

# The McDaniel Free Press

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## Back on the Hill: Welcome from the Free Press

Ciara O'Brien  
Molly Sherman  
Co-Editors-in-Chief

On behalf of the entire Free Press staff and editorial team, welcome back to the Hill. Whether you are returning to McDaniel or these are some of your first steps on campus, we are so excited to welcome you to the McDaniel Community!

Last year, we had the weighted responsibility of reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic. We tracked it from its conception with the article, "McDaniel takes precautions against coronavirus," at the beginning of March 2020. Overtime, we chronicled the saga of our College and Community adjusting to higher education and life in a pandemic - altered graduation ceremonies, online class extension, pass/fail policies; a return to the Hill many weeks past our original two week leave; resiliencies in sports, classroom settings, social well-being, farmers markets; commentaries on the College's policies and coverage of evolutions in the pandemic on campus - to our last COVID-19 coverage of the academic year,



First year students high five peer mentors after ringing the bell (Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press).

when a vaccine clinic came to campus. Our staff wrote the first draft of history, as it unfolded before the McDaniel community, and we all did our best to fiercely adapt.

We will continue to provide coverage as the pandemic evolves, and make room for reflection on that strange academic year

we learned and lived through. In addition, we will continue to bring you the news pieces, commentaries, arts and culture captures, feature articles and (hopefully) sports that make McDaniel, McDaniel.

As seniors, we feel qualified to give one simple piece of advice: get involved. Try new things, explore your interests, meet new people. For

many current McDaniel students, it can feel like COVID-19 has taken away huge pieces of our college experience, but it certainly seems like none of us will take for granted again seeing swarms of students move across campus and hearing exchanges in the halls between classes. It couldn't hurt  
See **WELCOME**, page 7

## Julia Jasken celebrates her first summer as McDaniel's tenth president



Jasken attended the ribbon-cutting event for the City of Westminster autonomous corridor this summer (Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press).

Ciara O'Brien  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On June 1, 2021, Julia Jasken, PhD, celebrated her first day as McDaniel College's tenth President.

President Jasken was welcomed to her new office with number ten balloons, commemorating her as McDaniel's tenth president, as well as a reception of faculty and staff members featuring green and gold cookies and the Green Terror.

An email was sent to all McDaniel students containing a welcome message and video from Jasken herself.

"It is an incredible honor to begin my first day as McDaniel College's 10th President. I am humbled to join a distinguished line of presidents who have so capably led our beloved college, and today I am excited to begin this next chapter with all of you," she wrote.

President Jasken started her special video message by greeting the McDaniel and Westminster community from Hoover Library, one of her favorite spots on campus.

Jasken notes that she never expected to someday move into

administration when she first came to McDaniel, let alone becoming the next president.

"Yet somehow the unexpected trajectory seems appropriate to the moment, an example of the wide lens of opportunities that become available to those who have developed the habits of mind that lie at the heart of a liberal arts education," she said.

Jasken mentioned the arrival of several new members to the senior leadership team this summer, as well as the start of the college's next strategic plan, which will officially launch this fall.

She also acknowledged the campus life staff, members of faculty, the admissions team, and alumni, for their efforts to support the College during the covid-19 pandemic.

"As travel begins to open up in the coming months, I look forward to the opportunity to meet with our alumni in person across the country and thank you personally for your generosity of spirit, time, talent, and treasure," she said.

Despite thanking many pieces of the McDaniel community, she did not shy away from celebrating the students on The Hill.

"Students, your perspectives and engagement are critical to our ability to continue to offer high quality educational experiences designed to help you develop your unique potentials with reason, imagination,

and human concern," Jasken said.

A few months after the initial excitement of her first day died down, Jasken still had time to ease into her new role as president. The close proximity of her house to her new office certainly helped with that transition.

"It's an easy three minute walk to the office, so that's a positive," said Jasken.

In addition to moving into a new office, Jasken and her family also moved into the president's house across from Alumni Hall in July.

"It's been exciting! We're still digging our way through all the boxes. Our dog, Kira, is really loving the campus... we go on walks and she's loving saying hello. She likes that there are lots of walking routes on campus," said Jasken.

In an era slightly less burdened by covid-19, there is certainly a desire to make up for lost time.

"I always enjoyed connecting with people and socializing before, but I think there's something more special when we've all gone through that period of loss, 18 months of  
See **JASKEN**, page 3





# The Great Gatsby, reimagined in Reed's Tell Me My Name

**Sophia Gilbert**  
Staff Reporter

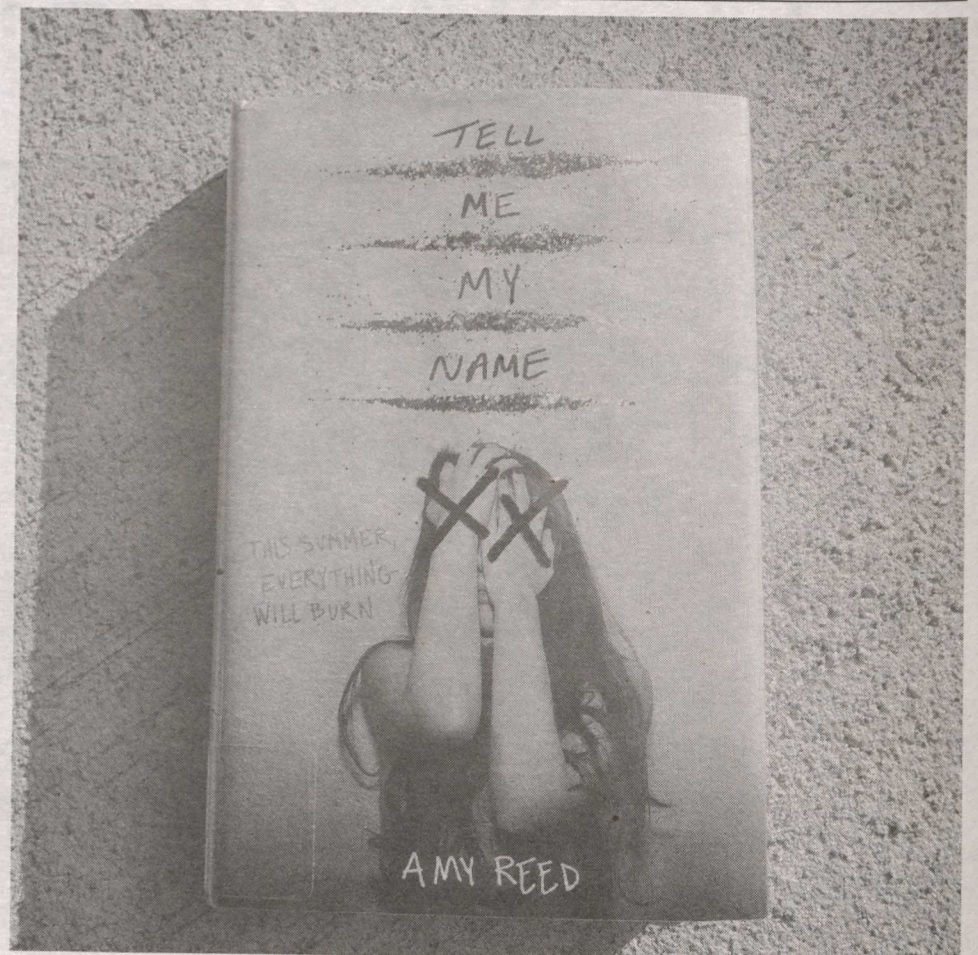
"People can afford beauty here. The rich always get to keep a little bit of what they destroy."

As F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* is now part of the public domain, I've been waiting with bated breath for the inevitable tidal wave of Gatsby-inspired fiction to start hitting the shelves. There's something undeniable about the decadence and vice of the original novel that I was eager to see with a more modern take. So, you can imagine my excitement when I heard about *Tell Me My Name* by Amy Lynn Reed, a modern retelling of *The Great Gatsby* revolving around girl-next-door Fern and her enigmatic child movie star neighbor, Ivy. What I didn't expect is that this novel is actually set in a borderline-apocalyptic future where climate crises, extreme economic inequality, white supremacy and monopolistic corporations are a few years out from destroying the country for good.

The East and West Eggs have been traded out for a Seattle island where the rich and famous come and visit for the summer to escape the heat. However, at this point, there is no true middle class left in America and the wealthy live in gated communities with armed security while the poor are shoved to the outskirts and left to fend for themselves. This change alone adds a whole new level of consequence to the careless spending and carousing the main characters exhibit while the rest of the city struggles to survive the disease, wildfires and violence that the gated communities are protected from. Our main character, Fern, is working on the island where the

story begins when a girl named Ivy - paralleled to Gatsby - moves into the house next door. She's beautiful and famous, but seems deeply troubled and, most importantly, needs Fern's help. Meanwhile, Fern has been dragged into the exploits of the wealthy, powerful Tami who, like her counterpart from the original novel, Tom, has never taken no for an answer when it comes to getting what she wants. Adding in Tami's boyfriend and Fern's childhood best friend and long-time crush, Ash, who seems to know Fern from the past, and you get a very complex love triangle and more drama than even the original offered. Besides the character's roles, there are a couple nods to the original novel, but without revealing too much, the novel takes a sharp turn that, while it is foreshadowed, was a complete shock to me as a reader. I actually went back and reread the book again to see all the things I had missed.

If you aren't a fan of psychological thrillers, this one might not be for you. Everything (mostly) makes sense at the end, but a lot of the novel is disjointed and occurs in flashbacks, dream sequences or moments that blur the confines of reality. There are also many serious topics discussed that could be triggering to the unsuspecting reader. The book does tackle addiction, mental health issues, and sexual assault along with having several scenes of graphic violence or gore. If any of that is upsetting to you, this book is probably not one you want to read. On the more technical side, I personally thought that a few of the central metaphors were a bit heavy-handed and that the dialogue didn't always land. In addition, the main characters are nearly impossible to



(Sophia Gilbert / McDaniel Free Press).

like as a reader with them showing extreme carelessness and hypocrisy throughout the novel, though that is a facet of the source material as well.

I do appreciate that Amy Reed establishes them as humans with their own problems while making it clear that it doesn't excuse their terrible behavior and selfishness. All in all, this book did have me hooked, and though not what I was expecting going into it, I think it's very powerful and speaks to the realities of trauma and societal inequalities that *The Great Gatsby* could have expanded on. If you're looking for a straight modern retelling of *The Great Gatsby*, then *Tell Me My Name* is not for you, but if you like the source material and want to see its boundaries pushed to their limits, then I can't recommend *Tell Me My Name* enough.

*Tell Me My Name* is a novel by

Amy Reed. It was published on March 9th, 2021 by Dial Books, an imprint of Random House LLC, New York and is available wherever books are sold. If you'd like to learn more about Amy Reed, you can find her at [www.amyreedfiction.com](http://www.amyreedfiction.com), where you can also learn more about her other novels, such as *The Nowhere Girls* or the *Invincible* duology.

Do you have a new book or novel you'd like me to review next? Feel free to drop a suggestion via email at [freepress@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:freepress@mcdaniel.edu) or message the Free Press Instagram page @mcdfreepress.

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## The sun rises for another semester on the Hill: Sunrise McDaniel's Fall semester plans

**Kylie Baker**  
Contributor

**Molly Sherman**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Sunrise McDaniel is preparing for an action-packed school year! Our organization, a hub of the national Sunrise Movement, is dedicated to increasing sustainability initiatives across campus and creating nationwide climate action. We plan on working with the ambitions of the McDaniel community and McDaniel's new president, Julia Jasken, PhD., to promote greater environmental stewardship on campus and in the community.

This year, we will be collaborating more with student organizations across campus: joining Green Life to recognize our intertwinement with the natural world and taking action to employ a composting initiative and policies on campus; the Progressive Student Union to tackle environmental justice issues and human rights violations; and many others, to uplift their goals and experiences with the inherently

intersectional climate revolution. In the past, Sunrise McDaniel has participated in and organized protests in downtown Westminster, Frederick, Baltimore, Harrisburg, PA and Washington, D.C. Additionally, the group has been involved in national and state lobbying efforts, phone banking and writing to voters during election cycles, registering students to vote on campus, and providing poll support. We will continue in these more widespread pursuits alongside our commitment to making a stronger community of 'Greener' Terrors.

If you find yourself overwhelmed by the climate crisis and in search of a hopeful group, interested in taking action in local or national politics, or inspired by sustainability practices and the change you can make, join Sunrise McDaniel. Our movement's motto is give what you can, so no contribution you make is too small to make a big impact!

We meet weekly in Hill Hall 015 at 7 p.m. and you can follow @



Voula Papakonstantinou at Sunrise McDaniel's Count Every Vote action outside the Westminster Community Library in Fall 2020 (Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press).

SunriseMcDaniel on Instagram and Twitter. Contact Molly Sherman (mes018) or Kylie Baker (kab032) for more information.

Note from the editor: Kylie Baker and Molly Sherman are hub coordinators at Sunrise Movement McDaniel College.

[www.mcdanielfreepress.com](http://www.mcdanielfreepress.com)



# CHAARG is at McDaniel

Brooke Boyland  
Contributor

We are CHAARG, and we're on a mission to convey to McDaniel College students that owning your fitness is owning your life. We want to show everyone on The Hill that fitness can (and should!) be fun, and there is more than one way to workout.

We are bringing the CHAARG movement, that is igniting college students to be passionate about their fitness, to our campus and community. Our organization is all about welcoming students to explore different ways of working out together. Junior Lyla Martin says she joined CHAARG "to stay active while making new friends."

From beginner to advanced, CHAARG is open to all fitness levels and encourages everyone to find their fit and develop a healthy lifestyle that works best for them. We will be partnering with local fitness studios once a week to allow students to broaden their fitness horizon. Some weekly workouts we have planned this semester are self-defense, barre, yoga and strength and conditioning. Taking each of these classes will allow you to find new ways to move your body and hopefully help you find your



(Image courtesy of Pixabay user Ichigo121212).

fit! Our goal is to empower every CHAARG member to be the best version of themselves and create a happy and healthy lifestyle.

When you join CHAARG, you are joining something bigger than our chapter here at McDaniel. You are joining a community of 10,000 plus members across the U.S. who

have a passion for embodying a healthy lifestyle. More than 110 universities have CHAARG Chapters, and, as of this past summer, McDaniel is part of that network!

Instagram plays a huge role in connecting members. You can follow our chapter's Instagram @

mcdaniel\_inchaarg and follow national's @chaarg. Join the 'bolt fam' on The Hill today!

**Do you want to share what your organization is up to on the Hill? Email us at [freepress@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:freepress@mcdaniel.edu)**

## Jasken's first summer

**JASKEN**, from page 7  
our engagement and connection with one another...it takes its toll," said Jasken

In efforts to amend this, Jasken was involved all over campus this summer, particularly with the rising first-year students participating in McDaniel Local.

"It's been fun for me to say to them that they're kind of the inaugural class. We're both learning how to live on campus together... that's going to be a special group," said Jasken.

Jasken also got to have lunch with some of the undergraduate research students and learn about what they worked on over the summer months.

"It's neat to see! I've had a chance to talk to them about their research, but I hope to actually visit their labs soon," said Jasken.

In addition to visiting with McDaniel Local and summer research students, Jasken also worked with staff to plan special events throughout the summer and fall for members of the community,

including the outdoor movie night during orientation, and she looks forward to welcoming back many campus employees who have been working virtually over the past few months.

According to Jasken, this summer was great for community building amongst faculty and staff. June 1 was the first day faculty members started to come back to campus for the first time in a year and a half.

"We've had a lot of opportunities to get together as a community. So many of our employees have been spending the majority of their workdays working remotely... it's been great for me

to meet with each division and have some opportunities to socialize and let them know how much I appreciate the work that they're done," said Jasken.

"There's been lots of change, but it's been a really positive experience," said Jasken.

*Jasken welcomes all students to connect with her anytime at [presoffice@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:presoffice@mcdaniel.edu), or visit her student office hours during the first and third Thursday of every month from 3-4 p.m. during the fall and spring semesters.*

## McDictionary

### ANW

Albert Norman Ward Hall, the dorm building located next to Gill Center.

### Big Baker

Baker Memorial Chapel, also known as BMC.  
Blanche

### Blanche Ward Hall

upperclassmen housing across from McDaniel Hall.

### Campo

Slang for the Department of Campus Safety

### Casey's Corner

The Starbucks coffee shop located in Hoover Library.

### Free Press

The best publication on campus, but we aren't biased or anything.

### FYS

First year seminar, required for every first year McDaniel student

Ciara O'Brien  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Want to learn more McDaniel lingo? Read more from McDictionary at [mcdanielfreepress.com](http://mcdanielfreepress.com)

and an integral aspect of the McDaniel Plan.

### Gardens

The apartments located across from Campus Safety.

### Glar

Englar Dining Hall.

### Glarsgiving

A festive feast hosted every year in Glar, typically right before Thanksgiving break.

### Gleggs

Glar's notorious scrambled eggs.

### Green Terror

McDaniel's mascot.

### Herbie Hoover

Hoover Library's mascot.

### Jan Term

January Term, a three-week term between the fall and spring semesters, and a requirement of the McDaniel Plan. Many students use this opportunity to study abroad.

### Little Baker

Baker Chapel, located between Peterson Hall and the theater.

### MEC

McDaniel Environmental Center, the College's farm used for learning, research, fellowship and gardening.

### PA Ave.

Pennsylvania Avenue, the road that runs parallel to campus, where some student housing is located.

### Pub

Located on the second level of Roj Student Center, the Hilltop Pub serves everything from rice bowls to grilled cheese.

### Red Square

Formally known as Memorial Square, the outdoor gathering spot located between Hill Hall and Hoover Library.

### Roj

Roj Student Center, formally known as Decker Student Center, is a spot for students to relax, study, or grab a quick bite to eat from the pub between classes.

### Rouzer

First-year dorm attached to Roj.

### Spring Fling

A celebration at the end of each school year, featuring games, music, and lots of fun!

### Whiteford

The first year dorm directly across from Hill Hall.



# New Student Orientation Photos

Ciara O'Brien, Co-Editor-in-Chief





# Walk Down Westminster

Ciara O'Brien, Co-Editor-in-Chief



## Who is the Class of 2025?

Ciara O'Brien  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

This semester, McDaniel welcomed nearly 600 first-year and transfer students to The Hill. Orientation ran from Aug. 19-22, and consisted of traditional orientation activities, including “ringing in” the Old Main Bell, meeting peer mentors and FYS classmates for the first time, and a walk through downtown Westminster.

The class of 2025 comes from a record-breaking applicant pool of over 5,000, and come to The Hill with some exciting statistics on their side. 20 states are represented, including California,

Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia, plus Washington, D.C. Eleven countries are also represented in the class, including Chad, El Salvador, Eritrea, Honduras, India, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, South Korea, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Over 45 percent of the class are students of color, and over 40 percent are first-generation college students.

10 percent are legacy students, which means at least one parent graduated from McDaniel (or

perhaps Western Maryland College).

There are two sets of twins in McDaniel’s newest addition. Michael is the most popular boys name, with Jacob, Justin, and Matthew tied for second place. Emily, Jasmine, Jordan, and Lauren are all tied for first place regarding girl’s names.

28 percent are athletes, 41 percent participate in community service, and 25 are actors and musicians.

The Class of 2025 carries their own unique set of traits and interests, and we are so excited to welcome them to The Hill.

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here!

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## Getting to know Rosa Rivera-Hainaj

**Ciara O'Brien**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

When Rosa Rivera-Hainaj, PhD, started exploring new job options earlier this year, something about McDaniel really stood out to her.

"I had McDaniel's posting printed on my desk for a while, and I just kept going back to it. I was able to visualize myself there," said Rivera-Hainaj.

Rivera-Hainaj joined the McDaniel leadership team as Provost in July 2021, and she has been working hard to make the transition as smooth as possible for herself and everyone around her since.

"The warm welcome from faculty, staff, board of trustees members, and students has been amazing. As with any transition to a new position, there's a lot of learning to do. The past month and a half I've been focussed on getting myself situated, [handling] the things I can handle right away, and start thinking strategically about the major things we need to take care of," said Rivera-Hainaj.

After spending ten years in the classroom all over the country, Rivera-Hainaj started looking for ways to reach a wider audience and make a greater impact. Serving as associate vice president of academic affairs at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas, presented her the leadership development opportunities that would bring her to The Hill.

"I started to wonder where I could spread my wings more professionally, and I felt that the way to do that was to join administration," she said.

"It's been a twisty road, but everybody has a journey. Some people have a journey that is very short to get to the level to where they are. Others, we have to figure out exactly what we're trying to do," Rivera-Hainaj added.

Once Rivera-Hainaj becomes more comfortable with her new role, she is excited to learn from the past and prepare for the future.

"I always try to learn when things could have been done a different way and why, with the hope that it will become useful. It's also a gut feeling. You learn to interact with people from different backgrounds and positions in life, and you know that you might have to address things from different angles. Not only to understand where they are coming from, but for them to understand where you come from, too," she said.

When it comes to McDaniel, Rivera-Hainaj pinpoints several aspects that drew her to The Hill. "One of the things that really caught my attention was the diversity, equity and inclusion work. That stood out to all the other places I was exploring. It was more than just a statement... you could go and look at the activities and work that was actually happening. It was like walking the talk," Rivera-Hainaj said.

"McDaniel has the potential to become the model of what it is to transition regarding so many areas, and serve students, faculty, and staff from more diverse backgrounds. You can have the old things, but you can also have the new things too," she added.

In addition to McDaniel's commitment to DEI, Rivera-Hainaj also appreciated the College's warmth and tight-knit nature.

"I grew up in a college environment. My father was a college professor, and that was one of the things [about McDaniel] that really appealed to me: the collegiality of the institution. Even when I came to interview, you could feel the sense of community amongst the people I got to interact with, and it was genuine," said Rivera-Hainaj.

One of Rivera-Hainaj's first steps is doing assessments to create a baseline for where the college is currently, assess what actions create impact in student's lives and find points of collaboration.

"Dr. Jasken has done amazing work when she was the provost and a lot



(Photo courtesy of McDaniel College).

of things are in place to continue the work. My main goal is to look at how students progress through their academic journey, make sure they are graduating in a timely manner, and set up a framework for student success that will catapult our student's retention and graduation rates," said Rivera-Hainaj.

Besides first steps, Rivera-Hainaj also has ideas for more long term goals.

"In the future, I want to have more interactions between athletics and academic areas, expand our center for experience and opportunity and reach to truly be a bridge between academic and campus life to support students on both sides. I'm trying to have synergy amongst the programs that we have, so they feed off of each other and avoid redundancies," she said.

Rivera-Hainaj thanks a strong support system for their assistance during this transition period for so many.

"I'm so grateful to have so many people around me that have been here for a while, so I'm able to learn from them if I have questions or concerns. That's always helpful," said Rivera-Hainaj.

"It's been a really enjoyable start of the fall! I look forward to interacting with students as much as possible. One of my main goals is to really get engaged with the student body and the faculty. As provost, most of the time you're taking care of faculty, but I want to take care of students too. I love interacting with students, and my promise to the student body is that you will see me on campus. They're the reason I joined academia; students keep us young," said Rivera-Hainaj.

Students interested in reaching out can reach her at rhainaj@mcdaniel.edu, or visit with her for "Lunch with the Provost" in Englar Dining Hall on Sept. 21, October 12, Nov. 16, and Dec. 6.

## How to not trip climbing the Hill: Must-knows for First-years

**Rachel Allen**  
Assistant Editor

### There is 24/7 Printer Access

In Hoover Library, there is a section to the right past the first doors named the Charleston Lab. There are computers and printers inside which can be accessed 24/7 by all students with the swipe of a student ID.

### ... and a 24/7 Convenient Store

Scotty's Convenient Store is open to students 24/7. It is located in the middle entry of ROJ and holds a variety of frozen foods, drinks, and

snacks.

### Office hours are your friend

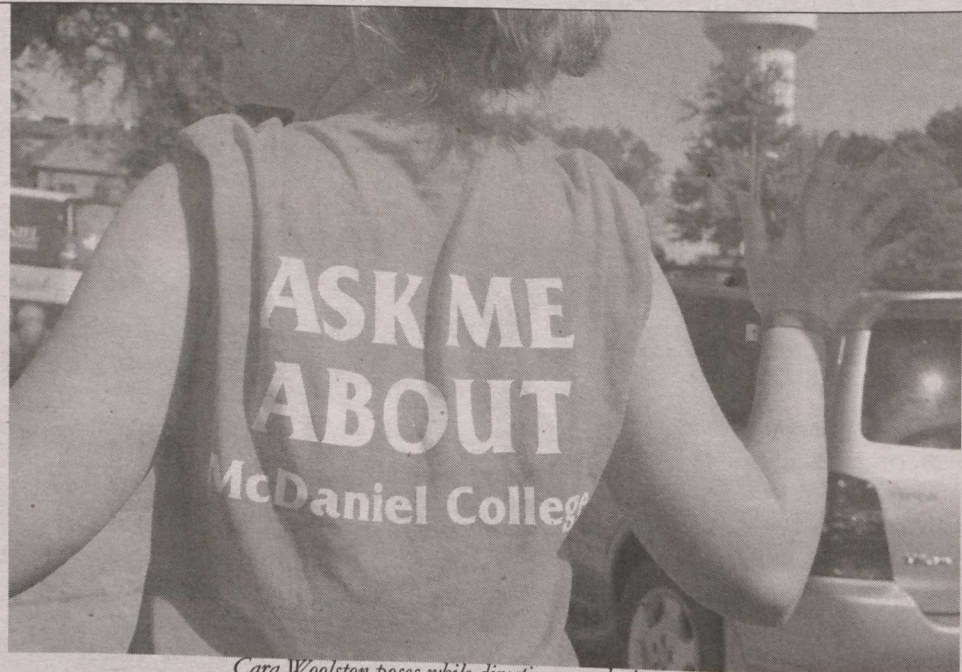
Office hours are set times held by professors for students. Students may go to office hours to ask questions, check in with the professor or simply swing by to make sure they are understanding everything correctly. Professors have also been known to get students connected to career opportunities outside the classroom as well!

### Keep your student ID handy

It is important that students have their ID on their person at all times. Student ID's grant access to Englar Dining Hall, Hoover Library, Scotty's Convenient Store, and more.

### Find a balance

As the semester begins it is easy to become very involved on campus. It is important to find a balance between academic life and social life. It is always okay to step back



Cara Woolston poses while directing cars during move-in (Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press).

from certain activities when needed. But don't be afraid to put yourself out there and experience all the community has to offer!

### Embrace that liberal arts education

The McDaniel plan allows students to explore classes that are not necessarily for their major. Embrace these classes and be open to learning new things.



# Green Terror September

## home games

Anna Jezerski  
Contributor

Molly Sherman  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Wednesday 1	5:30 p.m.	Field Hockey
	4:00 p.m.	Soccer (M)
Saturday 4	1:00 p.m.	Soccer (W)
	4:00 p.m.	Soccer (M)
Wednesday 8	4:00 p.m.	Soccer (M)
	6:00 p.m.	Field Hockey
Saturday 11	1:00 p.m.	Soccer (W)
	2:00 p.m.	Football
Tuesday 14	4:00 p.m.	Soccer (M)
Wednesday 15	4:00 p.m.	Soccer (W)
Friday 17	7:30 p.m.	Volleyball
Saturday 18	11:00 a.m.	Volleyball
	1:00 p.m.	Soccer (W)
	1:00 p.m.	Field Hockey
	3:00 p.m.	Volleyball
	4:00 p.m.	Soccer (M)
Wednesday 22	6:00 p.m.	Field Hockey
	7:30 p.m.	Volleyball
Saturday 25	2:00 p.m.	Football
Tuesday 28	4:00 p.m.	Soccer (W)
Wednesday 29	4:00 p.m.	Soccer (M)
	5:00 p.m.	Field Hockey
	7:00 p.m.	Volleyball



Do you like sports?

