 30, Director of Campus Safety Eric Immler sent a copy of the Annual Fire Safety and Security Report to the campus community. This report details the past three years of crime and fire statistics, as well as current Campus Safety policies, procedures, and programming information.

"We join President Casey in the commitment to foster a secure and supportive environment at McDaniel. Campus safety and security is a collaborative effort at McDaniel," said Immler in the

introduction the report. "While the Department of Campus Safety is an effective leader in keeping us safe, each member of the campus community must do their part."

Immler believes educating the community on available resources is key to fostering a safer community. The report detailed educational and social programming on sexual and gender violence prevention facilitated at the College this past year, as well as crime prevention and safety awareness programs on campus.

The report also described the role of the Student Outreach Network, a behavioral intervention

team. This group meets weekly to "share and discuss students who are demonstrating various signs of 'at-risk' behavior. As each student is discussed, members of the group provide up-to-date knowledge that includes, but not limited to, academic performance, out-of-classroom involvement, disciplinary issues, and information gathered from faculty, coaches, family and friends."

The goal of the group's discussion is to develop an appropriate plan of action for direct and indirect intervention with the student.

The report then provided compiled crime data. According to this information, reported rapes have gone down, with eight each on campus and in student housing in 2017 and six each on campus and in student housing in 2018. Reported dating violence has also decreased, with 11 cases on campus and ten in student housing in 2016, five cases on campus and three in student housing in 2017, and two on campus and one in student housing in 2018. However, reported cases of fondling have risen from one each on campus and in student housing in 2016, to four on campus and three in student housing in 2017, to eight on campus and six in student housing in 2018.

There were three cases of burglaries on campus and one in student housing in 2016, five each on campus and in student housing in 2017, and five each in 2018 as well. There were no cases of motor vehicle thefts in 2016 and 2017, but two were reported in 2018. Arson has also risen: zero cases were

reported in 2016, one was reported on campus in 2017, and four each were reported on campus and in student housing in 2018.

Another increase of note is the number of disciplinary referrals for liquor law violations. In 2016, there were 81 on campus and 69 in student housing, in 2017 there were 85 on campus and 82 in student housing, and in 2018 there were 93 on campus and 92 in student housing.

The report listed plans for future improvements in fire safety. The renovations to Decker College Center "will include an upgrade to the life safety system, specifically the fire panel, horn/strobes, and communication with Campus Safety's 24-hour monitoring system." There is also a current project under way to review and update all posted emergency evacuation maps throughout campus.

Cameras have also recently been placed around campus. The report explains that these cameras will typically record areas where financial transactions take place and areas around first-year dorms where crime is more prevalent.

In regards to sharing the crime statistics, Immler believes it's necessary for the community to know.

"It's a transparent thing," said Immler. "Even if it was not mandated, it is an appropriate thing to do."

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Judge Frank Kratovil, Jr. visits campus for SmartTALK

Eric Chung
Staff Reporter

On Oct. 10, McDaniel alumnus Frank Kratovil, Jr., a member of the class of 1990, returned to McDaniel as the guest for the first SmartTALK of the academic year. Kratovil currently serves as the associate judge of district three of the District Court of Maryland.

Kratovil graduated from then Western Maryland College with a degree in political science and international studies, and received the Bates Prize as the outstanding graduating male, as well as the Charles W. Havens Award, “awarded to a senior who participated in intercollegiate athletics and has shown by word and deeds the attributes of charity, altruism, benevolence, and a humane and compassionate concern for his fellow man.”

As an undergraduate, Kratovil was the president of several organizations, including the Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership society, the Trumpeters Leadership Honor Society, the Inter-Greek Council, and Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

The son of a Prince George’s County district court judge, his academic pursuits took him to the University of Baltimore School of Law, where he earned his Juris Doctorate and graduated with honors in 1994. And in

2003, Kratovil became one of the youngest state’s attorneys in Maryland when he was elected state’s attorney for Queen Anne’s County at the age of 34. He went on to represent Maryland’s first congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2009-2011, where he played an active role in the agricultural committee, the armed services committee, and the natural resources committee.

In a fifteen-minute address, Kratovil spoke of his appreciation for McDaniel’s liberal arts core and how it instilled in him a love for law, service, and social justice. Despite all of his career and academic achievements, Kratovil said he did not have the same work ethic when he first arrived at McDaniel.

“I didn’t really know what I wanted to do and had no real driving ambition to learn and take advantage of the knowledge that was readily available to me through my professors,” Kratovil said. “When I got here my freshman year, I was more interested in having fun, playing sports, and simply doing what was necessary to get by academically.”

Kratovil said it was not until a confrontation with Robert Weber, Ph.D., the chair of the political science department at the time, who threatened to drop him from a class, did he begin to take his studies more seriously.



A flyer in Hill Hall encourages the campus community to attend the SmartTALK on Oct. 10 in McDaniel Lounge. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

“As a professor myself and as a parent, I now find it very funny, and many years later, I’ve recognized that that moment was clearly one of the turning points of my educational career,” Kratovil said.

He soon thereafter dedicated himself to the material in classes like political thought, international law, world politics, and state and local politics.

“Once I recognized how interesting those classes could be, I stopped looking to simply get by,” Kratovil said. “I sought out those professors that I thought would be the most challenging and interesting.”

He listed his favorite class as a course taught by the late Ira G. Zepp, which Kratovil says “focused on racism, sexism, and other –isms, and challenged all the students

to consider their own biases and prejudices.”

The rest of the event was a 45-minute long Q and A session led by President Roger Casey that touched on a number of topics, including notable moments from Kratovil’s tenure in Congress and his opinions on various events in American politics today.

Towards the end of the SmartTALK, Kratovil encouraged any students interested in running for political office.

“Every revolution, every massive change for progress and good starts with young people,” he said. “If we have any hope of solving the issues we are facing, whether it’s guns or political polarization, [it] starts with the young folks.”

www.mcdanielfreepress.com.

McDaniel.edu update to launch Fall 2019

Laurel Pogue
Editorial Staff

For the past year, a new website for mcdaniel.edu has been in development. The cross-campus team that has worked on this project included representatives from “all divisions on campus,” including Institutional Advancement, the Center for Experience and Opportunity, and Admissions.

While working on the new version of the website, the primary goal was to make the site more intuitive and easier to navigate. A major change in the design is the focus on the mobile version of

the website. With the increased likelihood that many people, including prospective students, will be accessing the website using their mobile phones, it was a priority to develop the mobile site first.

The website will also be used to highlight photos, videos, and stories from current students, with the goal to share more about students’ achievements and experiences. The Office of Communications and Marketing welcomes students to share stories that they think would work well to be featured on the new site.

The projected release of the new website is before the end of the current semester, Fall 2019, with the full site live before students leave



(Photo courtesy of Pixabay user Pexels).

for winter break. The new site has been designed with the intention to not only have a positive effect

on users, but also to showcase “what makes McDaniel so special,” particularly for those looking for information as prospective students.

Crime Log

The Daily Crime and Fire Log is available for public view in the Campus Safety office, located at 152 Pennsylvania Ave. The most current 60 days of information is available from the dispatcher; archived records up to seven years can be requested. Unless otherwise noted, the incidents listed here are closed.

Correction: previous issues referred to “DOCS OFFICE” as “Doctor’s Office.” This is actually an acronym for Department of Campus Safety.

Reported 9/23 Thompson Hall
Larceny: Fraud

Reported 9/23 DOCS Office
Failure to comply: campus restriction

Reported 9/25 Glar Dining Hall
Harassment: sexual (active)

Reported 9/27 Hill Hall
Malicious destruction of property: property

Reported 9/27 DOCS Office
Larceny: from buildings

Reported 9/29 PA 144
Trespassing

Reported 9/29 Whiteford Hall
CDS: Student conduct violation

Reported 9/30 Whiteford Hall
Harassment: social media

Reported 10/1 DOCS Office
Fraud and deceit: other (active)

Reported 10/3 Hoover Library
Larceny: from buildings

Reported 10/3 DOCS Office
Harassment: sexual

Reported 10/3 Rouzer Hall
CDS: student conduct violation (2 counts)

Reported 10/5 Blanche Hall
Decency offense: public urination

Reported 10/5 Blanche Hall
Failure to comply: campus restriction

Reported 10/5 Stadium Drive
Loitering

Reported 10/5 Whiteford Hall
Malicious destruction of property: door

Reported 10/6 Whiteford Hall
Malicious destruction of property: property (2 counts)

Reported 10/6 Whiteford Hall
Alcohol possession under 21

Reported 10/6 Whiteford Hall
CDS: Student conduct violation (2 counts)

Reported 10/9 Eaton Hall
Malicious destruction of property: property

Reported 10/9 PA 173
CDS: Student conduct violation (4 counts)

Reported 10/9 GA 161
CDS: Student conduct violation (2 counts)

Reported 10/10 Blanche Hall
Larceny from buildings

Call Campus Safety at 410-857-2202

Jennifer L. Kent, Esq., joins staff as new Title IX coordinator

Molly Sherman
Staff Reporter

Jennifer L. Kent, Esq. has recently been welcomed to the McDaniel College Office of Human Resources as the new Title IX coordinator. This position plays a critical role in helping the College ensure that those affected by Title IX operations are aware of their legal rights and the school complies with legal obligations.

In college, Kent studied political science and was heavily involved in her college’s branch of Amnesty International, including its Women Human Rights Action Program. In addition, she was a fellow for the International Human Rights Institute. Kent has always been passionate about recognizing sexual violence as a human rights issue.

Kent received her legal training in law school and went on to spend about ten years in litigation. She represented people who had been injured in terrorist attacks and various acts of physical violence. Leading up to her employment at McDaniel, Kent was the managing attorney of Free State Justice, an LGBTQ advocacy group, where she was able to contribute to a lot of work involving Title IX.

In 2018, Kent worked on the infamous case of M.A.B. v. Board of Education of Talbot County fighting for the rights of Max Brennan, a boy who is transgender and was denied access to the designated male restrooms



Jennifer Kent. (Photo courtesy of The Daily Record).

and locker rooms. The ruling articulated that transgender kids are to be protected under Title IX. As noted by an article on the Free State Justice, this is the first case to put the protection of transgender people in the Maryland state constitution.

“Issues of sexual violence and how systems respond to sexual violence and its partner violence have long been near to my heart,” Kent said.

Kent chose to come to McDaniel for its personal feel

and for the opportunity to make meaningful work during her time here. She is committed to getting to know the community, meeting the students, and hearing thoughts on Title IX issues.

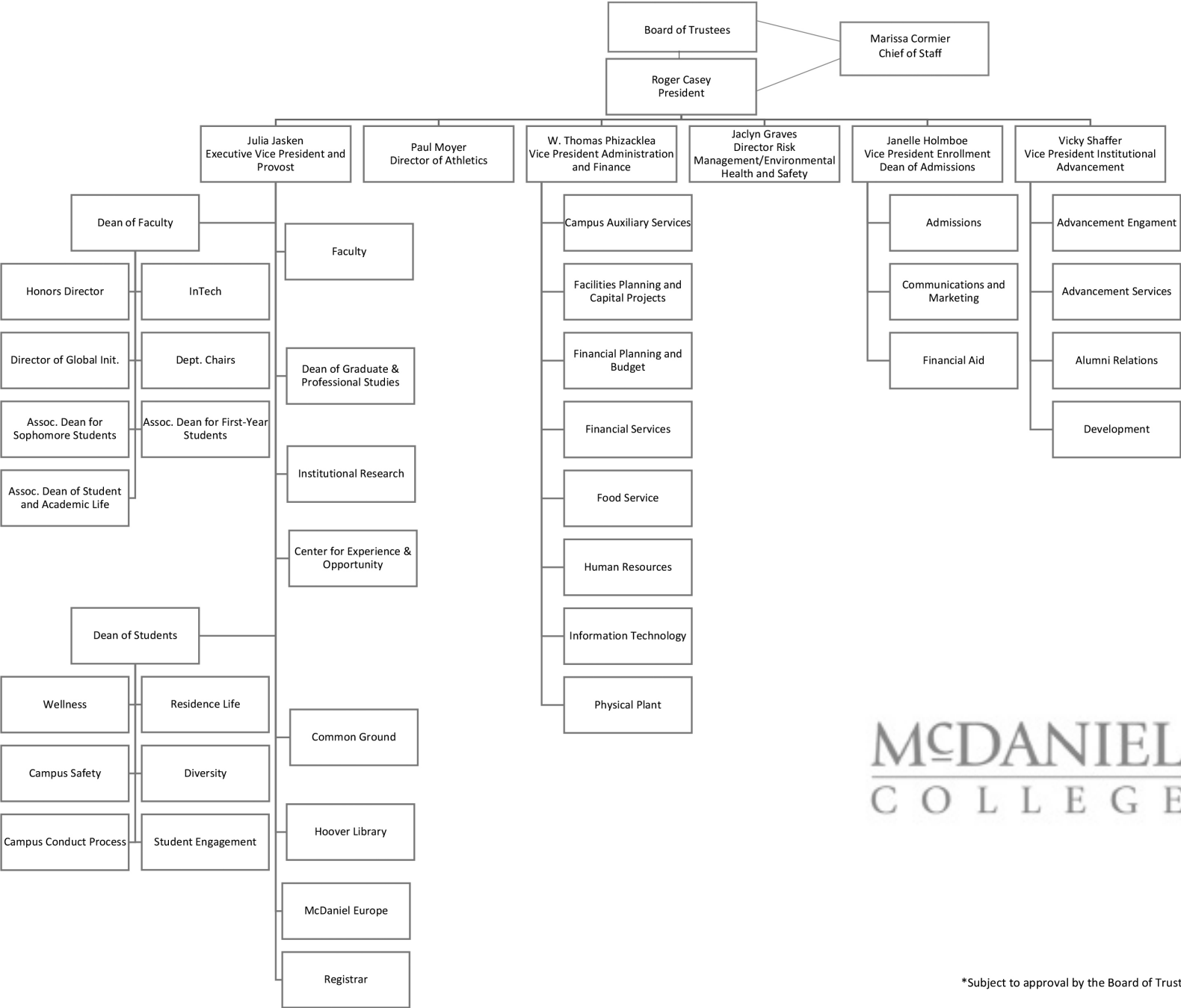
She recognizes that the existence of Title IX only gets us half way there, “but if [people] don’t feel empowered to report or empowered to access resources... than what is that policy?” she asked. She hopes to be able to empower people with the policy, bystander intervention, and other pieces of knowledge.

Kent looks forward to speaking further with students and other members of the McDaniel community. She also hopes to work with the C.A.S.E. (Consent and Sexual Education) club and other student organizations. She encourages people to call her Jennifer and reach out to her with their thoughts about the Title IX policy.

Please note that for those who have personal information to share, Kent is a Title IX mandated reporter.

McDaniel Organizational Chart

At the Ask McDaniel Anything open forum on Sept. 24, students asked for more transparency regarding the hierarchy of McDaniel staff. Associate Dean of Campus and Community Engagement Josh Ambrose later followed up with this chart.



*Subject to approval by the Board of Trustees

Fall Fest Photos

Shaquille Tairellil



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McDaniel College climate action plan: a rebellious reiteration



Composting food scraps is a great way to reduce waste. (Photo courtesy of Pixabay user Ben_Kerckex).

Morgan Bliss
Contributor

To attend McDaniel College is to invest in the future. But why am I investing in a future I most likely won't have? What point is there to study for exams, for a major, for a job I might not even get to have? I'll be able to enter the workforce when I graduate, but by the time I could solidify my position or grow into a career, we'll all be scrambling to be self-sustaining on an earth 4 degrees Celsius too hot at the brink of civilization collapse. Is preparing for the future—teaching tomorrow's leaders and change-makers and workers—supposed to feel fruitless?

During McDaniel Local, to facilitate the extension of our roots into the McDaniel and Westminster ecosystem, I, like hundreds of other students, planted trees. We were told that to plant a tree is to believe

in the future, to invest in something that will outlive us. To make an impact, if only we start now. The same McDaniel Commitment helps students “plan for life beyond college” and encourages “reflect(ion) on the intersection between theory and practice.”

I want this planet to still be habitable in 30 years when those trees are grown. I want to be able to dream of a life beyond college that is more than fighting for survival. I don't just worry about graduate school and money, but I worry whether I will even get to worry about those things, or if climate catastrophe will weigh more heavily on my mind. Here is my theory: planting trees isn't enough; we need direct and concrete action now. And in practice, all I ask is that McDaniel College rise to the crisis at hand and adjust to it. Sustainability is not only

a preparation for our future, but a reactionary and reasonable response to the current climate catastrophe we face.

McDaniel College, in 2007, was responsible for greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 20,679 metric tons of CO₂, as noted in the 2007 McDaniel College Climate Action Plan. We can reasonably assume this has gone up in the 12 years following, but can only use the most recent data available from the College. This CO₂ emission is equivalent to the annual emissions of 4,495 cars, as calculated by the EPA website's data on greenhouse gas emissions from a passenger vehicle, or just over the entire CO₂ emissions of the Falkland Islands in 2005, as reported by EDGAR, the Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research website regarding Global Fossil CO₂ Emissions.

It's disappointing that I have to advocate for my right to have a future. It's even more disappointing to learn that in 2007, a document was presented to the Board of Trustees regarding decreasing our carbon emissions, and in the 12 years following, these solutions haven't been implemented. McDaniel College must become carbon neutral. This isn't all too lofty a goal—American University, a far larger school within our metropolitan area, became carbon neutral in 2018. Harvard has committed to be fossil-fuel neutral by 2026. We must do better.

McDaniel College purchases compostable cups, but doesn't work to actually compost them. We have a Compost Club, and yet every day hundreds of plates worth of food are mindlessly trashed in Englar Dining Hall (note: this is in no way Compost Club's fault—they're trying their best amid far too much

waste than they could ever handle without an industrial composter partnership). Just imagine the yards upon yards of plastic wrap from Pub clogging up a landfill, never fully degrading, only breaking into millions of microplastics to pollute our water and air forever. Healthy food does not mean an apple from a farm thousands of miles away wrapped in plastic. Not every vegetarian likes tofu.

As an institution full of bright students and innovative faculty, McDaniel has so much potential and opportunity for growth and leadership in small college sustainability that simply has not come. The school is, however, spending many millions of dollars earmarked for renovations to a relatively new building, but won't have it be LEED certified or part of any sustainable design initiative. Thousands of dollars of tuition spent on fossil fuels for heating and electric, and I can't get some solar panels on the roof of Lewis? And we still use Roundup on campus, despite it being a known carcinogen. The world is on fire, and we are sitting here in our cozy higher education bubble thinking that will save us when the flames roar nearer.

Our sustainability shortcomings are not the fault of administration only. The student body as a whole needs to work to be more mindful in their daily life; to not get more food than they can or want to eat, to recycle, to walk more and drive less, to use reusable containers, etc.

But, of course, the true decision-making power is held in the hands of the higher-ups, and I hope that we are at least able to cultivate this dual crop of fear and hope for the future in their minds to inspire change on campus.

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Letter to the Editor: Financial Aid Office SNAFU forced me to drop out

Sydney Hunt
Contributor

In response to the recent article about the situation in the Financial Aid Office, I'd like to write about my experience. It was a cold and rainy November morning the day I was in a car accident. I was on the way to McDaniel, less than a mile away. I was sideswiped just in front of the local gas station. What followed the accident was an onslaught of health problems that nobody would have been able to predict—from pneumonia to undiagnosed whiplash that lead to a lifelong battle with migraines.

After the accident, McDaniel College was wonderful and supportive about allowing me to take my classes at my own pace, due to my health battles and the lawsuit. Little did I know that the acceptance of taking things at the pace necessary for me would not be acceptable for the Financial Aid Office. My grades dropped after my accident and it became in my best interest to withdraw for a short period of time due to financial problems. I returned to McDaniel with a bit of a twisted schedule—I reapplied for the spring

semester, with permission to pause the writing in psychology major while I took capstone. The plan was then to finish my senior year this fall by taking the necessary remaining course to graduate. The spring semester went beautifully, and I was able to maintain a 4.0 for the semester.

My first visit to the Financial Aid Office, I was greeted by kind faces and words of encouragement. When the office realized that they had no ability to help, I was quickly shuffled to the bottom of the list of priorities, leaving me in a vulnerable position. When I reached out to the Office of Academic Affairs, Dean Breslin did everything in her power to find a solution by attempting to reach out to Financial Aid, but she as well was promised that the office would be in contact with me about other options and I never heard from them again. I attended the fall semester for one week. I had to give up a part-time campus job that I had had for years, an independent study opportunity, and a teaching assistant position. I was only three months away from finally completing my undergraduate degree. I had high hopes to be able to move right along into the graduate program at McDaniel to work towards my goal



The Financial Aid Office in Elderdice Hall is now closed to walk-in traffic from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. for staff to focus on processing student documents. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

of becoming a professor (perhaps at McDaniel, but that dream seems to be long crushed).

After all that I have gone through, and how long it has taken me to graduate thus far, McDaniel's Financial Aid Office has a twisted sense of view on what is acceptable and what is not. It is not agreeable to take an extra year despite the fact I was in a car accident on the way to McDaniel. They will not give any additional aid if it takes you an extra year to graduate—the why doesn't matter. McDaniel was always a welcoming second home for me and I absolutely love the professors I have grown close with over the years. But

to be so close to my degree and be turned down from aid, for circumstances completely out of my control, has broken my heart.



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September’s climate strike was not as effective as it could be

Molly Sherman
Staff Reporter

Every experience one has in college is an opportunity to learn, and participating in political discourse is no different. McDaniel students recently exercised their voice and brought some helpful commentary, but left the opposition in the cold.

In solidarity with millions around the world, McDaniel College students and faculty protested the general inaction towards remedying and reducing climate change. The event was held on Sept. 20 and organized by Green Life, an environmental club, and the Progressive Student Union (PSU), a group driven by political action and social reform.

The event began by recognizing the collective effort, “a celebration of community and unity,” said Gunnar Ward, a speaker at the event and a member of Green Life. Ward rallied the students and faculty around hope in the face of adversity in the light of environmental trends and our current political climate.

“We are frustrated with the apathy in the government to pass legislation to make sure that our

Earth is Green and clean,” said Ament Akan, a political science and philosophy double major. Akan spoke on the importance of honing in on the economic inequality and the value of the Green New Deal. Additionally, she addressed the need for corporations and large actors to do their part.

While many students and faculty were constructive with their words, it was disappointing that some speakers took the opportunity to name-call and assign blame. cursory comments were made towards corporations, governing entities, and the opposition. In demonizing the opposition, the matter of climate change seemed to polarize before the spectators’ eyes.

Additionally, the event was lacking in educational tools and action methods. In an issue so based in data, it was unfortunate that few hard facts were shared. There was also no initiative to educate those who were not attending the rally. There was a mention of “talking to them,” but the language and information to do so was not shared. The idea of action was vaguely tossed around. There was no mention of the volunteering one could do in vital small elections



A student shows off a protest sign during the climate strike on Sept. 20. (Shaquille Tairellil / McDaniel Free Press).

taking place in neighboring states that could dictate our future as a country, or even discussion of what we could be doing on our own campus to have an influence.

A college campus is a petri dish for experimentation and exemplification. If the campus body cannot exhibit appropriate and effective discourse, how can the rest of the world, big corporations and all, be expected to do just that? Energy would be best spent on listening to and educating the opposition with empathy and hard evidence. On top of that, formulating a cohesive and consistent message will also indicate

a strong, confident front and would ensure that no one’s words are taken out of context.

The students and faculty of McDaniel exercising their voice are not doing so in vain, but we all have more we can do to model the kind of behavior we hope to see in the world. The protest was a great opportunity to engage the student body in world politics and now McDaniel needs to collectively move forward in creating visceral change. We are at the point where gathering is not enough. We need to be taking action and real measures towards a greener future.

The king of the Hill knows nothing about his subjects



The President House on campus. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Anonymous Contributor

President Roger Casey will go down in history as a president of McDaniel College who didn’t really know anything about the students, faculty, or staff of the college he represents.

The president is apparently unaware of student concerns regarding the expansion of this institution and the enormous freshman class of Fall 2019. Casey has recently stated that he looks forward to an incoming class next year that is just as big or even larger than the one received this past fall. This strikes some students, including myself, as somewhat ludicrous on many counts.

Firstly, the common areas of many freshman dorms have been turned into quads and many new buildings along Pennsylvania Avenue and Union Street were purchased this past summer. One

student, who will remain unnamed, was genuinely shocked at the thought of adding an even larger freshman class to the College’s campus.

“It’s so overcrowded that people won’t want to live here anymore,” she said. “They’ll leave and go to another university with better living conditions and more recreational space.”

Another student voiced a similar concern saying that she was “particularly concerned with the large freshman classes in the future because the living conditions will be inadequate for new students. [She] believe[s] that students who are investing money in McDaniel College do not deserve to live with three or four students in one dorm room. [She] think[s] it takes away from the quality of the McDaniel experience.”

The point is that President Casey thinks that the renovations

to Decker College Center will fix everything, but they won’t. Yes, students will be able to gather in a larger common area, but not all students use or care about this kind of space and would rather live in a less crowded dormitory.

The president has even mentioned plans to buy more houses in Westminster to accommodate next year’s expected large class, which is just ridiculous because it raises concerns of safety and decreases the sense of community up on the Hill. We can’t just buy out half of the town and exile the upperclassmen there. The office of Campus Safety can only handle so much, and many students have already voiced their concerns in regard to Campus Safety’s efficiency and expeditiousness in certain situations.

Secondly, President Casey does not actively socialize with a diverse range of the College’s population. Unless you’re an accomplished athlete or have won a prestigious scholarship, he probably won’t take the time to have a conversation with you. President Casey can be observed walking straight to his office without stopping to ask how your semester is going or simply say hello. We all know who you are President Casey; the least we can expect from you is a “good morning.”

Students aren’t the only people being ignored, either. Many faculty and staff members feel unimportant to the President even though these people make the College run. The freshman class of Fall 2019 has already stretched faculty, staff, and other resources very thin. Bringing in another, even larger, freshman class would inhibit their abilities even further and only add to their increasing frustration.

Thirdly, McDaniel seems to be turning into something that it’s not

under President Casey’s leadership. I personally came to McDaniel because of the small class size and individualized attention from professors. Thus far, I have always been content, and sometimes positively overwhelmed, with the amount of support that I have received from faculty and staff members. Another student told me that she came to McDaniel because of a hand-written note on her application essay. She was amazed at the personal touch and had heard about the benefits of a small college environment. She, too, is worried that McDaniel is drifting away from the small, liberal arts college that attracts students in the first place.

But now a parting question. Since King Casey is never actually in his castle, can we turn it into student dorms, too? I wonder how many freshmen we can cram into there.

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Dangersauce alumni join current members for Homecoming show

Ciara O’Brien
Staff Reporter

McDaniel’s improv group, Dangersauce, held their annual Homecoming show last Saturday evening in Baker Memorial Chapel. The show welcomed back Dangersauce alumni and introduced five new members: Kylie Baker, Kole Boyd, Reuben Hubbard, Kobe Morrison, and Kyle Wolfrey. The show kicked off with a push up contest against fellow first-year Sauce members where Hubbard took the title, with 32 full push ups.

Members played a series of classic Dangersauce games, including “Freeze,” where Sauce members were asked to dance until the caller yelled stop, then proceeded to act out a scene based on how they were posed when they froze. They played “Foursquare,” where members paired up and acted out various scenes based on different relationships and situations. They also played



Current and past Dangersauce members performed together on Saturday, Oct. 5, in Baker Memorial Chapel. (Ciara O’Brien / McDaniel Free Press).