Do you find yourself recapping games to your friends or imaging yourself as a commentator?

Did you miss McDaniel Sports? Are you excited to attend games on the Hill again and share the experience with your fellow Green Terrors?

## Come report on sports for the Free Press!

Join us in Hill 111 on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. or email [freepress@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:freepress@mcdaniel.edu) to get started.

## Welcome from the Free Press

**WELCOME**, from page 1  
to give something new a chance. Through your experiences, you may just find yourself as a great leader, an activist, or even a budding journalist.

Regardless of your journalism experience, we hope you will consider contributing to the McDaniel Free Press in any way that might excite you, whether that be writing an article once about an event or topic that inspires you, joining our staff and one day our editorial team, or photographing events. Our trained Editorial Staff is here to support you and

connect you with the resources you need to develop professionally and creatively. Incorporating the perspectives of our entire community is invaluable to this paper being truly student-run.

If you are interested in writing, check out our website to explore the articles we have published. We continue to serve as an outlet for and with students, as we have consistently done for nearly a century. Reach out to us to see our budget of article ideas or pitch one of your own; we can't wait to hear your stories, opinions, dreams and suggestions.

We have gotten the rare but wonderful opportunity to serve as editors-in-chief for two years as opposed to one. We step into our second year with many lessons learned and immense gratitude for our team of writers, advisors, alumni and our proclaimed 'friends of the Free Press' in McDaniel's staff and faculty. Even when our door is closed - for staff naps and late night editing sessions - it's always open.

Good luck during the new school year!

### JOIN OUR STAFF

The Free Press welcomes all students interested in writing, photography, editing, videography, design, and more!  
No experience necessary.

website: [mcdanielfreepress.com](http://mcdanielfreepress.com)  
email: [freepress@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:freepress@mcdaniel.edu)  
office: Hill Hall 111



## Fresh coffee and our return to the Hill

Molly Sherman  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Voices of students fill the halls, Red Square is crowded with hurrying students, bells ring the Alma Mater into occupied classrooms. As we make our way back to our for-now normal, we are greeted by what was left before the pandemic, and reminiscing on the catacomb of normal we created during our hybrid semester.

Kate Dobson, PhD., came back to a Free Press issue that spent the pandemic academic year soaking in the sun, its front page yellowed like over-buttered movie theatre popcorn. The March 2020 article above the fold read: "McDaniel takes precautions against coronavirus."

Professor Vanessa Flora-Nakoski discovered some plants, left to their own devices over the hybrid semesters, in her office, dried and wilted. But Susan, the always resilient Ponytail Palm, is still alive and well. Flora-Nakoski and many others returned to collections of mugs with sweetened coffee grounds solidified at the bottoms.

The pandemic year was a year spent getting older, changing shapes and shoe sizes (yes, if you don't wear shoes for a year, your shoe size may actually change), getting more gray hairs and finding new goods to bake and styles to make coffee.

We turned breaking bread into

breakout rooms, between-class small talk into Zoom chats. Our lackluster dorm fridges and break rooms became kitchens, stocked with snacks and our latest internet inspired creations, waiting to be rushed to between classes.

Introverts felt at home in the comforts of their quiet room, students who might not have spoken up in class could type up a response in the Teams chat, free from hesitation, and people would offer wrong answers behind the shields of profile pictures. Professors, surprising themselves with the hindsight, miss the ease of having students break into Teams channels and type quickly into chats, not adding another piece of scrap paper to the recycling bin.

There was something to love about our adapted classroom spaces and the nooks we logged into them from - calls taken from trees, boats, across state lines; makeshift desks in places never meant to be classrooms.

While many of our familiar comforts have been left in our bedrooms, living rooms and home offices, there are still some ways that we can expect to find at our home on the Hill - mugs of tea heated up in dorm microwaves, the pretend warm flickers of a faux fireplace in the Writing Center, study areas as living rooms and family game nights in the shape of trivia and bingo.



The discolored March 2020 print edition of the Free Press (Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press).

We have to remember now to bring our lunch, because the kitchen is no longer five steps away, and do laundry some time not during our classes or workdays. We are reminded every day that we can socially interact on the Hill, and do it well, with our professors, peers, colleagues and friends.

Professors return their IKEA bags of books back to their offices, students (maybe) change out of their pajamas to attend class, administrators recollect lost memories of door codes and extension numbers; we all sweep dust from abandoned desks, refresh our coffee cups, catch up the lagging classroom clocks and flip the page to a new calendar year - it feels like we're really back.

And we don't want to miss a moment.

### Fall 2021 Editorial Team

Ciara O'Brien '22  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Molly Sherman '22  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Rachel Allen '20  
Assistant Editor

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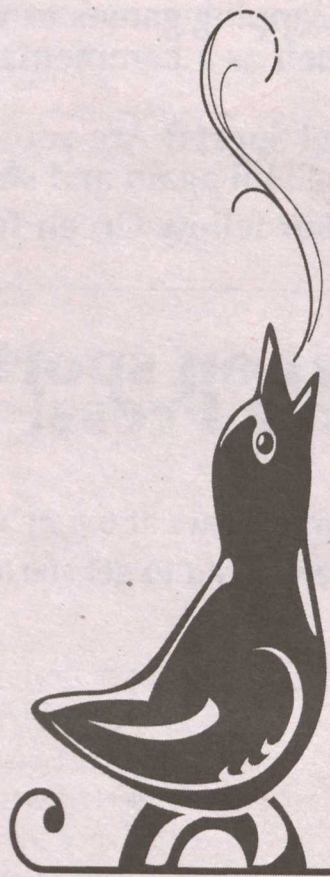


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# The McDaniel Free Press

Volume 25, Issue 2 | October 4, 2021

INSIDE: A look into the library archives (pg. 2) | Fallfest photos (pg. 4) | Oct. home game schedule (pg. 7)

## Tennis head coach resigns: plans for the future of the program

Rachel Allen  
Assistant Editor

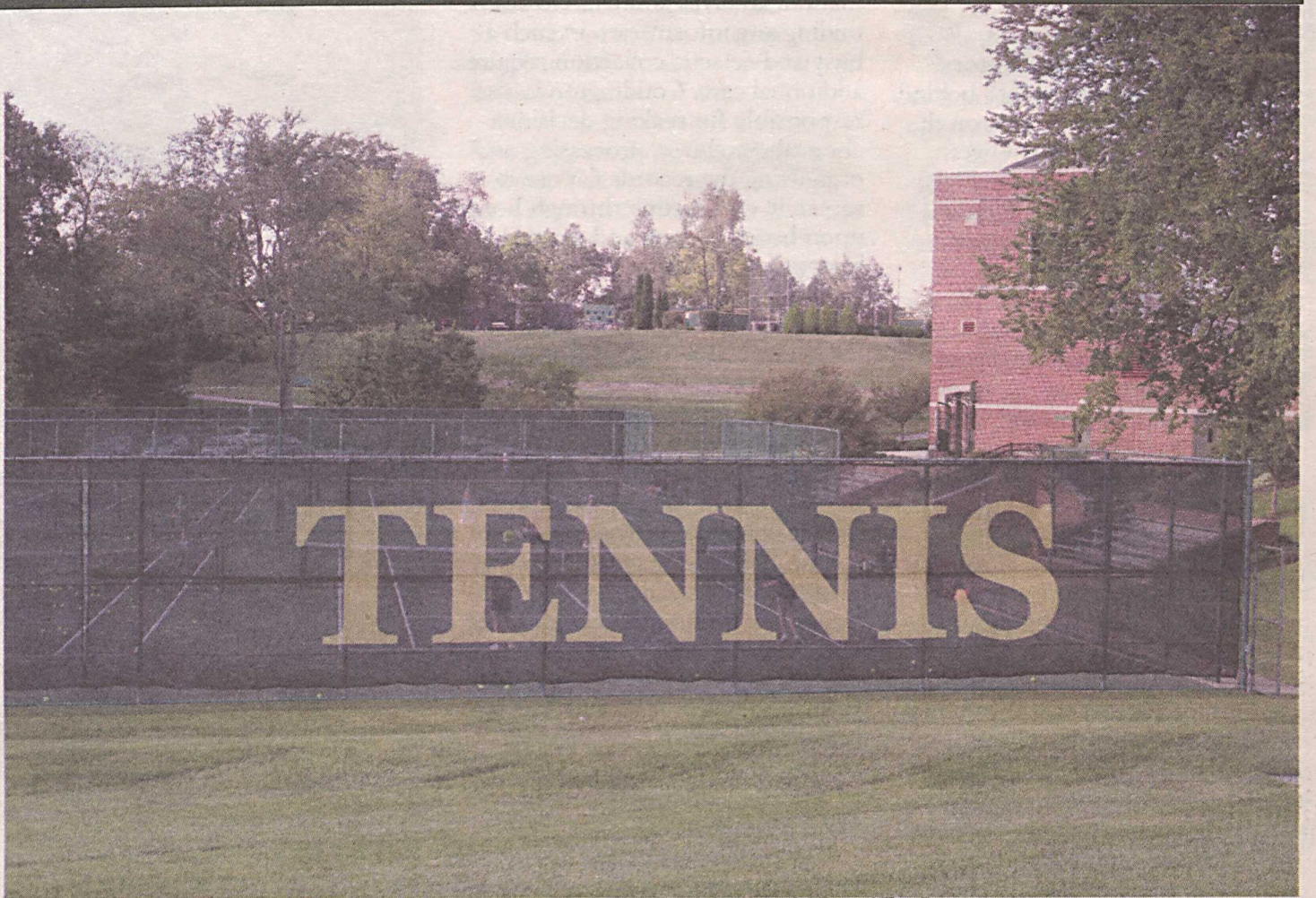
Over summer break, on July 16, posts were made on the McDaniel Parents and Families Facebook page about the tennis program being put on pause. The original post was made by a parent who emailed the athletic director and found out there would not be a tennis program in the fall semester.

"I just want to say how disappointed I am that we just found out today after having to send an email to the athletic director that there will be no tennis program this fall at McDaniel. [There was] no communication sent out- just a response to our question," a parent of an incoming first year student said in a Facebook group post.

This parent was disappointed about the short notice they were given regarding the tennis program's standing for the fall.

"To be told at this date when it is too late to go back to all the other schools and explore other options, I really question the integrity shown by the school. I understand education over athletics- but where is transparency?" the same parent said in the same post.

There were several comments under this post from other parents of tennis players who did not know about this news either, until seeing the Facebook post.



Students practicing on the tennis courts (Rachel Allen / McDaniel Free Press).

The McDaniel admin in the Facebook group replied to these posts and said the head men's and women's tennis coach, Will Giles, would be stepping down, effective July 27, which would cause the program to be paused.

After these posts were made, the coach communicated to current and incoming players, officially informing them of his resignation.

"Coach Giles reached out to the teams and let them know that he had resigned his position. The College then decided that this was an appropriate time to evaluate aspects of the tennis program - and all our programs - using an external review committee," Athletic

Director Adam Hertz said in an interview.

Hertz felt it was important to reach out to all students in the program about this evaluation process.

"We felt it important to let all current members of the program know, as well as those incoming students," Hertz said. "The message was simply that we were in the process of evaluating the tennis program as part of a comprehensive review of the athletics department and wanted to communicate this to the players in the event they might not want to continue to pursue tennis at McDaniel."

Confusion and panic in the

Facebook group and amongst players caused uncertainty regarding the future of the tennis program.

One student was under the impression the program was ending.

"I transferred because of the tennis program ending," former student and tennis player Del Carden said.

Hertz explains the program was put on pause to allow time to find a new coach.

"The tennis program never went anywhere. We will continue to determine the best path forward for the tennis program and all of the other teams in the department," Hertz said.

See **TENNIS**, page 6

## Students see the effects of a vaccinated campus



(Courtesy of Pixabay user torstensimon).

Rachel Allen  
Assistant Editor

On June 15, 2021 the Return to the Hill Committee sent an email to students announcing that all undergraduate students on campus would be required to be fully vaccinated by Sept. 1.

There was a sense of relief

for many students when the announcement was made. Students knew this mandate would provide a greater chance at a more normal semester.

"When I heard that McDaniel was requiring the vaccine, I immediately felt relieved. In a time where this country is pushing for normalcy, requiring a vaccine is the

one of the best ways to get back to normalcy," junior Xavier Winford said.

Students are thankful they can go to in-person classes as opposed to having hybrid courses. It has allowed students to separate their workspace and personal space since they no longer need to take online classes from their dorm.

"I was honestly relieved when I heard the vaccine was required. I really wanted to be able to separate my workspace; places like classrooms and my relaxation space, like my dorm," freshman Kaitlyn Herd  said.

The vaccine requirement came as a surprise for some students who are from out of state.

"When I first heard McDaniel was requiring the vaccine, I was caught off guard because schools back home in Florida weren't requiring students to have the vaccine," junior Corey King said.

Not all colleges required vaccines this year. After being on campus for over a month now, students have seen how much the vaccine requirement has benefitted them. They hope more colleges will

require vaccines moving forward.

"I would tell colleges that do not require vaccines that life post vaccination is a life with a lot less stress and worry," King said. "It's a lot easier to focus on school when the worry of a virus isn't at the forefront of your mind."

Winford says by not requiring vaccines, colleges are moving in the wrong direction when it comes to helping colleges return to normal.

"When learning about how some colleges did not require the vaccine, all I could think of is 'one step forward, two steps back,'" Winford said.

Students are thankful for McDaniel's effort to return to normalcy by requiring vaccines.

"We are fortunate to be at a school that is requiring us to be vaccinated while trying to fully open," Winford said.





# Take a trip to the Hoover Library Archives

**Sophia Gilbert**  
Staff Reporter

Need help with research? Interested in McDaniel's history? Or just curious about what's behind that mysterious locked door on the second floor of Hoover? Gwen Coddington, McDaniel's Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, has the scoop on the history of the archives, what the job of an archivist entails and how the archives are reaching out to students for help documenting the day-to-day life on campus.

For a bit of background, Hoover Library was not the first iteration of a McDaniel library but rather one of several iterations, starting with the private library of first College President James T. Ward, which was opened up for free to college students and made up much of the first official college library established in 1874. At the time, McDaniel was known as Western Maryland College. Hoover Library as we know it was actually a relatively late addition to the modern campus, being built in the 1960s and later added onto in 1991. The archives were established several years later in 1969 with the job of College Archivist being held at that time by Professor Samuel Biggs Schofield. His class, the class of 1919, donated the original archives, then located in the library's basement, in honor of that class's 50th reunion. Since then, the archives have moved to the second floor and have been managed by Gwen Coddington for the last several years. What does the job of an archivist actually entail though?

"I like to tell people, in a nutshell, that my job is to tell people everything there is to know about the collections," says Coddington. As simple as this may sound, the archives are incredibly information heavy and it's not just McDaniel members who are interested in what the archives have to offer. Coddington gets requests about archive items from people all around the world who, for one reason or another, have use for

some of the records or artifacts that the archives contain. However, finding any information in such a busy and eclectic collection requires additional care. Coddington is also responsible for making decisions about the archives, processing and organizing the records for use in research, and sorting through boxes upon boxes of new and existing materials that may not have yet been catalogued in the current system. "That's where we find some of the more unusual artifacts," Coddington said, surrounded by stacks of boxes around the office in various states of unpacking.

"Sometimes it's frustrating because you're trying to figure out how it fits into the records."

It's unsurprising given even the breadth of materials I got to see during my tour, especially knowing that for each item, there needs to be records of what it is, where it came from, and where it should then go in the archives.

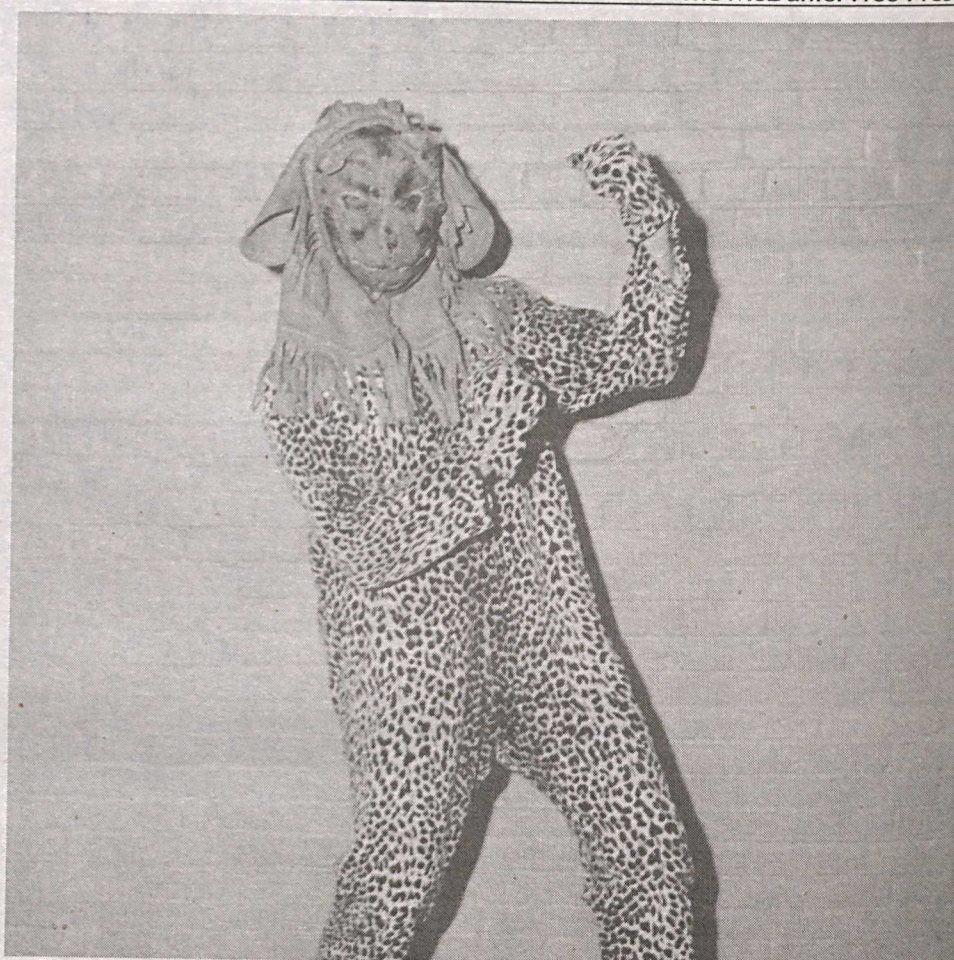
Despite the frustrating aspects of the job, Coddington would not trade it for anything.

"There are two things I love," she said. "Working with researchers and the really exciting feeling when you find the exact resource you need and being surprised by some of the things that come into the archives."

With so many shelves of items, I was curious about some of the stand-out artifacts and records the archives contained. One of Coddington's favorite collections was the full run of student yearbooks and memorabilia from classes past, especially from 1910-1930.

"It's a great snapshot of what students did on campus and their interests. It's really fun to see," she said. Sure enough, there are rows and rows of yearbooks and literary journals as well as aisles of items like pendants, flyers, and letters from years past.

Besides the student records, the archives are home to a number of World War I propaganda posters and part of the McComas Death Mask collection, which immortalizes



Early version of the Green Terror (Courtesy of the Hoover Library Archives).

the expressions of countless famous and infamous historical figures in plaster. The collection is believed to be a replica of the Lawrence Hutton collection at Princeton and can occasionally be seen in the library as part of one of the rotating collections on display. For lovers of old books, the archives are also home to a collection of books dating back to the 1600s, such as a family Bible big enough that it almost needs two people to carry it.

As for the archive's future, Coddington also disclosed some of the archive's plans for connecting with the student population in terms of documenting current student life. The archives have recently put together an "Archiving Student Life" guide in hopes to help teach student groups on campus how to preserve their memories and the process of submitting materials to the archives. The goal with this project is to be able to have records of modern classes to look back at decades down the line and to document student experiences in the middle of a number of historic events, such as virtual learning and how Covid-19 affected the College. In

addition, one of Coddington's more recent projects has been digitizing student records from years past so members of the college community can access them online. Some of the old student newspapers contain a lot of interesting information about McDaniel's history (for example, students have always complained about Glar, even decades back.) The archive's main goal is to be a resource for the community and a link to local history, and they'd love it if more students knew about how they can use the archives as an additional resource, especially for research.

Finally, I asked Gwen if she had any parting message for any students interested in the archives.

"We are here for you to use. It can be a little difficult to access, feel a little intimidating, but even if you're just curious, get in contact!"

You can find more information about Gwen and the archives at <https://lib.hoover.mcdaniel.edu/archives-home> as well as make an appointment for research help or you can email Gwen at [gcoddington@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:gcoddington@mcdaniel.edu) with questions or if you're interested in learning more about how to get involved.

## Crowds in Englar Dining Hall are dangerous and preventable

**Jordan Wood**  
Staff Reporter

During a global pandemic, even if most people on campus are vaccinated, there should be stricter regulations in place to decrease the number of crowds in the dining hall.

With the Delta Variant of COVID-19 rampant in Maryland, most schools still have protocols for the COVID-19 pandemic, including McDaniel College. At McDaniel, carrying over from the last academic year, the indoor mask mandate is still in place, you have to reserve a space to work out in the gym and there are designated places for people to eat.

At Englar Dining Hall, however, it seems like there are no COVID-19 protocols in place. While the staff there still disinfect the tables after people

are done eating, that seems like the only protocol in place to fight COVID-19. For instance, there are no more line markers or gates to designate which lines people should go in and, because of that, the front of Englar is extremely congested in certain time frames.

As for serving food, we have gone back to some foods being self-served like fruits and yogurt, bagels, salads, soups, dips and bread. While the large number of students back on campus, all needing to obtain food, could be a reason why certain items are self-served again, it only causes the front of the dining hall to be more crowded than usual.

Last academic school year, half of our student population decided to stay home during the start of the pandemic and this year, most of those students returned back to campus or decided to commute.



Englar Dining Hall (Jordan Wood / McDaniel Free Press).

Not to mention, 600 new first year students enrolled at McDaniel this fall. If you add all of the undergraduate students together, we have 1,681 students at McDaniel. That may not seem like a big number compared to other colleges, but in the case of McDaniel's small campus, that is a huge number.

This doesn't mean that we can prevent all crowds in our dining hall, considering the fact that there are more students this year, but something needs to be done,

especially for those who still feel paranoid about COVID. One thing that could change is the way seats are set up in the dining hall, and maybe only half of the items listed above should be self-served. Regardless, changes should be made in Englar Dining Hall to ensure the safety of McDaniel faculty, staff and students.



# Find your own nature bounty on campus and beyond

Erick Lowe  
Staff Reporter

If you were to ask me the best time of year, the answer is easily the transition from summer to fall. Of course, there are a ton of reasons, like the weather, the smell, the colors, but most importantly, you can eat like a woodland king!

Around this time of year, the natural world provides meals that rivals even Glar From looking to the trees for a quick snack (or remedies!), the bushes, or even emerging from the very ground itself, there exists shopping aisles.

Before you begin your journey foraging, be sure to keep in mind a few key points. This article presents to you potential plants available on campus and in the habitats around us - it is NOT a how-to guide. Make sure you always have an experienced forager when first starting out. Assume that things are poisonous until proven otherwise, and only eat what you know, prepared in the method you know will make it safe for consumption. With these points in mind, here are some of the best naturally found snacks I've seen on or around The Hill!

Of all of the delicacies around, my favorite has to be a large bracket mushroom, known as Chicken of the Woods (of the *Laetiporus* family). Blooming in late summer to early fall, this massive mushroom is bright orange, with no stems, and grows off of dead or dying trees. This cleverly got the name Chicken of the Woods, since the mushroom itself tastes and has a similar texture to chicken when cooked! A couple things to note, when foraging for this easily-identifiable fungus:

- While not inherently poisonous, there are debates about whether

chicken of the woods that grows on coniferous trees contain acid of the conifer

- One major lookalike is the Jack-o-Lantern mushroom, which has bioluminescent gills and stems.

Another reliably safe find around the area are wood ear mushrooms (*Auricularia auricula-judae*), which, conveniently, have no dangerous look-alikes. These mushrooms, which strongly resemble the shape of human ears, grow on dead or dying trees. If you're in a pinch, these faintly flavored mushrooms will hold you over or make a great addition to a meal.

Oyster mushrooms (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) grow on logs like the rest of these mentioned mushrooms. They're one of the only gilled mushrooms on this list, and probably the only one that can you actually be able to find within a store, and not only by foraging! Oyster mushrooms are grown commercially as well as naturally found, so you know they're good enough to be mass cultivated.

No matter what you are cooking, mushroom or not, a meal is only as good as its spices. And what spice would be better than spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)? This bush is currently fruiting red berries, which smell akin to lemons, and have the taste of allspice mixed with peppercorn. In addition, the bark, wood, and leaves of the plant have also been historically used in teas!

Another berry, this one being an invasive, is the autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*). This bush hails from China, and has tiny red speckled berries that are safe for consumption, although, admittedly, tart. As an invasive species,



Chicken of the Woods (Photo courtesy of Erick Lowe).

harvesting this actively helps the ecosystem you're in.

So now, you're probably thinking to yourself, "but Free Press writer, I can't attain any of these because I'm on campus!" And to that, I'll say a couple of things. First off, life is perspective, so fix that attitude! Second, and probably much more valid response, is just look around and look closely - the Hill has its natural snacks waiting to be found!

Here at McDaniel College, you can find Redbud trees (*Cercis canadensis*), a tree with edible flowers and seed pods. In fact, this tree is part of the legume family, so you can enjoy flowers in the spring, and beans in the fall.

Another great find comes in the form of a ground mushroom, commonly known as the puffball (several families of fungus fall under this term). These fungi grow close to the affinity houses on Pennsylvania Avenue, emerging after a good rain. While not poisonous, use caution when foraging for these, as poisonous young *Amanitas* are veiled and will look similar to the safe puffball mushroom. To confirm if they're still safe to eat, cut open the large fungi and confirm that the center is still white. These are a great

addition to soup, omelets, or can be a meal in itself!

The last item on the menu comes from one of the most common trees on campus, the Norway Spruce (*Picea Abies*). This is the main ingredient in Spruce Beer, for all of you brewers. The needles were commonly used in teas, or to make a syrup, both medicinal and recreational. Generally used as a throat ailment, this spruce can also be used for its resin, to heal skin irritations or lacerations.

As you can see, this time of year provides some of the best meals available, if you know how to look. With all of these options listed for when you can't decide between Wawa or Glar, it's crazy to think that this doesn't even begin to scratch the surface of what's available around us (Looking at you, walnuts, acorns, and other seeds)! Again, this article is merely a suggestion and tips to empower your own (safe) foraging journey, and should not be considered a comprehensive guide on natural eateries.

*If you're interested in foraging, whether for food, medicine, or just happy to identify, join Green Life! Our organization meets on Mondays at 5 p.m., in the backyard of 173 Pennsylvania Ave.*

## OSE hosts a carnival in Red Square

Nikhil Niyogi  
Contributor

The Office of Student Engagement hosted a carnival in Red Square on Sept. 17 from 6-9 p.m. organized by the Office of Student Engagement. The event had ice cream and snack trucks like Dippin Dots and funnel cake. It also had many activities like a bull ride, golf right next to Red Square, Campo Dunk Tank, rock climbing, tables set up that had balloon animals and other prizes, video games, and caricature drawings.

For the rides and all these other activities, there were long lines and lots of people. There were some students who were excited both about the activities, rides, and being with their friends. Some of them had either been to a carnival before or never at all.

Some students have said there was one on campus previously. Last year, it was very different because of how bad the pandemic was.

"Yes, there has been a carnival before. My friend did one last year, but it sadly rained. It was still a lot of fun. We had games, candy, and

popcorn. Last year, the carnival was a lot smaller because it was inside. We had to get rid of a lot of things at the last minute, but we had games, arcade games, candy, popcorn, snacks, stuff like that," Nick Foley said.