“Director’s Cut,” where the audience created a movie title that does not exist, and players acted it out. This show’s movie was titled “Republican, not Republican,” which followed a politician and her lover/running mate. The troupe also took advantage of alumna Mable Buchanan’s rapping skills, where she free-styled a series of songs about

living in a mobile home in a game titled “Mixtape.” Buchanan, along with other Sauce members, also participated in a game called “Radio Show,” where players improvised different radio stations, including joke news, polka music, country rap, lizard mating calls, and present-wrapping radio. The last game of the night, “World’s Worst,” asked the

audience to select a few scenarios so members could then act them out in a series of short scenes and quick remarks or one-liners. Themes included World’s Worst bachelor party, parents, and first date. Dangersauce invites the McDaniel community to attend their Halloween show, which will take place later this month.



The *Free Press* is excited to continue partnering with *Contrast*, McDaniel’s literary magazine and purveyor of the literary arts. We’ll be working closely to bring you the latest creative short stories and poems written by McDaniel students. Each issue, we’ll publish a creative writing prompt for you to respond to, and you’ll have about a month to submit for the chance to be published. *Contrast* will be holding writing workshops throughout the semester at 7 p.m. in Hill Hall 208. The next few upcoming workshops are on Oct. 22, Nov. 5, and Nov. 19. You are welcome to bring your drafts to these meetings for feedback. Email your submissions to contrastlitmag@gmail.com. Winner(s) will be chosen based on the discretion of *Contrast* editors Marya Kuratova and Nathan Wright.

This month’s prompt:

Please submit either a short story no longer than 500 words or up to 50 lines of poetry no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 3. Respond to the following phrase: everything changes in autumn.

Something You Don’t Just Lose

Eamonn Fay
This month’s winner

“Uh... Phil?” Tom whimpered. Phil had already been half-awake. His roommate was never particularly good at being quiet as he got ready in the morning. Today was no exception. “What?” Phil replied groggily. “Come here,” Tom said. “This is freaking me out!” “For the last time,” Phil said as he sat up in his bed. “I don’t know if that damned scab is infected or not. See a doctor.” “It’s not that!” Tom said, desperation growing in his voice. “Come on dude, I feel like I’m losing my shit right now! Come here!” Phil gave an exasperated sigh and stomped over to his roommate, who was staring dumbly into the mirror. He shoved Tom slightly to have a look for himself and saw a whole lot of nothing. He was about to start chastising Tom but quickly realized what the problem was. There really was nothing. He had no reflection, and neither did Tom. The mirror only showed the wall

behind them. “What in the hell...?” Phil said, unsure of whether to feel more perplexed or afraid. “You’re seeing what I’m seeing, right?” Tom asked. “If by that you mean not seeing anything, then yes,” Phil replied. It was no trick. The mirror was working exactly as it was supposed to. Every angle accurately showed the reflection of the room, but their own reflections had mysteriously vanished. They did a double take, looking at each other for a moment before looking back toward the mirror. “What the fuck?!” Phil shouted as he took a step back. Their blood chilled. The two boys stood face to face with their reflections, but they weren’t at all right. The figures in the mirror didn’t even bother following the boys’ movements. They stood, straight-faced, perfectly still. Their ghastly discolored flesh clung a little too close to their skulls. Where their eyes were supposed to be, there was only skin. They couldn’t pry their sight away from the mirror. They had wanted to turn around, run away, and scream all at once. But instead, they stood horrified as cold hands wrung their necks from behind them.

McDaniel Compliments

“Eamonn Fay is such a talented writer!”

“Courtney Herzog is a super woman! Thanks for everything you do to lead the Engagement Peers.”

“Lauren Beckjord’s art skills consistently amaze me. Everyone should seriously check out her work!”

Want to brighten someone’s day? Need a way to fulfill your random act of kindness for the day? Message *Dean McDaniel Compliments* on Facebook with a compliment and we’ll post it anonymously for you.

Here to spread some happiness on the Hill, we’ll make sure your friend, classmate, or professor has the chance to smile and feel appreciated. Your compliment could be featured in the next issue of the *Free Press*!



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Calling all spoken word poets!

The music department is looking for students or faculty that would like to share a poem or a soliloquy in an upcoming concert on Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. in Alumni Hall. It can be an original work or a work previously published. The underlining theme of the concert is always love. Under that theme they’d also like to encourage support, empowerment, inclusivity, and diversity.

Contact Shelley Ensor at sensor@mcdaniel.edu for more information.

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The McDaniel Free Press

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INSIDE: Best Buddies spotlight (pg. 5) | Pumpkin Smash photos (pg. 8) | Phi Beta Kappa lecture (pg. 11)

President's Council meets with student leaders

Marya Kuratova
Editor-in-Chief

In an effort to increase communication between students and administration beyond the "Ask McDaniel Anything" forums, the President's Council met with a group of students on Oct. 29 to answer questions the students deemed important.

The President's Council is composed of President Roger Casey, Executive Vice President and Provost Julia Jasken, Vice President for Finance and Administration Tom Phizacklea, Vice President for Enrollment Janelle Holmboe, and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Vicky Shaffer. The Council asked Dean of Students Liz Towle to assemble a group of student leaders who would be interested in participating in the discussion.

Ahead of the meeting, Towle met with the selected students on Oct. 24 to brainstorm a list of questions to present to the Council. The students in attendance were Aaron White, Ravi Patel, Lucero Espinal, Jake Fine, and the author of this article.

At the Oct. 24 brainstorming



The President's Council met with student leaders in the library board room on Oct. 29. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

session, students expressed an interest in learning about updates regarding the situation in the Financial Aid office, why student workers were handling financial aid documents over the summer without signing a non-disclosure agreement, why fewer students were awarded federal work study this year, why Campus Safety officers have been entering residences unannounced, how Casey proposes

to house another large incoming class next year, how Institutional Advancement communicates campus needs to potential alumni donors, why food quality has declined in the dining hall since the start of the semester, where students can use meal exchanges, and how the Decker College Center renovations will continue to impact access to the building.

Towle specified that she could

address some of the proposed topics, which would narrow the list presented to the Council. On Oct. 26, she sent a campus-wide email detailing current entrances to access Decker and upcoming changes to these access points as construction expands. On Nov. 3, Towle emailed the campus community with information about the newly extended hours in Casey's' See **COUNCIL**, page 3

New Wellness Center policy limits counseling sessions



The Wellness Center is located on the second floor of Winslow Hall. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Maddy Lee
Staff Reporter

The McDaniel College Wellness Center, following the introduction of the historically large first-year class, has implemented a new policy of session limits. This new policy, called the SASS-Wellness Extended Support Program, charges students \$1500 for weekly sessions over the course of a semester, provided they are registered with the Student Academic Support Services office. This shift has been attributed to

the sheer volume of traffic that the Wellness Center is experiencing with returning clients alongside many first-year students.

Prior to this semester, all students on campus were able to use the Wellness Center for no additional fees—many of them on a weekly basis. These services were covered either through the student's pre-existing insurance or through the mandatory McDaniel student insurance (if not waived). Similarly, registration through the SASS

office had never been a requirement before, though certainly something that many students did. This has not so much changed as shifted.

Students can continue to use Wellness Center services without registering through SASS or entering this new program. However, they are not guaranteed weekly appointments, and the number of slots available with counselors may be limited. Since implementing this new policy, the counselors have been encouraging non-SASS registered clients to move their appointments to a biweekly or monthly basis. This increased distance between students and the service has some regular clients concerned.

One student, who requested to remain anonymous, commented that the policy, "makes these services too expensive or completely unavailable to mentally ill students." If students lack insurance, family support, or transportation, off-campus resources may not be a possibility. This loss of service may prove detrimental to many students who rely on them, the student said.

Corey Van Huff, a junior, describes his relationship with the Wellness Center as beneficial, claiming they help improve his academic performance. However, he commented that this new policy would "absolutely affect [his] access to the Wellness Center," and that he would be "significantly less likely

to use their services." This may prove the case for unaccounted for sections of the student body.

Some students registered with the SASS office will still be able to take advantage of this new program, if it is within their means to do so. Anna Odell, a junior, has been using the Wellness Center services all three years that she has attended McDaniel. She claims that, without the Wellness Center, she "probably wouldn't be able to go to class." She is currently signing up for the program, commenting how "fortunate [she is] to be able to afford it."

"[The program is] absolutely ludicrous," said Van Huff. "And comes at too high a price [for the student body]."

However, it is unclear how this program will play out logistically. Registration within the SASS office may soon increase through its partnership with the Wellness Center, but even within the program, there are limited spots. Some students will, inevitably, pay the fees to ensure weekly appointments. What will be available to the remaining student body, and how this differs from previous semesters, remains to be seen.

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Residence hall bulletin boards face vandalism

Laurel Pogue
Editorial Staff

On Oct. 30, an email was sent to the campus population from the Office of Residence Life, alerting the community to bulletin board vandalism that had occurred in the residence halls. According to the email, the destruction of these boards was targeted to ones with information about LGBTQ+ History and the origins of National Coming Out Day for the month of October.

Residence Life shared that “while not everyone will agree with one another’s perspectives, acts of destruction that are symbolically aimed at a portion of the community are absolutely

unacceptable. No one should feel unsafe or be targeted based on an important aspect of one’s identity. As a community, we are incredibly proud of the diversity that is reflected at McDaniel College.”

The staff encouraged students who have any information about this to share what they know, and to fill out a Student Concern Report. They also asked that anyone who was involved in the vandalism to “consider how [their] actions have harmed other individuals as well as the entire McDaniel Community and most importantly how [they] can begin to repair that harm and give back to the community.”

One of the Resident Assistants whose boards were affected, Sera McClintock, said “It is frustrating to see my bulletin board destroyed, especially since I put work into selecting terms to educate my residents about gender and sexual minorities. I just hope



Blanche Ward Hall was one of the residence halls in which bulletin boards were vandalized.
(Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

that somebody is willing to come forward and tell us what happened.”

Residence Life also shared that those affected by the vandalism are welcome to speak with the Office

of Diversity and Inclusion, the Office of Residence Life, or the Wellness Center counseling staff.

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Volunteers assist with second annual garden clean out



Students, faculty, and community members helped prepare the campus garden for the winter. (Shaquille Tairellil / McDaniel Free Press).

Ciara O’Brien
Staff Reporter

On Oct. 26, Green Life, Compost Club, APO, and the environmental studies department hosted their second annual “Garden Cleanout Spectacular,” a morning of service and festive fall fun.

“The fall cleaning of a garden can be a lot less fun than the excitement of a spring planting, but it seemed like everyone was having a good time,” said McDaniel’s AgroFood Systems Coordinator Elly Engle, Ph.D.

The morning was spent pulling weeds and dead plants in preparation for the coming winter months. After the weeds were pulled and the soil was properly

prepared, it was covered with pieces of cardboard to keep the weeds to a minimum when the time comes to plant again in the spring.

Volunteers also planted garlic, which develops roots in the fall and winter. Garlic patches were covered with compost made from mulch and leaves collected by Grounds from around campus. After three years of sifting, the compost was finally ready to be used in the Green Terror garden.

Two picnic tables were donated by Green Life, which will sit next to the garden plot as a space for students and faculty to enjoy. The picnic tables were designed by Green Life members Jake Fine and Kylie Baker, and were painted and covered just before the rain started

at the end of the clean out event.

Apple cider and donuts from Baugher’s Orchards and Farms were available for volunteers to enjoy, as well as coffee, fruit, warm egg casserole, and hot water for tea and hot chocolate.

“I especially enjoyed the art and food aspects of the event,” said Engle. “I’m consistently amazed at how that little garden can bring so many different people together, especially those that might not interact much otherwise.”

“I hope that the picnic tables and garden will continue to foster that on-campus community building into the future,” she added.

View a photo essay of the garden cleanout on page 9!

Crime Log

The Daily Crime and Fire Log is available for public view in the Campus Safety office, located at 152 Pennsylvania Ave. The most current 60 days of information is available from the dispatcher; archived records up to seven years can be requested. Unless otherwise noted, the incidents listed here are closed. “DOCS Office” refers to the Department of Campus Safety office on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Reported 10/18	DOCS Office
Harassment	
Reported 10/20	DOCS Office
Hazing	
Reported 10/22	Blanche Hall
Student conduct violation (2 counts)	
Reported 10/24	Blanche Hall
Tampering with fire equipment: fire extinguishers	
Reported 10/24	Carroll House
Trespassing	
Reported 10/24	DOCS Office
Harassment: social media	
Reported 10/24	PA 173
Burglary: forcible entry	
Reported 10/26	Whiteford Lot
Malicious destruction of property: vehicle	
Reported 10/28	DOCS Office
Dishonesty: fake ID	
Reported 10/29	Hill Hall
Larceny: from buildings	
Reported 10/31	Campus Wide
Malicious destruction of property (3 counts)	
Reported 10/31	Rouzer Hall
Malicious destruction of property	
Reported 10/31	DOCS Office
Harassment: phone	
Reported 11/4	McDaniel Hall
Student conduct violation (6 counts)	



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President’s Council meets with student leaders

COUNCIL *from page 1*
Corner and the newly offered meal exchange option.

Towle also followed up with the student leaders to share that she contacted Holmboe with concerns regarding student worker access to private student information in the Admissions and Financial Aid offices. Holmboe confirmed that the practice of student workers accessing private information was being revised and student workers would immediately begin signing confidentiality agreements.

On Oct. 29, the President’s Council allotted the group of student leaders a 30-minute meeting. The discussion ran for a whole hour. Below is an overview of the topics covered during the meeting.

State of the Financial Aid office

Holmboe explained that the department has been understaffed for over a year and has experienced a lot of turnover.

“As of now, we have one staff member who has been at the department for more than a year. We have one who has been here for about six months, one who has been here around three months, and we’re in the process of hiring the remaining positions,” said Holmboe.

Once fully staffed, the office will have seven employees, as opposed to the previous staff of six. They just hired one new staff member with five years of financial aid experience and are in the process of checking references for a second potential hire. They are currently rewriting the position description for the final position they’re looking to fill. At the moment, the office is being run by interim staff.

Holmboe also addressed concerns regarding the delay in awarding students financial aid for the Fall 2019 semester.

“We have spent probably the past two months really digging in to try and get ourselves caught up,” Holmboe said.

According to Holmboe, there are about 300 students with balances over a thousand dollars. For at least a hundred of those students, financial aid processing has been completed, but the students have yet to pay their fall tuition. These students will experience a registration hold and will be unable to register for spring classes until they have paid for this semester.

There are about another 20 students who have not yet filed a FAFSA, which means the Financial Aid office cannot assess them for need-based aid. There are about another 25 who are in the verification process and have yet to either submit a necessary document or present a parent signature for the office to proceed with verification.

“So there’s about a hundred or so that are in some state of they’re waiting on Financial Aid,” Holmboe said. “We’re working closely with the Bursar to release holds from students from whom we know financial aid will cover their balance once it’s applied.”

The Financial Aid and Bursar offices are also planning to hold

joint office hours to speed up this process and avoid having to “shuttle students back and forth” between the two offices. For the future, Holmboe wants to implement a case-load model where students are broken up by alphabet and assigned to a specific Financial Aid counselor that they would work with for all four years.

“What I’m seeing now is that students have to repeat sometimes deeply painful and very personal stories every single time they have to come into that office because they might see someone different,” Holmboe said. “And so this would allow people to have one person [and they can] develop a relationship with their Financial Aid professional.”

Holmboe also addressed concerns regarding federal work study approval. She believes the new employees in the office were overly conservative in how they initially awarded the work study, but the office is now working to award additional work study to students for the spring semester.

College size and housing

Casey explained that no one anticipated this first-year class to be as large as it is.

“When we look at our historical yield rates and our anticipated budget numbers for this year’s class, we went into this process anticipating and budgeting for a class of 430 or so,” Casey said.

According to Casey, application numbers went through the roof this year, and then students didn’t “melt” away throughout that process. In May or June, the College realized there would be a housing problem, so they reached out to the Best Western as an alternative plan.

Casey also explained that temporary triples and converted rooms have been used multiple times in history, with a little over 10 years ago being the last time. Converting rooms to triples and quads adds 44 more beds, for which Residence Life tried to find volunteers by offering a financial discount. They ended up finding more volunteers than necessary, so no one was placed in a triple or quad who didn’t want to, Casey said. The College also converted Harrison House and acquired a few properties on Pennsylvania Avenue that they already had their eyes on for awhile.

“We wound up in a pretty tight situation both time-wise and numbers-wise, but we wound up not having to put anybody in the Best Western, which was in some ways a miracle,” Casey said.

Much of the Board meeting this past week focused on housing for the future, he added. The graduating class of 2020 is a small class, so there will be more housing needs next year.

“We looked at an entire host of choices. Everything from acquisition of properties and conversion of existing facilities to building of new residence halls,” Casey said. “The Board is determining right now which of those routes we go.”

Casey shared that the administration has strategies for a normal-sized class and is currently developing strategies for a class that would be as large as the one

brought in this year. They are budgeting for a class of roughly 500 students.

“That’s where we’ve wanted to be for years. This is not like some new thing. We just haven’t brought in that number,” he said. “When we looked at our 5-year model from 5 years ago, it was to be building classes of roughly this size.”

Continuing to build classes of this size would create a student body of roughly 1800 students. Casey cited strategic plans adopted for the College back in 2001 that specified that the student body should be 1800 students.

“This is not some new concept or something we’ve picked out,” Casey said. “So, when I said I’d love to have more classes of this size, yes! The more students that we have (within reason), this is where we would love to be.”

Casey explained that the added revenue from a larger class size would allow the College to use tuition dollars to resolve financial aid issues, keep tuition down, increase staffing, and add compensation packages that would be attractive to staff and keep them from leaving.

“Student bodies of this size actually help everybody, I think, in the long run, provided we have the resources and ability to plan,” Casey said.

Institutional advancement

Shaffer was not in attendance at the meeting, so Casey addressed questions about institutional advancement. He explained that the College approaches donors with institutional priorities, as opposed to alumni approaching the College with a proposed project.

“Since at least 12 years ago, the number one most requested institutional priority from students has been the expansion and renovation of Decker. When I was a candidate for this job, all I heard was ‘fix Decker, fix Decker,’” Casey said. “When I hear students now say ‘we’ve never talked about this being a need,’ I think of words that I could say, but I don’t say those because all I’ve heard for 10 years is ‘do something about this building. We need a better student center.’”

An alumni couple donated \$5 million to the Decker renovations, which is half the cost of the project. According to Casey, \$8 million were raised “before we even put the shovel in the ground.” Now, the College is trying to raise the last \$2 million. Casey mentioned that he just solicited \$25 thousand for the project the day before the meeting.

“Ultimately our goal is when we pay all the bills and the place opens next August, we’ll have \$11 million so it’s completely paid for,” he said. “Under no circumstances will this money for that facility come from tuition operating dollars. It’s all funded by gifts.”

Student leaders then followed up with a question regarding priority assessment. Casey cited student satisfaction surveys as the main way the College gathers information. Four years ago, the College evaluated these surveys to understand whether students wanted air conditioning or something else. According to Casey, it costs about \$5 million per residence hall to install air conditioning. And yet air conditioning “really didn’t pop up

there” in the surveys. “One of the things that I think happens sometimes is students say ‘oh, you didn’t ask me.’ Well, that might be true. I didn’t ask you. Because we’re making these decisions 7, 8, 10, 12, 15 years in length,” Casey said. “It’s very feasible that the intensive work that you have done on your next major project was actually derived completely from analysis of student comments who don’t even go here anymore. So I think sometimes, that’s where the sense of disconnect comes.”

Casey specified that the student center “has been in the pipeline” at least since 1999.

Student representation

Student leaders then asked whether there is an effort to communicate these plans to incoming classes. They felt that it was rare that the student body receives an official communiqué informing students of long-term plans.

“I don’t mean to throw [SGA Vice President] Aaron and [SGA President] Amara under the bus on this, but the reality is you have SGA representation on the Board of Trustees and we didn’t have SGA representation sitting at this past Board of Trustees meeting. We had three full decades of Board meetings,” Casey responded. “There are colleges across this country in which student bodies and faculty protest outside because they aren’t allowed to get into a Trustees meeting. We have open Trustee process where all these decisions are talked about and we didn’t have anybody there. And that, to me, is the obvious and logical pipeline that you want to plug people into.”

Casey suggested electing representatives that would attend the Board of Trustees meetings and then report back to the student body.

Jasken added that Towle, as adviser to the SGA, wants to shift the focus of the group from planning social events to being tied in to the center of decision-making at the College.

“We need to find a mechanism by which the students are voting on representatives that they want to be their voice because we can’t meet with every student,” Jasken said. “It’s very important for us to have your feedback as well. So we need that relationship with our SGA representatives as well.”

Casey reiterated the importance of being present at the Board of Trustees meetings.

“It is shocking to me that, over the years, our visitors to the Board have not with more frequency taken that responsibility on and been there,” he said. “Because every single major decision this College has is made at that table.”

Casey explained that, in previous years, random students sat in on the Board before the administration decided to tie in SGA representatives as a more structured system for student representation. The student leaders asked whether that can be expanded beyond SGA representation, to which Casey stressed the importance of an elected, rather than appointed, representative.

“I would also say: read the emails. We send out many times *See COUNCIL, page 12*

New counselors join the Wellness Center team

Ciara O’Brien
Staff Reporter

The Wellness Center welcomed three new interns, Patch Tseng-Putterman, Laura Knox, and Kat Griffith, to the Hill this academic year so that they could complete their advanced graduate internships as part of their Master of Social Work programs.

All three arrived at McDaniel having already completed internships elsewhere and hope to gain new experience on the Hill.

“I provided counseling to high school students in my first internship, and knew I wanted experience working with adults as well, so McDaniel was a great fit,” Tseng-Putterman said.

“I did my internship last year in DC and wanted to stay (more or less) in the area,” Griffith added.

The interns come from diverse backgrounds with a wide variety of interests. Tseng-Putterman grew up just outside of Boston in Concord, Massachusetts. They graduated from Brown University with a degree in literary arts and environmental studies. After spending a few years as an organic

vegetable farmer, Tseng-Putterman started their master’s in clinical social work at Smith College.

Knox was born and raised in England and moved here during high school. She received her undergraduate degree in psychology from UMBC and is wrapping up the last year of her master’s in social work program from UMD, School of Social Work.

Griffith grew up in Washington, DC and has worked in DC, Los Angeles, Chile, and now Westminster. She is studying social work at Smith College with previous work experience in community organizing, crisis intervention, faith-rooted organizing, and legal services in an immigration detention center. She is bilingual in English and Spanish and lived abroad in Santiago and Valparaiso, Chile.

McDaniel’s newest additions bring different strengths and interests to the table. In addition to providing counseling services, Tseng-Putterman also hopes to co-facilitate McDaniel’s “Exploring Gender Identity Group” in the spring.

“I am a trans and non-binary identified counselor and working with folks around experiences of



Patch Tseng-Putterman, Laura Knox, and Kat Griffith joined the Wellness Center staff this semester. (Ciara O’Brien / McDaniel Free Press).

queerness and gender is an exciting part of what I hope to do in the mental health field,” they said.

Griffith meets with students for assessments, crisis interventions, and individual sessions.

“I am passionate about honoring resilient stories, supporting others in challenging times, promoting a culture of consent, and building meaningful connections,” she said.

Knox connects students to counselors and schedules them through initial phone calls.

“I am interested in anxiety, depression, relationships,

attachments we develop, and maintaining a balance to live our best lives,” she said.

All three counseling interns are excited to be at McDaniel and look forward to an exciting year.

“I have really enjoyed my experience so far,” Griffith said.

“I like the chicken fingers at Glar,” Tseng-Putterman added.

“My experience has exceeded any possible expectations,” Knox said. “This is such a warm, welcoming, supportive environment.”

Phenomenal Women organization aims to empower community



The Phenomenal Women organization. (Photo courtesy of the McDaniel Yearbook committee).

Onesha Smith
Contributor

People come to college in hopes of a better life, of a high paying job, and of finding themselves. Students expect that they will have what it takes to leave college within four years with a good enough resume to land their dream job that will lead them to something even greater in the future. College is just a small step in the journey of the rest of students’ lives.

What is the one accurate, reliable indicator for the success of the individual? The Phenomenal Women organization believes that knowing who you are, pursuing your passion, and reaching your full potential is the key to success. They believe that we need to look within ourselves to find out who we are as individuals because our inner beauty is more important than outer beauty. With a strong mindset, sense of self, and direction, anyone can be a force to be reckoned with.

Knowing, loving, and cultivating yourself is the key to everything in life, and that is what they try to help people understand in Phenomenal Women, the women empowerment organization on campus.

The Phenomenal Women organization was named after the poem “Phenomenal Woman,” written by Maya Angelou. This seemed like a fitting name to represent an organization built to empower women across all spectrums. Phenomenal Women is an organization that was created on McDaniel’s campus as a haven for anyone who identifies as a woman or supports uplifting women of all ethnicities, sizes, and sexualities. Their mission is to work collaboratively to identify persisting historical discourses that shape concepts of femininity. They also aim to redefine these social norms of the ideal woman and challenge narrow ideas of beauty.

Another goal of the

Phenomenal Women organization is to promote self-care and self-love. Attending college is inherently stressful, and they believe that throughout the day, students rarely listen to themselves or their bodies. The organization aims to help women become more in-tune with themselves, so they are better equipped to tackle problems, stress, and emotions.

Ultimately, the organization wants to answer the question about what women’s empowerment is. How does one empower women? Moreover, what does women empowerment look like? Usually, to start a conversation about defining a term, we start with the dictionary definition. However, there is no formal definition of women empowerment, so we have to combine the definition of “women” and “empowerment” to work our way up to the meaning of women empowerment. Empowerment is “...the act or action of empowering someone or something: the granting of the power, right, or authority to perform various acts or duties.”

The organization’s definition of women empowerment is the creation of an environment for women that promotes unity amongst women and men, where women can make decisions of their own for their personal growth, individuality, and for society. It also refers to increasing and improving the way women view and accept themselves versus the way society does.

Women empowerment gives strength to women, helps the voiceless find and project their voice, provides a bridge between men and women to help men and women understand and uplift each other, and makes women confident enough to claim their rights, such as:

- Having the ability to freely live their life with a sense of self-worth, respect, and dignity.

- Having complete control of their life, both within and outside of their home and workplace.
- Making their own choices and decisions.
- Challenging misconceptions of beauty and the socially constructed “ideal woman.”
- Promoting self-love and the development of one’s own identity.

In our modern society, women still face disadvantages in everyday life. First, people need to understand that the feminist movement was created to help shed light on the daily challenges women face, such as gender discrimination, sexual assault, and domestic violence. This movement is a call to action for women and men everywhere to enact change to improve the challenges women face. It has given women a platform to air out their issues and change perceptions.

Phenomenal Women is here to aid the feminist intersectionality of all women’s experience and stories to be heard. There is value in creating unity amongst women and understanding of oneself in different backgrounds. As women, what happens to one individual woman affects all women. In fighting for all women’s rights, everyone’s voice should be heard because people need to learn to listen and listen to learn.

The Phenomenal Women organization meets every other Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in Hill 108.

JOIN OUR STAFF

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Danielle Albrecht: philosopher, educator, and Dungeon Master

Jocelyn Hill
Contributor

When she isn’t teaching intro to philosophy and social justice here at McDaniel, Professor Danielle Albrecht can be found enjoying the outdoors hiking or leading her Dungeons and Dragons campaign.

Albrecht’s journey with philosophy was not intentional. She first pursued political science as an undergrad at University of Maryland Baltimore County. At UMBC she dove into metaphysics and began questioning how social justice plays into the nature of the world. Albrecht’s involvement with the Ethics Bowl at UMBC, a debate-style tournament discussing contemporary moral topics, further expanded her philosophical spark. She declared a double major and continued pursuing philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she taught ethics as an alumna prior to coming to McDaniel this fall.

How has philosophy impacted you?

My time on the Ethics Bowl team at UMBC significantly shaped my outlook and approach to philosophy, social political issues, and public speaking. One of the reasons I felt comfortable pursuing a profession in teaching at all is because I do not mind public speaking. I have to thank my time

on the Ethics Bowl team for that.

What are your favorite parts about teaching philosophy?

There are a lot of things that I love about teaching. One of the things I love is the conversations that I get to have with students. There is something about being in a philosophy classroom that really captures students. It’s really meaningful to be able to engage with those students on topics that they never got to discuss before.

Even beyond that, helping students connect with their education in a more meaningful way I think is hugely useful. I love teaching philosophy! Issues of Social Justice especially has been my dream course.

Why should students try it?

There is a way in which we are educated that encourages us to think of ourselves as marketing commodities. I think that we see this when we see the skepticism we are faced with when we say we are studying philosophy. I find that an alienating approach to higher education and just your life. I would encourage individuals to take philosophy precisely because it offers an alternate view. It reminds you that your life--your collection of skills is not just a market commodity; it’s something important and valuable in itself.

How does philosophy benefit students?



Professor Albrecht (left) has joined McDaniel’s philosophy department. (Jocelyn Hill / McDaniel Free Press).

You will come out of a philosophy classroom a more critical reader and a better, more comprehensive writer. And I think that philosophy does that in a way that few other disciplines can because it forces you to think not just about the content, but its structure. It makes you an active reader in a way that is very important.

Whether we are all aware of it or not, we all matter. We all have a role to play in this system of social cooperation we’ve set up. We all have some basic responsibility to take that role seriously. If we study philosophy, then I think it becomes even more apparent just how much

of an impact we can have. One of the valuable things of philosophy is how it invites you to consider, “what can I do?”

Beyond that, philosophy is just cool!

What can be done to strengthen philosophy at McDaniel?

Ultimately what any philosophy department needs is majors. Vera Jakoby is a wonderful chair! She is a very warm presence. She makes you want to study philosophy! Having more students in philosophy classrooms is helpful, having more majors is helpful too!

Albrecht will be teaching Intro to Philosophy and Issues of Social Justice this spring.

Best Buddies: A small club that makes a big difference



Best Buddies enjoyed a mummy-wrapping event to celebrate Halloween. (Tabitha Mansalley / McDaniel Free Press).

Tabitha Mansalley
Contributor

McDaniel College has many amazing and fulfilling clubs to take part in. Unfortunately, there is one that many people miss, but makes a huge impact for a population on our campus: McDaniel students living with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Best Buddies is a national nonprofit organization that helps to highlight this often

missed population, and “creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

This organization started its first chapter at Georgetown University in 1987, and has since grown into a national movement with hundreds of chapters in communities, middle schools, high schools, and colleges and universities across the United

States, including our very own McDaniel College.

The club is broken into two sections: there are the buddies themselves (those with intellectual and developmental disabilities) and there are the peers (those without intellectual and developmental disabilities) that are paired together and work through different activities in the hopes of “[forming] meaningful connections with their peers, gain self-confidence and self-esteem, and share interests, experiences and activities that many other individuals enjoy.”

The Best Buddies chapter of McDaniel has had softball games, team egg hunts, Rec Lounge takeovers, their very own winter Olympics, and much more. Their most recent event was a Halloween celebration, which included a variety of great costumes, spooky arts and crafts, and a mummy making contest. Overall, it was two hours of fun, food, and finding new friends. In the future, Best Buddies is looking forward to having more holiday celebrations, and even hosting a formal dance for the buddies.

Both buddies and peers find being in the club extremely fulfilling and valuable, and have all found many perks to being part of Best Buddies. First-year student Lyla Martin is a social work major who looks forward to interacting with a lot of people (including those with disabilities), and finds that Best Buddies is an amazing place to practice her communication skills.

Her favorite part of the club is “getting to talk to people, and making new friends with McDaniel students and other people from the

community. Everyone is so nice, friendly, and funny.”

Abby Renzulli is one of the presidents of the club, and has been working with Best Buddies since she was in high school.

“I’ve always just loved working with people who have disabilities, and saw Best Buddies to continue that passion in college,” said Renzulli.

She encourages everyone to join.

“You can’t have a bad time when you’re at Best Buddies,” said Renzulli. “It’s just not possible; you come and you have fun, you eat some snacks, you hang out with friends, you meet new people and it’s at the end of the week so it’s a good release. You can forget about all your problems because you’re just focusing on having a good time. Who wouldn’t want that?”

The club meets monthly on Fridays, and is looking for both allies and buddies to join. If you are interested, you can reach out to mcdanielbestbuddies@gmail.com for information on meetings and events.

Fall 2019 Editorial Team

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Project Guatemala

Mitchell Clokey
Contributor

Over the summer of 2019, student Jose Pac participated in a medical internship with his home town’s hospital, the Hospital Regional de Occidente Guatemala. The program consisted of over 50 medical students working in the traumatology department to provide assistance to doctors, such as bringing out records, exams, X-rays, blood work, or any paperwork the doctor needs. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, medical students would help diagnose and direct patients to the departments which could help them. Students would then spend their Tuesdays and Thursdays shadowing the surgeries the doctors would perform until the afternoon. During his time there, Pac observed many alarming details regarding the condition of this hospital’s equipment and staffing.

Equipment concerns ranged from inefficient lighting that was either too bright or too dim for surgeries, the use of industrial drills during operations rather than surgical drills, and dated operating room beds that limited the doctors’ ability to see more patients. In regard to staffing, the Hospital Regional de Occidente Guatemala is severely understaffed, which lowers the quality of care that medical

professionals can provide. By 4:30 a.m. every morning, a long line of people from all over the state forms in front of the hospital doors. This means that doctors can only give each patient about six minutes of their time, when the recommended care is 15 minutes per patient.

This hospital in particular offers access to areas of medicine that are not available in other areas of the state, causing people to travel long distances to use its resources. Although it is helpful that so many services are offered, this creates a higher demand on the staff because of the great volumes of people coming in. Another reason people choose to come to this hospital is because it is publicly funded and therefore all the citizens can afford care. Patients are often from low income backgrounds and rely on the public hospital to help them with their medical concerns. Wealthier members of the state pay to go to private hospitals where the services are much better because there is a lower demand on the staff.

Pac recalled that one woman who came in to have a ball joint replaced in her hip could not be helped due to the lack of funding. The doctors had to fundraise to get the money for the prosthetic ball they were putting in her hip, but it did not fit properly, and they had to remove it. In order to get the proper size, the doctors had to



Jose Pac interned at the hospital in 2019. (Mitchell Clokey / McDaniel Free Press).

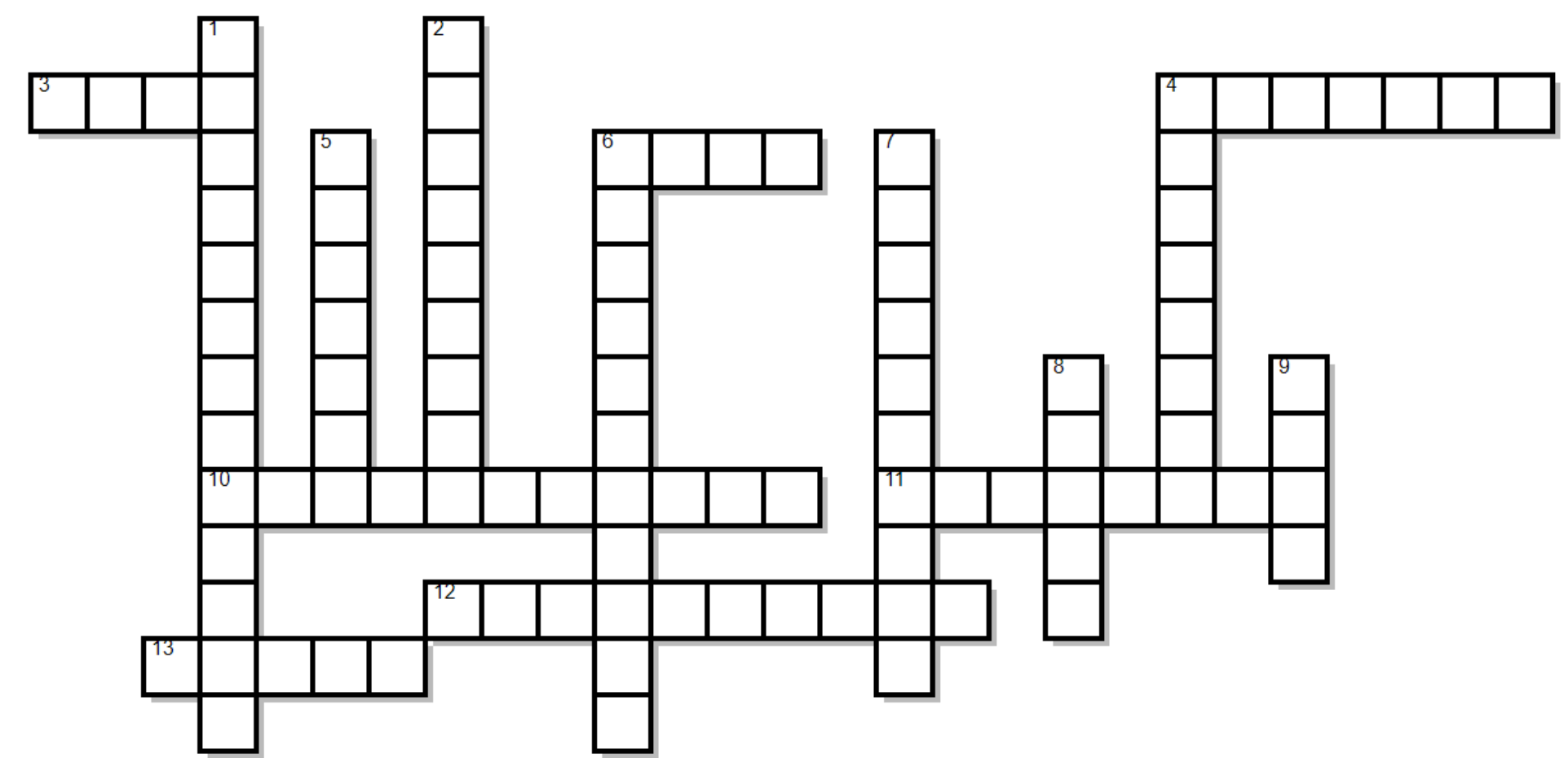
fundraise again and even considered paying for it themselves, but the part had to be custom-made again. Because of this, the woman could not have her hip surgery completed at the time and the doctors had to send her home with a floating hip. She will now have to wait months to have the surgery while she sits around in pain.

The Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity will be hosting a number of fundraising events over the fall and spring semesters to purchase some

of the desperately needed hospital equipment. Pac felt the internship experience was very enriching to his understanding of the medical field, but also introduced him to the hardships of underfunded hospitals. These fundraisers would be aimed to purchase either medical lights or surgical drills so that surgeries could be performed in a safer manner. This initiative is aimed at helping the global community by providing resources that improve the quality of life for people in other countries.

Free Press Crossword

Find the answers in this print issue!



ACROSS

3. This band’s 2016 album “Lurcher” includes songs such as “Shot Death” and “Hands Up”
4. After three years of sifting, this was finally able to be used in the campus garden
6. Tim Jenkins is the director of this McDaniel music ensemble
10. This poet’s poem was the inspiration for the club Phenomenal Women
11. The Board of ____ is influential in decision making on campus
12. Professor Albrecht’s outlook on philosophy is inspired by this debate-style tournament
13. There are ____ new intern counselors at the Wellness Center

DOWN

1. This fraternity will be helping raise money for the Hospital Regional de Occidente Guatemala
2. Paul Robbins’s lecture highlighted the “Baby Bust” in this Indian state
4. These public sharing bikes could be an option at McDaniel
5. The Gospel Choir will hold a performance at the Westminster Public ____
6. This local business employs students, and has an ad in the paper
7. The first chapter of Best Buddies was founded at this university
8. PSU’s Coffee House was held in this Lounge
9. Students can register for Wellness Center sessions through this office

“Lifting every voice”: A look at McDaniel’s Gospel Choir



The Gospel Choir will perform on Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. in Alumni Hall. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Makayla Whitehead
Contributor

From down the hall, yards away, there is a loud and joyous boom of music coming from behind two closed doors. Walking into the room, chairs are lined up in disorganized rows at the back, a woman sits at a piano in the front of the room with a student on

drums beside her, and a diverse group of people eagerly and rhythmically clap and sing along to uplifting lyrics. This is the pleasant atmosphere occupying a McDaniel College Gospel Choir practice. Shelley Ensor, director of the choir, believes music is crucial and loves getting to express that with students.

“I absolutely adore working with the students and community members in the choir,” said Ensor. “Year after year the Gospel Choir is comprised of not only the most talented individuals, but also those that are kind, compassionate, and supportive. Gospel Choir is a safe place...when you take part in the Gospel Choir class, you will always leave feeling better than when you came.”

This positive, uplifting effect is likely a big draw for many students.

“I joined Gospel Choir as a way to relax and relieve tension from the newfound responsibilities of college,” said Jewoine Wilson, a member of the choir. “I stayed because of the euphoria I felt when singing.”

“The joy that I get from joined voices that genuinely enjoy what they’re doing is indescribable,” said Rhema Jones, another member of the choir. “I like learning new songs with Shelley because she brings the songs to life with her enthusiasm.”

These feelings of euphoria, joy, and enthusiasm can be easily seen on stage through the wonderful performances the group puts on.

“My favorite part about Gospel Choir; I’d say the sound,” said Wilson. “Produced by people who may or may not have ever sang before in their lives. The sound is

one to behold.”

Coming up most imminently, the Gospel Choir will be performing on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Woodlawn, Md.

More locally, they will be performing on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. at the Westminster Public Library and on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. at Alumni Hall.

All of the Gospel Choir’s performances are free to attend and open to all students and members of the community.

Not only is Gospel Choir great for entertainment, but it teaches lessons, too.

“I’ve learned to lead and listen to the balance of voices,” said Jones, speaking technically.

“Courage, I would say, is something we tackle quite often,” said Wilson, speaking more personally. “Random people are encouraged and taught to sing on their own, while we are taught to enjoy the thrill of performance and of our sounds regardless of what tries to hold us back.”

“Music is the backdrop to our lives. Music has been a major part in every aspect of this nation’s history,” said Ensor. “The message I’d like to pass on is that music is important. Don’t take it for granted. I encourage you to ‘lift every voice and sing!’”

Progressive Student Union hosts Halloween coffee house

Laurel Pogue
Editorial Staff

On Oct. 31, McDaniel’s Progressive Student Union hosted a coffee house and open mic night in Ensor Lounge. During this event, snacks and drinks were available, and students were encouraged to bring their own mugs to increase sustainability. The event was relatively casual, with the furniture of Ensor Lounge shifted to form an audience facing the microphones that were set up and available for students to use for a variety of performances. Some students sang or played instruments, yet others read poetry of their own or favorite quotes from others, and others

performed comedy sketches.

In addition to an opportunity for the campus community to gather and be creative, the event also had the aim of spreading information about PSU’s current mission. About halfway through the event, PSU President Sam Bouton shared the organization’s sustainability demands for the College, which focus on the use of native plants in landscaping, local meat and produce through dining services, and clear sustainability goals with publications of progress made.

The finale of the event was the Halloween costume contest, where attendees were able to vote for their favorites, and the winners received gift baskets.



Jake Fine and Rachel Gunnerson performed at PSU’s coffee house in Ensor Lounge on Oct. 31. (Shaquille Tairrellil / McDaniel Free Press).

PSU invites interested parties, especially those who want to talk about climate change and effects

on the campus and local levels, to attend their upcoming meetings on Wednesdays at 9 p.m. in Hill 14.

Among the Falling Leaves

Cara Woolston
Writing contest winner

Mila softly hummed along to the song playing on her car’s radio while unconsciously pulling into the parking spot closest to the tree that stood in front of her bland office building. Another work day was beginning and Mila, overtaxed and tired, was less than excited to start it. She hated her job. Of course, some days were better than others; however, all seemed to be insufferable. She had only planned to do this job for a short amount of time to get a taste for a life in business before going off to a big city and finding more serious work. However, her five month plan quickly became a year, and a year somehow became five. Mila often laughed at

herself for ever believing that she would become a hotshot for some major company in a place much bigger than the second floor of The Redwood Professional Center. How naive could she be?

With the engine gently whirring and the song finishing, Mila gathered her thoughts about the day in front of her. She had an eleven o’clock meeting following a nine o’clock consultation with another four o’clock meeting to conclude the day. Then once she was done work she would finally be able to run her clothes to the dry cleaners and finish cleaning her apartment. Maybe she could even squeeze in a workout before dinner. Or maybe she could get her car’s oil changed as she had been putting that off for too long. But she still had a big report and presentation to finalize which seemed to be painfully gnawing on her, so she had to do that before anything else.

Quickly becoming panicked,

Mila turned the ignition off along with her pestering thoughts about her busy and draining schedule. She opened her car door with a heavy reluctance; however, as she did so, a strong gust of wind blew in her direction which promptly shut the door. The gust was chillier than she expected and Mila thought about her lack of jacket. Had autumn already begun? It felt as though summer had just arrived. Mila looked in her car mirror and fixed her hair that had become messy due to the wind and noticed that a few leaves seemed to make their way into her hair and car. Annoyed, she picked the small pieces out of her hair.

She was about to leave again when she noticed a big leaf wedged under her windshield wipers. It was strangely sad. The colors, similar to a flame, blended perfectly together and made it easy to see the dark holes that had been bored into it from hungry insects. Mila wondered if it were the insects or the

CONTRAST

literary magazine

This month’s prompt:
The snow makes everything so quiet.

Please submit either a short story no longer than 500 words or up to 50 lines of poetry no later than 11:59 pm on Tuesday, Nov. 26 for the chance to be published in the next issue. Email to contrastlitmag@gmail.com.

arrival of autumn that made the leaf fall from the tree. Maybe it was just tired of hanging on. The leaf suddenly blew out of her sight. So, Mila, among the falling leaves, started her car and drove away.

Pumpkin Smash

Marya Kuratova

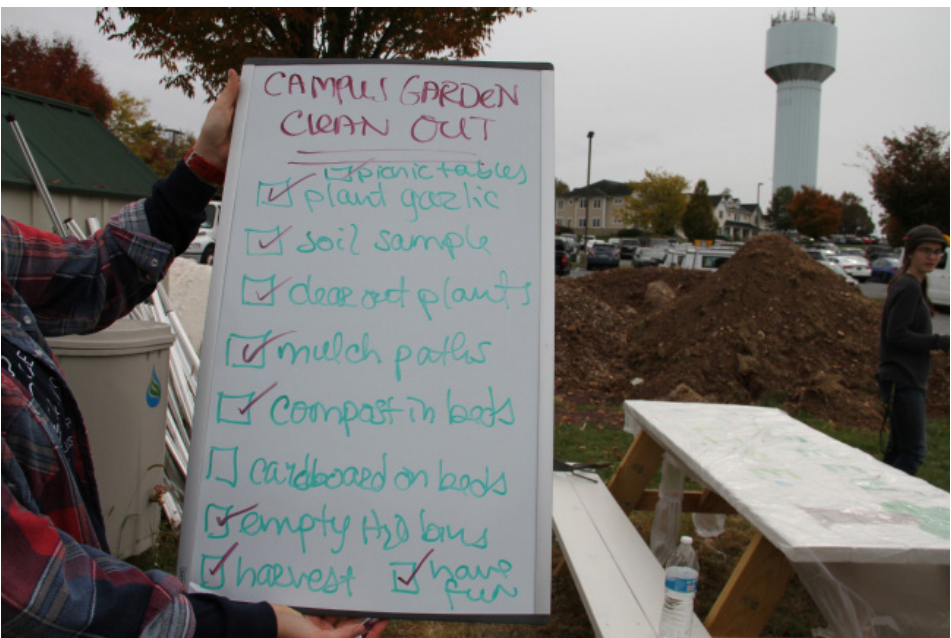
On Monday, Nov. 4, the Student Alumni Council held the annual Pumpkin Smash event. Members of the campus community were encouraged to purchase a pumpkin, write any stressors they were experiencing on the pumpkin, and then smash it. Baked goods and hot beverages were also available for sale.



Garden Clean Out

Ciara O'Brien

On Saturday, Oct. 26, Green Life, Compost Club, APO, and the environmental studies department hosted their second annual “Garden Cleanout Spectacular,” a morning of service and festive fall fun. Read more about the event on page 2.



10 local Maryland/Virginia bands (and albums) you should listen to

Hayden Draycott Contributor

Having been partially inspired by the concerts the College has hosted over the past couple of semesters and seeing some of the amazing local talent they've featured, I decided to write a piece about local bands. I already had a few favorite (and in my opinion, underrated) bands from the Maryland/DC area, but in order to write about a wider variety of groups, I expanded the criteria somewhat to include some truly great acts from Virginia and included both up and coming artists as well as a few who have been around the circuit a few times. To clarify, the list is not ranked according to any specific order or criteria, but I made sure to encompass a variety of genres from some jazzy fusion-esque acts, punk rockers, bubbly pop, and some pure head-crushing heavy metal in order to illuminate a diverse range of the best that Maryland and Virginia, two lesser-known spots when it comes to music history, have to offer. With each artist I also included a shout out to a particularly notable album or work they've done with some details about a couple of key tracks included there.

1. Pentagram ("Be Forewarned," 1994)

British metallers Black Sabbath are widely credited with being the "first" heavy metal band and rightfully so, as they definitely helped spearhead the movement (the sub-genre of doom metal in particular) with their eponymously named debut release in 1970. However, Virginia headbangers Pentagram had actually jumped on the movement a couple years earlier on the complete opposite side of the Atlantic. Unfortunately though, a plethora of issues from failed record deals to virtually endless lineup changes would plague the band for 15 grueling years until they were finally able to put out their debut album in 1985, which by then only featured lead vocalist Bobby Liebling as the sole founding member still in the group. But it is perhaps the band's 1994 effort "Be Forewarned" that cemented their status as a cult band among their small but loyal legion of fans. It features some of their most exhilarating stories about werewolves, vampires, and the everyday onslaught that is life through such anthemic compositions as "Live Free and Burn," "Wolf's Blood," and "Bride of Evil," among others. They showcase Liebling's soaring yet demonic sounding vocals backed by guitar titan Victor Griffin, who is able to effortlessly blend grinding, blazing, distorted riffs with highly articulate, shredding solos. Rounding out the group on this album are bass and drum masters Martin Swaney and Joe Hasselvander, respectively, who contribute a slew of pounding, liquidy bass lines and thundering, tribal sounding drum attacks, which yield an absolutely relentless, chaotic sounding onslaught of pure metal mayhem. And boy does it ever slam.

2. Super City ("Sanctuary," 2018)

In just four short years, Super City are on their way to accomplishing

more in that time than a good deal of bands do in a decade. Having already put out two full studio albums and garnered a widespread presence on iTunes, Spotify, and Bandcamp, all while maintaining a fairly hefty touring schedule, Super City are gearing up to take on the world. Their 2018 sophomore effort "Sanctuary" delivers a hurricane of powerful, raucous goods and offers a range of zesty spices throughout; the title track features almost sludgy, Muse-like, electronic sounding guitar and synth riffs, while numbers such as "Hurry" and the hauntingly beautiful "Ghost of Love" feature perfect Beach Boy-like choral vocals over soothing, jazzy piano and keyboard layers that soar in "Earth Wind & Fire" magnitudes.

3. The Crayfish ("Red," 2002)
There was a time not too long ago, in the energetic 1980s, when drummers everywhere were using their floor toms as rack toms, Possessed put out the first official death metal record, the members of Motley Crue still looked like girls and were picking up every girl in every town they toured in, and Pantera was a glam band. Yup, the same band responsible for such distorted, grooving, mayhem-ridden anthems as "Walk," "Cemetery Gates," and the infamous "Cowboys From Hell" once looked and sounded like they were the result of a love affair between Van Halen and Def Leppard. And before they landed the maniac Phil Anselmo as their vocalist, they had the equally charismatic Terry Glaze fronting the band whose immense vocal range and stage persona helped jumpstart the band's career. Leaving Pantera on amicable terms when they decided to pull a 180 in their sound, Glaze partook in a number of other acts, most notably his bar band The Crayfish. Their 2002 effort in particular, "Red," is a bit of an anomalous album because there is something for everyone, as the album offers a nice range of flavors to choose from. Some numbers like the driving, clunky "Miss Terri" are a nice throwback to Glaze's glam days; others like the twangy "I'm Almost There" are a nice tribute to the olden days of blues, while the aptly named instrumental "Surf Tune" would be the perfect soundtrack to one's summer beach jamboree.

4. GULL ("Lurcher," 2016)
If you had to choose one word to describe one man band GULL's apocalyptic anthems, you couldn't really. Or you'd would be very hard pressed to, anyways. However, if anything, the title of his 2016 release, "Lurcher," actually describes his jams fairly well: a lot of them really do lurch in the literal sense in a variety of tones and tempos ranging from the funky, highly percussive almost Slipknotish groove "Shot Death" to the hip hop oriented, rapped-out beat boxed sounding titles like "Hands Up" that would do Skrillex proud. His live shows and music videos are a spectacle, too, as the fact that he is able to play guitar and keep solid time on the drums all at once without being some sort of octopus with three brains is pretty impressive. In addition, he is able to

simultaneously ferociously belt out his angst ridden, hyped up vocals through what is probably a highly constrictive, sweat-inducing Darth Vader/Michael Myers-esque mask (it does have a purpose though, it incorporates a whole system of built in microphones to further amplify his voice), which is even more astounding.

5. Iron Man ("Black Night," 1993)
When people hear the phrase "Iron Man," they're liable to think of two things: the red armored superhero from the MCU played by Robert Downey, Jr. and the Black Sabbath song of the same name, both of which are widely recognized in pop culture. As stated, because of Black Sabbath's widespread influence on heavy metal due to their helping to kickstart the genre, it's not surprising they've amassed a number of tribute acts to their name over the years, one of the most prominent being the Maryland based act Iron Man. Naming themselves after the title of one of Sabbath's most famous tunes, the band was started by guitar virtuoso Al Morris III and they quickly started adding their own material to their discography, one of the most prominent being their debut effort "Black Night," released in 1993. While the Sabbath influence is strong, it also gives listeners something new to chew on with plenty of original, exotic titles and themes ranging from the high-speed bullet sounding "Choices" that actually promotes a woman's right to choose, to the grungy, chugging-along "Leave This Town" about the complex emotion that is love. The album showcases Morris's outstanding guitar abilities accompanied by an impressive range of devious, mournful vocal melodies, rock solid bass lines, and jazzy yet pummeling drum beats. While the band came to an unfortunate fold just last year due to Morris's sudden death, their discography is still a must for any metal fan, or someone who just enjoys a good guitar lick once in a while.

6. Ed Schrader's Music Beat ("Party Jail," 2014)
The duo of percussionist/guitarist maniac Ed Schrader and monster bassist Devlin Rice recently joined forces to create an onslaught of soul-crushing honest-to-goodness drum and bass style avant-garde based punk rock. Most impressive is how the duo uses a fairly organic but nonetheless thrashing approach to create their slamming compositions. Schrader's technique of a floor tom in place of lead guitar blends meticulously with Rice's thunky, shuddering bass grooves to create a sound that is as gut punching and raw as early Sex Pistols and Killing Joke, yet as groovy and swingy as the likes of Duran Duran and early 80s David Bowie. "Party Jail," their 2014 effort, has a pretty lengthy list of tunes from the fist-pump-inducing "Pantomime Jack" to the more eclectic, almost tropical sounding number "Laughing" that makes you want to both dance until you drop and slam a folding chair over someone's back again and again at the same time.