Another student felt enthusiastic to check out this carnival given that they had never been before.

"I have never been to a carnival my entire life. I feel good. This is my first carnival here. Freshman year, we had nothing like this, so I am doing these activities like hanging out with my friends and having a good time. That is what matters," sophomore Mamut Conteh said.

Most of the students had a favorite ride or activity they liked. Most of them really liked the Bull Ride, Dippin Dots truck, Rock Climbing, and the Campo Dunk Tank.

"My favorite ride is the bull," and "I feel like I am not dead doing rides or other activities in a carnival," Ethan Clark said.

Students really liked the Dunk Tank where they got to dunk campo.

"My favorite ride is the Campo



(Nikhil Niyogi / McDaniel Free Press).

Dunk Tank," and "I feel lit doing rides and other activities," Tamm Blanchard said.

Junior Elizabeth Hough said she enjoyed the dunk tank and the rock-climbing wall. "I feel like I am a little kid again doing rides there," Hough said.

Students enjoyed the carnival since they were able to have fun and take a break from responsibilities. "I feel relaxed, free, I feel like I can let go of my responsibilities for a day or night and just have fun," senior Ibby Morales-Talero said.

The carnival brought back memories for students. Most of the

students last went to an event like this one when they were little or a few years before COVID-19 came to the United States.

"I went to a carnival around middle school," Alex Korman said.

Other students have not been since they were very little. "I last went to a carnival when I was 8 years old," Emily Paulson said.

"I had a time of my life; I feel like I am a kid at heart when I am always at carnivals," Lana Bogdanoff said.



# Thursday's parade brings Fallfest back to Westminster

**Jahan Hosseini**  
Contributor

Last Thursday, McDaniel College participated in the 42nd Westminster Fallfest Parade. Last year, the beginning of fall wasn't marked by a celebration - the 2020 Westminster Fallfest was canceled due to the pandemic. The Westminster and McDaniel communities are pleased that the event has returned this year. Last Thursday's parade also marked Julia Jasken's first Fallfest as president; she was the event's Grand Marshal. Alongside McDaniel's students, staff, and first family, the fire department, police department, Westminster Municipal Band, and multiple other organizations marched and cheered down Main Street. The republican party, Delegates Haven Shoemaker and April Rose could be seen directly behind the golf cart which was driven by the Green Terror mascot. The school's cheerleading squad and women's basketball team were also there.

The parade started at the end of Monroe Street—adjacent to the Office of Campus Safety—and ended at the intersection of Longwell Avenue and Key Street. On both ends of the streets, there were crowds of Westminster families who came together to celebrate something all of them shared: community pride. McDaniel students in the Student

Alumni Council carried bags of candy, frisbees, and other toys that were given to families watching the procession. One of these students was junior Carly Ludwig.

"We're passing them out for the parade and—you know—just to spread some joy, spread some kindness. I feel this time of year—especially with COVID—like people just need a little joy in their lives," Ludwig said.

McDaniel students and staff are grateful to be in a caring and united community. Seeing students willing to give to others they do not know or interact with regularly proves how grateful they are to be on the Hill and part of Westminster.

"I love how welcoming and kind everyone is. You can tell not only is [the] McDaniel community here but Westminster as a whole [is here]. I think it's great to have access to all that Westminster has to offer," Ludwig said.

Everyone was lively, talking to each other, and listening to the music the Westminster Municipal Band had to offer. Plenty of students and staff who never attended the procession in previous years said the night exceeded their expectations.

"I think it kind of exceeded my expectations. I didn't really know what was actually going to happen, so I'm really excited to embrace it all," Ludwig said.

"I would also say it has exceeded my expectations so far. I can only

assume there's going to be more in the future," sophomore Alex Huffer said.

Because of how small and accessible the town is to McDaniel residents, there is a greater sense of community here than students from much larger campuses have.

"I think because we are a small community, it enhances the opportunities for connection," Erin Benevento, Associate Dean for Student Development, said.

The 2021 Fallfest did not end here though. The celebration continued throughout the weekend with amusement park rides, vendors, and more fun until Sept. 26.

## Fall 2021 Editorial Team

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Julia Jasken served as Grand Marshal of the parade  
(Jahan Hosseini / McDaniel Free Press).



Members of McDaniel's women's basketball team participated in the parade  
(Jahan Hosseini / McDaniel Free Press).



Parade-goers listening to the Westminster Municipal Band  
(Jahan Hosseini / McDaniel Free Press).



Members of the McDaniel community gather together  
(Jahan Hosseini / McDaniel Free Press).



The Westminster Municipal Band lining up before the start of the parade  
(Jahan Hosseini / McDaniel Free Press).



## Climate activists urge democrats to hold the line, facing government shutdown

Molly Sherman  
Co-Editor-in-Chief  
Jordan Wood  
Contributor

On Sept. 20, Congress went back to DC to make budget decisions that will shape future government investment. Climate activists mobilized across the country to demand Democrats in Congress pass a climate agenda and win the communities they represent a "fully funded Civilian Climate Corps and bold investment in renewable energy, public housing, transit, and schools," publicized the Sunrise Movement, a national youth-led organization battling climate change and fighting for good jobs for all.

The Sunrise Movement initiated a national day of action on Sept. 20, decentralized across the country. Localized hubs of the Sunrise Movement showed up at the offices of their representatives echoing the published demands of Sunrise national and pushing state-specific climate agendas, headlined by support for a 3.5 trillion dollar reconciliation package and hesitancy for the bipartisan infrastructure framework (BIF), nicknamed the 'Exxon bill' by climate activists.

The day of action was an extension of groundwork put down during the summer: teach-ins, protests and hundreds of mile-long treks in the name of environmental justice

legislation.

"Congress needs to pass nothing less than the boldest climate action in the upcoming infrastructure bill. Climate action legislation should be a priority, and so far we have not seen it as such," Sunrise University of Maryland organizer Niya Khanjar said. The reconciliation package being wielded as bold climate action includes the Civilian Climate Corp and a clean energy standard.

The Sunrise Movement hub at McDaniel College organized an action in front of House Representative Steny Hoyer's Office. The action was led by Sunrise University of Maryland and Sunrise Baltimore and attended by Maryland Sunrisers, Food and Water Watch, Nuclear Information and Resource Service and a representative from the McKayla Wiles campaign, among other progressive Maryland allies. Sunrise McDaniel Hub Coordinator junior Kylie Baker, one organizer of the action, said, "it was amazing to see it all come together."

Sunrise McDaniel member sophomore Bella Rain explains, "We are living in a time where we need to be able to decide our own future to ensure we have good jobs, including ones surrounding climate change action and a livable future." Organizers are feeling a sense of urgency, citing the results of these decisions in congress and



Kylie Baker speaks outside of Hoyer's office (photo courtesy of Niya Khanjar).

the big impact outcomes will have on communities, especially youth members.

"Unfortunately, [we] are the ones that will be impacted by the consequences of inaction. Despite the climate crisis being a consequence of actions by the generations before us, they will be long gone before the most serious climate-related events begin to happen," Khanjar said. "It's important to take action for these causes because we only have a little time left before more climate damage becomes irreversible," Sunrise McDaniel Action Lead sophomore Voula Papakonstantinou said.

While waiting for the vote, in the days following the Sept. 20 actions, progressive activists held a "People's Watch," standing outside the capital from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., using their presence to support the backs of progressives, ask democrats to 'hold the line' and demand President Biden fulfill his campaign promises. Sunrisers not present continued to apply pressure: calling, texting and

tweeting at their representatives, urging a fully funded reconciliation package be promised before the BIF is passed. While these two bills are entirely separate, they are linked politically, and obtaining pieces of the partisan legislation in the reconciliation package is proving to be a balancing act to avoid a federal shutdown that is known to result from partisan disagreements.

Climate activists push on.

"It is our future that is at stake, and things are still getting worse. We need young people to step up and push for change, because nothing will happen if we don't do it ourselves," Khanjar said.

Interested in joining the fight for Green New Deal legislation? Join a phone bank at [smvmt.org/gnd](https://smvmt.org/gnd) or contact [sunrisemcdaniel@gmail.com](mailto:sunrisemcdaniel@gmail.com) to get involved with Sunrise McDaniel.

Editor's Note: Molly Sherman is a hub coordinator at Sunrise McDaniel.

## Waterfront Property

Celia Stern  
Writing Contest Winner

Through her tears, she sees the lake house. Garret, Lydia will be ambulating around the living room, unsure of where to put themselves. Above them, Hayley, preparing for bed, setting out her clothes for tomorrow, wringing out her swim suit one more time.

They'll be angry because she called Hayley a whore, Garret an asshole, Lydia a fucking bitch who should stay out of their business, then left, hoping the gravel growling beneath her tires ripped their nerves to splinters and tipped guilt out of their hearts.

She is not dying yet, but she will be soon. And she will know she is dying. Or she suspects she will know. She can't know if the panic, the thrashing, the struggle will set in once the water closes over her nose, but up to now she has felt no panic, no biological urge to escape. She sits, crying, useless to her own survival. She is not dying, but she know when it comes it will be slow and painful.

Like a drop on a rollercoaster, the skid into the lake had been accompanied not just by strangulating fear but the exhilaration of impossibility, for how could she have been so stupid, so literally blind? Across the yard, only a few feet from the pebbled shore, were the fairy lights they had

hung, that they sipped warm beer under as the sun went cold and her teasing had sharpened into malice, a sideboard of strawberry lemonade glimmerings that should have been enough to penetrate her mask of anger.

As the waves toss like hair-teasingly, offering a glimpse of the naked neck, the jugular bump-and disperse the areas of silver water, they might one day see the unnatural blue of the car roof at the bottom of the lake, a sea monster that will encourage staying out of the water.

The lap of her dress grows heavy with the dense green lake. A cold sluice between her legs causes a shiver to wack up to her scalp. She sits at a table of water, looking towards the lake house.

Contrast  
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This month's photo prompt (Image courtesy of Danielle Wendt).

Editor's Note: Some of the language and content of this story may be triggering for some readers.

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# Getting to know Rudolph Girls: Westminster's new independent bookstore

Ciara O'Brien  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Some people only ever dream of opening an independent bookstore in a small town, but for Rudolph Girls Bookstore co-owners Nikki Rhodes and Ali King, that dream became a reality. Not only is this duo new business partners, but they are also sisters, naming their store after their shared maiden name.

"We joke, like, thirty years ago, if you would have told our mother who raised us as a single parent, 'hey, you know, those two are going to own a business together,' she would have laughed you out of the room," said Rhodes.

Rhodes and King both served as career teachers for several years. King taught mostly middle and high school while Rhodes taught elementary aged grades, both focusing on ELA and reading. After a school year like no other, they decided to try something new and see if it was possible to open a small business in Westminster.

"The school year for teachers was difficult, but we just decided that it was something that we wanted to do and that felt like we could do, so we started looking into it to see what the possibilities would be. We got a lot of great feedback and support from other booksellers across the country. The rest is history. We just made it happen," said Rhodes.

As they switched gears towards opening the bookstore, Westminster turned out to be the perfect place to support that dream.

"We love Westminster. We both live here, we love the downtown area and the other small businesses here, and it's just such a vibrant and kind of upcoming area and we just really wanted to be a part of it," said Rhodes.

Although the shop opened recently, they are already immersing themselves in the downtown community. Rudolph Girls' book club meets at American Ice Co. Café and just held their first meeting this past Sunday. Members settled

into the upstairs conference room to enjoy cafe treats and discuss the featured book, *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave.

"That has been a wonderful partnership," said Rhodes.

They also host a story time every Sat. at 9 a.m. with the Downtown Westminster Farmers Market, and intend to kick off more book clubs with the Boys and Girls Club on Main Street soon to help get Club members excited about reading. "We feel like we're already very much plugged in to the downtown small business scene, but we're always looking for other ways to partner with other businesses in the area," said Rhodes.

Although opening a new business during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has its challenges, Rhodes remains optimistic.

"We think we opened at the exact right time. Obviously, we're still in a pandemic, however I feel like after almost a year and a half of people being in their homes and reflecting on what they think is important, people are ready to get out into their community and support small business," said Rhodes.

For those who may still be nervous about shopping in person, Rudolph Girls offers alternatives such as private shopping appointment availability, ordering books online, over the phone and via curbside pickup.

"We want to celebrate the fact that everyone is heading back out into the world, but we also want to be sensitive to the fact that some people, for whatever reason, whether it's personal or medical, might not be ready for that yet. If they're not, then we still have a way to get them their books," said Rhodes.

Rhodes also notes the importance and specialness of being in a physical bookstore, especially in a college town. For Rudolph Girls, this means creating a cozy, welcoming environment and the opportunity to get lost amidst the books. "It's the getting to hold the books, look at the front cover, look at the



Rudolph Girls' fiction section  
(Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press).

back cover, compare books, and talk to people who might also be in the shop at the same time or talk to Ali or I about the books that they're reading...those are things that you can't really get at home sitting on your couch scrolling through an eBook menu," she said.

Although small in size, Rudolph Girls offers a curated selection of various books from non-fiction to folklore, as well as stickers, journals, tote bags, and even t-shirts. Family ties are prominent throughout, from the framed family wall of photos in the back of the shop to Rhodes and King's interactions around the store.

"We compliment each other really well. If you come in here while we're working here at the same time, you'll probably find us behind the counter joking, laughing about something, or being super ridiculous," said Rhodes.

When it comes to the Hill, Rudolph Girls wants students to know that they are here and open for business.

"We can special order books! We have had a couple of McDaniel students so far who have sent us their reading lists for the school year, and we're able to fill those orders right here," said Rhodes.

"I feel like a local bookstore in a college town is a pretty standard expectation for most college

Coach Giles' resignation provided an opportunity to consider how we might move forward with the program to give it more competitive success. The team is still in place, we have an interim coach, and the teams have started practicing," Hertz said.

Junior tennis player Evan Darr agrees the changing the tennis program will help improve the program in a competitive sense.

"Changes to the tennis program aren't necessarily a bad thing. The changes that the athletic directors may want to make will allow for more competitive matches and a

back cover, compare books, and talk to people who might also be in the shop at the same time or talk to Ali or I about the books that they're reading...those are things that you can't really get at home sitting on your couch scrolling through an eBook menu," she said.

"We want the McDaniel Community to feel like they are welcome here. If they want to join a book club, they're welcome to do that! Come in anytime, talk to us in the store, tell us what you want to see in the store. We'd love to meet everyone and be your go-to bookstore," she said.

Overall, Rudolph Girls is excited to build a stronger literature-loving community in Westminster and beyond.

"When people come into the bookstore, they just want to talk about books. They want to talk about the things that they are passionate about, and that could be anything from history to the latest thriller that they've read... I think that being an independent bookstore means being a major part of the community."

"We're pretty excited about that."



better experience for players," Darr said.

Students are excited about where the program is heading and are looking forward to having matches again in the spring semester.

"We have a new coach, and we are starting to practice and we will be able to have matches again in the spring. We are all very excited and looking forward to being back on the courts," Wright said.

## Tennis head coach resigns: plans for the future of the program

TENNIS from page 1

Students were notified this would be a temporary pause until a new coach was found.

"We were notified by the athletic department that the program is just on pause for now until things are situated," first year tennis player Parth Shah said.

The athletic department has

involved students in the evaluation process and gave students a chance to share their perspective on the program.

"We had a meeting with the athletic department, and we were asked for our insight on how we would like the program to move forward," senior tennis player Kassidee Wright said.



# Recovering from restrictions: how students are adjusting to a more normal semester

Rachel Allen  
Assistant Editor



Students enjoying the Involvement fair last month  
(Rachel Allen / McDaniel Free Press).

McDaniel has had the ability to lift some of the restrictions because of the mandated vaccine policy. Students have had varying experiences as they adjust to college life during this time in the pandemic.

Some of the main pandemic adaptations on campus that are now being lifted and revised include mask requirements, class format, residence hall restrictions, sporting events and dining.

These changes make for a vastly different college experience, compared to last year. Some students have found it hard to adjust.

"I feel like this semester has been a hard adjustment. I'm not used to seeing all these people walking around campus," sophomore Monte Prinz said. "Especially compared to last semester, it was like a ghost town. Now, there are a lot of people."

Academically, some students are struggling as they adjust to more normal and in-person classes, especially now that most classes have moved to in-person format. There are no longer restrictions in class sizes, unlike fall 2020 and spring 2021, where class sizes were limited to allow social distancing.

"To me, last semester I was more successful, but I was not learning anything. This semester I am learning way more, but not as successful as last semester," senior Hannah Cehelsky said.

She feels it could be the change of classroom format but could also be different because of the coursework in her classes.

"At the same time, the sorts of classes that I am taking now are a lot different than last year," Cehelsky said.

On the other hand, some students have enjoyed the return McDaniel has had the ability to lift some of the restrictions because of the mandated vaccine policy. Students have had varying experiences as they adjust to college life during this time in the pandemic.

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On the other hand, some students have enjoyed the return to normalcy in the classroom and have felt more successful in their academics.

Although there were in-person classes last year, in-person classes still look different this year. Desks are no longer six feet apart, allowing students to feel more connected to their peers and more engaged in their learning.

"Academics have been better for me. I feel more connected to everyone and the subjects I am learning," Prinz said.

Sophomore Gabe Jensen agrees there has been an increase in the connection between students and staff.

"This semester has been a

lot better for me, there is more interaction with classmates and teachers," Jensen said.

The food spots on campus have started to return to normal as well. Last year, students had to reserve a time to enter Englar Dining Hall (Glar) to ensure there were not too many people in there at once. Students also could not stay for an extended period of time.

There are no longer limits on how long students are able to stay in Glar. The capacity restrictions have also been lifted. Students are still allowed to take their food to-go if preferred, which was an option that started in Fall 2020.

Additionally, some of the food layout is different. The self-serve salad bar has reopened this year, which was closed last year to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"Glar has been so busy this year. I love how we're back to self-serve food like salads and hummus/ pita. The pub is also great because of the new seating area being open," Prinz said.

The new Hilltop Pub seating area was roped off for the duration of last year.

Cehelsky recalls how Glar was before the pandemic compared to this semester.

"Glar feels the same as it was two years ago," said Cehelsky.

When students and staff are outside, they are no longer required to wear a mask like they were last year. Mask mandates have also been lifted for residence halls and McDaniel students can move freely into friends' living areas. However, masks are still required in all other buildings on campus including classrooms and athletic areas. Masks are also required to be worn in Glar and the Hilltop Pub unless consuming food.

Students have seen an increase in their social life on campus because of the lifted restrictions.

Sophomores have been given a chance to meet new people, which was difficult as first year students last year during the rougher parts of the pandemic.

"Last year, which was my freshman year- my social life felt nearly nonexistent. This year I can meet so many new people," Jensen said.

Sporting events have started back

up this semester. Athletic events are back in session and students are now allowed to attend games.

"This year I've enjoyed attending home football games; the joy of seeing everyone huddled on the hill with their best buds cooking out, the vibes are unmatched," sophomore Mandy Hollan said.

Jensen agrees that sporting events have been a highlight of the semester.

"It's great to be able to hang out with my friends and meet people face-to-face. The activity I have enjoyed the most this year is being able to watch school sports on the hill and support my peers," Jensen said.

Last year, there were no visitors allowed in any residence halls. Even if a student lived on the same floor as someone else, they were not allowed to go in their dorm. Students could not go in any dorm or residence hall besides their own. This year, students are allowed to visit peers. They can go into other residence halls and dorm rooms. At this time, there are still no off-campus guests allowed in residence halls.

"Looking back, I am somewhat thankful we couldn't huddle up in people's rooms- only because I met so many people because of it, since there wasn't much of an option to be indoors, especially in large groups," Hollan said.

Despite last year's efforts in trying to be social and join clubs, Prinz still felt like there was a lack of connection.

"To me, online club meetings defeat the purpose of joining a club- [which is] to meet people. It's hard to connect with people online," Prinz said.

He is happy with how McDaniel has opened and provided an increase in social interaction.

"I love how social events are in real life this year all the time rather than online," Prinz said.

Students have seen how McDaniel's precautions, like the vaccine mandate, has helped McDaniel return to normal and allow students to have a better college experience.

"Last year it felt like a ghost town, but now campus is so lively," Jensen said.

## Green Terror October home games

Anna Jezerski

Contributor

Molly Sherman

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Wednesday 6	4:00 p.m.	Soccer (W)
	6:00 p.m.	Field Hockey
	7:00 p.m.	Volleyball
Saturday 9	1:00 p.m.	Volleyball
	1:00 p.m.	Field Hockey
Wednesday 13	3:20 p.m.	Soccer (W)
Saturday 16	1:00 p.m.	Football
(Homecoming)	1:00 p.m.	Volleyball
	1:00 p.m.	Soccer (M)
	3:30 p.m.	Soccer (W)
	6:00 p.m.	Field Hockey
Tuesday 19	7:00 p.m.	Volleyball
Wednesday 20	4:00 p.m.	Soccer (M)
Saturday 23	12:00 p.m.	Volleyball
	1:00 p.m.	Field Hockey
	4:00 p.m.	Volleyball
Wednesday 30	12:00 p.m.	Soccer (W)
	1:00 p.m.	Football
	3:00 p.m.	Soccer (M)

## SPORTS

Find yourself recapping games to your friends or imaging yourself as a sports commentator?

Missed McDaniel Sports? Excited to attend games on the Hill again and share the experience with your fellow Green Terrors?

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# The McDaniel Free Press

Volume 25, Issue 3 | February 23, 2022

INSIDE: Erin Benevento (pg. 2) | Jan Term photos (pg. 4) | "No Way Home" movie review (pg. 7)

## Remembering Cecelia "Miss Ceil" Bowens

Erick Lowe  
Staff Reporter

"I don't even like the break. I just like takin' care of you guys," said Ceil Bowens in a 2009 interview with the *Free Press*.

On Friday, Nov. 26, the McDaniel community lost our Mother of Glar, Cecelia "Miss Ceil" Bowens.

Miss Ceil was a staple within the McDaniel community over the past 55 years, working endlessly and being the bridge of the Green Terror family across generations.

"Miss Ceil kept me grounded during my four years on the Hill. She poured into me advice that remains a foundation in my professional and personal life today.

Each time I swiped into Glar she would check in on me and make sure I was doing alright. Times were up and down at McDaniel, as with any student navigating college, but Miss Ceil made it known that she was rooting for all of us," said Roger Isom Jr '16.

Perhaps one of the biggest things I, and so many members of the McDaniel community, will miss is the personal connection every time we found ourselves within the Englar Hall. Without fail, we were her "babies". At the end of every dining hall line waited a person who went through the effort of creating a connection between the students and herself. Miss Ceil made

the conscious effort to care about us, a comfort felt by thousands of students, staff, and faculty over the years.

"I had the pleasure of introducing my daughter to Miss Ceil when we were on campus for homecoming this year. She had the same big smile (even behind the mask) and a warm "hi baby" for us both. She was excited to meet my future Green Terror, Allie, (she's 10) and joked that she wouldn't be here when Allie was a student after insisting on treating her to an ice cream. Little did I know that would be our last interaction. The love that

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



MISS CECELIA  
"CEIL" BOWENS

(Photo courtesy of McDaniel Agents of Change).

Miss Ceil poured into each of us will never be forgotten," said Elton Knupp '00.

Though the McDaniel experience varies from person to person, class to class, generation to generation, throughout the past 55 years, we've all been able to share the sensation of a Glar experience molded by Miss Ceil. Even as the years pass and we all transition onto next stages of life, McDaniel students remember Miss Ceil and the warmth she would spread.

Miss Ceil was a presence felt in the dining hall, always acting with benevolence. For so many of us,

her impact was emotional, social, and practical. Through advice, uplifting interactions, or any broad help within the realm of our dining hall, Miss Ceil would be there. But when remembering Miss Ceil, it's worth remembering just how much she's impacted some individuals. In 2007, Miss Ceil, known fondly as our "Glardian", recognized that one of her coworkers, Helen Barrick, was feeling unwell. Barrick first rested at a table, going to the bathroom after still not feeling well. When they failed to return, it was Miss Ceil who checked on her, and **See MISS CEIL, page 2**

## On-campus water tower gets a facelift over winter break

Ciara O'Brien  
Editor-in-Chief



(Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press)

This semester, students were greeted back to the Hill by a facelift to the iconic water tower on campus, featuring the freshly painted phrase, "Welcome to the Hill" along with the signature green and gold slanted "M" on the sides of the tower.

The water tower project was primarily orchestrated by the college's WMC Heritage Society, formed by Don Rembert '60 and his wife, Judy Rembert '61 with the mission of celebrating the history of the College.

In addition to the Remberts, other engaged alumni associated with the WMC Heritage Society and the City of Westminster offered support and funding to make the project a reality.

"It will help us establish a sense of place and a spirit of pride, positively impacting prospective students, Westminster community members, our alumni, and our on-campus community," Don Rembert said in response to the water tower renovation.

Work on the tower began in Dec. 2021, and included cleaning and pressure washing the entire tank, rust removal, and an intermediate and full finish before the application of the College logo.

Don Rembert said, "It is time

for McDaniel College to further claim its place in Westminster and beyond—and the way to do it is to introduce people to campus from miles away with a water tower that tells you that you've arrived at the Hill."

"Nothing could be better."



### Spring 2022 Editorial Team

Ciara O'Brien '22  
Editor-in-Chief

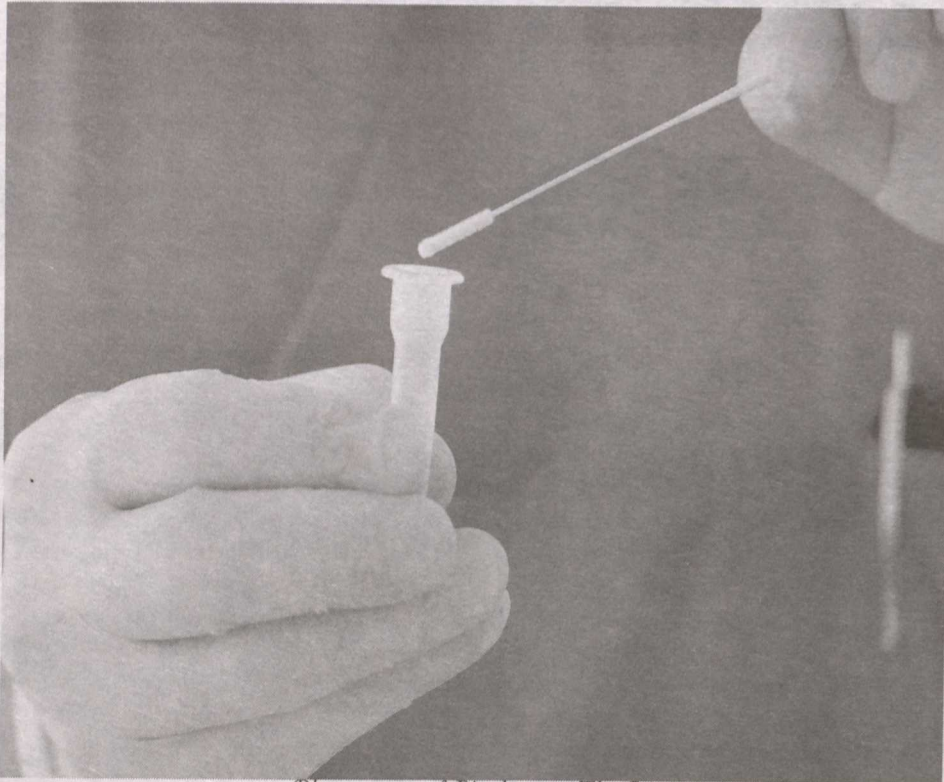
Rachel Allen '20  
Assistant Editor

Molly Sherman '22  
Assistant Editor



# Student opinion on return-to-campus COVID-19 testing

Nikhil Niyogi  
Staff Reporter



(Photo courtesy of Pixabay user Tho-Ge)

Upon returning for the spring semester, McDaniel College had students complete a return-to-campus COVID-19 test in the Gill Gym. If anyone tested positive, they got sent home to quarantine and only the people that tested negative remain on campus. Students believe that having everyone take a COVID-19 test as soon as they arrived was a smart and excellent idea to minimize transmission levels

and positive cases.