7. Jester Mercutio ("You Shall Find the Devil Inside" single, 2018)

If you have ever wondered what it would sound like if Depeche Mode and Marilyn Manson joined forces, with a dash of M83 and Type O'Negative thrown in for good measure, up and coming Washington DC based gothic/synth virtuoso Jester Mercutio finally answers that question. Although fairly new to the scene with just a few singles out, Mercutio has lost no time in composing some truly gliding, paranormal-atmosphere sounding compositions. One of his most recent singles, "You Shall Find the Devil Inside," reveals just part of his gothic based electronic music mastery. With raw, David Bowie style vocals and his immaculate skill with composing cosmic, almost sci-fi sounding keyboard and synthesizer anthems backed by grungy guitars and electrical Nine Inch Nails style percussive beats, Mercutio is quick to introduce listeners to a whole new stage. And complete with an accompanying music video featuring Klaus Nomi and Joel Grey reminiscent theatrics, "You Shall Find the Devil Inside" gears up to be a fairly wild ride.

8. Kruiser ("Take You For a Ride" EP, 2019)

Another immensely talented up and coming act, Kruiser's debut EP, put out just this past year, is no shortage of good old-fashioned rock-till-you-drop style rock-and-roll that will make you nostalgic for the swinging 70s whether you were around for the decade or not. The band does a thorough job paying homage to the heyday of 1970s rock with raw, blues influenced guitar riffs and sweeping David Gilmore-esque solos complete with rushing bass riffs and John Bonham-esque drum grooves. Perhaps most impressive is lead vocalist Mikey Krause's soaring, powerful vocal deliverance that could easily make Steven Tyler proud. The EP delivers a plethora of jamming compositions, from extremely shreddy, gritty, raucous tunes like "Rebels are Blind," while others like the power ballad-influenced "Turn Around" takes one back to the heyday of glam rock. In all, there really is not much more to say other than that "Take You For a Ride" is a sonic masterpiece kicking off Kruiser's epic quest to resurrect classic rock from the dead.

9. Cannabis Corpse ("Blunted at Birth," 2006)

Formed fairly recently in 2006, death metal parody act Cannabis Corpse lost no time in jumping on the death metal train, but in a twist opted to form more of a parody tribute to all of their death metal heroes. They released their debut "Blunted at Birth" the same year with death metal pioneers Cannibal Corpse (and their cheerful album titles like "Butchered at Birth") obviously being the main object of their inspiration in utilizing blazing, downtuned guitar riffs, galloping, muddy bass grooves and blast beating drums to create thoroughly crushing yet extremely humorous death metal anthems with lyrics

See **BANDS**, page 11

Paul Robbins, Ph.D., presents annual Phi Beta Kappa lecture

Ciara O'Brien
Staff Reporter

On Monday, Oct. 28, Paul Robbins, Ph.D., director of the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, visited McDaniel to present his lecture titled “Baby Bust” for the annual Visiting Scholar Program hosted by Phi Beta Kappa.

The evening began with a brief welcome from Michele Gribben, president of the McDaniel chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, who gave insight into what PBK is and some of the requirements for membership. As an honor society for the liberal arts, PBK emphasizes the excellence of liberal arts studies, which is also exemplified by the speaker for the annual lecture.

Robbins set the scene in the rural parts of Karnataka, India, an extremely impoverished area where people have little access to basic necessities and urbanization has taken over as people move away from rural areas into the city.

Research predicts the end of population growth in the next half century. “There aren’t enough workers in India,” Robbins said, “because these laborers were never

born.” Robbins described a sense of “demographic paranoia” that comes up among certain groups that tells them that they should reproduce more, yet they hope that this child-baring sense of duty will fall to someone else.

“People in Ladakh are afraid that they’ll be outnumbered, and that they must reproduce more, but they also want smaller households...they think it’s someone else’s problem,” Robbins said.

Robbins claimed that 25 percent of the world’s population is over 60 years old, when it has historically been only 10 percent. With numbers like those, it becomes hard to deny that population growth is slowing down. In fact, Singapore took their National Night, a celebration of the nation’s birthday, as an opportunity to encourage citizens to “let their patriotism explode” and combat low birth rates.

While citizens are encouraged to reproduce, immigrants are actually discouraged from procreating. These ideals come from “raceful and racist” beliefs and fears regarding population growth.

In areas where birth rates are on the decline, it all comes down to what women have access to.



Paul Robbins, Ph.D., presented the annual Phi Beta Kappa lecture in McDaniel Lounge on Oct. 28. (Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press).

“In places like China, where women work, have more autonomy, and better healthcare, they also are having less children,” Robbins said.

Robbins also explored the environmental impacts of population decline. With the emptying out of rural landscapes comes environmental problems, because labor is replaced with herbicide, pesticide, and tractors: more harmful technology and machinery.

“Labor disappears and the land gets worse,” Robbins added. “Fewer workers means there will be more robots, not the other way around.”

In addition to ecological change, Robbins predicts that one of the

most hard-hit areas of population decline will be the elder-care industry.

“Seniors lack resources and there can be a lot of violence against them,” Robbins said. “The more there is of them, the more violence...The most exhausting work will fall to female immigrants in this country.”

Despite the challenges, Robbins maintains an optimistic outlook.

“This transition isn’t the end of politics or economics,” Robbins said in closing. “It’s actually the beginning.”

The lecture was followed by a 20-minute Q&A.

Tim Jenkins Quartet kicks off Monday Night Music

Erin Pogue and Laurel Pogue
Editorial Staff

On Monday, Oct. 21, the McDaniel music department hosted the first concert of the year in the recurring “Monday Night Music” concert series, with a performance by the Tim Jenkins Quartet. This musical group is comprised of Tim Jenkins on guitar and voice, Jon Seligman on percussion, Nick Reider on trumpet, and Jeff Hiner on upright bass.

Jenkins also composed the nine pieces that the group performed. Three of the performers—Jenkins, Seligman, and Reider—all teach classes in the music department. The concert was about an hour long and was well-attended by students and community members.

Between songs, Jenkins introduced his fellow musicians, told the audience the stories behind the different songs, and shared information about upcoming concerts.

When asked his favorite part about performing, Jenkins said that “As far as performing, I like the idea of trying to reach something beyond the notes. It happens on occasion; the group gets caught up in something beautiful and unplanned. I like that. I’m also very grateful to make music with the guys and to spend time with them. The greatest reward I’ve ever received as a musician is simply the gift of being one.”

Jenkins is the director of the McDaniel Jazz Ensemble, and was glad to see many members of the



On Oct. 21, the Tim Jenkins Quartet performed at the “Monday Night Music” concert series. (Erin Pogue / McDaniel Free Press).

group in the audience. Between songs, he said that he was excited for the jazz concert on Dec. 5 at 7 p.m., and hopes that the McDaniel community will come out to sup-

port the band. The Tim Jenkins Quartet hopes to get in the studio and record a record by the end of the year.

10 local Maryland/Virginia bands (and albums) you should listen to

BANDS from page 10 centering exclusively around the band’s love of pot. Cannibal Corpse themselves spearheaded the death metal genre as a whole in the early 90s, achieving mass fame and censorship with such notorious numbers as “Hammer Smashed Face,” “Staring Through the Eyes of the Dead,” and “Force Fed Broken Glass,” among such other equally happy walking-on-sunshine tunes. To add more laughing gas to the mix with Cannabis Corpse, however, in continued homage to their

idols, it is easy to see where they get much of the inspirations for their songs with their 2006 debut effort “Blunted at Birth” featuring such numbers as “Reefer Stashed Place,” “Staring Through Eyes that are Red,” and “Force Fed Sh***y Grass,” among others. While they have often toured country wide and abroad alongside such renowned acts as Ghoul, Nailbomb, and Demolition Hammer, they maintain an almost constant touring itinerary up and down the east coast especially around their hometown of Rich-

mond, Virginia, therefore making them a must-see.

10. Raindeer (“Dreambeat17,” 2019)

Truly a unique treasure in an otherwise crowded trove, Raindeer are well on their way to becoming pop rock greats. With already four albums to their name, they know their sound and the soothing, yet lifting affect they want to have on their audience with their highly cosmic, nebulous compositions that are a brilliant throwback to the early days of 2000s era experimental, folk-

like pop. Their most recent release, “Dreambeat17,” is an art gallery of euphoric colors that make you feel like you’re soaring in outer space; it offers numbers like the highly experimental, MGMT’ reminiscent “R U a Dancer” with bubblegum pop vocals and subtle but jazzy guitars and keyboards backed by hip-hop-esque drum beats, as well as the more mysterious, bass heavy “Moon=Hex” that soars to a whole new level of electrical fusion laden Daft Punkish atmospheres.

The importance of supporting local businesses

Marley Burgess
Contributor

Local businesses are located in towns all over and are often underestimated for the good that they can do and bring to their community. Local businesses thrive off the support from those that live in their towns and cities and they want to provide for these people. Here are a few reasons why shopping at your local businesses can benefit you and your community.

To begin, by supporting your local business, you are supporting your local economy. When a purchase is made at a local business, a crucial amount of money stays in the community rather than going to a nationally owned business. This helps with keeping the local economy booming and thriving. It is recorded that for every \$100 spent at a local business, \$68 will stay in the community.

These small businesses also employ 77 million people and account for 65 percent of all new jobs over the past 17 years. This goes to show how vital they are when it comes to employment. Unemployment rates are always fluctuating, but to have a consistent type of businesses that helps with employing people all over the world is key for a successful economy.

Local businesses are also owned by the people in your community. This makes everything more personal, which means they genuinely care about their customers and creating a good and



Many businesses within walking distance of McDaniel, such as Ying Thai Cuisine, encourage students to enter. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

pleasing environment for them to shop at. Customer service comes first and that can make all the difference in a shopping/dining experience; you don't find that often at nationally owned businesses.

Lastly, supporting local businesses is good for the environment because they tend to have a smaller carbon footprint than larger companies. In a time where it is crucial to be taking care of our environment, these small businesses are helping contribute to the well-being of the planet.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Molly Gough, a senior here at McDaniel, who has worked at JeannieBird Baking Company, a local coffee and bake shop in Westminster, for almost a year now. I could really tell how enthusiastic and happy she was about working in the JeannieBird environment; she even told me that JeannieBird has been her favorite job thus far.

She described how a local business like JeannieBird really brings the community together and how employees know all of the regular customers who come in. Molly said that she knows just about every regular person's order and even named off a few for me, "Ed gets a scrapple egg and cheese on sourdough, Loretta gets a sweet scone and a dark roast coffee in a mug, and Clark gets 2 eggs with a toasted English muffin."

One thing that really stood out to me that she said was that, "[Working at JeannieBird] is more than just serving coffee and food. We as employees are taught that it is more about making people happy." That completely captures the whole point and atmosphere of a local business. It is more than a business and it's more than the money; the people truly care about the customer getting the best experience possible!

So next time you think about going to a big, corporate owned business, instead try stopping by at your locally owned businesses to make a healthy difference for the community and yourself.

President's Council meets with student leaders

COUNCIL, from page 3

very extensive descriptions of 'here's a project going on, here's the construction going on, and here's the process that's going to happen and here's where it's going to go' and nobody reads them," Casey added. "I don't know how you know anything if you don't read it. To say, 'nobody's told me anything' because you haven't read anything

is just not much of an excuse in my book."

The meeting concluded with a discussion regarding the frequency of future meetings.

"If we can have that half hour regularly with this group and then have additional kinds of communication that happens outside of that, the half hour doesn't feel like this is the one opportunity to do this," Jasken said.

Then, on Nov. 5, Towle met with the student leaders once more to follow up on the President's Council meeting and plan for future ways to facilitate open communication. Patel, Espinal, and the author of this article were present at this meeting. In addition, Annalise Bell joined the group and was invited to attend future

meetings.

Towle hopes to establish a group of 8-10 students to meet periodically and share information both ways. She wants the student leaders to represent "slivers of different student life" and is curious about what's happening on campus. Logistics regarding the frequency of meetings and how the discussed topics will be distributed to the rest of the student body are still being finalized.

A Note on Anonymity

In the previous print issue, released on Oct. 18, our staff made the unusual decision to publish a commentary article from an anonymous contributor. We recognize that this may have surprised our readers and would like to detail some of our behind-the-scenes work.

The Free Press staff is devoted to offering all members of the campus community the chance to voice

their opinions. We strive to represent a wide variety of topics and viewpoints. While the commentary pieces we publish do not necessarily reflect our own opinions, we still work hard to ensure the published articles are well-researched and thoroughly fact-checked.

The Editor-in-Chief is aware of the identity of the author of "The king of the Hill knows nothing about his subjects," as well as the identities of all the anonymous sources quoted in the article. The claims made in the article were fact-checked and the article was sent to our two faculty advisers for review prior to publication. The Editor-in-Chief communicated feedback to the writer and worked closely with them to implement any necessary changes.

Ultimately, the piece was

published anonymously to protect the identity of the student writer and work with their comfort level. Our staff is currently in the process of drafting a formal policy regarding the circumstances in which we will grant anonymity in the future. Any questions or concerns can be addressed to Free Press Editor-in-Chief Marya Kuratova at freepress@mcdaniel.edu.

Student apathy at McDaniel has reached a critical level

Jake Fine
Contributor

One of the greatest benefits of attending a small school is that students have the opportunity to join multiple groups that would require an increased level of commitment at larger institutions. This isn't a college where students have to commit to one or two interests and remain locked into pursuing those interests for four years. Here, we have students who can be on the football team, and in an improv group, and in the gospel choir, and still reach success within their major and minor. This would be much less feasible at a larger school. We have a special opportunity at a small college to get involved in multiple facets of our education, not just our classes, but in multiple environments, in true interdisciplinary liberal arts fashion. And yet club membership on campus seems as if it has been declining and it feels as if there are fewer students trying classes out of their direct track than years past. It is not reasonable to expect every student to take 20 credits, join five clubs, and work three jobs, but it's not unreasonable to expect students to take their classes, join a few clubs, and create change on campus. By getting involved, students are able to make their voices heard, in large and small ways. Students are provided a few opportunities to get involved in making institutional change, however, the College still needs to do a better job of listening to and respecting student interests and ensuring that they are actually being involved in institutional decision-making processes in a meaningful way. Sending an email to students after changes are made is not enough. We need widely-known physical and electronic locations where students can give the school their input, not through carefully crafted surveys or focus groups, but through truly public and accessible points. We also need these locations when we receive information

disseminated by the College. Sometimes it feels as if we are so far away from the changes that we are hoping to see that they feel completely unreasonable, so we give up. I fall victim to that kind of thinking too; and I lose hope along the journey toward a positive outcome. However, from our inaction, we let the College control our voice. I urge you to take a minute to reflect on the things that are happening on campus that need to be changed, and to truly consider the ways that change can be made. Clubs like Progressive Student Union, Green Life, and CASE are all making true strides to educate and improve our campus community. The Free Press is always looking for more students to write articles about the content they care about, and it is one of the best ways that any student can access an audience. We can fight for the continuation of programs and clubs by indicating our interests through petitions, attending events, and even protesting their cuts, but there comes a certain point where that fight is futile if nobody actually enlists in the opportunities that we are working to preserve. Students do have an option of getting involved in voicing their concerns toward the school's administration through the Student Government Association. The SGA is run by students that are elected to directly represent student interests, however, in recent years, our SGA has taken more of the shape of event planners than the elected voices of students. Obviously, events that encourage students to get involved are important, but the SGA needs to do more. Each year, two members of the SGA are chosen to represent the entire student body at Board of Trustees meetings, where ultimate decisions about the college are made. Usually, these students, referred to as "visitors to the Board," are the president and vice president of the Student Government Association. During the recent President's



Council meeting with members of the administration including Provost Julia Jasken, President Roger Casey, Vice President of Administration and Finance Tom Phizacklea, and Vice President for Enrollment Janelle Holmboe, Casey said "Every single major decision this College has is made at that table and they are the people that are charged with fiduciary responsibility for the College." Our two elected SGA representatives were both not present at the most recent Board of Trustees meeting in October. Currently, our only way for students to access the Board, where the College makes its decisions, is through the SGA representatives that we elect. It is the duty of our elected SGA representatives to understand the responsibility that is required under the position of president and vice president, and it is unacceptable that they have not upheld this responsibility to the students that elected them. At the same President's Council meeting, Casey said, "It is shocking to me that over the years our visitors to the Board have not with more frequency taken that responsibility on." It is clear that there is work that needs to be done within the SGA, and there is a larger structural change that needs to occur within the current system. It should not fall into the hands of two students to represent the interests of all students if those students are not capable of handling the responsibility of that task. It should be possible to envision a campus where students can directly contact the Board of Trustees with their concerns without these issues being funneled through one unreliable channel. In order to create the changes that we hope to see, we need to be

willing to get involved on campus in ways that we do not normally. If we all possess an attitude that discourages us from trying new things outside our comfort zones, we remain trapped in a bubble, isolated from opportunities that can improve our lives and the lives of those around us. We are supposed to be a college that changes lives, but how can we expect our lives to be changed if all we do is enroll, take four years of classes, and graduate with placement into an internship? That doesn't sound life changing—that sounds like high school with a higher price tag. Structural and societal change has to start from the ground up, at the individual level. Students have power, voices, and opportunities to make themselves heard, but we need to step up to ensure that we are effectively using the voices that we pay so much money to amplify. We aren't in a city of 5 million or a college town of 500 thousand, where 50 students protesting would not necessarily make a heavy impact. We have an undergraduate student body of around 1800 students. We can make a difference on campus and in our community, even if there are only 50 of us. If we got even 225 students involved in relevant current issues, for example, protesting the ways our campus damages the environment, or advocating for higher wages for our adjunct faculty, that's an eighth of our student body fighting for things that truly matter. Being at such a small school, we are given a truly rare opportunity to take direct action and impact the shape of our campus and our community. I implore you to ask yourself, "What actions can I take in my time at McDaniel to change my own life and the lives of others around me?"

“Ciara O’Brien is so sweet and nice.”

“Chase Bushman lights up my day. You are so funny and always make me smile.”

“I really admire and appreciate Jillian Stewart’s insights in class. She always has such thoughtful things to say.”

“You can do it, Luke Anthony! You’re working so hard on your capstones and I believe in you.”

McDaniel Compliments

Want to brighten someone’s day? Need a way to fulfill your random act of kindness for the day? Message Dean McDaniel Compliments on Facebook with a compliment and we’ll post it anonymously for you.

Here to spread some happiness on the Hill, we’ll make sure your friend, classmate, or professor has the chance to smile and feel appreciated. Your compliment could be featured in the next issue of the Free Press!

“I can’t wait to take another class with Professor Spence. He really challenges me to do my best and I always learn something new when we talk.”

“Evie Craig should be a model!”

“I love Sam Brustad’s smile. He always puts me at ease.”

“Lucero Espinal is such a caring friend.”

Nanotech: A small solution to a big problem

Joe Roth
Contributor

The little things are often overlooked. That’s just human nature, but in the case of water pollution there is no denying the fact that every little action that is commonly disregarded contributes to it. For the last 50 years, the Chesapeake Bay has been a victim to the inhabitants of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, and Washington D.C. All of these states have secondary bodies of water in direct correlation. Pollutants end up in storm drains, wastewater, or directly dumped into those rivers or lakes that lead to the bay. Within that time, The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring the bay to its former glory, has been actively pushing for stricter laws and accountability as well as funding for their clean up efforts, but that’s not enough.

Half the battle is to prevent any further damage from being done. The other half is undoing the damage that has already been

done. “But how?” one may ask. There have already been numerous attempts to do so, with mixed results. It’s not simply taking some nets and filters, but it’s also not about coming up with some new innovative ideas; it’s about perfecting what is currently available. When it comes to the treatment of wastewater, the purification process is done through nanotechnology. Not the type of nanotech you would see in sci-fi films such as “Infinity War,” rather, as the name suggests, it’s on the small scale. This type of technology works similar to that of carbonating water, only it’s “micro-bubbles.” These micro-bubbles capture the impurities and are then attracted through positive and negative ion fields, essentially acting as a magnet, floating them to the top, allowing biofilters to easily remove them.

Altered use of available technology has been used successfully by Peruvian-Japanese scientist Marino Morikawa. He spent his childhood fishing in the Cascajo Wetlands (El Cascajo). After receiving his PhD in bio-industrial science, Morikawa would go on to do research in Japan. Following his 20-year absence from



Unfortunately, the Chesapeake Bay is full of chemical pollutants, as well as plastic waste. (Photo courtesy of Pixabay user nastya_gepp).

El Cascajo, he returned home after hearing about its contamination, which reduced it to “an oxidation pond.” With six months of research and perfection, he utilized “the nanotechnology used in the wastewater treatment, in the wetland and the natural habitat.” In just four months the lake had been fully transformed, bringing back the wildlife of migratory birds and ten different fish species in the process.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is aware of this type of nanotechnology as it has been

in use for a considerable amount of time. However, the reason more people are not on board with this is “because it’s expensive and very hard, but not impossible.” The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has been fighting for a cleaner bay for over 50 years, and yet this process only took ten months. If more people were aware and could contribute to the funding it could easily get this plan in motion, for not only the Chesapeake Bay, but for 40 percent of the world’s rivers and lakes.

Video games and violence correlation



(Photo courtesy of Pixabay user Olicher).

Brandon Harris
Contributor

Video games are a great pastime for people of various ages. The games themselves offer an outlet of escape from the frustrations of the real world and substitute them for a virtual one. Despite the benefits, video games have come under fire since their conception. Many of these concerns came from parents yelling for their kids to come to dinner. There were those who even called for a ban on video games. There were, of course, the less plausible arguments like kids’ eyes falling out, but then came the reasoning that the games caused violent tendencies and negative thoughts. This idea became the tip of the spear for opponents of video games. However, these individuals should have picked a sharper spear.

The notion that these games cause violence is founded on correlation and not causation. Seeing brutality in a game and

seeing someone conduct violence, while knowing that person plays video games, does not mean that the two are related. This idea is still present in 2019. The mass shootings that have occurred in the last two years have not doused these flames, but instead added fuel to their fire. This, nonetheless, is still a myth about video games and those who play them. Many studies show that too much violent exposure can lead to violent tendencies, but the average, nonviolent, person will not go on a murderous rampage.

According to the American Psychological Association (APA), “Myth: There are no studies linking violent video game play to serious aggression. Facts: High levels of violent video game exposure have been linked to delinquency, fighting at school and during free play periods, and violent criminal behavior (e.g., self-reported assault, robbery).”

Based on this information, a simple reduction on exposure would

be enough and problem solved.

So why is this still a problem? Are proponents of this thought process uninformed, or are they ignorant to the information right in front of them? Do they wish to ruffle the feathers of players by standing by this view, or do these people genuinely believe, from personal experience or just plain thought, that video games are a cause of violence?

Even if all evidence pointed to the contrary and video games caused a great deal of violence, what is the answer? Saying a blanket statement that all video games cause negative thoughts and actions is false. There are many more types of games than “Rooty tooty aim and shooty.”

The deal is, most video games do not fall under this umbrella. To remove these games would be to remove wholesome fun and even education for a good amount of individuals.

For games that do fall under this category, they have the potential to do the opposite of influencing negative tendencies. Recently, I had the chance to purchase the latest Call of Duty game, Modern Warfare. Call of Duty is well known for its violence and gun play, as it is a first-person shooter (FPS). This game is a positive addition to the series. When thinking of Call of Duty, the last thing one would hear anyone say is that it deters violence. The idea is borderline laughable, given the series’ history.

As a mild spoiler for the game, not even two hours into this game’s story, there comes a mission with a house raid. Inside this house are terrorists as well as civilians. The player can unintentionally kill a mother, leaving her baby an orphan. The same goes for a later mission in which the player raids a building that also contains terrorists, and has to shoot a boy’s mother as she reaches for a firearm. For most

young audiences, these events could make the player drop the game and come back to it later. For older audiences, the same effect can be achieved, albeit less intense.

There are statistics that point a finger against video games, but they are just that: statistics. It is our decision if we are going to be just a number.



Are you a fan of sports?

Do you often find yourself describing game recaps to your friends?

Do you attend McDaniel’s games?

Write for us!

Summarize game plays, profile athletes, and build your resume.

Join us in Hill 111 on Wednesdays at 9:30 pm or email freepress@mcdaniel.edu to get started.

McDaniel’s transportation problem



The Department of Campus Safety provides free bicycles for students to borrow for transportation around town. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Jane Smart
Contributor

As a student from the Big Apple (New York City), transportation has always been available and a part of my daily routine/lifestyle. Coming to the Hill, where transportation isn’t as readily available as compared to New York City, I find transportation to be lacking. One of the transportation challenges is getting to nearby places that are off-campus. For students without cars, I find it can be difficult to get to places that are farther away. Another challenge is the difficulty of reaching a desired location with McDaniel’s shuttle service. There are not any other ways that I know of that have active transportation to

get to the nearest train station, bus station, and airport where it is easily accessible. The shuttles provided at McDaniel should be projected in a way that students, like myself, can learn about these available options. Unfortunately, Lyft, Uber, and other taxi companies are not consistently available in the Westminster community. Transporting through any of these forms of transportation on a regular basis can be extremely costly to a college student’s budget. Personally, I signed up for the shuttle to go back home for this previous fall break, but I ended up having to revolve my train time scheduling and expenses around the McDaniel shuttle’s limited available time bookings. This made the train

cost over \$300 round-trip to NYC and back to the BWI Airport Rail Station in Maryland. This shows that the shuttle times should be available hourly or at least more often than they already are, so that booking trains doesn’t have to be as expensive when revolving train bookings around the shuttle. Spending over \$300 wasn’t the most cost-effective option for a student like myself, nor should my parents have to be paying that amount for me to go to NYC, which is around a 3 ½ hour car ride.

A few solutions that McDaniel can explore for its lack of transportation, would be providing more cost-effective and eco-friendly transportation forms and advertising the available bicycles to the students more effectively, so students can be aware of the service. In NYC, there are public sharing bikes, also known as the “Citi Bike” that are offered all throughout Brooklyn, Manhattan, as well as Queens where anyone can obtain a bike for a certain amount of time while paying a fraction of what someone would pay in a long distance taxi or Uber car ride. Yes, biking for long distances isn’t the easiest way to travel somewhere, especially when carrying a bunch of luggage, however, it will still provide access to get to places that are not too far away and where biking is appropriate. Installing “LimeBikes” or other scooter companies can also provide a way to transport to places (such as Starbucks or Rite-Aid for prescriptions), getting into town quicker, and having access to nearby entertainment and activities.

Not only will someone who doesn’t have a car have difficulty getting places off-campus, but for

someone who does have a car, they won’t always be able to bring their car onto McDaniel’s campus. Parking permit fees and McDaniel parking availability can make it challenging for some students, cost wise. For example, it costs \$250 per year to park on McDaniel’s campus, which is a lot on top of all of the other expenses a student has to manage. Other colleges in America have parking permit fees that are significantly lower than McDaniel’s parking permit fee.

Also, the shuttle service needs to be actively improved for the sake of students getting off and on campus without an available car. This could be provided by the College more consistently and easily to more places off-campus that are popular, so people can go wherever they choose and with a minimal cost. Investing in more eco-friendly ways of driving, such as electric cars or vans, could also be looked into for potential future installation. They could not only be provided for students who need to get places more often, but are also an environmentally friendly solution that is not adding additional harmful emissions into the Earth’s atmosphere.

I do agree that there are important things that should be changed with McDaniel College, specifically the transportation availability on campus. Since 2019 has brought the largest first-year class in history, tuition payments have increased exponentially. This implies that any extra funds McDaniel has could definitely be spent to change numerous aspects about the school to improve the institution even more, along with the suggested options for better access to transportation.

Music education matters



Music notes. (Christina Baker / McDaniel Free Press).

Christina Baker
Contributor

One of my earliest school memories takes place in kindergarten. The whole class had gathered together and headed out to music class. We were all given wooden sticks and we created a song; some of us would hit them together, others would sing, and suddenly we were creating the next new hit of 2006. Later in second grade I distinctly remember having learned this song that tells of all the continents. I still remember all of them, and the tune of the song to this day.

But you might just say, “So what? We all learned songs in elementary school and maybe high school; you’re not that special.” But that is my point. To remember certain concepts, ideas, and definitions, kids are taught songs. Music class might have seemed dumb to you growing up because you “had to do it” and “only weird people were in the choir, orchestra, or band.” But I bet you go around listening to music all day when you are walking, doing homework, or just eating lunch.

Music programs are an essential

part of everyone’s life, and unfortunately they are slowly being cut from elementary schools, high schools, and colleges. I believe this is an issue not enough people talk about.

Maryland is one state among many that, in recent years, has had multiple schools begin to cut music programs from the system. This past June, the Howard County Board of Education came upon a financial problem, and had to make some cuts. They cut \$500,000 dollars’ worth of music equipment.

Over in neighboring Montgomery County, similar decisions are being made. Multiple music programs were cut from the large public schools that are located in Montgomery County, including Rockville High School and Northwood High School. With these sorts of cuts being made, it will be hard for the children in those areas to ever truly reach their full musical potential. Not only does this cut in music programs impact the availability for the musically talented to have an outlet, but music is beneficial to everyone and this sort of cut is impacting them as well.

High schools and elementary schools are not the only places music programs are struggling to survive, but colleges are part of this as well. Goucher College located in Towson has cut music from being a major and minor, and has even cut its theatre major. Even our own McDaniel College has executed some cuts as far as our music programs go. Earlier this year, the Board of

Trustees voted to have our music major and minor disposed of. While ensembles such as choir and band are still available, as well as private music lessons and some music literature classes, other classes like music theory have the potential to be lost with the formal programs.

As mentioned before, music isn’t something that is only beneficial for those that are musically talented. It doesn’t matter if you are able to play an instrument or not; you can still be influenced by music. Music helps with memory and memorization because of how we can link musical tones with certain words. Music also has the power to relax and calm people who are stressed, due to how it sends a message to our brains that signals a relaxation response. Among multiple other benefits that music has on individuals, music can even spark creativity. This spark can be ignited in the person who is performing or listening. That is how strong and significant music really is.

Music is ever present, and always changing. Even throughout the ages it has been taught, and there is a reason for that. Music originated when the world began, and not providing means in which children and young adults can learn to play and express their musical ability is endangering our generation’s contribution to history.

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The McDaniel Free Press

Volume 23, Issue 5 | December 2, 2019

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Second 'Ask McDaniel Anything' forum features special guests

Marya Kuratova
Editor-in-Chief

On Monday, Nov. 11, the second "Ask McDaniel Anything" forum gave students a chance to ask the administration any questions they may have. Event posters advertised a chance to speak with Dean Liz Towle and Dean Josh Ambrose, as well as special guests Provost Julia Jasken and head of I.T. Andrew Lawlor.

In attendance that night were Towle, Vice President for Enrollment Janelle Holmboe, Head of the I.T. Help Desk Wes Yerkes, I.T. Infrastructure Director Dave Arnett, Title IX Coordinator Jennifer Kent, and Director of Student Engagement Amanda Gelber. Students from Progressive Student Union and the author of this article were also in attendance. Below is an overview of the main topics covered during the hour-long meeting in Hill Hall.

Library Access

A question regarding the extension of library hours was



The second "Ask McDaniel Anything" forum was held in Hill Hall 110. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

raised at the first "Ask McDaniel Anything" forum earlier in the semester. At this second forum, students asked once more about this possibility. According to Towle, she had followed up with Elizabeth Davidson, co-interim director of Hoover Library, when the question was first raised.

"They were trying to get

the library open until 2 a.m. Unfortunately, they couldn't find students to staff it. And so they weren't successful in extending the hours early in the semester," Towle said. "My understanding is once everyone is back from Thanksgiving, as we approach the last week of classes and exams, the hours will be extended. They are

staffed and ready to go for that."

Towle then explained that in the next 10 days or so, Campus Safety is hoping to have Ensor Lounge open much later as an alternative study space.

"They've finally figured out how to secure just that space," Towle said. "Eric Immler, the director See **FORUM**, page 2

McDaniel adds 8 new majors



Students can find declaration of major forms outside the Registrar's office in Elderdice Hall. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Molly Sherman
Editorial Staff

In response to student demand and the hard work of faculty, McDaniel College is bringing on eight new undergraduate majors in Fall 2020. The new bachelor's degrees feature focus areas in mathematics, sciences, sociology, and English to include applied mathematics, actuarial science, biochemistry, biomedical science, health sciences, criminal justice, marketing, and writing and publishing.

McDaniel students are excited to welcome the specialized fields of study that they have been

interested in. Alayna Meekins, a student intending to acquire an actuarial science degree alongside her declared economics major, said, "I am looking forward to beginning the actuarial science major as I originally was interested in majoring in it, but when McDaniel was not offering it, I was looking at other majors that could still possibly lead me to a career like actuarial science." In 2020, Meekins will be able to pursue her desired career through a McDaniel major.

"These new majors reflect innovative curricular changes that will further enhance the quality of our academic program," said

McDaniel Provost and Executive Vice President Julia Jasken. "All eight of these new undergraduate degree programs are a direct result of the work done by our faculty to strengthen our academic program by aligning our academic offerings with the interests of current and prospective students. We believe that these new degrees will prepare our students for careers in growing fields."

Applied mathematics is being offered through the mathematics and computer science department. The major will emphasize mathematical skills in common applications. Additionally, a data analysis track within the major will prepare students for McDaniel's graduate program in data analytics. Actuarial science is a mathematical and economics interdisciplinary program that will combine existing courses in mathematics, economics, and business administration programs. This new major will prepare students for certification through the Society of Actuaries.

The McDaniel biology and chemistry departments will serve as building blocks for a few new majors. The biochemistry major will replace the existing biochemistry specialization within the chemistry major. Biomedical science is an interdisciplinary major for students interested in the medical field that will meet the needs and requirements for students pursuing medical, dental, and veterinary school. Health science integrates biology, chemistry, kinesiology, and

psychology for students interested in allied health professions as physician assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and pharmacists.

The criminal justice major will replace the existing criminal justice specialization in McDaniel's sociology major and will incorporate coursework from political science, religious studies, and philosophy departments as well. The new marketing major will allow students to go deeper in their studies than the marketing courses and minor.

McDaniel will also be offering writing and publishing, the first major of its kind to be offered in the state of Maryland. It includes professional, digital, and creative writing courses and is aimed towards students who want to work in writing, editing, and publishing.

The new majors were approved by the College's Board of Trustees at their May 2019 meeting and the College has received approval from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to offer the majors. Students who have been taking courses related to these fields and are interested in declaring one of these majors should contact associated faculty.



Jennifer Wuamett visits campus for SmartTALK

Eric Chung
Staff Reporter

On Nov. 13, Jennifer Wuamett returned to McDaniel as the featured guest in the latest SmartTALK. Wuamett graduated with highest honors from Western Maryland College in 1987 with a degree in biology and chemistry, and earned her Juris Doctorate from Arizona State University in 1995, graduating second in her class. She is currently the executive vice president and general counsel of NXP Semiconductors, one of the leading semiconductor manufacturers in the world.

Following introductory remarks by President Roger Casey, Wuamett gave a 15-minute address encompassing her career achievements and describing how McDaniel's liberal arts core allowed her to explore and develop her professional interests.

"When I came to the Hill, I had no idea what I wanted to be when I grew up," Wuamett said. "I knew I liked biology and I knew I liked art, so my mom suggested I become a biomedical illustrator."

She credited her college experience for teaching her the ability to reason critically and to

resolve issues creatively.

"McDaniel helped me become a problem-solver, a curious and open-minded adult, with a range of interests and opinions," she said.

In addition to speaking about the professional benefits she was able to attain as a result of her time at McDaniel, Wuamett used her talk as an opportunity to speak about the relationships she was able to make.

"I still treasure all my memories from my years here on the Hill," she said. "Those were quite formative years for me. They gave me a great foundation on which to not only build a successful career, but a great life as well."

Following her talk, Wuamett engaged in a 45-minute Q and A session with Casey, with questions supplied by the audience prior to the event. There was one particular question about how her gender had played a role throughout her career.

"As a patent attorney, I was used to being the only woman in the room," she responded. "I am today still the only woman on the management team at my company. There are seven executive vice presidents and I'm the only female. As I've gotten further in my career, I've felt some sort of obligation to try to be a mentor for other women in the company."



Jennifer Wuamett presented the Nov. 13 SmartTALK in the McDaniel Forum. (Eric Chung / McDaniel Free Press).

An overarching theme throughout the event was Wuamett's emphasis on grit and hard work.

"Things aren't going to come easy in life. You have to be willing to accept that sometimes things aren't going to work out," she said. "In a culture of instant gratification, you forget that sometimes you just need to slog through things and take your time. You're not going to

succeed overnight."

At the conclusion of the event, Wuamett left students with one piece of advice.

"You don't have to have it all figured out right now," she said. "As much as you might have it figured out, life has this interesting way of laughing at our plans and finding ways to throw us in different directions."

Second 'Ask McDaniel Anything' forum features special guests

FORUM, from page 1

of Campus Safety, is working with Physical Plant about getting the locks in place where they need to be in place so that Ensor can stay open longer. I think the other thing we need to do is to keep all the lights on in there. So that's coming."

Along with the lack of overnight library hours, students raised concerns regarding late-night access to the library, citing cases where students were unable to use their ID cards to access Charlson Lab.

Yerkes explained that first-year students received new ID cards in order to swipe in to first-year dorms. These cards work on a different frequency and have different card chip technologies. While the College was assured that the new ID cards would work with both the new Blackboard Transact system and the old Honeywell system (which is in place in the library doors) during the transition of upgrading all doors to the new system, this has not been the case.

As a temporary solution, students wishing to access the library after 9 p.m. are being issued old cards that work with the Honeywell system.

Information Technology

Several students then raised concerns regarding internet connectivity. Yerkes explained that students should use McDaniel Secure to access BlackBoard and other McDaniel sites, while McDaniel ResHall Special is only for gaming devices. He encouraged students to stop by the Help Desk for more specific concerns and stressed the importance of telling I.T. where on campus students are experiencing internet issues so the staff can better shape the signal.

In regards to the slower speeds this semester, Arnett cited more demand due to the large incoming class. However, they are in the process of adding another provider to increase bandwidth.

"Ting is the other provider now. Before, the College just had Comcast. So if we had an outage for Comcast, we didn't have a backup," Yerkes added. "Now we have two pipes, so if one goes down, we have the other one."

If students have an issue, they should come to the Help Desk with their device so the I.T. staff can diagnose the problem.

"Getting more data from everyone is helpful so then we can find patterns," said Arnett. "The more people report it, the better."

Then, the I.T. representatives were asked which circumstances would prompt the Provost to order I.T. to redact emails sent by professors.

"I can't remember specifics of them, but there have been a few times when either incorrect information or data that should not have gone out [was emailed]," said Arnett. "In my experience, it's been when there's been some major mistake that needs to be corrected. I don't know if there's a specific policy on that."

Yerkes added that, in his experience, drafts with "misspellings or wrong information" would be accidentally sent before proofreading. In these cases, I.T. would be asked to pull the email, and then the sender would revise the email and send it again.

Both representatives stressed that there is no gatekeeping and emails should go through as soon as they are sent.

Partnership with China

When asked for an update on the partnership with China, Holmboe explained that a potential partnership with Anhui University has been developing in the past three years.

"The president and provost were looking for a partner institution for a cohort of students who wanted to complete their kinesiology degree at a U.S. institution," Holmboe said. "What was preliminarily developed was a 2+2 partnership where this cohort of students would start at their Chinese university and then come to McDaniel for the last two years of their education and complete their kinesiology degree."

In developing this partnership, Casey and Jasken have been visiting China and Anhui University has been sending delegates to McDaniel. However, according to Holmboe, a month or two ago, the Chinese government eliminated all 2+2 partnerships with the United States. They are now only supporting 3+1 partnerships where students would come to the U.S. to study for one year.

"We're still working to pursue that. However, we all understand that with just a tweet, probably, that program could no longer continue based on Chinese policies," Holmboe said. "The earliest that this would happen I think is 2022 now. Those students would still have three years at their Chinese institution before coming here, so it's not an imminent program, but it is something we continue to develop as a potential opportunity."

At this time, McDaniel is looking to invite a single cohort of 20 to 30 students, as opposed to the initial plan of several larger cohorts.

Sustainability

Students had multiple questions regarding McDaniel's plans for sustainability. PSU suggested the use of native plants for landscaping instead of invasive species, being more thorough with separating trash and recycling, setting goals for Decker construction to make the building more green and energy-efficient, taking steps to avoid pollution during construction, and setting up a permanent compost option in Englar Dining Hall.

Towle promised to ask about any potential green initiatives with Decker construction and then report back. Gelber explained that The Weekly will publish updates about Decker and The Arch has an Ask McDaniel Anything page for additional information in between forums.

In closing, Towle reiterated that she would start talking with AVI about composting options, touch base with Physical Plant to gather information about recycling concerns, and follow up with I.T. about ID card access. The next "Ask McDaniel Anything" forum is scheduled for February.

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Pilot Wellness Center program receives student interest

Maddy Lee
Staff Reporter

The Wellness Center, located on the second floor of Winslow Hall, is the primary source of mental and physical healthcare for many students on campus. It provides free services such as health examinations, short-term counseling, and group counseling.

These services have proven beneficial to students, which has prompted the Wellness Center to extend these services through a new program. This piloted program—the Wellness Extended Support Program (WESP)—is designed to guarantee weekly sessions for students with mental health needs that would benefit from long-term, accessible counseling.

On Nov. 14, Dean Liz Towle sent an email to undergraduate students with details about the program. Prior to this, information about the program was initially made available to first-year students registered with Student Academic Support Services (SASS).

“The first sharing of information about WESP was through SASS,” said Heidi Huber, director of the Wellness Center. “This was because some of our students registered with SASS have mental health diagnoses, and would benefit from longer-term counseling. That is one part of the student population that we have really been wanting to serve better if possible.”

Since the email, the Wellness Center has received calls from students curious about the program or other facets of the Wellness Center.

Huber is ecstatic about this, explaining that “[Dean Towle]’s email was a great way to share information with the student body about the program. There were students that saw information about the WESP and have contacted myself or Dean Towle. We can share more information with students when they reach out with interest.”

According to Huber, “The vast majority of our students [tend to

use] short-term counseling. Our short-term model is about eight to 10 sessions, though that is different case by case. The reality is that students on average use about five to six sessions.”

She then explained that WESP is available to all students as a way to extend that short-term model.

“It is a fee-based program, similarly to some of the levels of support within SASS,” Huber said. “SASS has a base level of support and the WC has a base level of support that is important to provide to all of our students. The WESP is a small, meaning limited, program for students whose mental health needs would benefit from longer-term counseling, and that having that on-campus makes sense for them in both desire and convenience.”

The program is also meant to assist students who may be prevented from receiving long-term care off-campus. Huber listed several barriers students may face when attempting to access counseling in the community. This could include transportation, as well as difficulties in finding local counselors who are a good match for a student’s needs and cultural background.

Some students have expressed concern over the price of the program, which is approximately \$1500. Both Towle and Huber want to reassure students that they are aware of the potential barrier the fee may create. They are looking to create some scholarship opportunities on a case-by-case basis as a way to help with the fee.

“Currently, there are not any definitive cut-offs in terms of financial need or in terms of other kinds of needs,” Huber said of the scholarship process. “The application involves a few questions wherein the student has to write a statement about how they feel the long-term support of the WESP program would meet their mental health needs, what are the barriers for that individual student from accessing longer-term mental health services in the community, and then a question that is more specifically



The Wellness Center is located on the second floor of Winslow Hall.
(Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

about financial limitations.”

The candidates are expected to demonstrate “that the clinical needs are appropriate to our services, that there really are some barriers to accessing help off-campus, and that there is some level of financial need,” said Huber.

It should be acknowledged that there are limited spots both in WESP and the scholarships. The exact number of accepted students is unknown and still under consideration.

“At the moment, that scholarship information is being shared with students who have made contact with the Wellness Center and who are interested in longer-term support,” Huber said. “The counseling services will make a decision based on how many applicants we have at any one time or how much availability there is at any one time.”

Students are encouraged to contact the Wellness Center for more information, as the program considers the needs of its students on a case-by-case basis.

Huber also reassures that WESP will not come at the expense of the student body. The Wellness Center is primarily focused on its short-term counseling.

“Programs like this need time to be fully fleshed out and detailed,” Huber said. “We want to make sure that we have enough staffing to ensure our primary continuation of really quality short-term counseling, group counseling, and crisis intervention. That can’t suffer just because we are trying to add this additional resource for a small number of students.”

For students not eligible for the WESP, their Wellness Center experience is not much changed. Following a phone triage and initial appointment, they will be able to attend short-term counseling for approximately eight to 10 sessions throughout a semester.

There are other services offered through the Wellness Center for counseling needs, many of which simply need a greater expression of student interest. One such service—group counseling—is also undergoing a series of pilots. Currently pursuing student interest, the Wellness Center is attempting to offer group counseling on topics like interpersonal relationships, grief, social anxiety, and sexual assault.

“We are offering these services so that students can have ongoing counseling, even if it’s not one-on-one or indefinite,” Huber said. “The group counseling is not limited.”

Reviews for the WESP within administration and the Wellness Center have thus far been positive. The likelihood of its success is promising.

“I think we really see [the WESP] as a positive addition to the services that we have been providing,” Huber said.

As evident in Towle’s email, she is supportive of the new program as well.

“I think that many college students here at McDaniel and nationwide have different struggles and challenges, so the role of counseling can be critical to their success,” Towle later said. “I think the WESP program came about to be another avenue for students to receive the support they need.”

Crime Log

The Daily Crime and Fire Log is available for public view in the Campus Safety office, located at 152 Pennsylvania Ave. The most current 60 days of information is available from the dispatcher; archived records up to seven years can be requested. Unless otherwise noted, the incidents listed here are closed. “DOCS Office” refers to the Department of Campus Safety office on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Reported 11/4 **McDaniel Hall**
Student conduct violation (6 counts)

Reported 11/5 **Rouzer Hall**
Student conduct violation

Reported 11/6 **DOCS Office**
Fraud and deceit: by scam

Reported 11/7 **Gill Gym**
Dishonesty: fake ID

Reported 11/8 **DOCS Office**
Harassment: in person

Reported 11/13 **Red Square**
Assault

Reported 11/13 **ANW Hall**
Harassment

Reported 11/14 **312 W. Main St.**
Malicious destruction of property: property

Reported 11/14 **322 W. Main St.**
Malicious destruction of property: property

Reported 11/14 **Gill Gym**
Larceny

Reported 11/14 **McDaniel House**
Student conduct violation (3 counts)

Reported 11/15 **Decker Center**
Malicious destruction of property: property

Reported 11/16 **McDaniel Hall**
Student conduct violation

Reported 11/18 **Thompson Hall**
Fraud and deceit: by scam

Reported 11/18 **PA Avenue**
Larceny

Reported 11/18 **DOCS Office**
Harassment

Reported 11/19 **Whiteford Hall**
Larceny

Reported 11/20 **Hill Hall**
Larceny

Reported 11/21 **Rouzer Hall**
Student conduct violation (2 counts)

Reported 11/22 **Harlow Pool**
Malicious destruction of property: door

Reported 11/23 **Blanche Hall**
Tampering with fire equipment: fire extinguishers

Reported 11/23 **Rouzer Hall**
Assault

Reported 11/25 **DMC Hall**
Alcohol: furnishing to a minor

Reported 11/25 **DMC Hall**
Alcohol: possession under 21

Reported 11/25 **DOCS Office**
Harassment: mail

Reported 11/25 **Whiteford Hall**
Student conduct violation (2 counts)

McDaniel Live Music Club’s Gnarly November concert

Erin Pogue
Editorial Staff

On Nov. 15, McDaniel Live Music Club hosted their second concert of the semester. This concert, titled Gnarly November, brought in two bands for the McDaniel community to appreciate.

The first band to perform was Oh He Dead, a D.C. based group with lots of energy. The band was chosen through a poll put out by the Live Music Club over the summer. They previewed samples of different bands on their Instagram story, and had students express their interest in each band. Oh He Dead was the most popular of the group, so they were invited to perform.

Oh He Dead planned to release their first album on Nov. 22, but were happy to sell early copies to McDaniel students.

The second band to perform was Super City. This Baltimore band was familiar to the club, as they performed at their first on-campus

concert last fall. Super City also hosted a music workshop in Levine Hall the afternoon before the concert.

Planning for this event first began over the summer by creating an Instagram page for the club in order to get student feedback about what they would like to see. After conducting polls to determine which bands to bring in, the club contacted the bands and their managers, and arranged a time that would work well for them.

One of the biggest challenges was finding a space large enough to hold the event, especially due to the construction happening on campus, and making sure people were able to find the Forum once it was reserved. The club also worked on sourcing equipment and fundraising for the event.

“Partnership with OSE was really helpful in this process with making posters and helping us determine what we would need

for this event,” said Jill Courtney, co-founder and co-president of the club.

The event was quite successful, and there were about 85 people in attendance. This included students, alumni, community members, and friends.

“I really enjoyed the concert! Oh He Dead was my favorite act,” said McDaniel senior Lauren Beckjord. “I usually consider live music to be a luxury or rare event, so having it on campus really made my day.”

Both Oh He Dead and Super City will be performing with a third band, Safer, at 9 p.m. on Dec. 7 at the Ottobar in Baltimore.

Live Music Club hopes to continue hosting concerts on campus in the spring. They plan to have live music at Spring Fling again this year, and to hold another outdoor concert in Red Square.

“We really want to continue to bring diverse music to campus that students might not otherwise ever

get the chance to hear in person,” said Micaela Champion, the secretary for Live Music Club.

Courtney agreed, and stated that they hope to have “more concerts and bigger crowds!”

The club is grateful for the support that they have received from the McDaniel community.

“Our club truly started just last year. People didn’t know what MLMC meant, they did not realize what kind of concerts we wanted to bring to campus, and just didn’t understand what our vision was. Now we have the support of many faculty and staff members, students, Westminster community members, and the bands we have invited to campus,” said Champion. “With this support, people now know what MLMC stands for and you can even find an abundance of our stickers on water bottles and laptops around campus. Gnarly November would not have been as successful as it was without this support.”

Photos by Shaquille Tairellil



McDaniel College Theatre presents ‘Assassins’ musical

Ciara O’Brien
Editorial Staff

On Nov. 20, McDaniel College Theatre debuted their production of “Assassins,” which ran through Nov. 23. “Assassins” features music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by John Weidman. It is based on an idea by Charles Gilbert, Jr. The musical was directed by McDaniel’s theater professor Elizabeth van den Berg and stage managed by Flannery Bendel-Simso. “I was trying to find a piece that fit with our current students and spoke to issues that I believe are important,” van den Berg said. “Gun violence has escalated exponentially in our country, and often it’s people very much like this bunch that carry it out.” The story follows the nine men and women who attempted (and in four cases succeeded) to assassinate U.S. presidents throughout the

years. “It is not a linear plot, more like a series of vignettes, presented review style, offering glimpses into these characters and the events that ultimately shaped America,” said van den Berg. The show contained several mature themes, including mature language, violence, and sexual situations. A director’s note was added to the program, warning audience members about the non-firing weapons used during the production and shedding a light on the gun violence that repeatedly “breaks” our nation. “I wanted the audience to have a sense of this work before seeing the play, if possible, so the director’s note is an edited version of that concept statement,” said van den Berg. According to van den Berg, audience turn out was as expected



Amanda Halcott as Sara Jane Moore and Patsy Zetkulić as Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme perform in “Assassins.” (Photo courtesy of Elizabeth van den Berg).

and she is delighted with how everyone performed. “Like any rehearsal process, it’s had its ups and downs, but ultimately I’m pleased with the end result, and very proud of all the students involved, both backstage and onstage,” said van den Berg.

Theatre’s directing class presents 10-minute play festival

Marya Kuratova
Editor-in-Chief

Before students, faculty, and staff left campus for Thanksgiving break, they were encouraged to come enjoy the theatre department’s latest production: a 10-minute play festival. Tuesday night’s production featured six short plays directed by students in the directing class. Kendall Harnsberger opened the show with a few words of welcome. The play she directed, “Randy’s Adventure with Unfortunate Ink,” featured actors Luke Weinberg and Emma Walther, with assistant stage management by Kate Jacob. This skit featured a recently-tattooed man desperate to remove or cover up the image of a singer who was found with child pornography the day after Randy immortalized him on his skin. The next play, “The Artist Formerly Known as T,” was directed by Amanda Halcott. In this humorous skit, a rapper named T, played by Jacob Dickinson, is confronted by his manager Hayes, played by Sam Robertson. T’s full stage name is T-Rump, which threatens his career when Donald Trump is elected president. Hayes suggests numerous alternate names, such as C-Rump and T-Behind, while T asserts that he just wants to be himself. In “MJX,” directed by Olivia Michel, two alcoholics (played by AJ Evans and Alina Philip) discuss whether an artist’s actions should affect the way their art is perceived. They offer opposing viewpoints on Michael Jackson, sexual assault, and the dark nature of humankind. Then, “The Incredible Story of Jacob and Dylan and the Not-Gay



The 10-minute play festival was held on Tuesday, Nov. 26 in the theatre understage, located in Alumni Hall. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Kiss,” directed by Lauren McKenna, lightened the mood once more. Jacob and Dylan, played by Darrick Rowe and Kole Boyd, respectively, find themselves trapped at the top of a tall structure they’ve climbed on a dare when Jacob accidentally kicks down the ladder. Scared of the great height and desperate to hold on until help arrives, they are soon faced with the dilemma of how to split and eat a Slim Jim. The first four plays were all written by DC Cathro. The next skit, “Trudy, Carolyn, Martha and Regina Travel to Outer Space and Have a Pretty Terrible Time There,” featured a new playwright, James Kennedy. Directed by Patsy Zetkulić and assistant stage managed by Mara Flynn and Myika Pitts, this humorous story was portrayed by Allisa Baker, Emma Walther, Kara Coffman, and Emma Hughes. The female astronauts, after spending 19 weeks in outer space, have become annoyed with one another and have already ejected one crew member

for talking too much. To make matters worse, they soon discover that no one remembers the initial mission and they do not have contact with Earth. Finally, “Home Invasion,” written by Krista Knight, was directed by Zack Callis and assistant stage managed by Mia Lenkersdorf. In this story, two ghosts, played by Becca MacDonald and Imani Jackson, lure two unsuspecting burglars, played by Matthew Zwick and Colleen Clark, to a home full of expensive jewelry and electronics with the intent to murder them. The theatre understage was packed with audience members supporting the directors, actors, and personnel. Many seats were reserved for family members of those on stage and behind the scenes. The theatre department invites the campus community to enjoy another student-directed play festival in March, as well as a larger production of Jane Austen’s “Sense and Sensibility” in April.