"I think it was a really good idea, especially after the holidays, there's kind of that spiking COVID. It's a good idea to have us get tested before we can come back to campus," said first year student Seth Myers.

"That was very smart to be able to control the amount of positives and negatives on campus, so we didn't have too many more people

get infected," added first year student Jason Fritz.

The resident assistants had to move in before all the other students moved back to campus, so that they could welcome people back into the residence halls. They had a different system than other students.

"I did move in before everyone else. I definitely did have to take a COVID test; everybody who came back on campus had to take a COVID test. My test was quick and easy, and I did not have any problems with it. It came out negative and I was good to go," said junior Tamrah Blanchard, resident assistant of Whiteford Hall.

Most students feel that McDaniel planned well for how the COVID-19 testing would work on campus when they arrived, and they believe the mobile ordering application helped out.

"I think they had a good plan; it was good to have multiple different days and times to be able to check in," said first year student Jordan Schultz.

"I do believe so, I think that mobile ordering app is really convenient for a lot of things that McDaniel can do," said Blanchard.

Many students had a good experience with getting tested and checking in for their appointment.

"My check in experience was good, very efficient, and quick. I didn't have any trouble with check in," said Schultz.

However, other students feel that there were parts of the process that they did not like and believe can be improved in the future.

"It was easy to make an appointment on self-service, but

once I got on campus I waited in line for my Covid test for over one hour. I wish they had more doors and stations open to take a Covid test and made it easier for people to sign in," said sophomore Nick Foley.

"I think it was really stupid to put it on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday when classes started on Monday. I think they should have done Friday, Saturday, and Sunday or even earlier if they wanted," added Myers.

"I was supposed to be emailed some kind of receipt they had to check me in with. They were able to look my information up and do it very easily, but that was just a little technical difficulty on their end. I'm not sure if that was common or not, that was the only issue I had," said Myers.

"I was nervous to check in, but it went very smoothly," said freshman Jocquin Baldacci.

Overall, many students really enjoyed being back on campus, particularly if they were in a Jan. Term online, like My Design.

"Feels good cause learning in person is definitely a lot better for me rather than learning virtual and it's nice to see all my friends and teachers again," said Fritz.

"Honestly, after three weeks of Jan. Term, I was kind of glad to be back. It may take a while before I'm used to it again," said freshman Michael Girton.

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## Innovators on the Hill

Javon Spencer  
Contributor

Last year, Introduction to Innovation was a first-year seminar course. This year, it is being reinvented and taught differently. It is now qualified as an ENC course, part of the Encompass Program, and teaches innovation and entrepreneurship. In the course, Professor Mike Looney gave his students a project to create a start-up innovation that would better help the community.

The McDaniel Innovation and Entrepreneurship challenge is a five-week program designed to develop entrepreneurial and innovative ideas presented by the students. Most of

the groups plan on participating in hopes of winning and receiving funding for their projects. The aim for these projects is for them to be implemented during the semester or before the semester ends. Here are some of the fascinating ideas that students came up with:

**McDaniel Food Delivery Service (Austin C. Heid, Jaden E. Silverman, Javon Spencer, Michael Ruiz, and Steven Angel):** As college students, we've all been there before whether you've been sick, stressed over finals week, etc. And they think a McDaniel food delivery service would make life more beneficial. This group plans on making an extension of the McDaniel Online ordering app, and adding a menu where students can order food from the Pub, Casey's Corner, Englar Dining Hall, and Scotty's Convenience Store and have it delivered. The group is trying to

spread the word throughout the McDaniel Community.

**Expand Water Bottle Filling Stations (Kathleen Bailey, Djef Ikambana, Jacquleen J. Lopez, Raven E. Kozak):** This is a group of avid water jug and bottle carriers, and they've noticed how big of a hassle it's been to bring their jugs and bottles with them everywhere they go. It's also a nuisance having to find water stations to fill their bottles when they run out. They believe that having stations where they could refill their bottles could hopefully bring awareness to the amount of plastic used per day, in addition to making life easier for jug carriers.

**Providing natural skincare products (Ja'da P. Perry, Jani S. Pierre, L'rae K. Chester):** This group wants to make natural soaps and skincare products for McDaniel Students. Catering more

to ethnic people in the community with sensitive skin that can't use the big-name products. "Usually in stores, we see the stuff that smells good and for some people, that product might not necessarily be good for their skin," said Perry. "As someone with eczema I can't really use certain big-name products, so my dad has to make our own soaps and products," added Chester. The group hopes to accomplish equality within skincare products. By making sure everyone has equal opportunities for healthier skin and that they're not being limited to only certain products.

**Westminster Community Garden (Briel J. Mack, Laura Vonella):** This group hopes to spread awareness and provide entry to people who don't have access to fresh fruits or vegetables within See **INNOVATORS**, page 3

## Remembering Miss Ceil

MISS CEIL from page 1

was able to get help after realizing that Barrick was having a heart attack. On that Jan. day, it wouldn't be an overstatement to recognize that her awareness for her peers had saved a life.

"Miss Ceil could tell if a student was not feeling well emotionally and would know just what to say in her soft voice, the perfect thing that individual needed to hear that day," said Christianna Leahy, PhD., political science professor.

Miss Ceil's impact was felt by the entirety of the campus, not just the students. One of her most notable traits was the empathy she portrayed for all levels of McDaniel involvement. Miss Ceil cared about the community in a way like no other, and took pride in her love.

"She greeted me, as a new person. I was surprised! There were so many people going in and out of the cafeteria, so I asked, 'How do you know I'm new?' And she smiled her big smile and said, not talking down, not condescendingly, but she said, 'Oh, It's not long before I know everybody. Welcome! You have your ID with you?' She was all business, and at the same time gentle, kind, and welcoming.

Such a smile you remember for years," said Peter Lynn, IT helpdesk coordinator.

A winner of McDaniel's Phenomenal Women Staff Award in 2019, Miss Ceil cultivated a dining hall culture that was one of love and community. For so many, they cannot separate their dining hall experience from the loving influence of Miss Ceil. With Glar being such a catalyst for the bonds we've all had the opportunity to create over the years, it was Miss Ceil who was the harbinger of these communal ties.

When writing this, it was truly incredible to see the pouring in of responses that highlight just how much of a positive force Miss Ceil

was for the McDaniel family across generations. Responses coming from every level of engagement to the school, with former students spanning decades wishing to convey just how much of their McDaniel experience was molded by her. From her constant feuding with that machine, to singing religious tunes for students that are feeling down, Miss Ceil left an impression on this college. She was a constant, and to think of the McDaniel community within the past 50 years was to think of her.

I'm going to miss her, I think we all will.



# Getting to know Erin Benevento

Ciara O'Brien  
Editor-in-Chief

Many students may recognize Erin Benevento as one of the first smiling faces to greet them on the Hill. Whether she gave you directions during August move-in or helped you edit your resume, she is easily one of the most recognizable and welcoming personas on campus.

Benevento started working at McDaniel in 2015 as the program assistant for the first stop office, offering support for first year students. After a year, she was promoted to coordinator of first year programs, where she took on a larger role in the First Stop realm.

Eventually, she felt called toward a role in the Center for Experience and Opportunity (CEO), where she became the associate director of community engagement.

"I loved being involved downtown and the potential for community partnership, so I was really grateful to have the opportunity to serve in that position," she said.

In that role, she helped develop the relationship between McDaniel students and downtown Westminster. She masterfully was able to combine her first year experience with her new emphasis on community engagement by getting students downtown during orientation.

"That's a regret I have. When I was a student here, I didn't go downtown as much as I liked so, I really feel passionate about encouraging the students to experience," she said.

Eventually, she made her way back to the first year world where she served as the director of the first year experience for two years. She was a key figure in developing McDaniel Local, while still emphasizing community outreach.

Following the windy road between supporting the first year program and fostering connections

to downtown Westminster, Benevento was promoted to Associate Dean for Student Development last summer, where the first year program and the CEO program have been combined to also combine both of Benevento's areas of expertise, and all four components of the McDaniel Commitment, to one consistent place.

"I just love it here. I am grateful to continue helping the students and helping the community," said Benevento.

Since Benevento's promotion, the CEO has been altered to encapsulate four key parts: the first year office, the study abroad office, career prep help, and community engagement.

Despite this wide and extensive array of departments, Benevento feels supported by the other members of the CEO team.

"I have an excellent staff who oversees certain areas. I support them, help advocate for them to the administration if there's something we want to try. Really they do a lot of the good, on-the-ground-work, for a lot of these initiatives," she said.

As Benevento embarks on another exciting chapter of her McDaniel story, she reflects on her own time spent as a McDaniel student.

"When I was a student here, I had a fantastic four years, but I really felt like I was on my own in terms of planning my outside-of-classroom success. The McDaniel Commitment didn't exist for me, where students had the expectation for this variety of opportunities. I love that we are now making this into the student experience," she said.

Based around these experiences and needs as a student, she helped craft the McDaniel Commitment with her student successors in mind. The McDaniel Commitment is a



(Photo courtesy of Erin Benevento).

four-part series of opportunities for students outside of the classroom: My Place, My Design, My Experience, and My Career.

My Place encourages a sense of belonging as soon as students step foot on campus. It is mastered through participation in McDaniel Local, orientation, and the "First Look" series within a student's first year seminar class. My Design is a Jan. term course taken after the first semester and is created with the intention of getting students thinking about where they are and what their next steps are.

"I like to say that My Design meets students where they are, and helps them in whatever their next step is," she said.

My Experience can occur at any point over the college experience, and students are expected to have two experiential learning opportunities before they graduate. This can be achieved through study abroad opportunities, internships, or even certain classes. Lastly, My Career is a course taken junior or senior year, and serves as "real world prep 101", where students learn about resume and LinkedIn making, DEI in the workplace, and much more. Although it is currently

an online course, it has the potential to become hybrid very soon.

As Benevento describes the many ideas and projects that she has helped come to fruition, it is impossible not to notice the excitement and passion she holds for them and the community she loves.

"Honestly, I think that's one of the reasons why I was trusted with this responsibility of bringing all those pieces together, because I've been on the team for implementing so many of these pieces since the beginning," said Benevento.

"I really appreciate all the support I've received over the years in these different positions. Each new position has brought excitement but also a sense of, 'can I do it?', but every time, I've been met with tremendous encouragement and support from the community here," she said.

"There's some really good folks here on the Hill."

*The CEO office is located across from the Hilltop Pub and down the hallway, and the office is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.*

**INNOVATORS** from page 2  
their communities, in addition to using bees to pollinate flowers and produce those fruits and vegetables. They want to start by catering to those locally in Westminster, and having the Westminster community contribute to the community garden. Through recording and videotaping, they'll eventually try and spread the knowledge more globally. "We want to find some land whether at McDaniel or in Westminster and have a community garden, where you exchange help for products. So if you don't have any fresh vegetables, pull some weeds and then help yourself," said Vonella "I live in D.C. and the knowledge of growing vegetables isn't a familiar concept for most, hopefully by broadcasting our garden it could help others out there in need," said Mack.

**Fitness Program (Aiden T. Carr, Nicolas J. Jones, Jae Hyung Chun, Zachary D.Otte):**  
This group plans to start a fitness and meal program for McDaniel students that want to improve their health and fitness So that they can live a healthier life later one... They also want to educate students so that they can improve their health on their own and have the knowledge on how to keep their

bodies up even after the program is over. "We all have some sort of fitness that we like to do, He's an athlete (Zachary), I body build (Nicholas), he plays hockey (Jae), and he goes to the gym (Aiden), in order to stay healthy we all need to stay physically active," said Jones. Even though not everyone is able to participate in the class directly, there are still ways to help support these projects.

Most of the groups have something to do with the students and the campus of McDaniel. They want your input on what they're doing so that they can be sure that it's a service needed. Be on the lookout for service announcements in your McDaniel email and please fill out their surveys.

If you're looking for a more direct route of helping out, consider buying, using, and participating respectively for these future innovations. You could order from the mobile food service, utilize the water stations around campus, support their businesses, or even just spread the word about their projects. Although all projects are different, they all share the same end goal: aiding a community in need. If everyone pitches in and does their part, they can accomplish it!

## 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.

<b>Reported 1/28</b> False statement to a police officer	<b>PA 169</b>	<b>Reported 2/6</b> Assault: hands/feet	<b>Albert Norman Ward Hall</b>
<b>Reported 1/28</b> Malicious destruction of property: door	<b>PA 169</b>	<b>Reported 2/6</b> Dating Violence	<b>Albert Norman Ward Hall</b>
<b>Reported 1/31</b> Stalking	<b>Campus wide</b>	<b>Reported 2/6</b> Trespassing	<b>Albert Norman Ward Hall</b>
<b>Reported 1/31</b> Assault	<b>Daniel Maclea Hall</b>	<b>Reported 2/7</b> Assault: simple	<b>Englar Dining Hall</b>
<b>Reported 1/31</b> Sexual assault: Rape	<b>Daniel Maclea Hall</b>	<b>Reported 2/8</b> Sexual assult: Rape	<b>Whiteford Hall</b>
<b>Reported 1/31</b> Dating violence	<b>Daniel Maclea Hall</b>	<b>Reported 2/9</b> Harassment	<b>Ga 161</b>
<b>Reported 1/31</b> Harassment: phone	<b>Harlow Pool</b>	<b>Reported 2/11</b> CDS: student conduct violation	<b>Albert Norman Ward Hall</b>
<b>Reported 2/1</b> CDS: Student Conduct Violation	<b>Whiteford Hall</b>	<b>Reported 2/12</b> Motor vehicle theft	<b>North Village Lot</b>
<b>Reported 2/4</b> Disorderly Conduct	<b>Rouzer Hall</b>		



# COVID-19 ends January trip to Greece early

Jahan Hosseini  
Staff Reporter



(Photo Courtesy of Rory Sullivan)

Although most students and faculty are fully vaccinated and boosted, the pandemic still prevents students from gaining whole experiences. Professor Tom Falkner's January Term, IDS 1156- Greece: Myths, Monks, and Monuments, was shortened due to several students catching the virus.

Students, whose years varied, traveled to Greece in Jan. 2022. They stayed in Athens and the islands of Crete and Aegina. In a recent interview, Falkner described the program as immersive and an intensive introduction to Greek

culture.

"Students visit monuments, museums, monasteries, and archeological sites across the country, study Greek culture from past to present, and experience the culture of contemporary Greece—its politics, social life, music, and food," he said.

Junior Rory Sullivan and his friends joined the program in hopes of traveling—something they love to do. They were not disappointed with the experience they had.

"Before everything went downhill, everything was really—

well—nicely [run]... I really had a good time. I'm glad we were able to be on our feet for the most part," Sullivan said.

The program ended two-thirds of the way in due to five out of the 25 students testing positive for COVID-19. All five of them had received their booster shot.

If not for the unexpected cancellation, students would have visited the Peloponnese and Delphi, dubbed the "center of the world" to Ancient Greeks. In the Peloponnese, students would have visited Olympia, the birthplace of the famous Olympic Games. McDaniel College offered reimbursement to the students for the final third of the program.

"Obviously, I really wanted to do that. But at the same time—you know—everything hit the fan, and I didn't think it was safe to do any of that anymore," said Sullivan.

The cause for these cases is currently unknown.

"There does not seem to be any identifiable reason why this particular group of students tested positive while the others did not," Falkner said. "The roommates of the five did not test positive, nor were the five students members of a particular group of friends."

Students left Greece in three groups. Six concerned students arranged flights back to the U.S. on their own the morning after the tests. Some of these students were assisted by the program's travel agents and parents.

One day later, the program was officially terminated, and the remainder of the students

who tested negative departed. Travel agents and the McDaniel administration successfully assisted them in getting the other fourteen students plane tickets on short notice.

Sullivan was a part of the second group.

"At first, I was sort of convinced that we were on our own. And that we had to be financially responsible for paying for the flight back, paying for everything—cab, everything. But thankfully, Brooke [Hain] and Erin [Benevento] stepped in," he said.

Sullivan, thinking he was on his own, initially called the two airlines they flew on but did not find them helpful. He said the process was very stressful at first but was grateful for the college stepping in. He and his thirteen other classmates had to wake up at 2:30 a.m. and leave the hotel thirty minutes later to catch their 7 a.m. flight.

The last group included Falkner and those that tested positive. They were quarantined in Athens for the next five days, as required by Greek authorities. They were told to stay in fully furnished apartments arranged by the Athens Centre. Falkner frequently contacted the quarantined students and stated they handled it well. None of the students had severe illness. According to one student, the concern was if they would make it back for the spring semester in time.

They returned on Jan. 18, the date the program was initially supposed to end.

## Jan. Term to the Bahamas



Exploring the tidal area of Fossil Reef  
(Sophia Gilbert / McDaniel Free Press).



Eating field lunches at Blowhole  
(Sophia Gilbert / McDaniel Free Press).



The beach at Orange Hill Beach Inn  
(Sophia Gilbert / McDaniel Free Press).



The beach along Gerace Research Center with Bo, the stray puppy  
(Sophia Gilbert / McDaniel Free Press).



## Abroad in Budapest: First Look

**Rachel Allen**  
Assistant Editor

Hello from Budapest! I am studying abroad this semester at McDaniel College's location in Budapest, Hungary in Europe. I arrived in Budapest on Jan. 23 for orientation. All of the abroad students go through a week of orientation to help us adjust to being in a new country. Orientation looked a bit different than it did in McDaniel Westminster. Instead of learning about just the school itself, we learned about the culture, how to get around, how to adjust to living in a new city, and little things like the best places to get groceries. We also learned a few key words and phrases in Hungarian. Before getting to Budapest, I had no idea what to expect other than what I read online and in travel books.

I live in a single studio apartment in a building with other McDaniel abroad students. It comes with my own bathroom, kitchen, dining area, desk, couch, washer, etc., and even a heated towel rack in the bathroom! Most apartments in Budapest do not come with a dryer so I have to hang dry all of my clothes, which definitely took some getting used to. The apartment building is located about five minutes from campus and is a super easy walk. Nearby the apartments, there are various places to eat within a two-minute walk—even some places that are in the United States like McDonald's, Burger King, and Starbucks! The biggest adjustment I feel like I had to make was adjusting to going to school in a city.

The school is in the middle of the city, so it is very easy to go and hang out at a local café or restaurant during the day between classes. There are dozens of places to eat or grab a quick coffee all within a five or ten minute walk of campus.

When I first entered the school, I was surprised that everything happened within one building, but I soon realized it made everyone a lot closer. All of the classes are held in just one building, which is similar to the size of Merritt or Hoover Library on Westminster's campus. Since all of the students and staff are always in the same place to-

gether, it is very easy to meet each other, giving the school a close-knit feel. This close-knit community also comes from the small size of the school, since there are only about 150 students on campus. Class sizes are generally smaller here, and usually consist of about five to 20 students. My smallest class has six people in it. It was strange to have such a small class at first, but within the first week I realized how beneficial it was to be in such a small class.

It is much easier to have conversations and interact with my professor and classmates. It feels like a conversation/ discussion even when we are having a lecture. Having a class as small as six students makes everyone's opinion feel extremely valuable to the class dynamic. The school is filled with students from all over the world, not just students from Hungary. I have met students from multiple different countries. Everyone is so accepting of every classmate and curious about where they are from and how schools may be different in other places. I have only had classes for two weeks now and I have already made tons of good friendships. Many people ask me what campus is like in Westminster versus Budapest. Everyone is always eager to learn about each other.

Google Translate has been a life saver here. There is a feature on the app where you can take a picture or scan objects and Google Translate will give you the translation right on the photo. This has come in handy when I am trying to read how something should be cooked or even what type of food is in a store.

Another time it came in handy was my first week here when I had a little alarm scare... or what I thought was an alarm. I had gone to the store and was only gone from my apartment for about five minutes. When I came back and started to unlock my door, I could hear a faint alarm sound. As I opened it, it got extremely loud to the point where it was ear piercing. I immediately thought it was a fire or smoke alarm, so I made my way downstairs to go outside. As I went downstairs, I looked around the building to see if anyone else was leaving their



*A scenic night on the Danube River (Rachel Allen / McDaniel Free Press).*

apartment. I didn't see anyone else panicking and I saw someone go into their apartment, so I quickly realized this alarm was only coming from my place. I looked around the apartment to see if anything looked like it was smoking and checked the outlets. My first fear was that somehow my plug converters that I need to convert the European outlets to fit my American plugs, caused a fire even though I had made sure to check the voltage capability before using them. There was nothing wrong with any of the outlets. Then I decided it must be a sort of mechanical alarm, so I went to the front desk and had a staff member from the school on the phone with me so she could explain what was going on in Hungarian to the apartment worker. He then gave a sort of thumbs up motion and came upstairs with me. He barely spoke English so the entire time we used Google Translate to communicate, which was honestly a fun and heart-warming experience.

As soon as he got to my apartment and heard the noise, he said "the doorbell is very very old, sound is not dangerous," while making a motion explaining that my doorbell had gotten jammed. I had never used or heard the doorbell, so I had no idea what it sounded like.

were a blur of looking at houses and adopting our cats and holidays surrounded by family and friends. The one thing that never changed, though, was how whenever I looked into your eyes, I saw forever.

Except that's not the truth. The truth is that we were both too young and too stupid to know the difference between love and the fear of being alone. The truth is that we were over the second that we tossed our graduation caps in the air and transitioned into full adulthood. The truth is that you were a dream, a good one, but that I had to wake up. And when I got the call in February that you weren't coming home, I had long past grieved for you, for what we had and what we could have been. For the future we could have had, if we never had to grow up, to change. But we did. And we do. And so all I can really say is "I love you." And "goodbye."

Then he began trying to fix it and said something in Hungarian. Upon seeing the confused look on my face, he pulled out his phone, typed in the word "knife" and had his phone say it out loud as he looked at me with a worried look, hoping Google Translate was saying the right thing. I was guessing he needed one to try to take the doorbell off, so I went into my kitchen to grab one. When I came back outside with it, he smiled and said "yes, knife!" and repeated the word knife a few times in an uncertain/ curious tone to ask if he was saying it right. When I said "Igen, knife!" (Igen means yes in Hungarian) he was smiling and happy he learned a new word in English. We both learned something that day. The doorbell was soon fixed, and the noise thankfully stopped.

I continue to get acclimated to the new country and new culture every day. So far, I am really loving this experience. Stay tuned for more stories about my semester in Budapest in the next print issue!

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [rea0100@mc-daniel.edu](mailto:rea0100@mc-daniel.edu) and I will try to answer them in my next column!

## Stormy Clouds Over Lover's Lane

**Sophia Gilbert**  
Writing Contest Winner

We met in a coffee shop on a rainy Wednesday afternoon when you bumped into me and spilled coffee across my dress. You apologized profusely and shoved napkins at me to try to clean up the spill and I laughed long and hard, harder than I had in a while. You asked what you could do to make it up to me and I replied with "you could ask me on a date." I had never been that bold before, but the lost puppy look in your eyes somehow made me brave. We went out to dinner a week later and our waitress hit on you right in front of me and my food was cold and it didn't matter because afterwards you kissed my cheek on my doorstep and I fell a little bit in love. One date turned into two, three, four, and before I knew it, you had invaded every inch of my life. We spent so many nights

up late in your dorm, me resting with my head in your lap while I read or you typing away at a paper while I tapped at a game on my phone. It was easy to be with you in a way that I had never experienced with anyone before. The day we graduated, you threw your arms around me and swung me around and I was so in love with you that I couldn't breathe. After that, we started to build a life together, me coming home to our shared apartment after my grad school courses and you cooking dinner after your shift at the office. I knew that you were going to propose when you took me on that camping trip, but I still cried. I know I was so adamant about the wedding needing to be perfect, but we both knew I would have married you in a courthouse in sweats if it meant I got to spend forever with you. The years that passed afterwards

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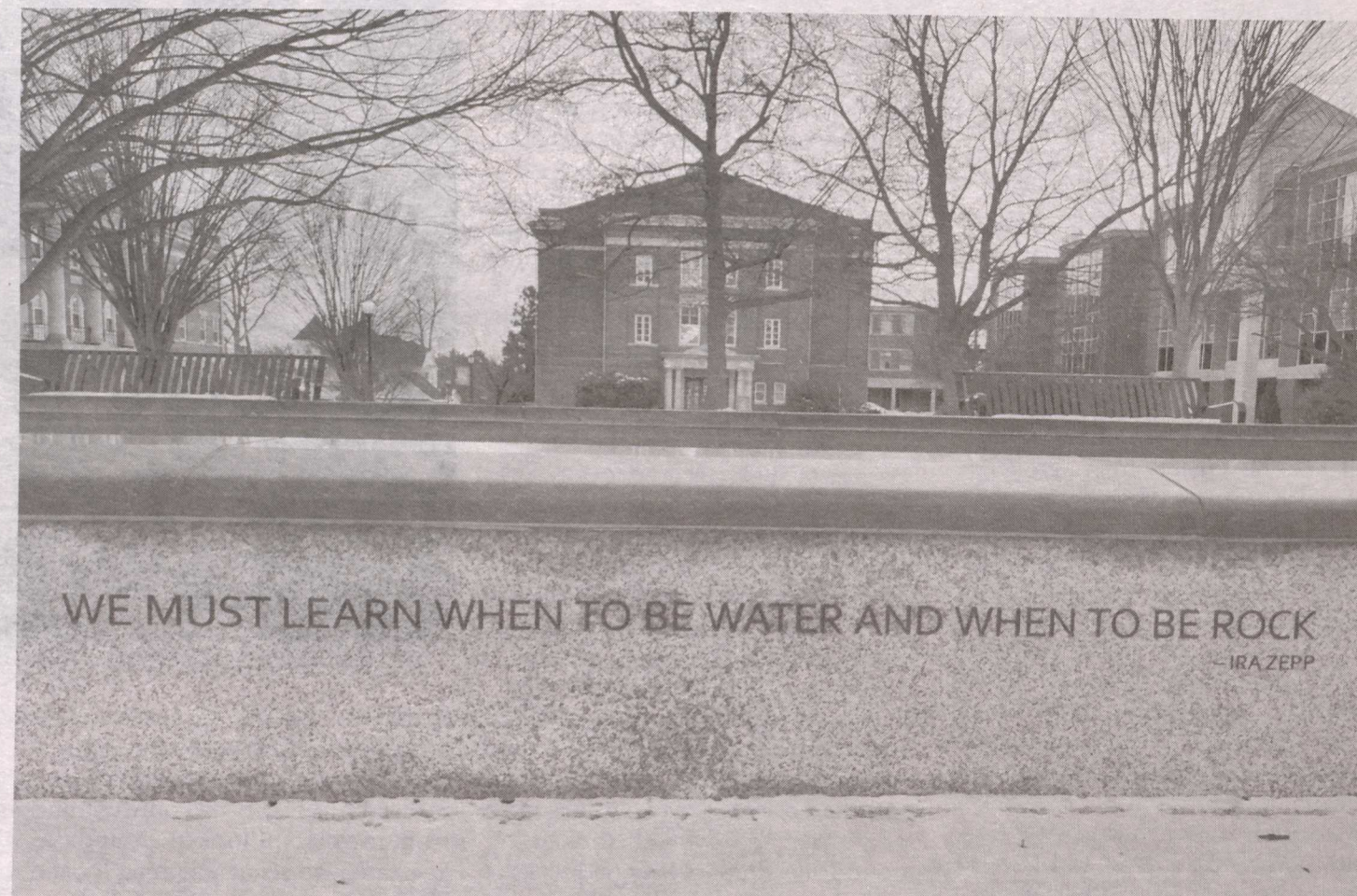
# Letter to the editor: McDaniel College should consider changing its motto

Aidan Finnerty '20

As the next in the Finnerty Family (watch out Westminster) applies to McDaniel College this year, this author cannot be happier as he details the benefits for his sister and her friends.