Fall 2019 Editorial Team

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Ciara O’Brien ‘22
Editorial Staff

Erin Pogue ‘20
Editorial Staff

Laurel Pogue ‘20
Editorial Staff

Molly Sherman ‘22
Editorial Staff

Welcome to our two newest members of the editorial staff, Ciara O’Brien and Molly Sherman!

To learn more about them, visit mcdanielfreepress.com/about/staff/

From the archives: Top 10 headlines from the past 10 years

Ciara O’Brien
Editorial Staff

The past decade has been an exciting one on the Hill. Here are some of the top front-page news headlines that were trending at the time.

Feb. 12, 2010: “New President selected in unanimous vote”

President Roger Casey was elected the ninth president of McDaniel College in early 2010 and replaced president-at-the-time Joan Develin Coley in July. Casey was excited to learn “who the students are, where they are coming from, and how to make McDaniel a better college.”

Nov. 14, 2011: “Weekend Blitz Trips offer a way for students to get off campus”

The start of the 2011-2012 school year brought on the Office of Student Engagement’s “Weekend Blitz Program,” offering undergraduate students various off-campus activities to participate in at significantly reduced prices.

Jan. 26, 2012: Baltimore Ravens relocate, no longer part of McDaniel family”

After hosting the Baltimore Ravens during training camp for the past 15 years, McDaniel said farewell to the black and purple due to “insufficient practice facilities, limited space for team meetings, and issues with not being able to have two-a-days due to the new collecting bargaining agreement (CBA).”

Feb. 14, 2013: “First-year dorms to become coed”

The incoming class of 2017 was the first to experience Whiteford and Rouzer Halls as coeducational, whereas they were historically separated by gender. The switch was made to “help freshmen adjust to college and interact more easily with students of differing backgrounds as well as forge lifelong friendships.”

Nov. 19, 2013: “Blackout Hits Campus”

In 2013, McDaniel dorms and buildings experienced a four-day power blackout, leaving students in the dark and cold. The power outage, known as the McBlackout, was caused by the loss of coolant oil in a transformer and caused classes to be canceled.

Dec. 11, 2014: “Department of ASL Studies and Deaf Education Considers ASL Major”

As the second largest language program on campus, McDaniel College made it a major in 2014.

Oct. 29, 2016: “Homecoming Spirit Brings Second Football Win”

After a 22-game losing streak, McDaniel won a historical Homecoming football game to the shock of students and alumni alike in 2016. Senior linebacker Claude Richardson said, “It was a great game defensively and offensively, we probably played one of the most competitive games.” The final score was 14-7.

Oct. 20, 2017: “Green Terror Gets a Makeover”

Leaving behind the decrepit, wolf-like costume of the past Green Terror mascot, a rebranded one came just in time for McDaniel’s



(McDaniel Free Press staff).

sesquicentennial year celebrations. Designs ranged from “a friendly teddy bear to something resembling an insect,” until students and alumni voted on the current Green Terror that everyone loves today.

Dec. 12, 2018: “AVI Foodsystems, Inc. announced as College’s new dining services provider”

After leaving Sodexo, the College selected AVI Foodsystems as their new dining service provider from a pool of six candidates.

Feb. 27, 2019: “Board votes to suspend art history, religious studies, French, German, and music majors”

The Board of Trustees voted to unanimously suspend five majors, three minors, and the master’s in deaf education in order to make way for new ones, stirring up controversy on campus.

Where in Westminster: The Yellow Door

Laurel Pogue
Editorial Staff

Down on Main Street, a yellow door distinctively stands out, and inside is a unique local business. Taylor Stetson, the owner of The Yellow Door, has been selling comic books and vinyl records online since 2003, through his eBay-based shop Pop Culture Antiques.

The door actually came first, and the shop was named after what would act as a recognizable landmark for customers.

Why both records and games? Stetson cites friends who play Dungeons & Dragons as an inspiration, and says that “the only thing more fun than music and games is listening to music while you play games!”

Westminster has no shortage of small locally-owned businesses, and Stetson feels that “Westminster has a lot of untapped potential.”

He hopes to “create a community-based business for people of all ages to meet new people, play new games and hear new music.”

With the holidays approaching, he looks forward to the new games being released, and also adds that new vinyls come in weekly, so the offerings in the store are always expanding.

When asked about the potential challenges of starting a small business, he said that difficulty can arise in marketing and social media.

“It’s easy to get people you already know to follow you, getting people you don’t know is the key to success,” Stetson said.

He hopes to keep creating events



The Yellow Door is located at 133 E Main St. in Westminster. (Laurel Pogue / McDaniel Free Press).

that the community will be excited for as the business continues, and encourages everyone to give it a try.

“Stop in. Buy a soda and play a game,” he said. “You’ll leave happy!”

Office of Student Engagement replaces Orgsync with Presence



The Arch site was named after the historic arch located on the edge of campus. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Ciara O’Brien
Editorial Staff

As of this school year, the Office of Student Engagement (OSE) has made the decision to

replace Orgsync with Presence, an easier way for students to get involved on campus.

Compared to Orgsync, “Presence offers a more affordable,

easy to use, engaging, and visually pleasing platform to engage students,” said Amanda Gelber, director of student engagement.

McDaniel’s version of Presence has been named The Arch, which was decided by student vote last semester. It helps students engage with organizations, events, and service opportunities on campus, as well as track and record their extracurricular activities.

“[The Arch] can assist them when they build their resume or apply for jobs or internships,” Gelber said.

Although there was some trouble with the program at first, both card swiping and the app are now fully functional. OSE has been swiping students in at all events to analyze students’ wants and needs, as well as offer a more in-depth cost analysis.

Presence offers comprehensive assessment collection tools for staff.

“The assessment tools include analytic reports to help us make more informed decisions about the types of events we hold on campus,” said Gelber. “It also offers simple and automated processes

to save time and allows students to find information about events, complete and submit forms for organizations online, or sign up for service after office hours.”

Presence will also give staff members the opportunity to create experiences for students to build a resume outside of the classroom.

“In today’s higher education realm, it’s very important to track involvement to find gaps within programming models,” Gelber said. “Finding the gaps in our programming will help inform us about potential pockets of students who are not finding events that interest them on campus.”

Students who are looking to get involved can download the app by searching “McDaniel College” in any app store.

“For students who are new to McDaniel or are looking to get involved, it creates opportunities for them to educate themselves and stay up to date with not only events, but other updates on campus, such as the new renovations in Decker College Center,” said Gelber.

A greener terror: McDaniel’s path to sustainability

Ciara O’Brien
Editorial Staff

If you asked me a year ago what I thought McDaniel was doing to secure a sustainable future, I would have given you a simple answer: nothing much. All I saw were the lack of recycling bins, the mountains of food waste in Englar Dining Hall, and the dozens of paper cups from Glar that were left scattered around campus. I thought that McDaniel didn’t really care about the environment. To a certain extent, I was wrong.

Since the Climate Action Plan was put into place in 2009, McDaniel has lowered its electrical usage by 16.9 percent, gas usage by one percent, and water usage by 48.2 percent. McDaniel has reduced its environmental impact by over five million tons of greenhouse gases.

A lot goes on behind the scenes, especially by the grounds department, and as students, we don’t always hear about it.

One of McDaniel’s most overlooked steps towards becoming a “greener terror” is the monarch butterfly habitat that was created just this year. A portion of the golf course that was unkempt and unused became a flourishing habitat for the butterflies when milkweed

seeds and native tall grasses were planted there. Other spaces around the golf course are also a major area of focus. By introducing “naturalized areas” on unused sections of the golf course and other parts of campus, the grounds department has reduced mowing, gas, and manpower by 20 percent. By not mowing certain areas, or only mowing once a year, this has created a habitat for birds and wildlife.

Every year, the grounds department composts 30 tons of leaves and 50 yards of mulch, which would have otherwise gone to waste. Three years since the start of the program, that compost is now available and ready to use. Some of it was even used during the garden clean out last month.

Aside from grounds, other parts of campus have begun thinking greener, too. Housekeeping uses a Hydris cleaning system, which operates on water, a mineral activator tablet containing salt, and electricity to clean everything from glass to floors in a way that is ecofriendly yet safe. And the latest paper saving initiative will save hundreds of sheets of paper by limiting printer usage and converting all pages printed in Hoover Library to be double-sided. Sustainability can be seen in most aspects of campus life.



*This year, McDaniel designated part of the golf course to a monarch butterfly habitat.
(Ciara O’Brien / McDaniel Free Press).*

The College is encouraging students to get more involved, too. The Green Terror Revolving Fund offers monetary aid to any student with a plan for energy savings, regardless of major or department. Last year, one of the successful projects proposed by students involved implementing LED lighting and motion sensors to interior and exterior lights in North Village, saving hundreds of dollars monthly.

Although McDaniel is trying, there is still a very long way to go. One of the best and easiest ways that McDaniel students individually can lower their ecological footprints

is by implementing more education and awareness revolving around recycling and energy conservation into their daily lives. A lot of students don’t realize that if even one piece of trash is thrown in with a batch of recyclable goods, the entire bag will get thrown away.

Above all, McDaniel should look at sustainable practices in terms of what is best for everyone, not just what makes the most business sense. Keeping the planet happy and healthy should be the top priority, and even a small school like McDaniel College can assist with that mission.

You can’t be prepared for college and that’s fine



(Photo courtesy of Pixabay user JESHOOOTS-com).

Joe Roth
Contributor

With my first semester of college coming to a rousing finale, going home for break will mean getting bombarded with questions, not only from my parents and older siblings, but from my younger friends who are still in high school. Before their winter break, Conrad (my old high school) has an event where alumni speak to the juniors and seniors about college and our majors. I know for a fact they will ask me how I would compare and contrast the two, whether college is everything the media portrays it as, and which tips and tricks I would suggest for passing.

Now there are countless videos and articles in which students recap their time in college, discuss what they would’ve done differently, and

address any incoming students on what to expect. While that can certainly help, in reality you can never truly be prepared. But that’s not a terrible a thing.

For me, the “prepare for college” phase started junior year of high school, the year grades matter the most. Within those two quick years, it was nothing but getting slammed with schoolwork, all while balancing any after-school activities with tedious college applications. This was supposedly a cakewalk to prepare us, because the teachers constantly mentioned that “it only gets tougher in college.”

This did not prepare me at all for college. In high school, graded work is hours of homework followed by tests and projects. In college, my experience so far has included graded work that is mostly

test and project based. In fact, most of the homework I’ve completed is not graded or even turned in; it’s just expected to be done and used as a study aid.

During that same time, my older brother Justin was just starting at New Jersey Institute of Technology. Whenever he came home, it was clear college had taken a toll on him. I would always be amazed by the fact that he insisted on picking me up from school. This was so he would have an excuse to go back and talk to his old teachers. During my four years, I took all honors and AP classes ending with a 4.0 GPA.

When I asked him, “Do you think I can handle college if I just keep doing what I’ve been doing now?” he told me “more or less, but you really have to cut back on your Overwatch time.” He was right of course, but I didn’t really understand what that meant until actually experiencing it for myself. I barely even touch my Xbox anymore.

Apart from first-year requirements, college so far is not what I expected. It certainly has its own workload, but not to the same extent. I underestimated how busy it gets, how much it would ruin my sleep schedule, and how easy it is to burn through cash. A lot of people go in with the mindset that college is an opportunity to go all out and take a new approach. In my case, it was to be more social and involved in events. Eventually I did. I began going to meetings, joining D&D club, attending Weekend Blitz trips, and talking to people other than the ones who were in my locale; however, that didn’t happen all at once. It happened over time.

When the high school students ask me what to do in college, I’ll say that you shouldn’t go in with

a pre-determined mindset. Forget what you think you know. Take a blank slate approach, rather than going off of what others have told you beforehand. Most importantly, go at your own pace, because it takes time to adjust to being on your own no matter how self-sufficient you already are. That’s the best advice I can give. Whether or not you take it is up to you.

McDaniel Compliments

“Ella Tomkins is so beautiful! I love her style. And her smile makes me smile!”

“Danielle Wendt is always so supportive. Every time I see her, she says something encouraging and makes me smile.”

“I’ve really enjoyed getting to know Joe Roth. He’s so passionate about everything and inspires me to do my best.”

“Thanks Docta Muhlhäuser for always making class so much fun!”

Want to brighten someone’s day? Need a way to fulfill your random act of kindness for the day? Message *Dean McDaniel Compliments* on Facebook with a compliment and we’ll post it anonymously for you.

Here to spread some happiness on the Hill, we’ll make sure your friend, classmate, or professor has the chance to smile and feel appreciated. Your compliment could be featured in the next issue of the *Free Press*!



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The McDaniel Free Press

Volume 23, Issue 6 | February 14, 2020

INSIDE: New electronic timecards (pg. 2) | Jan Term Photos (pg. 4) | Robyn Allers Profile (pg. 6)

Tornado tears through downtown Westminster

Mischka Johnson
Contributor
Ciara O'Brien
Features Editor

On Feb. 7, the unexpected unfolded in downtown Westminster, leaving many in the community alarmed and even more, concerned. At around 8 a.m., skies darkened to an even deeper shade of grey. After days of continuous rain directly preceding this, nobody was particularly amazed at the continuation of the gloomy weather pattern. But then, winds noticeably picked up speed, and the rain quickly became torrential, discouraging anyone thinking of going out, maybe for a morning coffee or breakfast.

Around that same time, the National Weather Service sent out a tornado warning, cautioning locals to stay indoors and seek shelter--something that typically never amounts to much and ends up passing harmlessly; but not this time. What was really behind the thrashing rains and zipping winds, was what was later classified as an EF1 scale tornado that tore through



Tornado damage on W. Main Street included many downed trees (Photo courtesy of Shane Robertson).

the town, and almost everything in its path.

With winds of up to 90 mph, this whirlwind definitely left downtown Westminster something to remember it by. From road signs, to bank roofs, to entire trees uprooted lying flat on the ground, this Carroll County small town truly saw, and even more so felt,

the widespread impacts that this Tasmanian Devil left behind.

The McDaniel community was advised to “seek shelter at your emergency location, stay indoors and remain calm until all clear,” an email sent to all students read. At 8:02 a.m., another email was sent to students advising them not to walk outside on campus, including

walking to classes, until the tornado warning concluded. By 8:21 a.m., the tornado warning expired, and students were advised to resume normal activities and proceed to class.

Chief Eric D. Immler, director of Campus Safety, later sent an email to the entire McDaniel See **TORNADO**, page 2

Financial Aid office welcomes new staff, implements new policies



The Financial Aid office is located on the first floor of Elderdice Hall.
(Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Marya Kuratova
Editor-in-Chief

Friday, Feb. 7 brought many updates from the Financial Aid office. Janelle Holmboe, vice president for enrollment, wrote to the campus community to share the latest Financial Aid office news and introduce the new staff members.

Kemia Himon assumed the role of director of financial aid on Feb. 1.

“Kemia’s previous experience as a director of financial aid, as well as her time as a consultant where she advised many different colleges and universities, has prepared her to lead us through this period of change

and innovation,” Holmboe wrote in her email.

The office also hired two new financial aid specialists: Andrew McLaughlin and Aza Smith. They will join Carlee Hastings, who has worked here for nearly a year.

“Destiny Guerrero has been with us for about 6 months as our Senior Associate Director, overseeing our financial aid specialists, developing departmental training, and improving our systems,” Holmboe added.

Finally, the Financial Aid office hired a new receptionist, Dawn Reck, to fill the last open position in the office. She started the position

on Feb. 10.

“Thank you again for your patience as we have built this new financial aid team,” Holmboe concluded. “I’m very optimistic about what they will accomplish together.”

Later that day, Himon sent a separate email to introduce herself and detail some changes in the office.

“Though I have been on the campus since October, I’ve considered myself as part of the Green Terror family from the very beginning,” Himon wrote. “I strongly believe that the changes we are making within the office will benefit you in a major way.”

First, beginning this semester, the office will be adopting a caseload model where each student will be assigned one of the three financial aid specialists to work with for the duration of his or her time at McDaniel. In the past, students would often have to repeat rather painful details regarding their financial situation each time they visited the office. With this new model, however, one financial aid specialist would be familiar with a student’s case, eliminating the need for repeated explanations.

According to Himon, this will allow the office to “provide continuity to you and your families, increase accountability among the financial aid staff, empower the financial aid staff to best support

you, create efficiencies for you and your families, [and] provide a more personal experience that better reflects McDaniel’s values.”

Secondly, the office will now outsource the verification process. According to Himon, the Department of Education selects about 35 percent of students to submit tax transcripts and other documents proving that their FAFSA is accurate. Now, rather than submitting these documents to the Financial Aid Office, students will be working with Inceptia, a third-party partner.

“The benefits to you include a much easier way to upload documents and faster turn-around time,” Himon wrote.

Next, Himon shared that financial aid will no longer be awarded manually.

“Although our current student information system, Colleague, has the capacity to ‘auto-package’ financial aid (meaning letting the Colleague system award financial aid according to the rules we set up behind-the-scenes), we have never invested the resources it would take See **FINANCE**, page 3



Payroll updates student workers to electronic time cards

Marya Kuratova
Editor-in-Chief

The start of the spring semester brings some reportedly exciting changes to student workers on campus. As Director of Human Resources Jenni Glennon announced back in December, McDaniel will no longer require that student workers fill out paper timecards. Instead, students can now clock in electronically through the ADP payroll system.

Perhaps most exciting, this allows students to be paid biweekly, rather than monthly.

The Payroll department launched the electronic timecards over Jan term for the limited number of students working during the winter. They have shared that students have been successfully paid

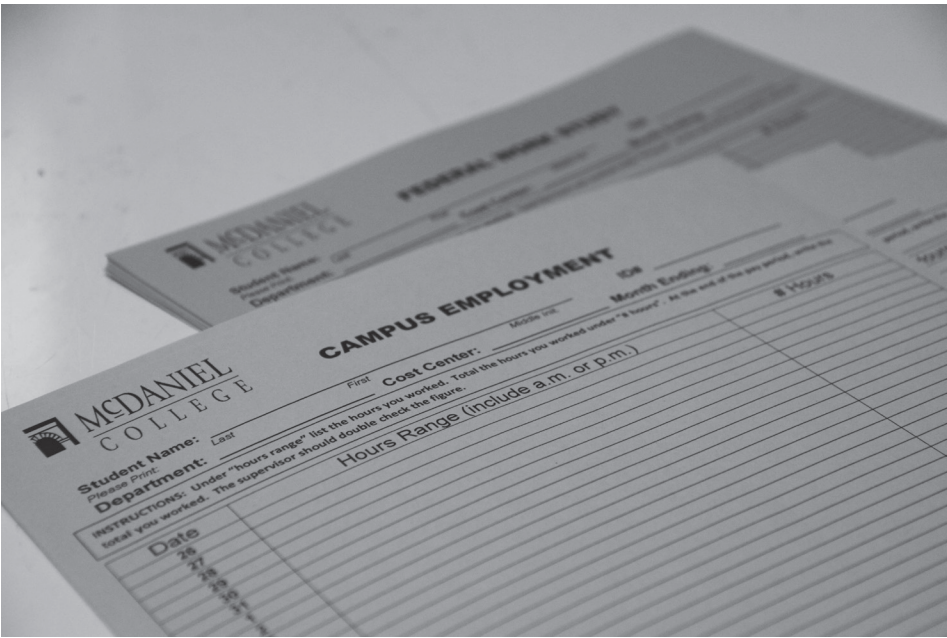
for several pay cycles now, using the new system.

The transition did not occur without hiccups, though. The Human Resources Office held several open sessions to help answer students’ questions and troubleshoot any problems with creating an ADP account, logging in, or recording hours worked.

Then, Human Resources Payroll Assistant April Tuggle sent an additional email to students who work in multiple departments on campus in order to address a common question.

“After processing two successful pay periods on the new system, we received some feedback that there may be some confusion on how to document the various departments,” she wrote.

ADP assigns each student



Student workers will no longer use these paper timecards. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

a “home” department, Tuggle explained. This is determined by the order in which a student obtained his or her jobs. When clocking in for a different department than the first “home” department, the student should use the “transfer and

punch” button. Using the ADP payroll system gives students additional benefits, including electronic access to W-2 forms, an overview of accrued sick leave, and copies of past pay stubs.

Wellness Center to offer three new therapy groups



“Together in Healing” is one of the therapy groups offered at the Wellness Center. (Photo courtesy of the Wellness Center).

Laurel Pogue
Arts & Culture Editor

This semester, the Wellness Center is expanding its offerings for students seeking counseling to include multiple options for group

therapy. These groups are themed around students who have similar identity factors or problems that they wish to address, with the intention that the therapy group can be a confidential and supportive space to connect with each other

and address concerns that may not be as well-suited for treatment in a one-on-one therapy setting with a counselor.

Provided that there is sufficient enrollment in these programs, there are three groups that will be open to students this spring. One of these programs is “Understanding Self Through Others,” which is an “interpersonal process group” with the goal of allowing students to get support and connect to each other, as well as to gain insight by exploring interpersonal patterns such as communication, interaction, and perception. This group has run in the past, though it has been on hiatus for a few semesters due to low student participation.

The second group being offered this semester is “Exploring Gender Identity,” which acts as a supportive space for transgender students (inclusive of all those under the trans umbrella, such as nonbinary, genderfluid, or genderqueer students) to explore and discuss their experiences. This group was developed collaboratively with students who were interested in having such a space and has been

running for multiple semesters. The final group is “Together in Healing,” which is a 10-week structured group for survivors of sexual assault, focusing on adult experiences and providing psychoeducation, building grounding techniques, and offering healing through connection. This group is similar to previous offerings, but has undergone changes based on the input of Director of the Wellness Center Heidi Huber, Counselor Leah Gold, and Counseling Services Graduate Intern Kat Griffith. This group offering is in response to increased student calls for this type of treatment modality last semester.

Each of the groups will be co-facilitated by a member of the Wellness Center staff (Leah Gold) and one of the counseling services graduate interns (Patch Tseng-Putterman, Kat Griffith, and Laura Knox).

Students looking to join or gain more information about these programs can contact Leah Gold at lgold@mcdaniel.edu or call the Wellness Center at 410-857-2243.

Tornado tears through downtown Westminster

TORNADO, from page 1
Community alerting everyone of the closures on Main Street.

“The Westminster Police have requested that no one travel by vehicle or on foot through West Main Street while the roadway is closed,” he wrote. “This is due to hazardous conditions that exist as a result of the severe weather.”

As reported on the Westminster Police Department Facebook page, W. Main Street at Carroll Street, Pennsylvania Avenue at W. Main Street, Old New Windsor at W. Main Street, and Winters Street at Matthias, Westminster Avenue from E. George St. to the Health Dept., and Union Alley at Maryland Avenue were all temporarily closed due to trees and wires in the roadway.

McDaniel student and Westminster local, Chandra Reiff, recalled going home after the storm

died down that afternoon and seeing the extensive damage to the yard of her childhood home.

“Two huge trees were completely knocked down in the backyard,” she said. “Luckily, one fell away from the house instead of towards it, otherwise it could have completely destroyed our house.”

Others in the community were not so fortunate, however. One quick stroll down the city’s Main Street revealed just how unforgiving this tornado was. Many individuals had completely totaled vehicles, as a result of trees that had fallen directly on top of them, crushing them almost entirely. In addition to that, many houses around the area had extensive cosmetic damage to their exteriors, leaving owners across town spending their afternoon assessing and calculating costs of repair.

By 10:15 a.m. on Friday morning, the Westminster Police Department Facebook page

reported that Pennsylvania Avenue was open for traffic and by 3:15 p.m. that afternoon, W. Main Street was open as well.

On Feb. 8, several roads still remained closed. According to the Westminster Police Department Facebook page, as of 10:49 a.m. on Feb. 9, all roads have been reopened.

Apart from the overt shock and awe of the local community, which was for the most part caught completely off-guard, this town has much to recover from the relentless storm. Directly following the height of the chaos, after winds began to die down, both private and public contractors could be seen hard at work quickly removing the plethora of snapped trees, debris, and the many roofs found meters away from their respective buildings.

Community members, while still shaken by the level of damage in town, and in their own back yards, expressed a deep gratitude that while they may have lost material possessions, mostly everyone in town remained safe and sound,

unharmd by the slashes of the infamous tornado, that will no doubt go down in the history of jarring events to take place in the resilient town of Westminster, Md.

Spring 2020 Editorial Team

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Laurel Pogue ‘20
Arts & Culture Editor

Molly Sherman ‘22
Commentary Editor

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I.T. department starts semester with updates

Marya Kuratova
Editor-in-Chief

Ahead of the start of the Spring 2020 semester, the I.T. department emailed the campus community to share the department’s latest updates.

Over winter break, the department added Internet connectivity from a second service provider, increasing the available bandwidth on campus from two to four gigabits per second.

In students’ My McDaniel accounts, the Quick Link panel now features an O365 icon, rather than the OneDrive icon. This provides access to OneDrive, Outlook, Forms, and other applications, whereas the previous icon only redirected to Outlook email.

All students have been assigned an Adobe Spark license, as Adobe programs on lab computers now require a login. Students should have received an email from Adobe Spark with more information.

The department also shared that ID card access to Hoover Library after hours changed in the first week of the semester. The door readers were upgraded to a



The I.T. help desk is located on the first floor of Hoover Library. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

system that recognizes the magnetic stripe on the back of student and employee ID cards. This means current students and employees should automatically receive access to these doors and the card no longer has to be registered with Campus Safety.

Finally, I.T. reminded the campus

community to use the appropriate Wi-Fi networks. McDaniel Secure should be used for computers and smartphones, ResHallSpecial is reserved for gaming devices, and McDaniel Guest should not be used by students or faculty as it does not provide access to any campus systems, is limited in speed, and

now requires daily acceptance of terms.

The I.T. department encourages everyone to stop by the Help Desk in Hoover Library with any questions, or just to say hello.

Read more content like this at www.mcdanielfreepress.com

Financial Aid office welcomes new staff, implements new policies

FINANCE, from page 1
to build the process,” Himon said.

The Financial Aid office worked with I.T. for two weeks this winter to build auto-packaging for the first time. This means financial aid will be awarded “much more quickly,” since the process will be automated.

Finally, the department has made changes to the office itself.

The window for walk-in traffic has been extended by an hour. Students can now walk in with

questions between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Though the office will still be closed for several hours each day to allow the staff to work uninterrupted on processing financial aid, the receptionist will continue to answer phones during standard business hours. Himon encouraged students to email their assigned financial aid specialist to make an appointment to avoid wait times.

However, if students are

required to wait to speak with a staff member, they will now enjoy improved privacy.

“One of the most common concerns we hear from students is the lack of privacy in the financial aid office,” Himon wrote. “Although we cannot completely solve this immediately, we have invested in new cubicles that have privacy walls.”

Students will also no longer be

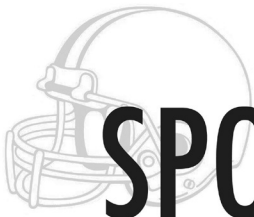
asked to wait in the office. Instead, they are encouraged to wait in Ensor Lounge until they receive a text message that their financial aid specialist is ready to meet with them.

Himon concluded her email with an invitation to meet the new staff on Feb. 26 for a fun event with giveaways. The official announcement with more details will be released soon.