Two years removed from Zoom graduation and not quite a year removed from a 'prodigal son returns to waltz across the stage on the football field moment,' the confidence and reverence for McDaniel College's education rears in this author. In a newfound job on Representative Susan Wild's reelection team, preparation provided by the Political Science Dept. keeps me going as the "real world" sets in. Although distance and lack of a car prevents my sister's tour from being family-guided, the college campus' annual spring-blossom-beauty is sure to impress. The campus is nestled on the Hill and sits atop Westminster, like a treehouse for those lucky enough to be on the fourth floor of Whiteford hall facing the city. National Public Radio Philadelphia affiliate WHYY's contributors, Katherine Gilmore Richardson and Lena Smith report, "Studies have shown that access to green space increases the quality of life for the surrounding communities and reduces the impacts of the Urban Heat Island effect." This is one of McDaniel's finest qualities; it contains ample green space and even owns a campus farm.

This green space has the potential to not only color students' interaction with their environment, but it also benefits students at the psychological level. A study done



Zepp's quote can be found on the side of the water fountain in McTeer-Zepp Plaza  
(Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press).

by Van den Berg et al finds "significant evidence for the close positive association" between green spaces and a decrease in 'all-cause mortality' and similarly an increase in mental health well-being (2015). Therefore, beyond the nascent benefit of Glar Chicken Tender Thursday, McDaniel benefits its students with access to a natural green space to breathe in that pristine country air.

This functions doubly to take care of students' innate desire to interact with the green grass of the bowl during the football game and provides a boost to one's metaphorical mental health well.

This is the point: McDaniel needs to change that outdated motto. The

current version is "I call you out of the darkness into the light." For a college, which proudly saw its students exit class for the Climate Strike not too long ago, the right motto is found in the words of the immortal presence of longtime professor Ira Zepp.

Zepp says, "**We must learn when to be Water and when to be Rock.**" The words are perhaps the most prescient of any case, certainly more so than our current, forgettable motto. They invoke the elements, rock and water, and intersection between man and the natural world.

This author dares students to ask each other, "What words could more appropriately express our

worldly dilemma as students in a rotting ecosystem than those said by one of the college's beloved professors?"

For those wondering and wandering, visitors to the college can find those words scrawled on the McTeer-Zepp fountain in the center of campus.

Dare I say, a younger man than I once bathed in that fountain? Anyhow, this is my love letter to the college and the professors (Dr. Leahy, Dr. Mongiello, and Dr. Scullion, who answered my emails during COVID-19), who make it a great place to come of age.

I sincerely hope my sister finds this place as her destination.

## The harmful implications of body shaming

Oishee Sarkar  
Contributor

We love to listen to how celebrities have "the perfect body" and have facial features that are considered beauty standards.

Let's take Madison Beer for example; social media users often appreciate her more for her looks than her actual singing. She has a sharp jawline, a small nose and a fuller lip. She also gets bonus points for being tall, skinny and having a lighter skin tone. I am not shaming Madison Beer, but all these features are considered beautiful. I am here to tell you that you do not have to look the same or like that person to be beautiful.

There are 7.9 billion people on this planet, and I believe God made them look the way they look for a reason. As often as we may wonder, we as humans look a lot like what our genes tell us. In various peoples' eyes we might be considered beautiful or ugly and we cannot change their opinions, but

that does not mean we should be treated differently because it does not match someone's taste.

According to an article published by WCNC, a study shows that about 94% of teenage girls and 64% of teenage boys have been body shamed. The article details the stories of Emily Candelario, who knows the stings of body shaming first hand. She's been criticized since elementary school for everything from weight to body hair, even her clothes.

"It's happened my whole life," said Candelario.

After reading this article, it makes me wonder why some people like to point things out that should not matter to them. Until more people speak out about this problem, it will continue.

I myself have dealt with something like this when I was a freshman in high school. A few boys made remarks behind my back about my body, saying that I'm too "shorty" or "chubby". Thank God I had a lot of amazing people



(Photo courtesy of Unsplash user Samuel Ramos)

that stood up for me and will always hype me up no matter what happens.

Even people I know from my own life have faced something similar to what Candelario faced. I asked one of my high school friends, Asha, whether she has been body shamed in school.

"Yes, especially during freshman year. It made me uncomfortable, but I decided to address the situation by giving out awareness," she said.

She was one of the friends who stood up for me during my freshman year of high school when I too was getting not-so-nice remarks about my body. After remembering and analyzing

these events, it is very important for friends or close ones to be there for each other, especially in uncomfortable situations.

My other close friend, Kaleigh, talked about body shaming in her own life.

"Honestly, people have done it behind my back, but it was mostly direct," she said.

We can start to see a pattern in these responses that body shaming can start from a very young age and can slowly tarnish someone's self-image. It is important to raise awareness on this topic, because it impacts so many of us throughout life.



# How “No Way Home” Honors and Celebrates Three Generations of Spider-Man (Spoiler Warning)

Jahan Hosseini  
Staff Reporter



(Photo courtesy of Unsplash user Hector Reyes)

“Spider-Man: No Way Home” had the immensely difficult task of meeting so many expectations and juggling multiple, unique plot points. With leaks of Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield reprising as the web-slinging hero, the stakes of this film became even higher. Despite all this, everything from the humor and action sequences to the emotional stakes was one heck of a ride that can be experienced again and again. Overall, “No Way Home” celebrated two decades of Spider-Man storytelling and something drastically needed during difficult times.

Unlike the previous two Spider-Man series, the third installment of Tom Holland’s version functioned as his true origin story. Fans have complained that the Marvel Cinematic Universe Spider-Man does not suffer any dire consequences for his actions and relies too much on Stark technology. The movie highlights this declared flaw by showing a Time Magazine cover of a baby Spider-Man crying, captioned “Iron Man Jr.” The web-slinging hero that stays true to the comics must deal with heartbreaking loss. Holland’s Spider-Man not only loses his aunt because of his

selflessness, but he also loses his girlfriend and best friend.

The movie had the difficult task of serving justice to all three generations of the live-action Spider-Men. Maguire and Garfield could have been shoved into the film solely for fan service and an easy cash grab. Instead, Marvel took the time to understand the journeys both predecessors endured in their versions and used them to inspire the newest member to handle the heavy load of responsibilities in serving those that afflicted him.

With Maguire being the oldest of the three, he is given the mentorship role. His version regrets Uncle Ben’s death and the failure to save Green Goblin. Peter becomes the darkest version of himself in “Spider-Man 3” when learning Flint Marko/Sandman killed Ben. He compromises his morals of not viciously murdering people, as Aunt May explains to him. The theme of that movie is forgiveness, and Maguire’s character tells Holland that he needs to learn that lesson too. The death of Norman Osborn left a stain on his friendship with Harry, which eventually led to his untimely death. “No Way Home” gave Maguire the chance to undo his mistakes in one fell swoop. He prevents his younger colleague from giving in to hate and unintentionally becoming the monster he is trying to stop while giving Osborn the second chance that he desperately needs.

Garfield sticks out in Hollywood for apparent reasons. His charismatic charm on-screen has won him multiple awards, including Oscars. Unfortunately, his talents and devotion to the superhero were not put into good use in Sony’s reboot. Even with a rushed and faulty script, Garfield poured his heart and soul into the role, making it the most exciting part of his duology. Garfield’s most costly failure was not being able to save Gwen Stacy. His failure led him to give up the superhero life for months until he finally returned. It’s revealed in “No Way Home” that

after battling the Rhino, he stopped pulling his punches—something Stacy would not have wanted from him. There is a touching moment in which Garfield looks at Holland’s Spider-Man and MJ, imagining his life if not for his failures. Definitely in the top five most gut-wrenching moments of the film, he redeems himself by saving his younger colleague’s love interest. The cherry on top is how that moment meant more for Garfield, even though his life was not about to be taken. Garfield’s ability to steal the show has been praised to the point where fans are now demanding an Amazing Spider-Man 3, something seen as highly improbable seven years ago.

It can be easy for the average person in the MCU, especially a naive teenager, to dream of superhero life. As seen in the Disney+ series Hawkeye (2021), heroes are treated as global icons. Of course, this public notion could not be farther from the truth. Every avenger that came before Peter Parker has a dark past that involves the loss of multiple loved ones and their innocence. Spider-Man learns this lesson the hard way, in fact, to an unprecedentedly extreme level. A core to most Spider-Man stories is that he suffers for committing selfless acts. The audience sees this when Maguire loses his uncle and best friend. The audience sees this when Garfield loses his uncle and girlfriend. The audience sees this once more when Holland loses his aunt, girlfriend, best friend, and everyone who knows him. In all three scenarios, Peter was the one responsible to some degree.

The task given to Director John Watts could have gone wrong on so many levels. Including three versions of the same character that has defined the childhoods of many had to be so precise. Thanks to the talents and love for the character from the entire crew, the execution of the fans’ wildest dreams looked too easy. “No Way Home” easily deserves five out of five stars.

## Book review: Squad by Lisa Sterle

Sophia Gilbert  
Staff Reporter

“You know, you gotta be careful around bitches. We roll in packs.”

Maybe you’ve heard this one before: the new girl gets invited to sit with the popular clique at lunch and soon finds herself admitted to their ranks. Sooner or later, though, she discovers that popularity isn’t all it’s cracked up to be. Maggie Tokuda-Hall takes on this beloved trope in her graphic novel *Squad*, illustrated by Lisa Sterle, and adds a twist.

Transfer student Becca soon finds out that the popular girls who invited her in are actually... werewolves?! When given the choice to join the pack, Becca does so without a second thought, but there is a catch. In exchange for their newfound power and strength, the pack has to feed. Once a month, during a full moon, the pack hunts down a human boy (“the worst ones”) and eats him to regain their strength and control their hunger. Soon enough, though, things get complicated and the pack faces discovery or going hungry. Becca

then has to make a decision about what she wants from life and how far she’s willing to go to get it.

*Squad* was a perfect blend of *Mean Girls* and *Jennifer’s Body*. Some may argue that the plot is overused (*Heathers* is another good example that falls into a similar category) but that doesn’t stop it from being campy and fun. There is a major content warning for sexual assault and violence, since these are both pretty relevant topics to the plot. There’s also just some generally insensitive comments made about slut-shaming, disordered eating, homophobia, and Becca’s ethnic background, but for the most part, these are put in the mouths of clearly flawed characters and are not put in a positive light. I’m also aware that some killjoys don’t consider graphic novels as “books” but in my opinion, it’s just another style, one I very much enjoy myself.

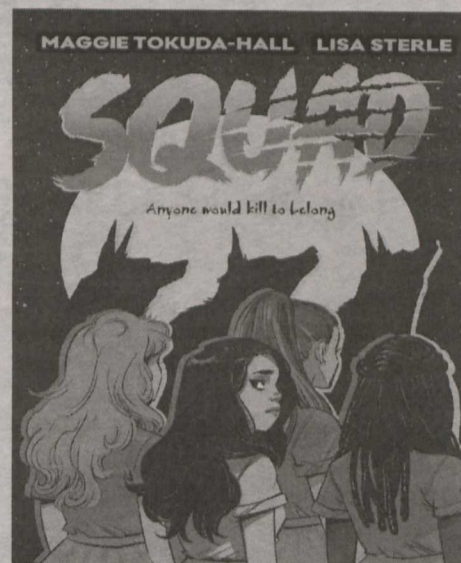
As for the art style, I’m a big fan of the character design and color scheme. All of the characters are unique and easily identifiable, which is helpful in keeping the

plot straight. The colors are really bright and eye-catching, dominated by pinks, blues, teals, and oranges, fitting perfectly with the fast pace of the story itself. The graphic novel itself isn’t too long (about 220 pages) which means that there isn’t quite as much resolution as I would like, especially regarding Becca’s relationship with her mom and her developing romantic relationship with another character, which happens almost entirely off-page. The characters are also incredibly morally grey, and because of that, not always entirely likeable, but they make it hard to look away. *Squad* accomplishes a lot in terms of taking on sexual assault and the expectations on women to be passive rather than aggressive. It also acts as an allegory for the hunger that women feel for space, a voice, and control over their lives. It may not be the most nuanced take, but I don’t think it has to be. It can still be a dramatic, enjoyable read about a popular clique of high school girls that are secretly werewolves and be left (mostly) at that.

*Squad* is a graphic novel written by Maggie Tokuda-Hall and illustrated by Lisa Sterle. It was published Oct. 5 2021 by

Greenwillow Books and can be found wherever books are sold. If you’d like to learn more about Maggie Tokuda-Hall, you can visit her website at [www.prettymaggie.com](http://www.prettymaggie.com). If you’d like to learn more about Lisa Sterle, you can find her website at [www.lisasterle.com](http://www.lisasterle.com).

*Do you have a new book or novel you'd like me to review next? Feel free to drop a suggestion via email at [freepress@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:freepress@mcdaniel.edu) or message the Free Press Instagram page @mcdfreepress.*



(Photo courtesy of Greenwillow Books)



# Welcome back to the Hill!

N	R	B	V	R	B	U	D	A	P	E	S	T	R
N	E	O	R	D	S	P	I	D	E	R	M	A	N
E	M	M	T	M	U	N	I	T	O	B	T	O	E
R	E	E	E	E	E	N	W	S	I	A	M	E	B
W	M	E	C	R	E	N	I	N	N	T	W	R	I
N	B	E	B	G	N	C	N	R	N	E	A	B	S
N	E	B	E	R	R	A	T	N	O	E	T	E	A
J	R	E	R	E	M	E	E	O	V	E	E	N	S
M	A	N	R	E	O	R	R	O	A	M	R	E	U
T	N	N	R	C	T	C	B	N	T	S	T	V	M
E	C	R	T	E	T	V	R	B	O	E	O	E	D
S	E	V	M	E	O	B	E	T	R	A	W	N	R
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D	A	U	Q	S	R	M	K	E	N	E	R	O	R

WINTER BREAK  
GREECE  
BUDAPEST  
JAN TERM  
SPIDER MAN  
WATER TOWER  
INNOVATORS  
MOTTO  
BENEVENTO  
SQUAD  
REMEMBRANCE



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## McDaniel transitioning to assigned parking for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

Kyle Sarnowski  
Honda Civic Enthusiast

On March 4, McDaniel College finalized their decision to assign all student drivers a dedicated parking spot beginning in the 2022 Fall semester. Due to an increase in parking-related accidents, injuries, thefts, and fatalities, the College chose to re-evaluate the current systems regarding student parking.

"It's no secret that nobody on this campus can park their car correctly" said Ricardo Ashley, a student commuter.

Students across campus have shared their complaints regarding the lack of an ability to properly park amongst their peers.

"Maybe next semester I'll actually be able to park behind Whiteford without dodging the rear bumper of a pickup truck," Ashley added.

The effort to reform student parking across campus will take place over 13 phases. The first phase of parking reformation will begin with the repainting of parking



*No seriously, who parks like that?*  
(Kyle Sarnowski / McDaniel Free Press)

lines across campus over the coming weeks, successfully (but not surprisingly) disrupting campus life in every capacity. The rest of the phases as outlined in the College's plan will take place following the conclusion of the spring semester.

Students will be able to apply for a parking pass to be used during the 2022-2023 academic year this

summer. After student housing has been assigned, all students who are granted a parking pass will also be randomly assigned a numbered parking spot. Students will then be required to park in their numbered spot throughout the entire academic year.

Additionally, the College has specified that all non-standard sized

vehicles, such as pick-up trucks and miniature vehicles such as Smart Cars, will be assigned parking locations within the visitors parking area located next to Kenneth R. Gill Stadium. This decision was made due to the potential risks that pick-up trucks could cause to the population of students who drive reasonably sized vehicles, causing

See **ASSIGNED PARKING**, pg 2

## McDaniel Unveils "Big Honkin' M" on Water Tower

Eamonn Fay  
Guy we Found Outside

Students at McDaniel College were delighted to return from winter break to a greatly-anticipated change: at long last, there is now a Big Honkin' M on the water tower. The Big Honkin' M was placed on the water tower due to unprecedented popular demand. A poll sent out during the Fall semester asked what kind of improvements students would like to see for the school. An overwhelming 99 percent of respondents answered "Big Honkin' M on the Water Tower". 0.5 percent of students voted "actual improvements to the school" while the other 0.5 percent voted "other".

Though the purpose of the Big Honkin' M was at first unclear, it has proved to be a fantastic asset.

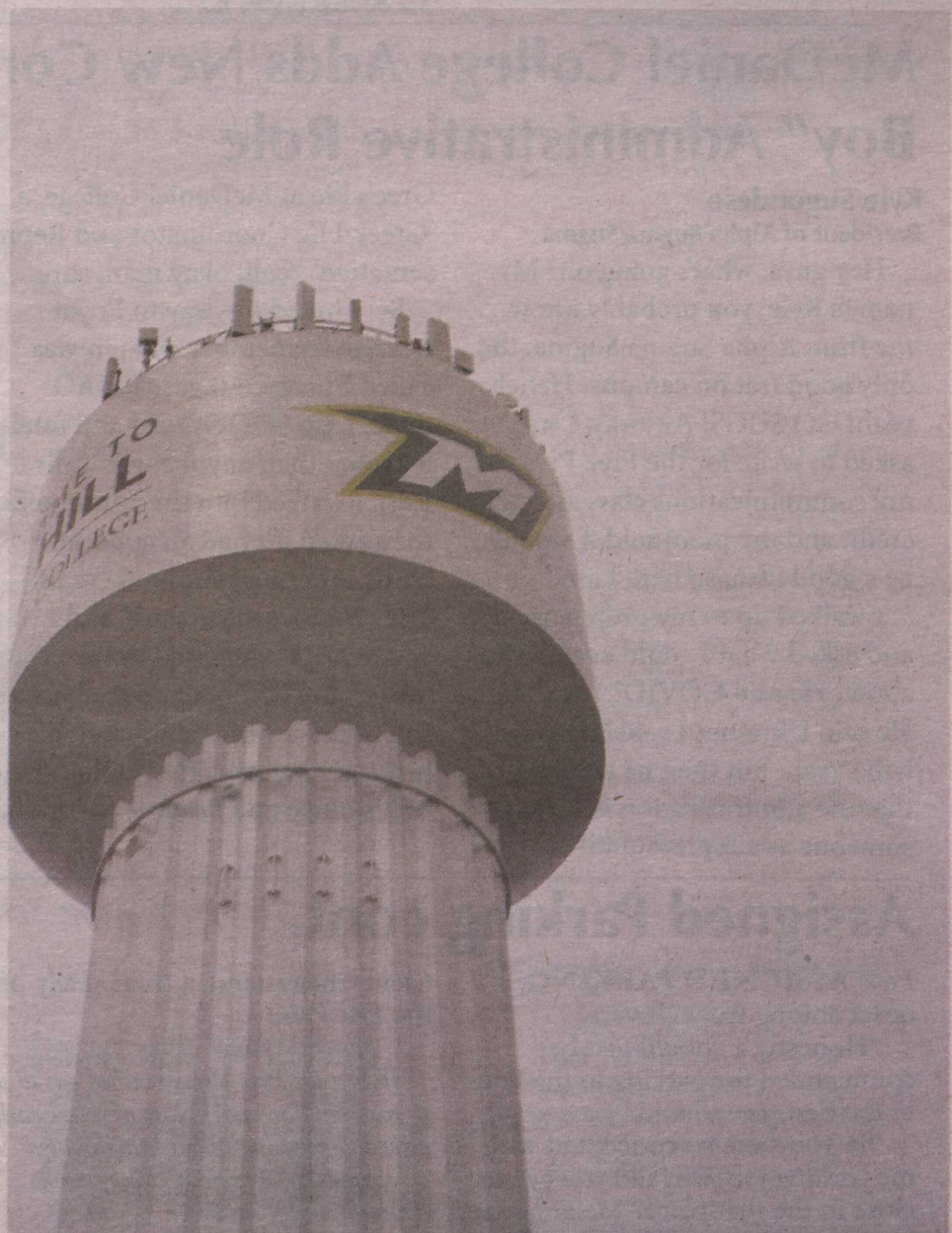
Andrea Cungadero, a student living in North Village, has found the Big Honkin' M to be a welcome change in her campus life. "Sometimes I get so hungover that I actually forget where I am," she said. "All I have to do is stumble outside and look upon the majesty of the Big Honkin' M and I remember immediately." A lacrosse player that chose to remain anonymous feels a similar fondness for the Big Honkin' M. "When I'm walking home from practice, bleary eyed, tired, and sweating jungle juice, the Big Honkin' M is what keeps me going," they said.

Seeing the positive response, President Jasken is considering making the Big Honkin' M even bigger than it currently is. All we can do now is hope that she does the right thing and makes the Big Honkin' M as big (and honkin') as it possibly can be.

Actual improvements to the school  
0.5%



Big Honkin' M on the Water Tower  
99%



*Eighth wonder of the world*  
(Image courtesy of that guy we found outside).



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# School on a Decline: McDaniel Buildings Begin Sliding Downhill

Alexis Dudley  
Dixie Normus

Not feeling as winded as you walk up the hill? Is traveling to class easier on your knees now? Recent reports from the president's office confirm that McDaniel's students are not the only ones who like to sled down the hill, but the buildings as well. President Julia Jasken told the Free Press on Tuesday that the buildings are in fact, "slightly shifting down the hill".

A few students have reported feeling as if their center of gravity is off. Recently, there has been a spike in visits to the Wellness Center regarding shin splints and general disorientation. The spike has encouraged pre-med students to volunteer after class at the center for a greater sense of community on campus and an EXP tag (Link for Sign Up Below). Campus Safety's monthly report has shown an increase in noise disruptions, damaged bushes, and physical altercations due to falling students. Last week, a fourth-year student claimed to have "lost balance" and then had fallen out of a window from the second floor of Hill Hall. Luckily, the Terror Taxi was driving around campus and was able to

safely catch the student, supply them with candy for the emotional trauma, and get them to class on time!

Some students have reported no change in their center of gravity or feelings of imbalance. Allegedly, some of McDaniel's clubs have decided to use social media to spread the message about the social issues arising. McDaniel's Green Life posted on Instagram regarding the environmental effects this change could have, but user '@BelieveScience372' replied, "I didn't feel off balance at all. It's all these idiots in power making kids get

*Don't trip! (Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press).*

taught about a round earth. If the Earth was round, I would've fallen over by now."

McDaniel's Swim Team has been posting often on Twitter to delay practice due to needing to refill the pool. McDaniel's Dining Hall has also posted to the AVI Services website to alert students of the removal of soup from the lunch and dinner menus. When asked about the recent menu updates, a Glar Manager replied, "By removing soup, we prevent future leaks that could create spills. Our job is to provide a safe and welcoming environment for our

students, the last thing we would want is someone to slip on chicken noodle soup and get injured."

Although the shift is subtle, students fear what these changes may hold for the future. Will students be able to focus in class if items continue randomly falling over? Do we have to remove the tour of the dining hall during new students' visits due to a lack of soup? Will there be a point where we don't see farther and climb higher?

[www.mcdanielfreepress.com](http://www.mcdanielfreepress.com)

## In An Effort To Raise School Spirit, McDaniel College Pushes A "Green & Gold Grass" Agenda Across Campus

Max Engle  
Contributor (to climate change)

The air's getting warmer and the sun's getting brighter as it shines down on McDaniel's campus this Spring! But the last two years of utter hell in a global pandemic have damaged one of the most pivotal parts of our lives: our Green Terror pride.

That's right. Have you been feeling your love for McDaniel College slipping through your fingers? Have you found yourself walking outside, the sight of overbearing gray clouds ruining your day? Well fret no longer. On Tuesday, McDaniel's Administration announced a new plan to raise everyone's spirits.

"We've been seeing more and more drunk students crawling their way into their weekday classes," said President Julia Jasken. "And we have thought of the perfect plan for a brighter future. All of our grass on campus is now green and gold to show our Green Terror pride!"

Even now, students can walk around campus and notice the stark contrast of green patches of natural turf mixed amongst golden dying grass. How fantastic! The natural beauty of campus embraces our Green Terror pride and allows us to feel welcome and warm each time we step outside.



*This grass is green and gold, we swear. Sorry. We couldn't afford color printing :/ (Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press).*

"I love waking up to dead Golden grass every day," says senior Tim Jones. "It reminds me of how much money I spend on this school, and the green reminds me of how much I envy the administration for being so smart!"

Other students embrace the bound-to-be tradition by many means. Some spray chemical de-weeder between classes on their lawns, while others rip the green leaves off of the trees to bring inside their dorms, to feel "more in

tune with nature," says junior Kylie Moranne.

When asked about the future of the Green & Gold grass initiative, Jasken had this to say: "In the Winter, snow covers our trees, our grass, and our buildings. We don't trust our students to recognize the same campus when they come back in Feb. each year, so we've worked with the city of Westminster to increase our carbon emissions in order to decrease how much snow is on campus. Students are more

productive in warmer weather, so let's get this baby cooking!"

Jasken had no further comments on the new initiative at McDaniel.

*For future updates on McDaniel's plans for more school spirit, step outside and set fire to your lawn.*



# Is the Green Terror doing enough to protect this city?

**M. DeMarcus Engle**  
Staff Reporter

The Green Terror wears a mask. His identity is a secret. And his abs are so, so beautiful. You know who else wears a mask, hides their identity, and has amazing abs?

Spider-Man. Batman. The Flash. That one dude from V for Vendetta (great flick).

So, what makes the Green Terror so different from them, that he spends his time lollygagging around Admitted Students Day, mysteriously not speaking a word to anyone? Does he think that

makes him hotter? It doesn't!

Crime is rampant across Westminster and McDaniel campus, with students sneaking into bars and vaping in their rooms, with RA's (our schools most trusted officials) sleeping with their residents and smoking weed. I want to see the Green Terror kicking ass in Down Under and absolutely wrecking the shit out of any freshman who weasels their way into any bar in Westminster.

The Green Terror needs to stand up for this school and bust down any party happening on Pennsylvania Ave. Enough "bangers," enough

"keg stands." Campus Safety has to work hard on putting out garbage fires and playing beer pong, so who is here to really keep McDaniel safe?

Who is going to protect freshman girls from trying to date senior football players?

Who is going to stop that one floor in Rouzer and Whiteford from smelling like weed all the time?

Who is going to keep the public from filling up their water bottles at the pub after hours?

Who is going to tell freshman that the friends they make in their first semester will all hate each other in a year?

Instead, the Terror is wasting his time waddling around at admissions events and some sports games, showing off his hot, sexy abs

and muscles, with no fear of what happens at our fine school after hours.

This is a public call for the Green Terror to do more. To put his claws forward and his ass in the air, ready to tackle the dangers that haunt our campus. We need a hero at McDaniel, an icon for the people. We need the Terror to take a stand against the slime that infects our community.

For more on the Green Terror, tackle him next time you see him.



## McHoroscopes: What's in store for April?

**Danadia Williams**  
McDaniel's favorite (and only) psychic



Today's McHoroscope is brought to you by the Green Terror's Greater Form

**Aries (March 21 - April 19):** Don't go to Glar today, bestie. The stars told me it won't end well.

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20):** Inner peace isn't everything. Create some outer violence.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 20):** You look hot today. And so does your other personality.

**Cancer (June 21 - July 22):** Brenda, please call me back. I didn't mean what I said. The kids miss you. I miss you.

**Leo (July 23 - August 22):** The entire world doesn't revolve around you. The sun does though. Slay Copernicus.

**Virgo (August 23 - September 22):** Let your inner child out today. Run in a park. Play hide and seek. Eat some Play-Doh. Sniff some glue.

**Libra (September 23 - October 22):** You should watch the 1987 hit movie Dirty Dancing tonight. Have the time of your life. Never feel like

this before. Take Baby out of the corner.

**Scorpio (October 23 - November 21):** Time to do some soul searching. No, seriously. You should find your soul soon. You'll need it.

**Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21):** Wenn Sie sich die Mühe gemacht haben, dies zu übersetzen: Hoffentlich haben Sie einen schlechten Tag. Machs besser.

**Capricorn (December 22 - January 19):** There's some good news waiting for you when you check your mailbox so you should look. Or don't, I don't care. I'm not your boss.

**Aquarius (January 20 - February 18):** Why would you say that? No, seriously, you're being so crazy right now. Like, how could you even think that? You're so sensitive, like, seriously. I can't believe you would say that.

**Pisces (February 19 - March 20):** I know what you did. Fess up.

## McDaniel Speedrunners— a new club for students looking to complete every offered major in under four years

**Max Engle**  
Yeah

Everyone knows that McDaniel is the perfect place to double or even triple major in whatever your heart desires. You want to master American Sign Language and Physics? Go for it! You want to learn Philosophy and History at the same time? Totally not gouache! Want to major in Political Science and Environmental Studies? Good luck finding a job, loser!

But a new wave is hitting McDaniel under the title McDaniel Speedrunners. The old group of gamers has discovered a way to take every single major at the college—and still graduate in under four years.

The president, junior Howard Stern, has stated it's not as hard as it seems.

"Oh yeah, you just need to be white," Stern stated. "And have a really good pouty face." Stern then proceeded to make his eyes really big and curl his lower lip down. God, he looked so cute.

Stern and his executive board all stated that because of their innate privilege, they can charismatically convince every advisor on campus

that they are actively working on every major by completing every McDaniel plan requirement 10 times over.

One member, the original founder of the club, 42-year-old and super-duper senior Conner Hanes, has stated that, "I've been trying to do a 100% complete run, by getting 100% in all of my classes by the end of my fourth year. I'm actually on my fifth tenure at McDaniel, because I keep forgetting that MyCareer and My Design are actually worth anything!"

After a quick lock-pick and sneak into the financial aid office, it was discovered that Hanes is over \$1,200,000 in debt to McDaniel in loans since 2002.

Other students have taken on the challenge of completing every major at the school, to which the campus rewards them by just treating them like every other student. How humbling!

For more on McDaniel Speedrunners, stay tuned to the McDaniel Free Press.

## Top 10 crying spots on campus

**Ciara O'Brien**  
Occasionally Emotional

1. Bathroom on the LL floor of the library
2. Harvey Stone
3. The Whiteford Lounge, first floor
4. Your ex's apartment
5. Floating on your back in the middle of the fountain
6. Little Baker, under the watchful eyes of the religious figures on the stained glass windows
7. That telephone booth thing in the student center

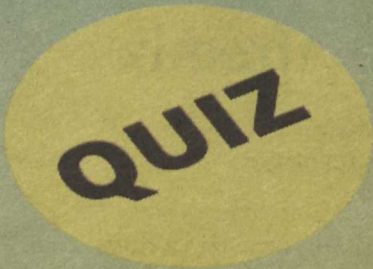
8. Practice rooms in the music building (No one goes in there anyway)
9. The back corners of Glar. After, you can seek solace in an ice cream sandwich to drown your sorrows.

10. Your mom's house

No matter where you cry on campus, know that you are not alone. Try these locations out. Who knows, you might even have someone to cry with next time.



# Test your Compatibility with McDaniel's Heartthrob, the Green Terror



Danadia Williams, Love Doctor <3

Is your favorite color green?

yes/no

Do you care about personality over looks?

yes/no

Do you ever stop climbing?

yes/no

Do you care about athletics?

yes/no

Do you like your men over six feet tall?

yes/no

Are you comfortable with clothes covered in fur?

yes/no

Do you have free weekends to go to football games?

yes/no

Do you enjoy getting your picture taken?

yes/no

Are you a furry? Answer honestly.

yes/no

Finally, and most importantly, do you love The Hill?

yes/no



If you answered yes to five or more questions, you *are* compatible with the Green Terror! Congratulations! Submit your results to win a chance at a date with the monster, the myth, the legend himself. And one free smoothie coupon from the Pub.



If you answered no to five or more, have better taste.



## Letter to the Editor: Ditch AP Style Already

**Ciara O'Brien**  
Jaded Senior Editor

As your fabulous (and sexy) editor-in-chief over the past two years, I have had my fair share of exposure to Associated Press style, more commonly known as AP Style. Workshops. Style Guidebooks. Online Cheat Sheets. Countless “\*insert grammatical concept\* in AP style” Google searches. You name it, I’ve poured myself into every mind numbing guideline and stylistic practice the Associated Press has to offer.

The guiding principles behind AP style are consistency, clarity, accuracy, and unimaginable arrogance. However, every attempt at these guidelines misses the mark, except that last one. In an attempt to be rid of this gatekeeper’s wet dream forever, I am requesting that the next editor-in-chief do away with AP style guidelines for the *Free Press* now and forever.

To give you a sense of how absurd this shit is, let me give a few examples.

Take states: When a state name appears next to a body of text, spell

it out.

Seems simple enough, right?

Oh wait.

Actually, you should abbreviate it when the name of a city and a state are used together.

Or when it is used as part of a short-term political affiliation.

Or unless you’re talking about Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Ohio, Texas, or Utah.

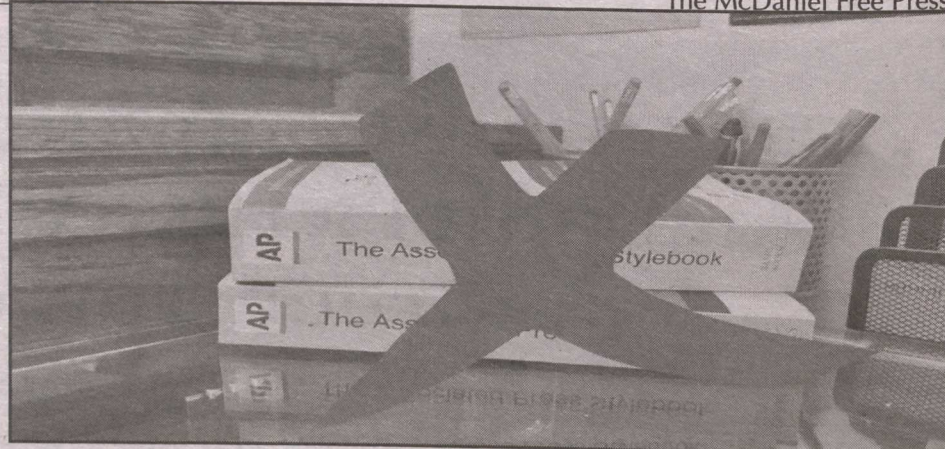
Plus, if you’re talking about a list of approx. 30 random ass cities, you don’t need to include the state name at all. You can’t make this stuff up.

God forbid you begin a sentence with a number, except (of course) for sentences that begin with a year.

*Two hundred freshmen were hazed by Herbie Hoover during the library’s first-look session?* Try again.

*Herbie Hoover, during the Library’s first-look session, hazed 200 freshmen?* Somehow that’s better.

Numbers below ten should always be spelled out, except for when referring to money. As journalists, I get that we want to sound fancier than we actually are, but I just can’t comprehend the



Book  
(Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press).

consistency in that.

One of the largest contested issues of AP style is its absolute refusal to acknowledge the existence of the oxford comma. However, there is one exception: commas should not be utilized before a conjunction in a simple series, but should be used before the terminal conjunction in a complex series, if part of that series also contains a conjunction. HUH? Just let me have my extra comma! You’re unintentionally changing the meaning of my sentence!

Another problem with AP style is that it changes as quickly as the list of administrators employed here, making it nearly impossible for anyone to keep up with it. Up until 2010, it was proper

to spell out “Web site” instead of “website”. The change was announced on AP Stylebook’s twitter account, @APStylebook, and was enforced immediately via the online version of the style book. I guess if you were a budding journalist who didn’t feel the need to constantly refresh their twitter account, wielding you unaware and helpless against the style change, you would’ve instantly been making an unintentional faux pas in the journalism realm.

The AP Stylebook is currently on its 56th Edition, never fully achieving the honor of perfection. Let’s hope the *Free Press* celebrates its 1st year (yeah, I did that) loosening itself from the grip of AP Style’s esoteric ways soon.

## Theater Ghosts Displeased with Sherlock! Musical

**Eamonn Fay**  
Funnyman-in-Chief

McDaniel College’s recent performance of *Sherlock! The Musical*, while generally well received by audiences, has evidently left the ghosts that haunt Alumni Hall saying “boo.” Following a production troubled by unexplained sabotage, equipment failing inexplicably, and props floating on their own, a paranormal investigator was sent into the theater to interview the disgruntled deceased and find out what all the ruckus was about.

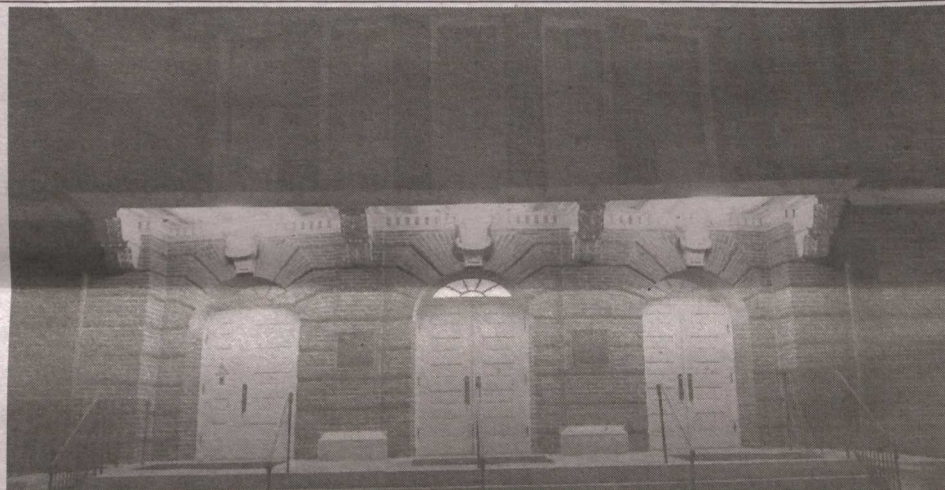
Jonathan McGuinness, who

is celebrating his 100th year of haunting the theater this week, was displeased with the writing and casting choices.

“I don’t get it,” he said. “Why is Watson a girl? Did they even read any of the books?”

The ghosts of Alumni Hall have apparently had complaints regarding casting for a long time now. Anne Holt, who died of boredom during a 1979 production of *MacBeth*, thinks that there should be more consideration regarding the casting process for all productions.

“Every year they do that stupid ghost tour thing and they never even ask us about it,” she said.



BOO!! Did I scare ya?  
(Courtesy of Eamonn Fay)

“They just keep making stuff up and we’re just like, ‘dude, we’re right here’, you know? Let us slam some doors or something.”

The McDaniel College Theatre department has been in contact

with the ghosts via spiritual mediums who are hoping to collect feedback and reach mutually beneficial agreements involving future productions.

## Auntie Anne’s Pretzel Truck Line Extends into Texas

**Eamonn Fay**  
Moderately-Sized Man on Campus

Who doesn’t love a good pretzel? McDaniel College solidified itself as the college for pretzel fanatics nationwide last semester as the line for the Auntie Anne’s Pretzel truck reached all the way to Dallas, Texas. We got in touch with McDaniel alumni from across the country to talk to some of the patient and hungry students to hear about their experience.

“It’s hard,” said one sophomore standing in Kentucky. “But I think it’ll be worth the wait. I hope they have the little hotdog bites.”

Another student in Arkansas showed no signs of losing patience. “I’ll give up this spot when I’m dead,” they said.

Though many admired the patience and resilience of these

students, others remained skeptical. A faculty member who chose to remain unnamed called the situation “baffling” and “impossible.”

“How did this even happen?” he remarked.

“There’s barely like two-thousand students here. Who are the rest of these people?”

The two Auntie Anne’s employees manning the truck showed remarkable grit and dedication to their work.

“Send help,” said one. “I want to see my children again.”

“I have not blinked in forty-eight hours,” said the other.

“I have seen the face of God and lived.”

Sadly, the Auntie Anne’s truck has not yet reappeared on campus, but we have one thing to say to them for when they do: you’re gonna need a bigger truck!

## Prospective Professor Probably Named Paul

**Cara Woolston**  
Contributor (to Deez Nuts)

As the 2021-2022 academic year ends, McDaniel’s various departments are in the process of hiring new professors, and one is probably named Paul. “There is something about Pauls and becoming professors that really is an anomaly,” said Paul Hardy, PhD, a researcher and lecturer at California University.

“We are trying to get a Paul in the Political Science department right now,” said Kim Smith, McDaniel’s Political Science & International Relations Chair.

“I really like alliterations and I think a lot of people agree with me,” she explained further.

McDaniel currently has six professors named Paul and is striving for double digits. “As of right now, five percent of our faculty are named Paul and we want to be the first private college to reach seven percent; however,

Stevenson is close on our tail,” said President Julia Jasken during the most recent strategic planning meeting.

While some are embracing the college’s new goal, others are not so enthusiastic about it.

“It’s kind of weird honestly. I’ve had three professors so far, whose first name is Paul” said sophomore Eliana Jones.

### Spring 2022 Editorial Team

**Ciara O'Brien '22**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Rachel Allen '24**  
Assistant Editor

**Molly Sherman '22**  
Assistant Editor



# Meet the New Editor-In-Chief: Bowie P. Cat

## Generic Staff Reporter #3

As the Free Press' current editor-in-chief, Ciara O'Brien, will be graduating at the conclusion of this school year, the remaining staff has been on the search for a successor. After a lengthy interview process, including candidates recently graduating from Princeton and Cornell, it was determined that the perfect candidate was, well, a bit closer to home.

The Free Press is excited to announce that the Editor-In-Chief for the 2022-2023 school year will be current Free Press ghostwriter Bowie P. Cat. Bowie has long been contributing to the Free Press, writing for Staff Reporter Sophia Gilbart and frequently submitting articles as a "Guest Contributor," so it's exciting that Bowie is finally moving up in the world. In light of this development, we sat down with Bowie so McDaniel students can get to know the new editor-in-chief of the Free Press.

**Birthday...** February 15

**Favorite Food...** Chicken-Flavored Pâté

**Favorite Sport...** Soccer

**Favorite Song...** "Feed Me Now" by Saint Motel

**I Can't Live Without...** My teal pizza hoodie that says "I licked it so it's mine"

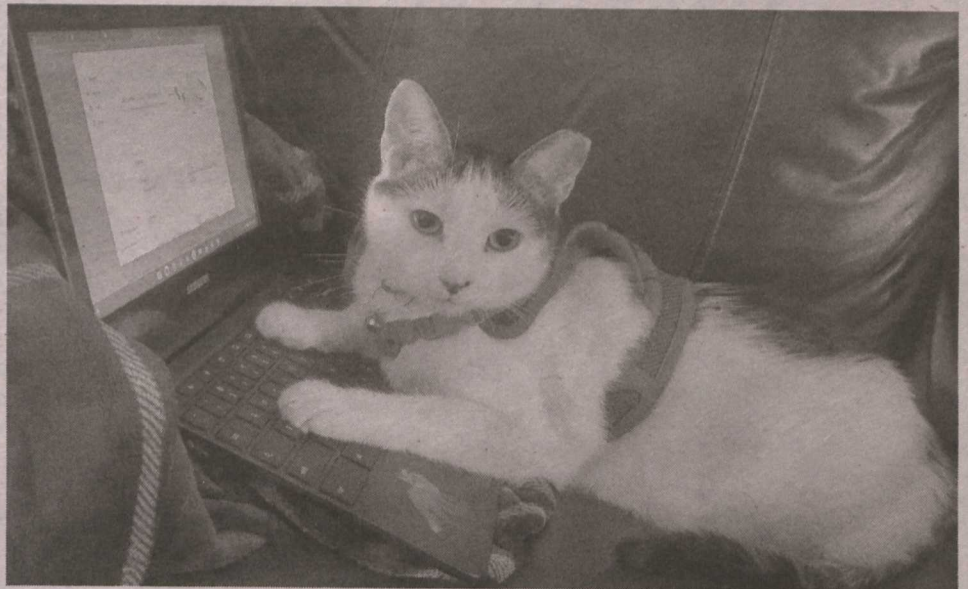
**Ideal Vacation...** Somewhere sunny and full of birds

**Most Prized Possession...** The dusty bottle cap I found under the refrigerator

**Hidden Talent...** Pushing open latched doors with my cinder block head

**Worst Habit...** Scratching up the carpet on the stairs

**Favorite Place...** A warm lap, preferably with blankets, or a particularly sunny window



Our new EIC in action  
(Sophia Gilbart / McDaniel Free Press).

**Favorite Show...** "Calming TV for Cats: Squirrels and Birds (Six Hours)"

**Biggest Pet Peeve...** When my food bowl is empty and I'm told that I'm "being dramatic" and "just ate an hour ago"

**Favorite Person...** Sophia, unless

someone else has treats for me

**Favorite Animal...** Myself

Congratulations to Bowie P. Cat and on behalf of the current staff of the Free Press, we're excited to see what you'll do as editor-in-chief!

## McDaniel Basketball Headed to March Madness

### Javon Spencer

#### McDaniel Basketball Superfan

Many people don't know this, but the assistant coach for Saint Peters University, Ryan Whalen's cousin, is the head coach of McDaniel's basketball team, Kevin Curley. People didn't know nor care about this information until Saint Peters recently started making history within the March Madness world.

Entering the bracket as the 15th seed, Saint Peter's was able to defeat the 2nd (Kentucky) and 7th seed (Murray State) to advance to the sweet sixteen. This will be the first Sweet Sixteen appearance in school history! The Peacocks were planning on going all the way that was until they were hit with a covid violation as of March 21st.

Apparently, after their big win against Murray State, players held a huge after-party that was open to both students and the public, which the coach wasn't aware of, and half the team came back with positive covid results, forcing them to have to forfeit their spot due to breaking NCAA covid violations.

On page 235 of the newly revised NCAA rule book, it states that, "If the coach of a covid-19 positive team knows of another team that is covid negative and contains players that are willing to take their place, they are eligible to replace them in the tournament."

Upon learning this information, an ESPN reporter asked Saint Peter's Head Coach, Ryan, if he had another team in mind.

"Currently, I am extremely furious with my team's behavior and lack of responsibility following our win against Murray State. We asked many D1 and D2 teams to take our place, but they weren't willing to share their accomplishments with our school if we won a championship ring if they were to win, nor did they want our coaching staff to help along the way. That's just not something we're not interested in," he said.

"On the other hand, we're desperately looking for a way for our boys to win a championship out of this situation. After talking with assistant coach, Ryan Whalen, he was able to figure out a deal to make that happen. He was able to talk with his cousin, Kevin, who's the head coach of a tiny D3 school in Westminster, MD called McDaniel College. They came to an agreement that allowed our coaching staff to call the shots from the sidelines, and

if we were to win the championship not only would our school receive rings and recognition, but so would theirs. They could be named the first D3 school in sports history to ever win an NCAA championship!" McDaniel plans on hitting the courts on April 2, and could participate if St. Peters defeats Purdue and advances to the final four. The McDaniel community is in utter chaos due to the fact their school could possibly win a championship on a national level.

The school plans on streaming the game in WMC Alumni Hall where all students are welcome to watch. Hopefully, it's a huge turnout, as the McDaniel Community cheers for their fellow classmates.

Go Green Terrors!

## OPINION: McDaniel College Should Do an Online Semester in 2023, Just For Fun

### J. Towel

#### Dean of Somethin'

I live just off campus, on Pennsylvania Avenue, and I haven't known peace since students came back from quarantine.

I understand that it was a global pandemic, and everyone was melting away in their childhood homes and losing jobs and loved ones, but honestly the six months that McDaniel was free of any and all students was the last time I was able to sleep at night without thinking of the terrors that live on McDaniel's campus.

Students drinking, smoking, having sex, not studying for class—all cardinal sins. There has been no 'Spring Fling' since 2019 and I intend to keep it that way! I want to wake up in the morning, look

out my window, and be at peace knowing McDaniel has gotten rid of its biggest problem—its students.

So, I am proposing that, for my sake if nothing else, that McDaniel do another semester fully online and prevent anyone from coming back for a long, long time. It probably saves you money, yeah? You don't need to hire people to make awful food anymore, or even janitorial staff.

While people are away, you can use the classrooms for something cool, like a zoo or aquarium! Then Westminster can finally have a positive influence on top of the hill!

I'm just saying that everyone's lives will be easier if we go back to fully online McDaniel, because I want it to be that way. Some might say that local businesses will

suffer, to which I would say, "You think McDaniel students support local businesses??" Others might say "what about the students' experience?" To which I say, "so what? who cares?!"

Anyone who disagrees with me is either a greedy student or one of those Westminster locals obsessed with McDaniel, even though they didn't even go there.

SLEEPY, from p. 2

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# Which version of the Green Terror are you?

(All photos courtesy of the McDaniel College Archives)



How would your friends describe you?  
A- Sensitive  
B- Athletic  
C- Attentive  
D- Friendly

What is most important to you?  
A- Happiness  
B- Power  
C- Friendship  
D- Popularity

What do you look for in a potential partner?  
A- Personality  
B- Physique  
C- Eyes  
D- Smile

What do you like to do on the weekend?  
A- Hardcore drugs  
B- Hitting the gym  
C- Watching a movie with friends  
D- Going out to the bar

Thoughts on this sentence: I don't scare easily.  
A- Somewhat disagree  
B- Neutral  
C- Somewhat agree  
D- Strongly agree

What is your best quality?  
A- I'm laid back  
B- I'm sexyyy lol  
C- I'm loyal  
D- I'm funny

What's your go-to drink on a night out?  
A- Something mixed + fruity  
B- Beer  
C- Apple Juice  
D- Mozzarella sticks



**Mostly As, 1974:** Although you have the best of intentions, chaos reigns in your life. Don't worry, we know that it's out of your claws. Take a nap this weekend. You deserve rest.



**Mostly Bs, 1990:** You are athletic and suave. Ladies love you. You are the hero of M. DeMarcus Engle's dreams. Do me a favor and stay away from the freshman girls, alright?



**Mostly Cs, 1979:** Despite your burly exterior, you have a sensitive side. Your friends think you're a great listener, and you are always there for you when you need them. You are misunderstood. Do you need a hug? Come here.



**Mostly Ds, 1992:** You are social and outgoing! Everyone loves you. You have no problem getting along with anyone. One piece of advice: stop playing Wonderwall (acoustic version) for everyone you meet. No one wants to hear it.



# The McDaniel Free Press

Volume 25, Issue 5 | April 20, 2022

INSIDE: Get to know Ben Smith (pg. 2) | McComics (pg. 4) | The importance of green spaces (pg. 7)

## McDaniel celebrates its tenth president: Julia Jasken

Ciara O'Brien  
Editor-in-Chief

Last week was action-packed on McDaniel's campus, featuring a wide range of festivities and celebrations, including a Spoken Word performance, McDaniel's first academic symposium, a fireworks display and much more, all leading up to President Julia Jasken's inauguration that Saturday.

The official installation ceremony was held on April 9 at 3:30 p.m. in Gill Gymnasium, and was attended by faculty, staff, alumni, students, families, community members and distinguished representatives from various colleges and universities.

After the ceremony, Jasken 'rang in' the Old Main Bell and celebrated with a reception in Memorial Plaza.

The week kicked off with Jasken throwing the first pitch in honor of NCAA Division III week during the Green Terror baseball game against the Gettysburg Bullets on April 5.

On April 6, the College hosted a reception for representatives from the City of Westminster to celebrate McDaniel's connection to the city.

April 7 welcomed spoken word artist Adan Bean to WMC Alumni Hall, accompanied with select poetry readings by McDaniel students Max Sweeney '24, Madge Myer '25, Christina Baker '23 and Lavi Hotea '23. The event was



President Julia Jasken ringing the Old Main Bell after inauguration ceremony  
(Photo courtesy of McDaniel College).

hosted by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of the Alumni Council.

McDaniel students and faculty showcased 25 academic lectures and presentations through the inaugural Academic Symposium on April 8. The day ended with a screening of the film "Zootopia" in WMC Alumni Hall and a rainy but vibrant fireworks display overlooking Kenneth R. Gill Stadium.

The week of celebration culminated in the main event on April 9: Jasken's installation ceremony. Bruce Preston '75, chair

of the McDaniel College Board of Trustees, presided over the ceremony. The invocation was given by Richard Smith '00, Ph.D., associate provost for equity and belonging.

Carroll County Delegate Haven Shoemaker gave greetings on behalf of the State of Maryland; as well as Westminster Mayor Mona Becker; James E. Lightner '59, Hon. Litt.D. '17, professor emeritus of Math, representing the Phi Beta Kappa Society on behalf of the delegates; and Alumni Council President Lindsey Browning '10.

Additionally, Student Government Association President Marnice Briscoe, a senior major from Baltimore, gave well wishes on behalf of the undergraduate student body; along with Raekwon Conaway, a student in the M.S. in Public Administration and Policy program, representing the graduate student body; Terry McAndrew, accountant in Financial Services, representing the McDaniel College staff; and Christianna Leahy, professor of Comparative Politics and chair of the Department of Political Science. See **INAUGURATION**, page 2

## JeannieBird Baking Company remains resilient despite COVID-19



(Photo courtesy Jay Mann)

Jay Mann  
Contributor

Local business JeannieBird Baking Company is located in the heart of Westminster on Main Street, and it is thriving! After over two years, they have taken the chairs off the tables and opened up their dining room, so people can now sit and eat in the bakery. Their hours have gone from only being open

three days a week to now being open five days a week.

JeannieBird Baking Company is a family oriented bakery that started in a farmers market and has grown into the hometown's favorite bakery. It was opened by Bernie Vogel and his late wife Jeannie, who passed in a tragic motor vehicle accident in 2016. The bakery has been open for seven and a half years, and Bernie

has been running it by himself for the past six years.

Even through tragedy, Vogel says, "It was the community that kept me going. After the accident I thought about closing the cafe, but it was the love from the local sheriff department and the Westminster community that kept me in business. The community became family to me. They stood by me and made sure I couldn't fail."

Not only has the bakery had a huge impact on the Westminster community, but also the McDaniel community. Prior to the covid-19 pandemic, JeannieBird was the largest redeemers of McDaniel bucks, and they advertised regularly in the McDaniel Free Press. The bakery is also a favored employer of students at McDaniel, and many tend to work there even after graduation. It is a place they can stay until they move onto something bigger and better. Maybe you'll recognize some of the friendly faces behind the counter during your text trip to the beloved bakery!

Vogel is not your typical business

owner, because you can always see him working in the bakery. What makes JeannieBird so special is the atmosphere. It is a small intimate place that feels like home. In the words of Vogel, "the atmosphere is like Cheers without the alcohol."

Vogel makes sure all his customers are comfortable; he learns their names so the next time they come in, he can greet them by name. Not only can you eat in the space, but you can also bring your laptop, work on homework or simply stay for the good conversation. Vogel has future plans to open the bakery for evening activities as a way to give the community more variety in the evening.

The bakery is hoping to restore their full menu sometime soon. The menu is limited due to staff shortages, but small bakery goods are still available daily, such as ham and swiss croissants, blondie bars, sugar cookies, and other delicious treats. JeannieBird has the best ham and gruyere croissants in town. They have survived tragedy and a pandemic over these past seven years; hopefully they will still be up and running for many more to come.