Crime Log

The Daily Crime and Fire Log is available for public view in the Campus Safety office, located at 152 Pennsylvania Ave. The most current 60 days of information is available from the dispatcher; archived records up to seven years can be requested. Unless otherwise noted, the incidents listed here are closed. “DOCS Office” refers to the Department of Campus Safety office on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Reported 1/5 Tampering with fire equipment: fire extinguishers	Harlow Pool	Reported 1/12 Harassment: in person	Off campus	Reported 1/24 Malicious destruction of property: door	Whiteford Hall
Reported 1/6 Trespassing	Whiteford Hall	Reported 1/15 Malicious destruction of property: property	Alumni Hall	Reported 1/26 Alcohol: possession under 21	McDaniel Hall
Reported 1/8 Hit and run: vehicle	Rouzer Lot	Reported 1/16 Student conduct violation (2 counts)	Rouzer Hall	Reported 1/26 Malicious destruction of property: door	Rouzer Hall
Reported 1/8 Student Conduct violation (2 counts)	Whiteford Hall	Reported 1/16 Tampering with fire equipment: fire alarm	McDaniel Hall	Reported 1/26 Malicious destruction of property: door	PA 171
Reported 1/10 Fraud and deceit: by scam	DOCS Office	Reported 1/23 Controlled dangerous substance: paraphernalia	Merritt Hall	Reported 1/28 Malicious destruction of property: door	McDaniel Hall
Reported 1/11 Malicious destruction of property: door	Whiteford Hall	Reported 1/23 Harassment: in person	Whiteford Hall	Reported 1/31 Larceny: other	Gill Gym
Reported 1/11 Malicious destruction of property: property	Whiteford Hall			Reported 2/5 Harassment: phone	Off campus



SPORTS

Are you a fan of sports?

Do you often find yourself describing game recaps to your friends?

Do you attend McDaniel’s games?

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Jan Term Trip Photos



“The world is a beautiful place, take every opportunity you have to go out and explore.” —Sara McDonald

Photo of Danielle Wendt taken in Greece by Mackenzie Noble.



“While I was abroad [in Berlin], I learned valuable skills that I can now apply in my current courses this spring. I am eternally grateful for the students and faculty members who made the Berlin Jan Term unforgettable.” —Liz Mince

“The Community and Globalization Jan Term was very eye opening and a great learning experience. We were able to speak to many different people on topics that are important today like migration. Everyone should take this Jan term!”—Cara Woolston



Photo of the Forest Online class in Peru taken by Jason Scullion.



“I had fun with everyone while staying in Disney World. For example, I got to go back stage on the Haunted Mansion ride and saw the actual animatronics that were used for the ride and how they made them.”—Samuel McDermott

In celebration of the Jan term

Molly Sherman
Commentary Editor

McDaniel College offers students experiential learning opportunities around the world. The courses are curated by professors and are proposed to be manageable expedition learning courses that give way for profound experiences.

The three week long expedition can offer a great introduction to international travel, students report.

“I saw that there is a world outside the world I live in,” shared Deirdre Gallagher, who spent her Jan term exploring myths, monks, and monuments in Greece.

Alyssa Swartz had backpacked through the Western United States during the summer prior to a Jan term experience with McDaniel.

“Going abroad for the first time made me realize how important it is to travel and see all that is out there,” shared Swartz who went on the Forest Online trip. “After graduating, I totally want to visit some more countries and continue to learn about other cultures!”

The length of time facilitates the creation of personalized knowledge. This looks like curiosity-driven questions, collaboration with students, and conversation about academic ideas that extend beyond the classroom.

The Jan terms are designed by professors that have a vested interest in the destination. The knowledge they hold and the connections they have are to the benefit of the students in attendance.

“The amount of information Dr. Faulker shared, I could not magically acquire on my own,” said Danielle Wendt, who traveled to Greece for Jan term.

Dr. Jason Scullion, Ph.D., who has piloted the Forest Online Jan term trip to the Amazon rain forest, shared that taking young people out into the natural world brings clarity to themselves and their goals. He believes that the forest has a force and the time you spend there brings



From left, Molly Sherman, Mischka Johnson, Clamencia (researcher at the Las Piedras Amazon Center), Rachael Fox, and Alyssa Swartz take a break from conducting community interviews on a Jan term trip in Peru (Photo courtesy of Chandra Reiff).

things in yourself into the light.

In a new environment, students are able to gain new perspectives and gather insight into future career and personal goals. Scullion added that having off-campus experiences is high impact and can push students in new directions.

“Spending time in the rain forest and observing the amazing diversity of life there really helped to clarify further that I want to work in the field of ecology or wildlife biology,” said John McEachern, a Forest Online student.

“This experience really pushed the limits of myself and others,” shared Collin Breidenbach, a student who went on the Forest Online Jan term. “The clarity and perspective I gained just from being immersed in a different culture cannot be understated.”

Jan terms, wherever in the world they may occur, exemplify what transformational education can do for a student.

Tim Olson shared that the greatest impact the trip to Peru had on him was how it improved upon his capabilities as a wildlife

educator.

“The ability to see and learn about these beautiful animals that most people would never get the chance to see,” he said. He hopes that he will be able to convey the wonder of his experiences to his campers.

Not having the internet to rely on (which is not necessarily a feature of every Jan term) for interaction encourages students to make space for deeper contemplation and socialization that they might not normally have the time for in traditional academic settings.

Breidenbach shared “not having internet access for 10 plus days was a great way to clear the mind and become more in touch with yourself, your surroundings, and make friendships with those around you.”

Many students from this trip share in the solidarity of this connection in the face of limited internet connectivity and vast amounts of nature.

“I’ll always remember the laughs, deep talks, and friendships,” said

Rachael Fox.

“The jungle has a way of forcing you to be humble and enjoy the little moments,” shared Fox. She attended the Forest Online Jan term as a student once and was able to return as a teaching assistant.

“I wanted to go to Peru again as a TA to help others experience all those self-reflection yet realignment feelings that the Amazon makes you feel,” Fox said.

On March 26 at 7 p.m. in Decker Auditorium, students from the Forest Online Jan term trip to Peru will be sharing their time in the Amazon through storytelling. It will feature presentations from groups of students that specialized in the discovery of ecotourism, forest protection, wildlife, and community research.

“The Forest Online Jan term was a once in a lifetime experience,” said Jessie Titus. “I saw things I never thought I would see in the wild, visited places I’d only ever dreamed of, and formed friendships I never imagined.”

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Progressive Student Union plans for spring semester initiatives



Last semester, PSU worked with Green Life to organize a climate strike in Red Square. PSU President Sam Bouton, pictured here, spoke at the event. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

Laurel Pogue
Arts & Culture Editor

The Progressive Student Union (PSU) has big plans for this semester. This spring, the organization plans to focus on their ongoing campaigns to increase awareness and action for sustainability and the handling of sexual assault on campus. They intend to meet with members of the administration, such as Dean Liz Towle, to discuss paths towards a more eco-friendly campus.

PSU also looks forward to working with the political activist group Sunrise Movement in order to raise awareness and support for the Green New Deal in the Westminster community, through both teaching sessions and recruitment initiatives.

In terms of the campus community, PSU hopes to make the most of the cold weather and host another coffee house, after the

success of this event last semester.

Meetings are held Wednesday nights at 9 p.m. in Hill Hall room 104, and the organization welcomes new members year round.



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Getting to know Robyn Allers

Aidan Finnerty
Staff Reporter

One of the things that becomes abundantly clear when talking to Robyn Allers is her humility. Allers is a person whose status and work does not displace her love for the students that she meets and the College.

On an ordinary day, Allers, an employee of the College and President Roger Casey’s wife, caters to the needs of four groups: donors, students, alumni, and the local community.

Allers recounted that her time in the McDaniel community has been one of exploration and filled with opportunities. For visitors to the President’s house, she tells stories of various curios and how the house came together. One piece Allers often points out to visitors is a smooth, earthy woodwork created by a McDaniel alum. She said that the piece was sought after (commissioned for the College’s 150th anniversary) and stood to represent the building of bridges, something that brings her passion.

Allers met Casey while acting in a stage rendition of “Fool For Love.” She recounted, “Roger was in the audience, although I didn’t know him at the time. He was smitten, according to him. Several months later, we met when we were both graduate teaching assistants sharing an office. I was equally smitten.”

Allers’s young adulthood was filled with many twists and turns. Initially aspiring to be a teacher, a senior year stint in the classroom changed Allers’s mind.

“I bow down to teachers; what they do is really incredible,” Allers said. She showed admiration for McDaniel’s own education department.

This is supplemental to the story of Allers’s life. She spent a stint as a cocktail waitress, wrote a disaster preparation plan for the state of Florida, and made educational videos for convicts. Although these jobs would be considered less-

than-desirable for most people, Allers’s fondness for the past shines through. She then found her passion in writing and the arts while in graduate school and was a freelance copywriter, journalist, and arts administrator for 25 years.

Despite her shift away from education, Allers retains her love of classic English literature. For our interview, she quoted Wordsworth and Keats from memory saying, “Though nothing can bring back the hour of splendor in the grass, of glory in the flower, we will not grieve, rather find strength in what remains. “

Perhaps this quote is what drives her sense of self-purpose and openness to the world. She said of her travels abroad, “Roger and I don’t have children and few family members, so on occasions that others might gather with family, we travel.”

Acknowledging her privilege, she continued, “I try not to take it for granted. Through our experiences and the people we meet, our travel challenges, surprises, educates, inspires, depresses, and humbles us.”

Allers is conscious and engaged with the political climate of McDaniel and the United States, per her consenting to my battery of questions. Here are the questions and her responses:

Is college education something that you believe should be available to all, regardless of conditions such as race, immigration status, familial wealth, etc.?

This is one of the greatest parts of the American education system. We have a lot of options. Students for the most part have the liberty to choose between big or small schools, private or public, liberal arts or STEM focused. I would like to see the cost barrier diminished. Federal grants, for example, do a good job of allocating funds to students with need. In today’s society, empathy can be a radical act. I have a lot of empathy for the position of students today.

What do you make of the school’s cuts to programs such as religion, music, and language?



(Photo courtesy of Robyn Allers).

From my vantage point, I have a lot of empathy for the strong stances and principles of all sides. I am in a privileged position to hear all arguments. I know it was very important to follow a faculty-led process, and it was. The effects remain to be seen. It was a really tough decision, and so I empathize. I would like to see us move forward as a community.

Society is just starting to have this debate about student athletics and pay. Why or why don’t you support paying student athletes at the DIII level?

Not my area of expertise. Based on what I know, however, DI and DIII are entirely different in terms of the role athletics play in driving revenue for the institution. We (McDaniel and other DIII schools that I am familiar with) don’t derive revenue for the institution from athletic television contracts, ticket sales, etc., as DI institutions do. The argument for paying student athletes becomes stronger, in my opinion, when substantial auxiliary revenue is derived from athletic events. I do believe the DIII policy against awarding athletic scholarships serves our students’ best educational interests.

What do you do?

In my official role, I serve as an ambassador for McDaniel in the community and beyond, connect students to the community, help

steward our donors and potential donors, work on special projects that support McDaniel students, and attend student events. I bring visitors into the President’s house. I volunteer and support organizations that empower women in society such as the League of Women Voters and Rape Crisis Intervention Services.

What are you doing to empower young women on campus?

I often say the young women empower me. Jasmin Chavez and Alexandra Leonard are two examples of great young women who inspire me with their confidence and achievements. I certainly try to connect students to opportunities when or where possible.

President Casey took a divisive stand against Trump’s rhetoric in 2016, do you feel similarly?

Yes. I am proud of the fact that Maryland has extended in-state tuition to all students regardless of immigration status, in effect strengthening its own Dream Act.

Why did you keep your maiden name?

Why change it?

One weird habit of President Casey’s?

He’s very frugal with booking flights and travel accommodations. It’s a bit of a game for him.

Westminster date ideas



Pretty Boy Reservoir is a date location.
(Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press).

Molly Sherman
Commentary Editor

At first glance, it can seem tough to find something to do in Westminster, but there are plenty of great ideas for the taking.

If you are looking for some alternative food options beyond yet another Glar date, there’s just about every chain restaurant from Chipotle to Starbucks off of 140,

all in about a 10-minute driving range from campus.

Hoping for something a little more unique? There’s actually quite a few hidden gems throughout Westminster. Baugher’s is a fun place to get a home-style meal and do some shopping in the farmer’s market. A McDaniel favorite is Hoffman’s ice cream, that you can hit up on your way back from Morgan’s Run.

On a budget? Katana is a sushi place in a nearby shopping center that even takes McDaniel Bucks. The well-known JeannieBird is right on Main Street and is great for a superb bite to eat and a study date. Take an iced tea “complicated” next time you go with the option of a noodle straw—a great conversation starter.

Have an urge for some adventure? The Westminster and neighboring areas are chalk full of nature spots. Hashawha is a 15-minute drive, Morgan’s Run is 20 minutes, and Pretty Boy Reservoir is 30 minutes away. Go to check out

the trees, water features, and wildlife while getting some light exercise. You can enjoy the quiet or talk about all of the sights!

For a closer wildlife experience, Baugher’s Orchard has a place where you can watch and pet goats, cows, sheep, and more! You could also consider making a day of volunteering at the Maryland Horse Rescue or Carroll County Humane Society to engage in some outreach efforts during your date.

For some more classic date ideas, there is bowling in Taneytown, a movie theatre on Main Street and in a nearby mall, and the Carroll County Farm Museum. For some big date ideas, you might want to visit Towson for the new trend of ax throwing or visit D.C. for a wider array of museum and site seeing (McDaniel offers a shuttle to metro stops, if you don’t have a car).

When in doubt, just stroll around the beautiful campus. There is so much more to see than meets the eye and there are endless paths to venture down.

McDaniel Compliments

“Joe Laslo in our I.T. department is AMAZING! I don’t know what we would do without his hard work.”

“Julia Robinson’s art is so beautiful and creative!”

Want to brighten someone’s day? Need a way to fulfill your random act of kindness for the day? Message *Dean McDaniel Compliments* on Facebook with a compliment and we’ll post it anonymously for you.

Here to spread some happiness on the Hill, we’ll make sure your friend, classmate, or professor has the chance to smile and feel appreciated. Your compliment could be featured in the next issue of the *Free Press*!

Maryland Horse Rescue reaches out to McDaniel community

Molly Sherman
Commentary Editor

The Maryland Horse Rescue makes a difference for every horse they rescue. They are aiming to make a difference for McDaniel students through facilitating ways for them to be involved with the animals and opportunities to hone the passions they are pursuing in school.

The Rescue had their soft opening on Jan. 31 at their new farm about 10 minutes from the McDaniel campus. They are 100 percent volunteer-run and there are many opportunities for people to come get involved at the ground level to get things set up.

The herds at the farm are made up of horses mostly obtained from owner surrenders, horses given up by their owners. The Rescue’s goal is to rehome all of the horses they rescue. They do offer sanctuary, but with the hope that they will one day be adopted.

In an effort to give these horses the opportunity to have their own homes, the Rescue offers a program that goes by CHAPs, Companion Horses Are Priceless. It is a tax-deductible foster forever program for horses that are not rideable. The adopter can receive tax deductions for all care and expenses for the horse for the life of the horse.

One special horse being fostered on the farm is Star. She is a retired horse from a Texas state prison they discovered when she was nearly emaciated. They received her alongside a blind horse that had bonded to her. On her shoulder, she is branded with a star common of Texas State Prison horses and a number nine for her year of birth.

On her butt, a 12 is branded for her sire in addition to a “T” for the area of the prison she was once assigned to. She has an open trach she functions normally with, and arthritis as well.

The Rescue has come to specialize in the care of the blind and seniors as other rescues are more eager to take the rideable horses that can easily be rehomed. Their blind herd is comprised of horses that come from abusive and neglectful situations. They have taken horses from as far away as Texas and Wisconsin, since many rescues will not take in blind horses. The horses are often needlessly euthanized because people deem them to be dangerous or useless.

“They are wonderful animals,” said Melanie Biemiller, who now runs the rescue, “they have taught me more about trust and forgiveness than any of the others.”

They have not yet found many homes for their blind horses, but they will always have a home with the rescue.

The Rescue is looking for volunteers to be hands-on and behind the scenes. Volunteer work on location may look like caring for the horses by grooming and feeding, doing barn work, or making repairs around the farm. If a volunteer is unable to help in-person, there are opportunities for fundraising, event planning, and marketing. For people wanting to get more involved on an intimate level, they can sponsor the care for a horse in the herd.

Biemiller first got involved through her daughter. They both had an interest in horses and when they drove by the Rescue’s previous



Melanie Biemiller feeds Star a mint. (Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press).

location in New Windsor, they thought it would be a great way to earn service hours during the summer. Biemiller fell in love with the animals and is still working with the organization 14 years later. She has been involved with horses her whole life and said she “swears I was born with boots on.”

Biemiller sees a lot of potential in every talent that McDaniel students may offer. She feels that people typically associate helping at a horse rescue with petting ponies or shoveling manure all day but, “There is so much else that goes into running a farm.” Work for the organization ranges from mechanical work and sustainability to business and communications.

Biemiller shared many ideas of potential volunteers in action like students in theatre helping out at a haunted Halloween event or art students contributing to a showcase. The Horse Rescue’s goal is to form a relationship with McDaniel College and create a space for students to pursue artistic,

academic, and service projects at the farm.

The Rescue is particularly excited about getting involved with McDaniel students in the environmental program. In addition to the acreage and wildlife, the land features a pond and wetland area with a stream running through it. Biemiller imagines students walking onto the property finding projects they would like to work on.

“We want to be as environmentally conscious as we can,” said Biemiller. She hopes to improve on what the Rescue has established through collaboration with students and faculty.

Students and organizations interested in getting involved should visit the Maryland Horse Rescue’s website and reach out for more information on how they can personally volunteer or regarding a project they are interested in setting up. General volunteer inquiries can be directed to mdhorsevolunteer@gmail.com.

Sex on the Hill: CBD provides relief for endometriosis pain

Marya Kuratova
Editor-in-Chief

Most women are familiar with the unpleasant effects of menstruation: irritability that even ice cream can’t fix, the double whammy of both abdominal and back pain, an embarrassingly upset stomach, and a favorite pair of underwear stained beyond repair, to name a few.

But for many, that time of the month becomes downright debilitating. Those suffering from endometriosis—a condition in which endometrial tissue grows outside of the uterus—cannot find even temporary relief with painkillers or caffeine; instead, they’re often forced to call out from work or school to assume a fetal position on the cold bathroom floor, within arms’ reach of the toilet bowl.

In the dawn of the cannabidiol (CBD) craze, hearing that just a few drops of CBD oil can magically cure all painful menstruation symptoms seems just too good to be true. In fact, many women have taken to social media to express their frustrations over the recent bombardment of advertisements promising to suddenly relieve all period pain—for a hefty price, of

course.

And yet some of these products do deserve a second look, as research has provided conclusive evidence that cannabinoids can offer therapeutic relief from chronic pain. The key is to be aware of the CBD dosage and the way it enters the body.

Products with only 25 mg or so aren’t likely to offer much relief, especially taken as a one-time dose. Ingesting CBD oil might not provide as powerful of a pain relief as a trans-dermal patch or suppository applied directly to the affected area. The company should be researched to ensure it uses high-quality hemp.

It’s worth clarifying that CBD is a chemical compound found in hemp, cannabis, and our own bodies. Unlike tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main compound weed is known for, CBD is not hallucinogenic.

When ingested, CBD attaches to receptors in our brains as part of the endocannabinoid system to reportedly help with inflammation, addiction, depression, anxiety, insomnia, and chronic pain. While the commercial industry has already harped on these benefits, the scien-



Among other products, Foria offers suppositories for local relief from menstrual pain, as well as a tonic for daily ingestion. (Marya Kuratova / McDaniel Free Press).

tific community is still waiting on more research to explore CBD’s full range of positive effects. For now, a handful of studies and an overwhelming surge of positive reviews mostly praise its ability to help calm anxiety and reduce pain.

Foria is one such company that has received an outpouring of support from its customers. It prides itself in offering a range of broad-spectrum organic CBD products, including 100 mg suppositories for menstrual pain relief and lube for relief from pain during sex.

According to the company’s website, the suppositories work regionally to “create muscular relaxation and enhance tissue ox-

ygenation,” while the lube works “with your body’s natural systems to promote relaxation and increase blood flow for a potent ‘therapeutic aphrodisiac’ effect.”

Both products have received outstanding reviews from women suffering with endometriosis. Many claim that the suppository is the only cure for menstrual cramps, when all other medications and remedies fail. As the cervix and vaginal walls absorb the CBD oil, the pain reportedly just “melts” away. And thanks to the CBD lube, thousands of women are now enjoying penetrative sex once again.

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The McDaniel Free Press

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INSIDE: Global Issues Colloquium (pg. 2) | Katy Stanton profile (pg. 4) | AMA commentary (pg. 7)

McDaniel takes precautions against coronavirus

Marya Kuratova
Editor-in-Chief

The panic associated with the coronavirus outbreak has slowly but surely spread across the world, reaching the United States and even Maryland, as people stock up on toilet paper, nonperishable foods, and face masks (even though they don't offer much protection and in fact take away resources from medical personnel, according to the Surgeon General).

Gov. Larry Hogan has even addressed the outbreak, stating that canceled events, school closures, and an encouragement to work from home when possible "are the kinds of things people should plan for."

Now, McDaniel has addressed the outbreak in a preemptive response to potential student, faculty, and staff concerns.

According to an email sent to the campus community Tuesday evening, "McDaniel College is currently making careful preparations in response to a potential COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak. This is a dynamic situation and we are committed to



Washing your hands is still the best way to avoid the spread of disease. (Photo courtesy of Pixabay user Gentle07).

the health and well-being of all our community members."

The CDC states that "most people in the United States will have little immediate risk of exposure to this virus." There is no need to panic, but it can be helpful to take precautions.

According to Tuesday's email, McDaniel has formed

"a cross-campus operational Coronavirus Task Force (CVTF)" to meet weekly and "evaluate this changing situation."

The members of the task force include President Roger Casey, Provost Julia Jasken, Vice President for Administration and Finance Tom Phizacklea, Vice President for Institutional

Advancement Vicky Shaffer, Vice President for Enrollment Janelle Holmboe, Dean of Students Liz Towle, Director of Human Resources Jenni Glennon, Director of Public Relations Cheryl Knauer, Director of Risk Management Jackie Graves, and Chief of Staff/Secretary of the Board of Trustees. See **VIRUS**, page 2

Second annual 'I Love the Hill Day' surpasses donor goal



Students, staff, and alumni wrote notes explaining what they love about the Hill. These notes were then posted around campus, such as this window display in Klitzberg Pavilion. (Erin Pogue / McDaniel Free Press).

Erin Pogue
News Editor

Tuesday, Feb. 25 marked the second year of I Love the Hill Day. This day is a celebration of McDaniel, as well as a day of giving intended to encourage

alumni, parents, students, and other people connected to McDaniel to donate. While I Love the Hill month has been celebrated for the past few years, the specific I Love the Hill Day event has only been around for the past two years.

During this month, there were a few opportunities for people to fill out papers where people were prompted to write what they love about the Hill on the front of the card and to write one word to describe McDaniel on the back.

Filling out one of these cards also gave students a voucher that they could then bring to the day of the event to receive a free t-shirt. These cards were hung up in on the windows of Ensor Lounge, as well as in Klitzberg Pavilion on the day of the event for the entire campus community to see.

This year, the goal of the event was to reach 578 donors, one for each member of the first-year class. By the end of the day, this goal was far exceeded with a total of 694 donors.

While the goal of the day was the number of donors as opposed to the amount of money raised, the total was \$93,013, about 1.5 times the amount raised last year.

According to statistics provided by the Alumni Relations office, these donors covered 32 states, 56 alumni classes (ranging from 1959 to 2019), and 204 first time donors. Additionally, there were 54 percent alumni donors, 25 percent faculty/staff donors, and 11 percent parent donors.

This day also kicked off the beginning of the senior week availability, as senior donors are able to attend the annual crab feast, leading to a total of 108 senior class donors.

  
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Andrea Shalal presents Global Issues Colloquium



Andrea Shalal presented the 14th annual Global Issues Colloquium on Feb. 12 in McDaniel Lounge.
(Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press).

Ciara O'Brien Features Editor

Andrea Shalal, senior correspondent at Reuters News Agency, arrived to the 14th annual Global Issues Colloquium wearing a bullet proof vest.

"Politics is at home. Danger is ever present for journalists," she emphasized.

This year, the Global Issues Colloquium was titled, "Journalism Under Fire: Grappling with Challenges and Opportunities." The Feb. 12 lecture began with an introduction from Amy McNichols, Ph.D., director of the Global Fellows program.

"The Global Issues Colloquium strives to talk about global issues that don't have easy solutions," said McNichols. She described the Colloquium as a scholarly lecture with interactive components, and an integral part of the Global Fellows program.

Shalal considers problems regarding journalism "one of the crucial topics of our time," and although her work on a daily basis covering topics such as global trade and economics does not require a bullet proof vest, it is the reality for some of her coworkers.

Shalal began her presentation by projecting the First Amendment on the screen.

"This is the only profession that is constitutionally protected. The forefathers knew that this could cause controversy in the future," she said.

She went on to describe how journalism has changed over the decades.

"We decided when something was true or important. Because of the changing media landscape, we've lost our gate keeper function," Shalal said.

In the internet era, there is little time for fact checking; it's all about who can break the story first. The internet also allows for

more emerging threats, including artificial intelligence, deep fakes, and overall disinformation and manipulation.

"The level of trust for journalists is very low," she added.

Shalal listed some of the struggles that journalists face today including a loss in credibility, mental health problems and emerging studies regarding PTSD in journalists, and low wages.

"Young journalists barely make enough to cover food and rent," she said.

She described the struggles of working in a political climate that often attacks the media. She mentioned Mary Louise Kelly, an NPR anchor, and Jeff Mason, a coworker at Reuters, who were both recently involved in tense exchanges with President Trump or members of his cabinet. Shalal described the duty of journalists to hold the government accountable.

"There has always been tension

with government. We are the fourth estate...another section of checks and balances," she said.

Shalal also described the more dangerous aspects of journalism. She brought up Jamal Khashoggi, who was killed in October of 2018 by Saudi officials.

"It's not just far away; it's at home too," she said before bringing up the mass shooting at the Capital Gazette in June of 2019. Five journalists were shot and killed at the daily newspaper in Annapolis, Md.

"No matter where it is, it's always close to home, and it sends ripples through the entire journalistic community," she said.

According to the 2019 World Press Freedom Index, the United States ranks #48 out of 180 countries, behind Romania and Chile. 30 percent of female journalists face harassment, particularly online.

"[There has] never before been so many death threats, especially for women," Shalal said.

Although the future seems bleak and sometimes dangerous, Shalal likes to remain optimistic. She mentioned an increase in demand for news, especially unbiased news, and a slow increase in diversity in the media.

"For the longest time, news was created for white people, by white people," she explained. "Now, there are more niche outlets focused on minority experience. Not only can they share stories amongst themselves, but with others, too."

Shalal closed the lecture by offering tips for how everyone can improve their media literacy skills and protect the first Amendment, including supporting reputable media sites and organizations that stand up for journalists. She suggested reading multiple articles from various different viewpoints to confound the algorithm.

"It's rare that people hear viewpoints from the other side. When people actually read the newspaper, they read both sides in the editorials," she said.

However, Shalal's biggest piece of advice is simple: vote.

"Vote! Vote for people who honor our First Amendment and our Constitution," she said.

Shalal's lecture was followed by a Q&A.

McDaniel takes precautions against coronavirus

VIRUS, from page 1
Marissa Cormier.

The College has also created a webpage to keep the community "informed about the College's preparation and resources available to our students, staff and faculty."

Other departments have taken their own precautionary measures. Hoover Library's social media channels shared links to reliable information about the virus because "as the coronavirus covid-19 spreads, so does misinformation."

Hoover Library also responded to a student's suggestion to provide disinfecting wipes for library keyboards. The suggestion

was written on the library's whiteboard asking, "What would help make you love HooverLib MORE?" as part of I Love the Hill month. Lysol wipes are now available at the IT Help Desk and near printers.