# Meet Ben Smith: Director of the STEM Center

**Nikhil Niyogi**  
Staff Reporter

As many of you know, McDaniel College has a STEM Center located on the second floor of Hoover Library. The College announced that Ben Smith would become the director of the center last fall.

"McDaniel had posted that they were looking to hire someone to start the STEM Center, and everything I read about McDaniel made me want to be here. Everything I read about students and faculty made it seem like a welcoming place that truly cares about students," said Smith. Before arriving at McDaniel, he was at Hamilton College serving a similar role to his position in the STEM Center.

"Previously, I was the director of the Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning Center at Hamilton College in Upstate New York. The Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning Center is a very similar kind of program to the STEM Center, and I was in that role for eight years," said Smith.

The STEM Center helps with lots of classes that are STEM, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, related. The tutors who help with these subjects or fields are called learning assistants.

"STEM Center Learning

Assistants primarily tutor first and second year courses. The learning assistants help with 1000 and 2000 level courses in disciplines like Accounting, Biology, Computer Science, Chemistry, Economics, Statistics, Environmental Studies, Physics and Math," said Smith.

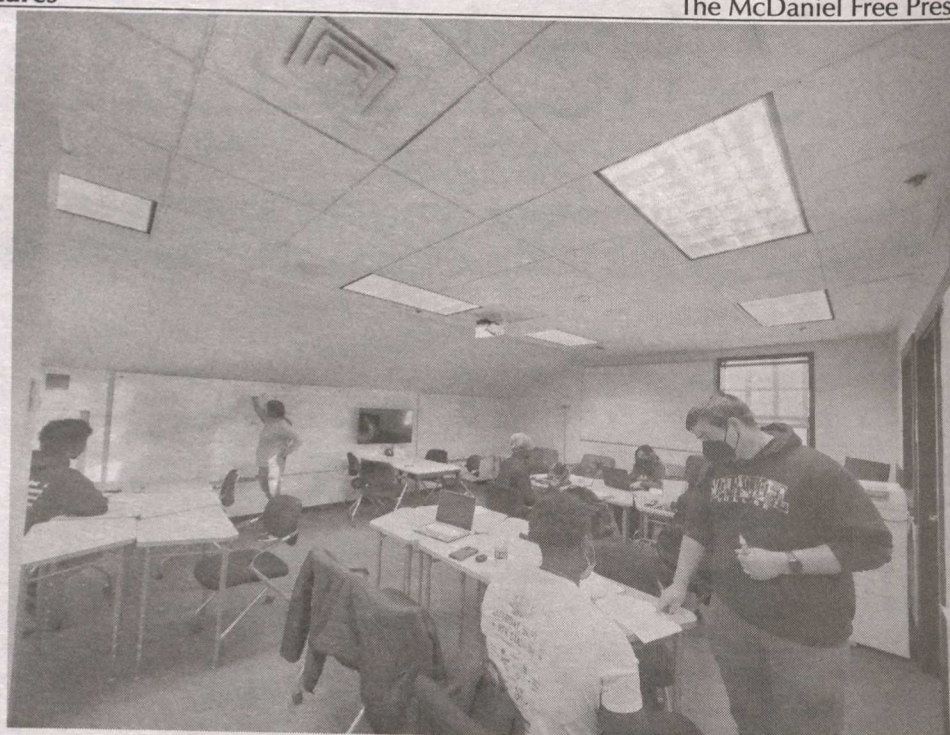
"We are open six days a week and are drop-in, so students don't have to make an appointment, they can just show up to the STEM Center space during the times that their course or courses are supported. We have a portal page on MyMcDaniel that lists when each of the different classes are supported," he added. Although the STEM Center is very easily accessible for all students who may be seeking their services, the space can also be used for other purposes.

"The STEM Center is not just about a place to go and get help, it's also a collaborative study space. We encourage students to use the space for just doing their own work individually, study groups, finding study groups, and of course working with our Peer Learning Assistants just making use of our awesome whiteboard," said Smith.

Outside of the STEM Center, Smith serves in several other roles around the College.

"I oversee day-to-day operations of the STEM Center itself and train the STEM Center staff. I teach classes in math and learning theory, and I work with my faculty colleagues on ways to improve STEM pedagogy," he said.

"The STEM Center is a place where all students can engage with STEM material and improve their understanding. It's not just for students who feel like they need



The STEM Center is located on the second floor of Hoover Library  
(Photo courtesy of Ben Smith)

more help, it's for all students who [want to] improve their understanding in the sciences, majors, and non-majors alike," said Smith.

The Center also has some really cool tools that both students and learning assistants can use to make life easier for everyone.

"We have a lot of dynamic digital tools like ferro-magnetic tempered glass whiteboards that never stain or smudge, collaborative stations with a monitor for students to share their screens easily with one another, and a hy-flex conference room with an interactive digital whiteboard allowing for simultaneous virtual and in person grouping interactions," said Smith.

Smith is very excited to see how students can learn more from

the learning assistants. With the assistance of the STEM Center, they do not just need to go to office hours with professors for help, and can seek support from qualified learning assistants instead.

"We have a staff of 20 trained undergraduate peer learning assistants who are excited and eager to work with fellow students with their coursework. I'm excited to have the privilege and opportunity to launch this program and help provide a new comprehensive resource for McDaniel students," said Smith.

Any students taking a class that is STEM related should remember that this is another resource for them and that a learning assistant is ready to help.

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## My mental health journey

**Nicole Donohue**  
Contributor

Growing up, mental health was not a topic of conversation in my household. In middle and highschool I had debilitating anxiety, but I was told by my family that I was just shy. I was terrified to be called on or to talk to anyone in class. Just the thought of presenting in front of the class would make my heart race and palms sweat. I often remember taking "bathroom breaks" just so I could escape and breathe.

Towards the end of highschool, I remember realizing I couldn't live feeling this way anymore. I reached out to my family about how I was feeling and was told that this is how everyone feels, but my mom still thought I should talk to a therapist. After speaking with my therapist for about six months, and using the coping mechanisms I learned, I still felt unbearably anxious. I decided to open up to my pediatrician at my annual appointment. When sharing

my symptoms, my pediatrician recommended that I be put on SSRI, an anxiety medication. Since I was a minor my guardian had to approve. She did not.

The anxiety continued. I went from being a straight A student to struggling to pass the classes I needed to graduate. I moved out, would leave school in the middle of the day, and was constantly on the verge of tears. My symptoms continued to escalate; I was becoming more desperate for help. The second I turned 18, I went back to my pediatrician and was finally prescribed the SSRI I was initially offered months ago. My life changed. Like many, I was initially scared of being put on medication. I'm not saying that medication is for everyone, but being put on medication allowed me to be who I felt I was always supposed to be.

To anyone who knows me now I think this story would surprise them. While I am no longer this "shy" girl I was in my youth, I

specially for the inauguration.

Ralph Frith '84, vice chair of the Board of Trustees, then presented Jasken for installation and the Ceremony of Investiture was conducted by Preston, assisted by Frith, former McDaniel presidents Joan Develin Coley, Hon. LL.D. '10 and Roger Casey, Hon. L.H.D. '21, Leahy, Browning, and Briscoe, followed shortly by Jasken's inaugural address.

"McDaniel is truly a place that

still suffer with my anxiety and depression daily. When you hear people speak out about mental health, it's their success stories. I remember reading them, looking for hope, but it only felt humorous. When you're in a deep pit, it's hard to relate to those success stories. I think the most important thing to remember is that your path is not linear. Some days are going to be harder than others, and you've survived 100 percent of your worst days; this too shall pass.

I'm sure you've probably seen a bunch of mental health tips, but these are some that I believe have truly helped me:

- 1. Get outside!**- Vitamin D comes from the sun, which always boosts my mood. When the weather's nice, I always try to enjoy my breakfast on the porch for a bright start to the morning.
- 2. Get moving!**- Although it can be hard to start, exercise is clinically proven to reduce anxiety and depression. I always feel 100X better after I sweat it out at the gym.
- 3. Reduce use of social media-**

changes lives. I know this because it has changed mine. I didn't come to McDaniel expecting to receive the honor of becoming McDaniel's tenth president, and yet somehow the unexpected trajectory seems appropriate to the moment. [It is] an example of the wide lens of opportunities that become available to those who have developed the habits of mind that lie at the heart of a liberal arts education," Jasken said in her inaugural address.

Social media is a highlight reel of people's lives, which will lead to unhealthy comparisons to your peers or people you have never even met. Not to mention, mindless scrolling is such a time waster!

**4. Vision boards-** Create a visual representation of your goals. This can be a collection of text and images that will inspire you to realize your goals on a daily basis.

I hope you know that you're not alone and more than capable of achieving your dreams.

#beheretomorrow

### Spring 2022 Editorial Team

**Ciara O'Brien '22**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Rachel Allen '20**  
Assistant Editor

**Molly Sherman '22**  
Assistant Editor

**INAUGURATION** from page 1  
Science and International Studies, representing the faculty. The audience also heard a special video message from László Freyó, dean at McDaniel's European campus in Budapest, Hungary.

Special music was performed by the Children's Chorus of Carroll County and the McDaniel College Gospel Choir, and Kathy Mangan, Ph.D., read her original poem, "The Hinge," which she wrote

After closing remarks from Preston, the two and a half hour ceremony ended with a collective singing of the alma mater.

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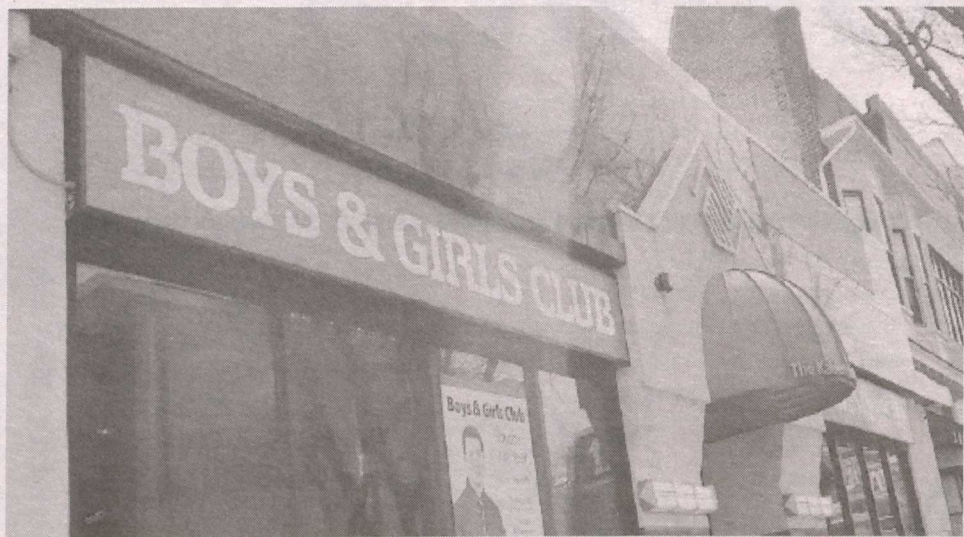


@mcdfreepress



# Want to Get Involved? Give Back to Your Community!

Sage Wann  
Contributor



(Sage Wann / McDaniel Free Press).

Are you a McDaniel College education major who is looking for a role in educating young minds? You should look no further for a great start in teaching and shaping the next generation than The Boys and Girls Club in downtown Westminster.

Working with kids from ages 6 to 18, community contribution has helped hundreds of students grow

up in a safe learning environment. Doing volunteer work is a great way to get experience with younger groups of kids and students and engage with the Carroll County community.

While The Boys and Girls club in Westminster already has so many partners, McDaniel College being one of them, they are always looking for more support through

volunteers and donations. They are always looking for coats, clothing, books, and people to come in and work with the kids. The support given to The Boys and Girls club will feed right back into the Carroll County community, and that support could be coming from you!

The Boys and Girls club is an organization that encourages young students to explore all their potential in a safe learning environment and models positive behaviors in the world. Their goal and mission statement—"To inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens"—provides a safe and productive environment for students and make sure they become functioning members of society. It ensures that kids have positive role models in the world and grow up in a safe environment.

Here in Westminster, the after-school program consists of 115 kids from 12 different schools in the area. Lindsay Chiavacci, the program director, has dedicated her time to the Boys and Girls Club, and finds joy in teaching and shaping them.

"Seeing how much kids absorbed made me want to be a positive role

model [for them]," she said.

Along with the Monday through Friday after-school program, there is also a ten-week summer program that takes the students on field trips, swimming, and more. It makes sure that the positive environment that was given to them during the school year stays with them throughout the summer.

McDaniel College students have already spent so much time working with the organization, helping run things like the Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and St. Patrick's Day parties. A significant number of students have even gotten involved outside of the parties by working for the after-school program every week day.

If you are looking to work and shape the next generation, this is a great place to start. Reaching out is the first step; emailing at [info@bgcwestminster.org](mailto:info@bgcwestminster.org) or calling The Boys and Girls club of Westminster at 410-386-0135 is the easiest way to get in contact with the program directors. There are also job applications listed online if you are looking to become a teacher, tutor, or leader.

If you're looking to get involved in your local community, The Boys and Girls Club is a great place to go!

## Book Review: Tripping Arcadia by Kit Mayquist

Sophia Gilbert  
Staff Reporter

"They lived in their own heaven, their own arcadia, where nothing, not even death, could touch them. Nothing except for me." Tripping Arcadia follows the story of Helena "Lena" Gereghty, a medical school drop-out who, after an extended vacation with her medieval poisons expert aunt in Italy, returns to the US and gets a job as the physician's assistant to the mysterious, wealthy Verdeau family. She soon learns that her job entails running errands for the family, helping care for the sickly, alcoholic Verdeau heir, Jonathan, and working the famous Verdeau "parties," on occasion, for extra pay. She quickly finds herself trapped in a world of debauchery and danger, both attempting to unravel the Verdeau family mysteries and avoid being caught up in her own dangerous plans. When I saw the tagline for Tripping Arcadia as a gothic novel, I got excited. I have always enjoyed the classic gothic elements like

abandoned castles and winding staircases and long-held dark family secrets, when both reading and writing. It adds a level of atmosphere I've always found myself enthralled by. If there is one thing that can be said about Tripping Arcadia, it's this: it has atmosphere in spades. Tripping Arcadia has all the classic gothic elements, like the echoing ancestral estate with the abandoned wing and the characters with mysterious illnesses with no clear cause or cure. In addition, there are several different major settings throughout the story such as the brownstone where the family spends the majority of their time to the sprawling Arrow's Edge estate and Lena's own family home, each place with its own identity and feel. All of this gives the novel a lush feel that, for me especially, made it easy to picture in my mind as the action of the story was taking place. The novel, despite being set in modern times, also carries many elements from the 1920s, which while adding to the atmosphere

of the novel, are occasionally difficult to reconcile with the more contemporary elements of the setting. This is especially true for the odd blend of herbal medicines and poisons with modern-day medicine. It requires some suspension of disbelief in order for the novel to stand as a true "modern gothic novel." While the atmosphere and imagery were fantastic, there were elements of the story that did fall short. I personally found the pacing a bit off, especially in the second half of the novel. I occasionally had to look back to figure out whether certain details were mentioned before or were rather plot holes. There were also details that seemed important to the story only to never be brought up again. As a kind of mystery novel, red herrings are to be expected, but some of it felt less deliberate than unfinished or unrealized. In addition, as much as I found the Verdeau siblings and their relationships with Lena to be interesting, the characters themselves seemed to lack a kind of substance. They're equal parts charming and tortured, but it's hard to get a sense for what they truly want or feel beyond the surface

level. Some suspension of disbelief is also needed at points in the story as plausibility for some of the major plot points is questionable. In the novel's defense, however, part of the fun of gothic novels is the overblown mysteries and classic tropes. None of this is to say I disliked Tripping Arcadia. I appreciate the concept and Mayquist's way of painting the scenes so viscerally for the reader. It is also fascinating to see so many of my favorite fictional elements combined into a single novel. If you are looking for an atmospheric read to sink into, Tripping Arcadia is a solid choice and one I was more than happy to lose myself in over the course of a day. Tripping Arcadia is Kit Mayquist's debut novel, published on Feb. 22, 2022 by Dutton. If you would like to learn more about Kit Mayquist, you can find him at [kitmayquist.com](http://kitmayquist.com).

*Do you have a new book or novel you'd like me to review next? Feel free to drop a suggestion via email at [freepress@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:freepress@mcdaniel.edu) or message the Free Press Instagram page @mcdfreepress.*

## Get involved with Best Buddies

Sarah Leizear  
Contributor



The Best Buddies Palentines Party  
(Photo courtesy of Sarah Leizear)

Looking for a new club or organization to join here on the Hill? Consider becoming a member of McDaniel's Best Buddies chapter! Best Buddies

is an international organization dedicated to establishing one-on-one friendships and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. At McDaniel specifically, the mission of our Best Buddies chapter is to connect students and members of the Carroll County community that have intellectual or developmental differences.

This club is a welcoming space and a great way to get involved with some individuals off-campus, in the community. They meet monthly for two hours and students have the choice to be paired with a buddy

to form a one-on-one relationship. Knowing that students have busy schedules, our chapter gives students a choice in their level of involvement. The goal of these personal pairs is that the student reaches out once or twice a month in between meetings to foster your friendship. Our chapter recently hosted an event last Feb., a Best Buddies Palentines Day Party. Students from McDaniel and some buddies from campus and the community played games, ate snacks, spent quality time together, and danced the day away. As you can see from the picture, this event is filled with lots of smiling faces. You could be included too!

If you are interested in getting involved, our most recent event was a scavenger hunt on March 25th from 4-6 p.m. Some other activities and updates will be posted on the Instagram page @mcdanielbestbuddies. Looking ahead, the April event will be celebrating Earth Day together on April 22nd. McDaniel Best Buddies would love for you to get involved. Everyone is welcome, even if you just want to stop by and see what it is like!

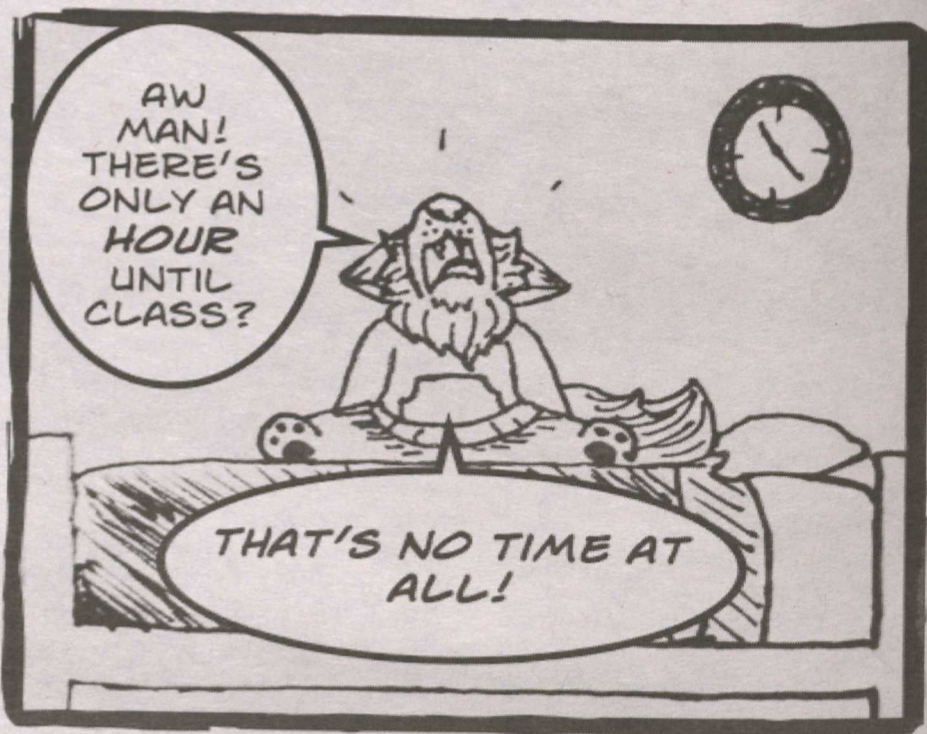
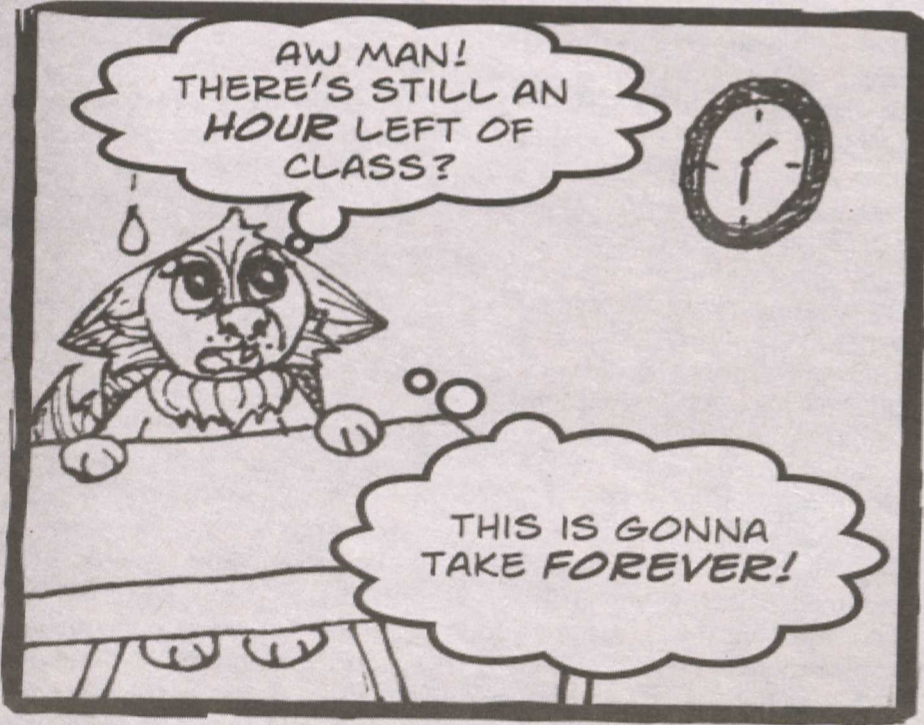
McDaniels current chapter president is Lyla Martin and she would love to talk to anyone who has any questions. Feel free to contact her at [lrm0100@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:lrm0100@mcdaniel.edu)



# McComics

TIME FLIES... SOMETIMES...  
WITH WOOLSEY THE WOLF

@WOOFIEPIE  
BY JONNY HUGHES



COMPUTER SCIENCE  
WITH WOOLSEY THE WOLF AND JARVIS THE PANDA

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A BALANCED DIET  
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BLESS YOU

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# NCAA Rules Against Celsius Energy Drinks: Helpful, or Stressful for Student Athletes?

Nia Roberts  
Contributor

The life of an athlete is one that can be extremely challenging. Being an athlete means consistently being on the go. Between balancing school, athletics, and a social life, there is often little to no time for anything else. But how do athletes fuel their bodies to withstand these long days and nights? Most high school and collegiate athletes will turn to energy drinks as the answer. One of the most popular energy drinks, as of 2022, is Celsius. Celsius contains its own MetaPlus blend which consists of thermogenic properties that help to increase the consumer's metabolism, and allows the athlete to burn more calories and fat in addition to working out. However, two of the primary ingredients in this unique blend are strictly regulated by the NCAA. Those two ingredients are Guarana and Taurine. Caffeine intake is also regulated by the NCAA. According to RxList's drug fact sheet, Guarana is a stimulant that is used to reduce fatigue, increase weight loss, and enhance athletic performance. This extract works very similarly to coffee, seeing as it is a form of caffeine. Although caffeine is not banned by the NCAA, the rules state that "...athletes cannot have a caffeine concentration higher than 15 micrograms per milliliter (mcg/ml) in their body." For the average man—if consumed a few hours before the test—this limit can be reached by just five 8oz cups of coffee! In just one Celsius drink, there is 200 mg of caffeine, which is more than double the amount of the NCAA limit. Taurine is an amino acid, which, similar to caffeine, is restricted but not banned by the NCAA. According to an article from USA Today Sports, if an athlete consumes high levels of Taurine it can result in "inhibitory effects on central nervous sys-

tem neurons." According to Shasta Orthopedics, "Doses of 3-6 mg/kg, which do not produce urine concentrations that would result in disqualification, have been found to be ergogenic." Therefore too much of this amino acid has the potential to enhance performance abilities. When asked how she started drinking Celsius in the first place, first year student-athlete Katherine Taveras stated, "I started to drink Celsius because I needed an energy drink, especially for my long days. Once I found out it was best to drink before doing exercise, I had to try it out. Ever since finding my favorite flavor, I never stopped drinking it." Taveras has been drinking Celsius for over four years, beginning in her sophomore year of high school up until her freshman year of college. When asked if she had any other alternatives to drinking Celsius, she said, "I have yet to find an alternative for Celsius. Celsius was a drink that didn't taste like a regular energy drink." With the large variety and assortment of drink types Celsius offers, most student-athletes find it almost impossible to find alternative sources that match the taste and effects that this energy drink provides. However, this belief is far from the truth. When interviewing Centennial Conference Athletic Trainer Hollyann Wettstein, she stated "An alternative to drinking energy drinks or sports drinks to fuel, is to fuel with food. Which is what athletes should always strive to do. Fueling with carbs, proteins, and fats—carbs specifically—metabolizes into glucose, and our energy systems run on that backbone of glucose. Athletes really cannot neglect the importance of carbs in their diets to fuel their performance." For more information about NCAA substance regulations, visit the NCAA Division III Manual.



## LEARN ABOUT WHAT IS REALLY GOING IN YOUR BODY!

### CELSIUS EDITION

#### DID YOU KNOW?


Celsius was released in **2005**

#### INGREDIENTS

Celsius' unique MetaPlus blend contains a multitude of ingredients, however, the two that NCAA athletes should be worried about are the Guarana seed extract and Taurine. This stimulant and amino acid have the ability to negatively effect or manipulate your athletic performance.

### SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?


Despite Celsius' promise to increase metabolism and create a life where the consumer can "live fit", ultimately the bad outweighs the good. With the amount of caffeine in each can of Celsius, it exceeds the NCAA's regulated amount. This heavy caffeine consumption leads students to become hooked, without another energy source to rely on.



### STUDENT STORIES

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**NIA ROBERTS**

## Rev Nontombi Naomi Tutu visits McDaniel for inaugural Black History Month Convocation



(Photo courtesy of McDaniel College)

Molly Sherman  
Assistant Editor

"This is not the end of our story," the hopeful message echoed in WMC Alumni Hall for McDaniel College's inaugural Black History Month Convocation. Arriving back from South Africa just the Friday prior, Rev. Nontombi Naomi Tutu joined McDaniel on the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 16

to deliver an empowering message of hope and humanity. The event was open to the public to attend and live streamed via Zoom. She was welcomed by opening remarks from McDaniel College President Julia Jasken and introduced by Richard M. Smith, associate provost for equity and belonging at McDaniel. During her speech, Rev. Tutu shared how her experiences growing up in apartheid South Africa inspired her to advocate for human rights and fight systemic forms of oppression. Apartheid sanctioned the political and economic discrimination of South Africa's nonwhite majority. People and communities protested and rallied against the institutionalized racial segregation. "I saw so many courageous people during apartheid," she said. "I held onto 'this is not the end of our story,' as we went from state-of-emergency, to state-of-emergency, to state-of-emergency." People died at the hands of

police, activists were tortured and young people fled, but Rev. Tutu noted "as one fell, others stepped up" to continue the fight. Tutu went on to explain the role of systemic racism in American culture, urging the audience not to hide from our history and encouraging them to step up to fight for inclusive and just communities and "a humanity that recognizes I cannot be free unless you are free." In an interview following her speech and a lively Q&A session with Smith, I asked Rev. Tutu questions about young activism on campus. As advice for young activists, Rev. Tutu emphasizes the importance of finding a movement you are passionate about because you will meet resistance, and "make sure you have a cohort of people around you that are as passionate as you" to remind you of your worth and passion. For bringing that group of people together, Rev. Tutu recognizes that

it's hard to get students involved, but once you do, they will go all out. She recommends looking at lots of different ways of getting the message across by helping people understand why you are passionate, thinking outside of the box and offering people opportunities that will excite them. She directs activists to acknowledge there will be some times where you will be frustrated and tired. When exhaustion does hit, "acknowledge: this sucks, I'm tired, I need a break." She added, to emphasize the importance of self-care, "if you are burnt out and tired, the movement is not going anywhere." Particularly for women, who, even in justice movements, are often expected to sacrifice their own care and take care of the group, she highlighted the necessity of cultivating time for rest. In the face of intersecting justice movements and the work ahead, Rev. Tutu stressed the mindset "I'm not failing because I'm frustrated," and, of course, the resonating mantra that "this is not the end of our story."