As is always the case, Englar Dining Hall continues to offer boxed meals for sick students who do not wish to eat in the dining hall. Students would simply have to fill out a form and ask a friend or roommate to pick up the boxed meal.

However, despite these precautions, the spread of the virus has reportedly left parents worried about their McDaniel students.

A recent post in one of the

"Parents and Families at McDaniel College" Facebook groups asked where to "look to find out what McDaniel's closure policies are in instances of viral outbreak such as the coronavirus."

Other parents soon responded, voicing similar concerns regarding McDaniel's communication to students about precautions, whether cleaning processes (especially in bathrooms and athletic facilities) are being improved, whether faculty have a plan for conducting classes remotely in the case of a quarantine, whether the College will help students with travel or housing needs in the case of an emergency closure, and whether this situation will impact study abroad in Budapest.

Many of these questions are answered on the webpage the College has created to address

coronavirus. The webpage specifies that study abroad programs have not been suspended at this time. It also includes copies of emails sent to students and faculty regarding flu preventative measures.

According to the Wellness Center, the best way to remain healthy during flu season is still as simple as washing your hands, avoiding touching your face, and limiting contact with sick people. An email sent on Feb. 28 also encouraged students to check the CDC's travel advisories prior to traveling for the upcoming Spring Break.

There are currently no confirmed cases in Maryland. According to Tuesday's email, "The College is closely monitoring reports from local, regional and national organizations."

'Vagina Monologues' return to McDaniel



Director Flannery Bendel-Simso performs during the Vagina Monologues on Feb. 14 in Alumni Hall. (Photo courtesy of Andy Carpenter).

Jordan Wood
Staff Reporter

On Feb. 14 and 15, the annual "Vagina Monologues" was performed at Alumni Hall, following a year-long break. The return of the performance brought back just as strong of an audience support as previous years.

At the end of the show, emotions ran high as each cast member gave powerful performances and some cast members even shared personal experiences that brought the house down with deafening applause.

The "Vagina Monologues" is a play created by Eve Ensler. She conducted 200 interviews

with different women across many spectrums, including black women, caucasian women, transgender women, and many more. During those interviews, they talked about their sexuality and loving—or not loving—their bodies. In the end, Ensler collected all of her data and transformed that into what is now known as the

"Vagina Monologues."

Flannery Bendel-Simso, a junior majoring in theatre arts, was this year's director of the show. She shared what the Monologues meant to her and the experience of directing her first show.

She emphasized how important the "Monologues" are to her and how important they should be to McDaniel as well. With this being her first instance of directing a show, Bendel-Simso was very nervous about producing a great show. Regardless of that nerve-racking feeling, she believes that this show is essential to the students and faculty here at McDaniel.

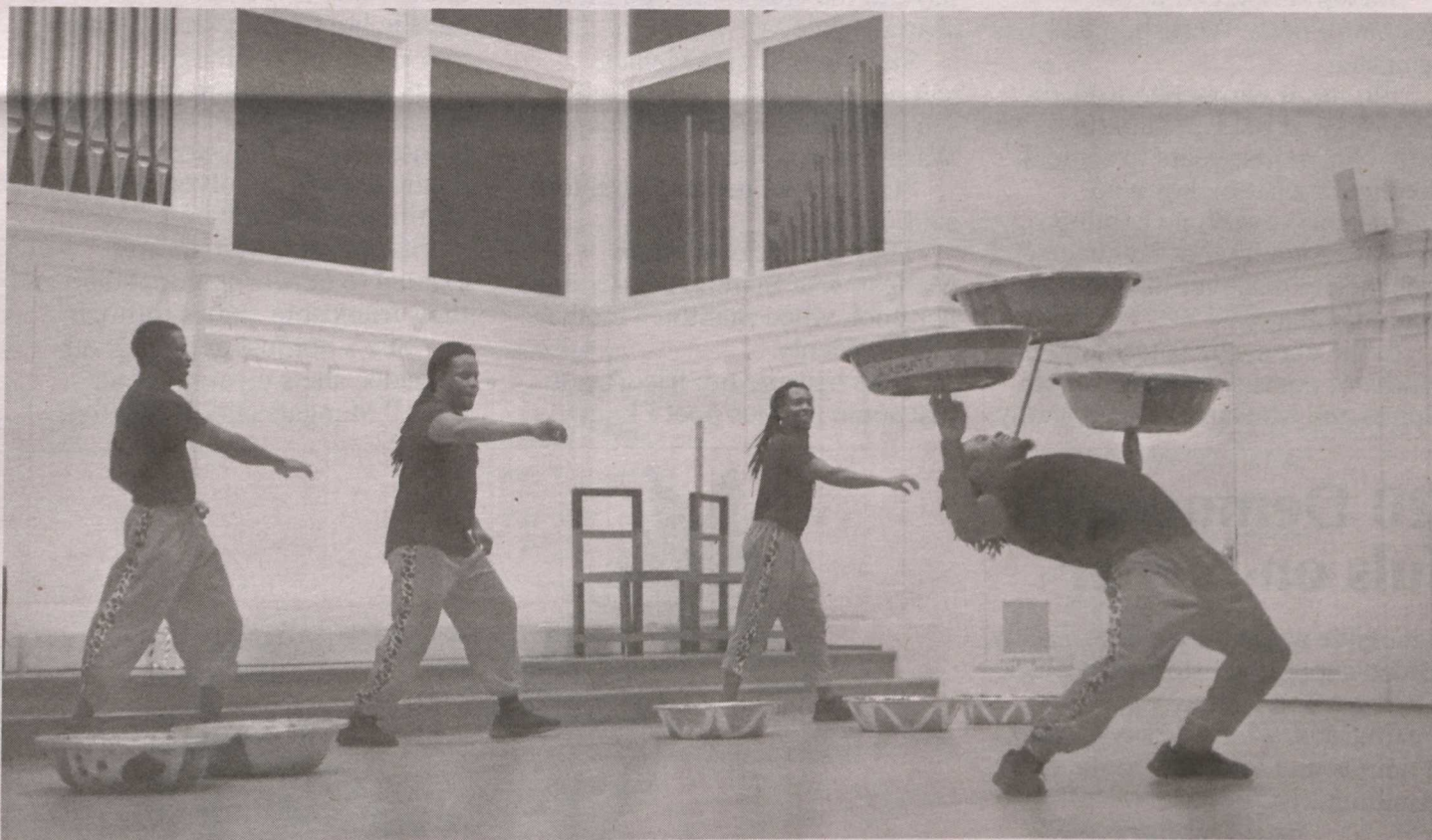
"This show is a platform for gender and sexuality that some do not have anywhere else," she stated.

The "Vagina Monologues" is also very important to Bendel-Simso, as this show breaks the silence on crucial issues that have affected several people that she knows personally.

To be able to share something that has been weighing you down for a long time is a freeing experience, and that is what the "Monologues" are, she said.

All proceeds from the show went to the Rape Crisis Intervention Service of Carroll County.

ZuZu African Acrobats take the stage of BMC



The ZuZu African Acrobats performed in Baker Memorial Chapel. (Photo courtesy of Nikola Tzenov).

Joe Roth
Staff Reporter

On Feb. 20, the Kenyan acrobatic show that was featured on "America's Got Talent" lit up the stage of Baker Memorial Chapel, embodying the Bantu culture of East Africa to Lingala music.

Beginning at around 7 p.m., after a brief greeting speech from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the five acrobats dove right into it. They started with some back flips, cartwheels, and the classic "are you ready?" to make sure the audience was hyped for what was about to escalate.

Progressing from simple dancing and bundling tricks, these guys would then invite members of the audience to participate in the

limbo.

The real stunts started when the chairs were brought out for handstands. Originally balancing on a single chair, they would then stack them one by one until the fourth one was positioned on an angle, further exemplifying their skills.

Following the chair stands was jump rope, but it was not done in the traditional manner. They would jump on their hands, do flips, and pushups. Once again audience members were included, however this time they were recruited as means of encouraging those who were nervous to come up on stage and go all out.

Throughout points in the show the group members would tease that it was already over by saying, "You guys enjoy the show?" or

"Can we say bye now?". This was just a means of making sure the hype didn't die down in the slightest.

The group also masterfully balanced spinning bowls using wooden dowels on their hands, feet, and even their faces all at the same time.

Closing with the pyramid position with the audience for the last time, they said their final goodbye, allowing pictures to be taken with them just before leaving.

"I like the fact that they brought culture to campus we don't get much of that," said Corin Cole, an attendee.

It was a night of culture, music, and dancing. This event—part of several ways to honor Black History Month at McDaniel—was

Crime Log

The Daily Crime and Fire Log is available for public view in the Campus Safety office, located at 152 Pennsylvania Ave. The most current 60 days of information is available from the dispatcher; archived records up to seven years can be requested. Unless otherwise noted, the incidents listed here are closed. "DOCS Office" refers to the Department of Campus Safety office on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Reported 2/9 **ANW Hall**
Larceny: other

Reported 2/16 **Red Square**
Malicious destruction of property: property

Reported 2/16 **PA 143**
Noise complaint

Reported 2/17 **Whiteford Lot**
Larceny: other

Reported 2/18 **DOCS Office**
Hit and run: vehicle

Reported 2/20 **McDaniel Hall**
Burglary

Reported 2/22 **McDaniel Hall**
Student conduct violation (2 counts)

Reported 2/24 **Baseball Field**
Larceny

Reported 2/24 **Harlow Pool Lot**
Hit and run: vehicle

Reported 2/27 **McDaniel Hall**
Dishonesty: fake ID

open to anyone; students, staff, alumni, and their families were all welcome.

Katy Stanton fosters McDaniel's creative writing community



Katy Stanton (left) and Kathy Mangan, Ph.D., have been friends for over 40 years. (Ciara O'Brien/ McDaniel Free Press).

Ciara O'Brien
Features Editor

One of the newest friendly faces in the English department is Katy Stanton. After retiring as a public school teacher for 30 years, Stanton happened upon McDaniel's search for an English composition professor and has been teaching on the Hill for the past two years.

Last semester, she taught Introduction to College Writing, as well as one of McDaniel's newest classes intended to expand the English major, Introduction to Creative Writing. The class featured a diverse group of students, majoring in everything from English to more science and

math-based fields.

"I feel really strongly that building that sense of community of writers is so important and we had that there," Stanton said. "For the first group, it was a great group."

Stanton is excited to be teaching Poetry Workshop this semester.

"So far, it seems like we have a lot of great poets," Stanton said. "From first years to seniors, the mix is what makes it so wonderful...everyone coming together for a love of language and a chance to discover new things about language."

In the class, she is teaching the works of poets such as Elizabeth Spire and McDaniel's own Kathy

Mangan, Ph.D., who will both come to the workshop to talk about their poems in class.

Although Stanton is teaching Mangan's book, "Taproot," in Poetry Workshop, Stanton and Mangan's friendship reaches far beyond the classroom and their shared office.

Stanton first met Mangan at a poetry reading at her own school when she was a student at Washington College.

"I loved her poems," Stanton said.

They grew closer when Mangan sent Stanton a letter and her book when Stanton's mother died suddenly.

"She became my friend, not just some famous poet I knew...

she's just a very caring person. It's interesting how we've come back to spending time together," Stanton said of Mangan.

Stanton feels right at home in the English department.

"Everyone's been very welcoming," Stanton said. "They have a lot of passion for their areas of expertise, and they support each other."

Stanton is excited for all that is going on in the poetry world at McDaniel. She is helping to coordinate student involvement for the annual Bothe Lecture, which will feature readings from poets David Kirby and Barbara Hamby in March.

"After living in Westminster for 30 years, I often came to campus to see lectures. Now it's exciting to participate in them," she said.

She is also looking forward to reading poetry at the Gospel Choir Concert, directed by Shelley Ensor, in May.

"She wants to have students participate and read their poems, too. I love hearing concerts and being a part of them. Anyone can perform a poem or take part," Stanton said.

As for Mangan, she will always be an integral part of the writing community at McDaniel, despite taking a terminal sabbatical after teaching for 42 years. She is set to officially retire in June of 2020, but she hopes to teach a class or two again in the future.

"She'll have more time to write now and be a part of the campus," Stanton said. "I'm sure she'll continue to be involved with the writing community here."

Stanton and Mangan are excited to be working together, and their friendship shines through.

"She's not just getting good students, she's creating good ones," Mangan said of Stanton.

The remaining 2020 Democratic presidential hopefuls on higher education

Ciara O'Brien
Features Editor

For busy college students juggling dozens of responsibilities each day, it can be difficult to find the time to research what each Democratic candidate's stance is on higher education. Here is a summary of the remaining Democratic presidential hopefuls' proposed policies that may affect students.

Joe Biden

"The Biden Plan for Education Beyond High School" focuses on three main goals in order to make college more affordable and "give hard-working Americans the chance to join or maintain their place in the middle class, regardless of their parents' income or the color of their skin." Joe Biden's first goal is to build a stronger middle class by investing in community colleges. Second, Biden hopes to make college a "reliable pathway to the middle class," not just a place to gather

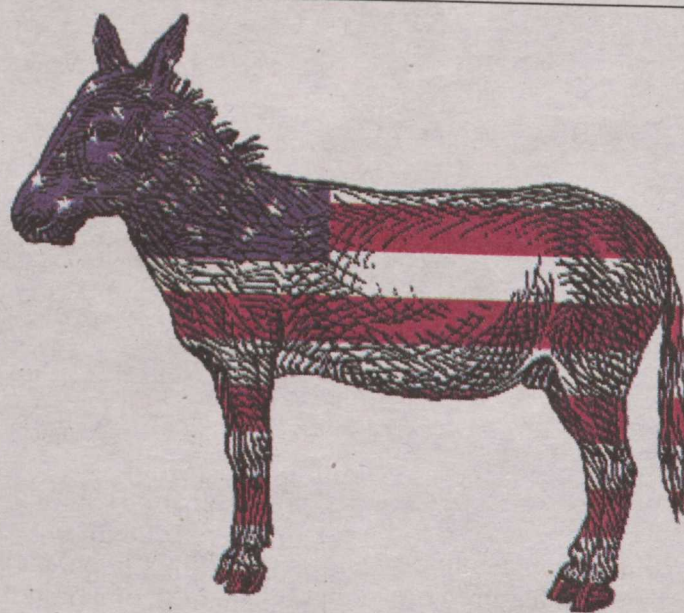
excessive student loan debt. Lastly, Biden supports Historically Black Colleges and Minority serving institutions, which he says, "play a unique and vital role in their communities."

Tulsi Gabbard

Although Tulsi Gabbard does not say much in the way of higher education, she does mention fighting for free college and funding for Native Hawaiian education programs and Hawaiian schools. "The cost of a college education is unattainable for too many. We can guarantee #CollegeForAll by taxing Wall Street and investing in people," Gabbard tweeted.

Bernie Sanders

Bernie Sanders introduced the College for All Act, which would make all public colleges and universities tuition-free. He also intends to fully fund Historically Black Colleges and Universities, forgive existing student loan debt, and put a limit on student loan interest rates at 1.88 percent in the future. He hopes that states will



(Image courtesy of Pixabay user OpenClipart-Vectors).

"foot 33 percent of the bill...the federal government would sponsor the rest." Sanders says that a more educated work force could "lead to higher incomes and a higher GDP for the nation, which will lead to increased prosperity, wealth, and consumer spending in its own right."

Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren's Student Loan Debt Cancellation Plan will cancel up to \$50,000 in student loan debt for 95 percent of Americans who have it, as well as forgive student loan debt

entirely for more than 75 percent of Americans. She also hopes to make two or four-year public colleges or technical schools completely free by investing an additional \$100 billion in Pell Grants. Her plans to pay are summarized in Elizabeth's Ultra-Millionaire Tax on America's wealthiest, where "families with a net worth of over \$50 million will pay a two-cent (2%) tax on every dollar of net worth over \$50 million and a six-cent (6%) tax on every dollar of net worth over \$1 billion."

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The presidential primaries should encourage us to be more informed

Molly Sherman
Commentary Editor

The presidential primaries are in full swing. What do people need to know? What have we learned from the first primaries? What should we expect next? Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada, South Carolina, and into Super Tuesday.

News media, pundits, and social media multiply the effects of any trend.

During the Nevada debate, Bernie Sanders was grilled for his supporters' public lash-out on the foodservice union. Sanders supporters had sent threats to union members, via Twitter and direct contact, following the union's anti-endorsement of Sanders for his health care proposals out of concern for their hard-earned healthcare.

On the stage in Iowa, Mayor Pete Buttigieg was attacked on his wine cave fundraiser for his acceptance of fundraising dollars from the wealthy few. Mayor Pete has otherwise been the most well-versed on the debate stage and an unrelenting candidate, traveling to outreach events across the country overnight to speak with community members.

The crowded field is quickly focusing on just two candidates: Sanders and former Vice President Joe Biden. Mayor Pete has

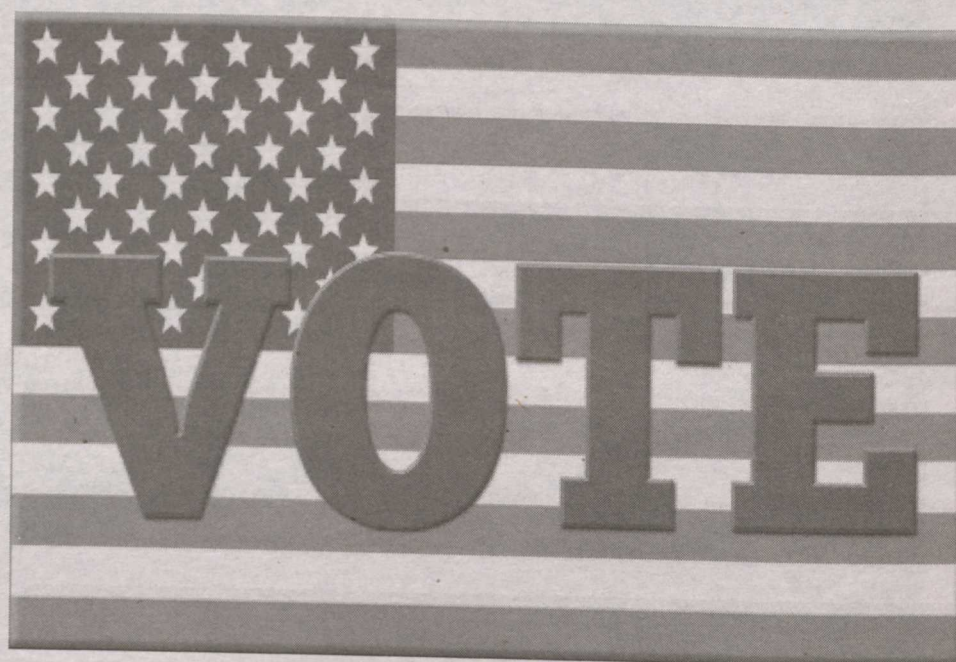
suspended his campaign as of March 1.

After poor performances in the first few primaries, Biden reiterated that the black vote would recover his standing. In hindsight, many wonder aloud why he did not make the tactful move of withdrawing from the initial primaries, knowing that his base was not there. Commentators discussed that this oversight may have cost him the momentum that he wanted and needed.

What we can learn from all of this is that we must evaluate everything in context. In the context of the candidate, the time in history, the obstacles they are up against. It all matters in the conversations we have and the actions we take.

The food industry union raises valid concerns on how health care for all will impact the health care policies they have and love. A wine cave is a common development at wineries, not an underground billionaire hideout. Biden found those missing votes in South Carolina and found himself back in the stage light with a bit more trust from campaign followers.

It is up to us all to be educated voters and trim the fat and distinguish rumors and conspiracy from the meat of the proposed policies and platforms. Rarely



(Photo courtesy of Pixabay user ParentRap).

can any candidates or policies be assessed on a 30 second sound bite.

Outreach mission McDaniel Votes offers opportunities to get registered to vote, have viewing parties, and meet people to discuss current news in policy platforms. These can all help McDaniel students be more informed.

Why show up to these events or make the effort to engage in political discourse? This upcoming presidential election is a pivotal point in American history. The importance of the Democratic primaries and caucuses is to decide who will face Trump in the 2020

election.

Whoever becomes the president-elect is faced with the responsibility of inspiring a nation to support life-changing policies like the Green New Deal and healthcare reform. They are tasked with being the face of the time and fighting for the well-being of everyone in the nation.

It's no small potatoes this year. You will want to look back on this time as an engaged citizen as your kids read about these past and future years in their history books. So stay informed and then get out and vote!

Climate change... yes, it's real

Joe Roth
Staff Reporter

It's that time of the year again when all four seasons make their way into the entire month of February.

Now, this has been going on for quite some time. On some days during the winter months, it's really nice out. It can be 50 degrees or 70 degrees on rare occasions. Then it drops, maybe even snows, the following week.

It should be fairly obvious that this is a result of climate change, and yet many people not only deny it as the cause for warm weather in the winter, but they deny it altogether. Part of the argument is that this is part of the Earth's climate cycles, just as it has been for millions of years.

Milankovitch cycles are directly correlated to the Earth's orbit of the sun, which is not a perfect circle, but rather an ellipse (oval-like). With the tilt of the axis of the Earth, you get glacial (cold) and interglacial (warm) periods as the Earth experiences varying amounts of solar radiation.

Changes in ocean circulation patterns also contribute to temperature phases. We have seen this before as the Medieval Warm Period (900-1300 AD) and the Little Ice Age (1450 to 1900 AD).

Aside from the natural changes in seasons, because the orbit and axis are not "perfect," there are always slight variations in how



(Photo courtesy of Pixabay user DarkWorkX).

much sunlight is absorbed; even a slight increase or decrease can greatly affect the outcome of the season. However, that alone is not enough to cause anything significant.

The human-caused rise of carbon emissions—methane (CH₄) and carbon dioxide (CO₂)—prevents sunlight from being able to escape the atmosphere. Consequently, we are seeing the global temperatures rise

significantly.

This not only causes minor changes, such as being able to wear shorts in February, but with warmer waters, hurricane season has become more catastrophic to coastline areas, as shown in 2017 when Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria hit the southeast coast.

So enjoy the nice weather, and don't bother with that bulky winter coat, but remember this is a very real issue that has far worse

consequences. Our reality will be far more altered than just being able to go to the beach more often.

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President Casey disappoints students at the Ask McDaniel Anything forum

Jake Fine
Contributor

As we walked out of the first Ask McDaniel Anything (AMA) meeting of the semester, with McDaniel College President Roger Casey in attendance, we felt the same emotions we faced when we walked in: a mix of apathy, frustration, and hope.

Going into this meeting, we were apprehensive. It is exciting to have an opportunity where students can be heard, directly, by administrators, but it's frustrating going to those meetings, representing student's interests, and then facing results that most students would not describe as adequate.

Our requests are not outrageous or outlandish, and all fall under the goal of improving the quality of life of students on campus.

At the AMA, members of the Student Government Association and Progressive Student Union brought some of the issues that students had been facing, based on numerous and varied discussions our members have had with other students.

These issues included: Wellness Center visit limits, class sizes and retention rates, financial aid, lack of a campus sense of community, lack of administrative transparency, library hour extensions, lack in professors and staff of color, lack of diversity in Wellness Center counselors, student representation at Board meetings, and the China exchange program.

In the past, we have had meetings with President Casey and other administrators where we have left feeling similar frustrations as we did at the AMA. There is a general trend in the ways that Casey engages with students; he responds to student concerns by talking about statistics and data points that can be viewed as positives.

However, during these meetings, it often feels that President Casey's responses are

ingenuous and condescending, and although we leave feeling heard, we rarely feel listened to.

It often feels as if Casey is out of touch when it comes to the issues that students are facing. For example, during the meeting, we addressed the overcrowding of first-year dorms due to our proudly touted "largest incoming class ever!". We discussed the lack of lounge spaces for first-years, and that they are facing issues finding public spaces to study or even spend time in. It is difficult to live in a cramped dorm room with two other students, and it is even more difficult to do so when students are trying to do work and cannot focus.

President Casey mentioned that no students are in "forced" triples, however, students did get financial compensation if they agreed to take a triple room. The truth and frustration in this response lies in the monetary area: at an institution where tuition and fees total up to \$60,000, it is clear why students would seem so "eager" to sign up for a triple room: we need to save every penny we can in order to simply attend this institution.

Casey was confident in his assertion that no students are in forced triples, but his attitude and lack of understanding of students and their needs come into play when he addresses students who are concerned about their housing situation with the response that they made the choice to live there. As tuition rises, and our plans to take in larger classes continue on their current trajectory, it seems obvious that students will try to save money while making quality of life sacrifices so they can attend the school.

Further exemplifying Casey's lack of understanding come his questions that almost any student would be able to answer, such as "Is the computer lab crowded?" during the continued conversation about lack of public spaces and limited library hours. The computer lab is filled, nearly to capacity, every night, as it serves as one of the only public locations on campus that is open 24/7, as well as a location that provides technology and resources to students 24/7.

Casey responded to our frustrations about library hours by saying that they opened Ensor Lounge for two more hours at night. Marnice Briscoe, SGA secretary, responded by saying that students did not ask for Ensor Lounge to be opened later, we asked for the library.

Casey raised his voice in response, "You did ask for Ensor." We did not. The hours for Ensor Lounge were extended as a concession the administration made, after we asked for the library. We do acknowledge that they have extended the hours in the Merritt computer lab. Again, that is not the library.

Casey said numerous times that there were no negative impacts of the increased first-year

class size on retention this year, and that we were following the trajectory for the normal retention rate. One of the statistics that the administration uses to track student dropout rates are the midterm grades of students: if they are getting good grades by midterms, they're likely to stay.

As our incoming classes become more and more competitive, it makes sense that midterm grades will naturally rise.

However, using a statistic like midterm grades for retention rates demonstrates an administrative disregard for students' quality of life. Most of the students that I know who have dropped out or talked about leaving McDaniel have not done so due to their grades. In fact, their grades are rarely discussed. To imply that everything for students must be alright, because midterm grades were alright, is condescending and rude.

Students are also still facing issues with the dining hall from improperly prepared food, to unclean dishes, to a lack of options for those with dietary restrictions. Students are looking for more financial literacy resources in the Financial Aid office (though we acknowledge that the office is going through a restructuring process, and that things are looking better).

Students are looking for public spaces they can work in, at hours that reflect the realities of the schedules of college students. Students are looking for a sense of community. Students are looking for professors that share a common background and identity with them. Students are looking for administrative transparency.

These issues are not new, and we will continue to represent all students in addressing them and fighting for solutions until we get them.

Additionally, there is a disconnect between the way that Casey and administrative officials view students and how students view students. We come into meetings like the Ask McDaniel Anything forum with firsthand experience with other students who are facing issues. We uphold a responsibility to represent those students, and we understand that they are not simply "walking around with dollar signs on their foreheads," as Casey has previously remarked.

Casey and administrative officials come into these meetings with loads of data and statistics on student information, but with a clear lack of understanding of what we truly face. We are qualitative people, and we are being processed quantitatively. When we ask for transparency

and access to the statistics that the administration uses, we are denied that information.

We as students are told to produce the data that we have no means to produce, while at the same time being blamed for that lack of information.

On multiple occasions throughout the meeting, Casey compared the track of our college to the track of other institutions in national trends. "That's on par with the national average" is a frustrating answer to "Why is our institution this way?"

At a college that is supposed to represent a liberal arts education and change students' lives, why does Casey act as if we're barely capable of staying afloat? And, like most trends, they fade even quicker than they arrive. Why, as a private liberal arts institution, can we not set our own course, do something different, and set our own trends?

The overall attitude of students at this school should not be "Well, this kind of sucks, but I'll just keep my head down, do my work, and graduate in a few years." Students deserve access to resources and changes that will improve our quality of life, and until we get them, we will fight for them.



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