# Breaking Down McDaniel's Inconsistent COVID-19 Regulations

**Jahan Hosseini**  
Staff Reporter

According to the most recent update from the Return to the Hill Committee, Carroll County is in the "Low" transmission category, and McDaniel College is in the Substantial Transmission category. With that comes new rules and restrictions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Even before McDaniel moved back to the substantial transmission level, undergraduates have said that the rules have been inconsistent and confusing.

Undergraduate students are required to receive the booster, with medical or religious exemptions, but graduate students and employees are not. According to the CDC, vaccines are necessary to lower the chance of infection and spreading the disease in classrooms, yet the college is okay with unvaccinated graduate students taking hybrid classes.

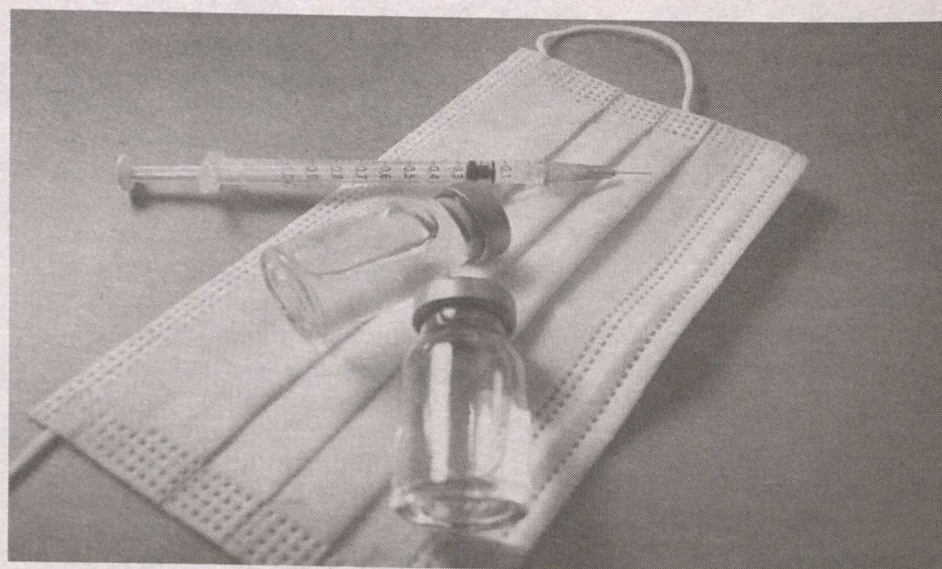
"McDaniel is primarily a residential college, and those living in congregate housing are at a greater risk of contracting COVID. We felt that requiring the booster shot for undergraduate students was the best way for us to prevent an outbreak on campus," Cheryl Knauer, head of the committee, explained in an interview.

Professors and other faculty members engage in activities outside of campus that put them at risk, such as going to the grocery store and providing family care. Plus, not all students live on campus. Even if the committee's argument is granted, student com-

muters are also not participating in late on-campus activities that put other students at risk. If professors are not required to be vaccinated because they do not live on campus, why is it different for students in the same situation?

Sophomore Daniel Adum points out the college's double standard for student commuters compared to employees in a recent interview. "Teachers are technically commuters, but it's still not understood why, for example, a teacher doesn't have to wear a mask but a commuter has to. They're both coming home and coming to a different place all the time," Adum said.

To be clear, this is not an attack on vaccines in general. Empirical data proves that the COVID vaccine lowers the chance of getting infected and is effective against hospitalizations and death. This article is meant to highlight inconsistencies in vaccine and mask policies. Students are still required to wear masks in academic settings; however, the new update says professors may teach maskless if they choose. Knauer said the new policy is based on feedback from students who had difficulty hearing lectures. Couldn't this logic also be applied to students trying to ask and answer questions? Also, this new rule appears to be going against the science, which the college claims to be all about, simply for convenience's sake. Mask rules are strict in classrooms but are heavily relaxed in residence halls. Given that COVID-19 can spread as easily inside a residence hall's lobby as a classroom, the committee was asked why the dif-



(Photo courtesy of Pixabay user Ronstik).

ference in policy.

"Students have the choice as to whether they hang out with friends in residence halls and other spaces on campus and can decide not to partake in these activities if they are uncomfortable. They do not have this option when it comes to attending class," Knauer said. This is not accurate in all situations. Once in a while, the resistant assistants for Daniel MacLea Hall (DMC), one of the dormitories for honors students, require mandatory meetings. These meetings get as crowded as classrooms, yet masking is not required. The same applies to Whiteford Hall, according to McDaniel Free Press staff reporter Nikhil Niyogi, and many other dorms on campus.

In Glar, the rules for dining are also inconsistent. Servers and bussers are no longer required to wear masks at Englar Dining Hall anymore. Workers at the cafeteria are handling and standing next to the food that students eat. They are cooking the food and sorting the

desserts outside the kitchen. How come the college deems it safe for them to go maskless but not for students to go maskless in classrooms? I asked this question but got no scientific or logical answer other than it being McDaniel's food provider's, AVI, policy.

The Honors program requires students living in DMC and Forlines Housing to host suite events each semester. Honors students often choose to host a movie night at Decker Auditorium. The Honors Board decided to bar eating and drinking there as it encourages students to go maskless. But how is Glar or the Pub any different?

If anything, eating at Glar and the Pub is riskier than eating at Decker. The Honors program's suite events usually consist of less than fifteen students who can easily social distance. In the dining halls, students are far from social distancing. They are packed, and typically, at least three people neck and neck are sitting at the same table maskless.

## When enough is enough: my life without the burden of social media

**Maurice Alvarez**  
Contributor

How different would life be if the media didn't play such a large part of it? If technology wouldn't have become the biggest outlet of media in the world? If Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook didn't run how we see ourselves or the world? Siddiqui, Shabnoor, and Tajinder Singh, both authors for the International Journal of Computer Applications Technology and Research, says that "people are seen addicted with this technology every day."

I have lived isolated from popular media for seven years. I do not have Instagram, Snapchat, or Facebook; I have no form of any social media. I did not write this to make a point, nor do I say this to influence anyone. Instead, I will inform you of how much I have been able to grow and learn from this experience, and how much I have been able to witness from just allowing myself to keep my head up and not down at my phone. When I'm in a room full of

people, I see so many people relying on their media and technology to reassure themselves of their self-image. According to Ana Radovic, an author for the Journal of Adolescence, "Adolescents also described negative experiences – especially themselves or others sharing attention seeking posts." My journey began in eighth grade when I considered myself to have been extremely attached to public opinion. I had an Instagram that I felt I had to keep up to a certain standard, and an everyday life to live up to the fakeness of what I was putting out in the world. I just wanted people to see me as one of them. "Social media can, without much of a stretch, destroy somebody's notoriety just by making a false story and spreading it over the internet," says Akram Waseem and Rekish Kumar, writers from the International Journal of Computer Sciences and Engineering.

I quickly came to the realization that I didn't want that anymore. I was tired of feeling like I had to

live in other people's shoes, just because what I was seeing through the media is what I wanted to be like. I struggled with my self-esteem and periods of depressive episodes at times because I did not feel accepted. Jacqueline Nesi, a writer for the North Carolina Medical Journal, says that, "The incidence of certain mental health concerns, such as depression and suicide, have increased significantly among adolescents in recent years, with rates of suicide among youth aged 10-24 increasing 56% from 2007 to 2017. Given that this increase has coincided with the widespread adoption of social media, this has led to concerns regarding a potential link."

I felt like I was not good enough because of other people's perceptions of me through the media platforms. Now, I realize that I had been blaming my parents and having resentment towards them because they couldn't provide me with what everyone else had. Honestly it was never fair, or right. When I got to high school, I decided to completely cut myself off from media. I deleted Instagram, I got rid of Snapchat. My journey of growth towards becoming my own validator began! I was able to finally disconnect

technologically from society and see the world for what it really was. Instead of letting the media place a mask in front of everyone, I was able to notice patterns in my peer's actions and how attached people were to social media. I was able to see how much social media categorized society in a way that separates people completely. It places people in different social classes, it places standards on people they didn't even know they had and enables people to pass off living an authentic lifestyle. The way they have done this is by posting themselves as a type of person they want to be, and they get the validation through social media that they do not get in person from those around them. The dynamic within adolescents and their interpersonal communication changes completely when they become engaged with the media. People forget how to interact socially when they're so accustomed to a screen. They become less confrontational and less direct. This has hindered our societal growth severely; I struggle to measure the depth of the hole we've dug ourselves into in terms of relying on social media for human interaction and validation.



# Green Spaces are necessary as urbanization rises



(Photo courtesy of Pixabay user tingyaoh)

**Kyle Sarnowski**  
Contributor

Cities are getting larger and larger every year. Urban populations have gradually increased over the past hundreds of years and today it's estimated that we'll see over two thirds of the world's population living in urban environments within the next three years according to the United Nations.

In order to adapt to an ever-

growing increase in population, cities across the world have begun the process of expanding and urbanizing their areas. This process of urbanization involves the development of an area to become more urban and city-like.

With an increase of developed land, it comes as no surprise that there must also be a loss of forests, fields, and other types of undeveloped land. Undeveloped

land has been and remains a necessity for both our culture and our longevity. Despite the world pushing forward towards urbanization, green spaces act as a countermeasure against land development.

Green spaces are undeveloped areas of land designated with the purpose of preserving the natural world. National parks, public parks, and protected environmental areas are all examples of green spaces found within our daily lives.

Including these green spaces within our urban planning benefits growing our communities in a variety of different ways. Without any green spaces, local species are forced to relocate out of their natural habitats. By creating green spaces, it is ensured that these local species are able to continue having a place to survive and thrive.

Creating green spaces doesn't only benefit animals, humans also have positive benefits to having green spaces within their community. Both a reduction in social isolation and a general increase in health are two beneficial factors that drive the creation of green spaces. With ever expanding urbanization, the benefits of green spaces justify the creation of these spaces and should do so in order to maintain said benefits.

Urbanization might be seen by some as an issue that doesn't involve them, however our local community

of Carroll County is a potential victim to this threat. As I am not a native to Carroll County, I discussed this issue with department chair of environmental studies, Jason Scullion PH.D. Scullion spoke of Carroll County's growth and agreed that the expansion of large economic powerhouses will only accelerate this growth.

The amount of green spaces within the city of Westminster is limited, yet The McDaniel Environmental Center is one of the most recognizable green spaces within the community. The MEC acts as both a protected green space as well as a location for McDaniel students and faculty to conduct research. Taking up over 50 acres of land, the MEC serves as an example of what green spaces can look like and how they act as a beneficiary of our community.

With urbanization not slowing down, the creation of green spaces needs to be prioritized in order to establish and maintain a foothold of the natural world within our ever growing community.

The McDaniel Environmental Center is currently closed due to COVID-19, but is planning on reopening next fall. If you are interested in becoming involved with the MEC, opportunities to do so will be included with some environmental studies and Biology classes next semester.

# Why you should care about strategic planning

**Ciara O'Brien**  
Editor-in-Chief

As the class of 2022 prepares for graduation in a few short months, many of us can still remember the upset and upheaval that encompassed our first spring semester on the Hill.

In Feb. 2019, the McDaniel Board of Trustees voted unanimously to deactivate several programs, including the music major and minor, the German major and minor, the religious studies major, the art history major, the French major and the Latin minor. These program cuts resulted in discontent from current students and alumni alike. This decision was made, in part, during a strategic planning process.

Honestly, it didn't really impact me when I first caught word of 'academic restructuring' plans for Spring 2019. In fact, I was pretty excited to be one of the first to graduate with a new major because

of it. However, the next four years were paved with heartbreak and disappointment as I watched my peers struggle through college as their resources depleted and departments disintegrated around them. I didn't know that it would be such a layered problem until it was too late; I don't want the same thing to happen to you.

Strategic planning is how the College decides where they want to allocate their resources and dollars for the next five to 10 years. It determines what the college will look like for years to come. According to McDaniel's website, it is "an undertaking that will help the college discern what we collectively care about and put it into motion."

As I've developed as an editor for the Free Press over the past few years, I've gotten to watch and report on the college's changes and growth as well: administration restructuring, the College's quick shifts amidst a global pandemic,

even the installation of a new president. As journalists, it is our job to keep our communities informed, spark conversation, and, (when necessary), stir the pot. The Free Press remains committed to disseminating the facts of the matter and capturing student reactions throughout the process, just as we did three years ago, but the work cannot stop there.

Although I am fortunate enough to be one of the first to graduate McDaniel with one of those newly designed majors, the same cannot be said for dozens of others. They came to the Hill with a firm belief in the liberal arts, and ultimately had to watch the programs they loved and believed in slowly dissolve. Imagine coming to college, excited to learn and grow, and diving headfirst into a major that you feel passionate about. Suddenly, that opportunity is ripped out from under you.

In 2019, one of the biggest grievances amongst students was the lack of transparency surrounding the major cuts. I hope that McDaniel can learn from the past and make the process more accessible for everyone. Already,

I fear that these basic pleas aren't being taken seriously. Even a quick Google search for '2021-2022 Strategic Planning Process' bounces back the message, 'You are not authorized to access this page' on McDaniel's website. Hold administration accountable, and make sure that your voice is heard during the process. Don't let this get away from you.

As I reflect on my McDaniel experience and prepare for graduation, I want to offer one piece of advice: Get involved with the strategic planning process as it unfolds over the coming years. Stay up to date. Fill out surveys. Attend SGA meetings. Fight for the things that you love about your uniquely liberal arts education. If something is important to you, let the administration know. It's never too late to get involved.

I know all those long emails in tiny font may look tedious and are already arriving less frequently, but this concerns you too. We deserve to have a say in what McDaniel's future should look like, so don't be afraid to get involved and allow your voice to be heard.

## Crime Log

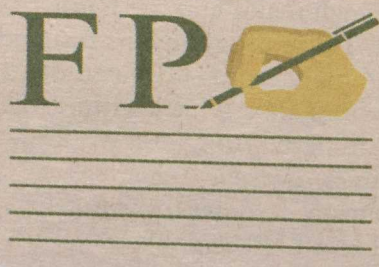
The Daily Crime and Fire Log is available for public view in the Campus Safety office, located at 152 Pennsylvania Ave. The most current 60 days of information is available from the dispatcher; archived records up to seven years can be requested. Unless otherwise noted, the incidents listed here are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

<b>Reported 3/11</b> Malicious destruction of property	<b>Hoover Library</b>	<b>Reported 3/20</b> Dishonesty: Fake ID	<b>McDaniel Circle</b>	<b>Reported 4/3</b> Harassment: Sexual (Count 1,2,3)	<b>PA 171</b>	<b>Reported 4/5</b> Harassment	<b>Campus wide</b>
<b>Reported 3/12</b> Larceny: Shoplifting (Count 1,2)	<b>ROJ Student Center</b>	<b>Reported 3/22</b> Trespassing	<b>ROJ Student Center</b>	<b>Reported 4/3</b> Assault: Hands/Feet (Count 1,2)	<b>PA 171</b>	<b>Reported 4/6</b> Computer misuse	<b>Campus wide</b>
<b>Reported 3/15</b> Malicious destruction of proerty	<b>Hill Hall</b>	<b>Reported 4/3</b> Harassment	<b>McDaniel Hall</b>	<b>Reported 4/3</b> Malicious destruction of property: vehicle	<b>Blanche parking lot</b>	<b>Reported 4/6</b> Harassment: Sexual	<b>Campus wide</b>



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# The McDaniel Free Press

Volume 25, Issue 6 | May 4, 2022

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2022

### Senior Editor: Ciara O'Brien

Rachel Allen  
Assistant Editor

To Ciara O'Brien, it was never about the achievement of gaining a leadership position; it was about doing what she loved and having a positive impact on others. She gave off positive energy to every person she met on campus. Through sharing her passion and drive, she showed people how putting their values first can bring them the most happiness. Whether it was helping a new Free Press writer find a story they were excited about, inviting people to try yoga with her, or helping others find a new book they love through a book drive, O'Brien gave people the path to write their own story.

Majoring in Writing & Publishing, with minors in Environmental Studies and Marketing, O'Brien graduates this Spring, 2022. On campus, she was a leader in more ways than one, and she has helped lead others in many of her fields of interest.

Despite her leadership positions now, O'Brien reflects on her freshman year and lack of being able to get involved.

"I wish that I could tell my freshman self to not be so afraid. I wish I got out of my own way a little bit more," O'Brien said.

O'Brien says she felt held back freshman year, and did not get involved in as much as she wanted to.



"I wasn't involved on campus at all freshman year. I wrote three articles for the Free Press, but I wasn't in any clubs, I didn't have any jobs, and I only had a few friends," O'Brien said.

Now O'Brien, Editor-in-Chief of the Free Press, Co-Founder and President of McDaniel Yoga Club, and President of Sigma Tau Delta, had no idea she wanted any leadership positions and did not decide she truly wanted to get

*I'm really going to miss formatting this thing  
(Photo courtesy of Carmela Vecchio).*

involved until her sophomore year.

"When I got back to school in the fall for sophomore year, I realized I wasn't happy with where I was. I wanted to do more, I wanted to meet new people, I wanted to get more involved in the things that I really care about," O'Brien said.

She did exactly that. At the beginning of her sophomore year, O'Brien was promoted to the Free Press Editorial Staff. She also became an advanced peer tutor in

the writing center.

Apart from writing, she is an active member in her sorority—Phi Mu Fraternity, where she held leadership positions including secretary and historian, and Alpha Phi Omega, the National co-ed Service Fraternity. She was involved in Contrast Literary Magazine and served on their editorial board in 2020 and 2022. She is also a member of Trumpeters and  
*See O'BRIEN, page 2*

### Senior Editor: Molly Sherman



*Sherman and Charlie competing at the US equestrian eventing Intermediate level at Morven Park in Leesburg, VA (Photo courtesy of Molly Sherman).*

Erick Lowe  
Staff Reporter

"I've taught some very smart students, but Molly is unique in how keen a sense she has for putting learning into action," said Kate Dobson, PhD, Associate Professor of English at McDaniel College. "I think she's remarkable."

Molly Sherman, the journalist, activist, economics and environmental biology double major with a minor in writing,

student leader and equestrian athlete for the United States, graduates spring 2022. Her impact was felt in all reaches of McDaniel, and she will depart having affected the lives of so many.

She began on the Free Press staff, during her sophomore year, as the Commentary Editor, and served as the Co-Editor-in-Chief beginning in her junior year to half way through senior year. She stepped back to be an Assistant Editor for the remainder of college after joining

the editorial team in December 2022 for HealthLinks Magazine in Charleston, South Carolina.

"My favorite part of editing for the Free Press has been having conversations and making edits that best serve the stories we tell on the Hill," said Sherman. "Particularly during the pandemic, it has been an honor to be writing pieces that archive such palpable moments in student life."

When asked about her start in journalism and what is propelling her writing career, she shares her thinking: "hey, someone has to share this perspective, so why not me?" Sherman added, "It has taken a lot of doubting my doubts about who I can be as a journalist."

In addition to serving McDaniel's student run newspaper, she was a founding member and co-coordinator of McDaniel's hub of the national Sunrise Movement, co-president of the Green Life environmental club, co-founder and co-coordinator of McDaniel Yoga, vice president of the Jewish Student Union, and served three years on the Contrast Literary Magazine Editorial Board. In addition, she was a performing member of the Dangersauce improv troupe, member of the Environmental and Climate Justice coalition, historian for tri-beta, the biological honor society, and a member of six other

honor societies, including the Trumpeters. During her college career, she was also nominated for a Phenomenal Woman Award and spent time studying abroad in the Peruvian Amazon with Jason Scullion, PhD.

She also worked as a grader for Nick Khan, PhD, one of her other mentors, in the Economics and Business Administration Department and tutored in first only in the courses he taught and then later as a Learning Assistant in McDaniel's new STEM Center in economics as well as environmental studies and select courses in math and biology. Additionally, she did teaching assistant work in the English Department and took great pride in working in McDaniel's Writing Center for three years and becoming an Advanced Peer Tutor.

"I'm particularly proud of my work in Learning Centers," said Sherman. In addition to her work in the center delivering tutoring on writing and research, and overhauling and chairing the Community Outreach Committee, she conducted research and created deliverables on the ethics of care - an extension of her research that began in her Advanced Tutor training. She went on to present this at the National Learning Center Association in 2021, deliver a  
*See SHERMAN, page 2*



## Ciara O'Brien cont.

**O'BRIEN**, from page 1

Omicron Delta Kappa, the two leadership honors societies on campus. No matter the organization, O'Brien finds a way to make the most of her involvement.

She emphasizes how important it is to get involved no matter what year you are in; she affirms there is never a time where it is too late to get active on campus.

"It's never too late to get involved. I helped start McDaniel Yoga Club in the middle of junior year," O'Brien said.

O'Brien's involvement in the Free Press started her freshman year.

"I wrote my first article like the second week of freshman year, I was so excited to be part of the Free Press," O'Brien said.

As O'Brien reflects on her time writing and editing for the Free Press in her senior year, she is grateful to have run the newspaper for so long.

"Being involved on campus has been pretty all encompassing, especially with something big like the Free Press and doing it for two years; it's wild to think that half of my time in college has been spent running the newspaper here," she said.

She has valued being a part of something she can watch grow and shape through time.

"It has been really cool to watch it grow and expand and change throughout the years, as leaders change, the college changes, especially through COVID-19," O'Brien said.

She has found many unique fortunes that come with being a leader at a small school.

"It's a lot more intimate. I'm really lucky that I've gotten to get to know the people in the organizations that I'm in on a pretty individualized level," O'Brien said.

In the Free Press, she has put immense time and energy into understanding her staff and how

they best work. By doing this, she is able to push people to pursue stories they are the most enthusiastic about.

"With the Free Press, I really liked getting to know everyone on the staff and how to work with them, and getting to know their specific needs. I am really thankful for that," she said.

O'Brien says the most rewarding part of being in the Free Press was being an editor. She enjoyed seeing the excitement on people's faces when their stories got published or made the front page. Even throughout the writing processes of writers, she loved seeing people become more excited about their writing.

"I feel like one of the biggest parts about being an editor is being a cheerleader and helping writers realize that what they are doing is important, good, and worth pursuing. Helping someone brainstorm an article or even rework their article... seeing that excitement is so rewarding. That makes it all worth it," she said.

In her journalist work, she loves being able to tell people's stories, as well as help people tell their own.

"I've always loved writing feature pieces about faculty, administration, and businesses downtown," she said. "It's really cool to see people get excited and passionate about sharing the things that they love with us and it's very special that we get to tell that story for them."

As her graduation draws near, O'Brien reflects on her favorite memories on the Hill. Her top three are sledding, teaching yoga for the first time, and a handful of McDaniel Live Music Club concerts.

"Those concerts are some of the memories that I hold very fondly. I always had a really good time dancing with my friends," she said.

Harvey Stone park is one of the places she will miss the most.

"Harvey Stone is where I taught yoga for the first time. I always go on walks there when the weather is nice enough. It's always been a quiet place for me to clear my head at the end of the day and watch the cars drive by," O'Brien said.

O'Brien is currently pursuing her 200 hour yoga teacher training certification. She has been consistently teaching yoga weekly for over eight months, and has had a consistent practice and loved yoga for the last seven years.

"I think that yoga has been an outlet for me when things are really stressful and tough. I always know that I have a home and safe space in yoga," she said.

By starting a yoga club at McDaniel, she has been able to share this feeling with others.

"I liked getting to share that here and get people equally as interested and invested in it as me," O'Brien said.

O'Brien notes her biggest role models on campus, who have helped shape her into who she is today. She says the English department has been a huge support system for her. She lists her biggest mentors on campus.

"Dr. Mary Bendel-Simso, she is so smart, and I want to be as smart as her one day," O'Brien said.

"Dr. Kate Dobson is also very special to me. She was my advisor for my capstone, she's always been a very big cheerleader for me... I want to be smart like her too," she said.

She recognizes staff who have helped her outside of the classroom as well.

"I am so thankful for all of the help that the English department secretary, Kathy Edmondson, has given me with Free Press and Sigma Tau Delta. I definitely couldn't have made it through without her," O'Brien said.

Another one of O'Brien's passions is sustainable food systems.

"Dr. Elly Engle in Environmental Studies has helped me find some things that I am really passionate

about as far as food systems and agriculture. It wasn't really until I took sustainable agriculture with her that I realized this isn't just old men growing corn; this can be young and exciting and sustainable! and it can be me, too," O'Brien said.

After graduation, O'Brien will continue pursuing her yoga teacher certification, and intern at White Rose Farm Circle, helping them redesign their website and run their social media, all while hopefully getting her hands in the dirt.

After the growing season, she plans to get back to writing and find a publication to contribute to.

"I want to farm, write, and write about farming, amongst other things. I'm going to be doing a mix of all sorts of stuff! I feel very optimistic about the future," she said.

O'Brien is thankful for her time at McDaniel and says it gave her a wonderful support system and the best of friends.

"McDaniel inspired me, and I gained two really important skills here: believing in myself and having the passion and the drive to pursue the things I care about. I am tremendously grateful for this place," she said.

*"I feel like one of the biggest parts about being an editor is being a cheerleader and helping writers realize that what they are doing is important, good, and worth pursuing."*

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## Molly Sherman cont.

**SHERMAN**, from page 1

mindfulness keynote activity at the 2021 Maryland College Learning Center Association - a board on which she would later serve - and present there again the following year.

Sherman cites a community of professors and faculty for her success on the Hill, including, in addition to the aforementioned, Tracy Fleming, Lisa Breslin, Kevin McIntyre, PhD, Jason Scullion PhD, and Elly Engle PhD. Thinking about where she is right now in her personal and professional life she underscores the influence of Kate Dobson, PhD. "She has helped me find the courage to write boldly, believe in my potential and be kind - to myself and others," said Sherman.

"She is an exceptional learner, something that she carries across all sorts of subjects and activities," said Dobson of everything Sherman does and seeks to do - from her leadership and policy-making for the Free Press, to her careful textual analysis of activist persuasive tactics, to the "engaging creative nonfiction" she has begun to craft.

"None of this is merely a classroom activity for her. She learns something and then -- whoosh! -- she's taking it out into the world."

In the world off-campus, in addition to classroom implementations, Sherman competed actively in the equestrian sport of eventing all four years of college with her horse Winsome, fondly called Charlie in the barn. "We've been together since high school and I think it's pretty special he's been with me through all four years of college and he's still with me for the next chapter of life." To make competing to the intermediate level, the second highest level of eventing in the United States, possible, she traveled home several days each week to train. "It made for a pretty unique experience. In all four years, I can count on one hand how many full weeks I have spent on campus," said Sherman.

Beyond college, Sherman seeks to return to the top levels of eventing with Charlie under the guidance of coaches Colleen Rutledge and Michelle Wellman and with the continued help of her mom, Cheryl Sherman.

Sherman walks away with many of McDaniel's academic accolades and many contributions to the McDaniel communities. One of her most cherished accomplishments is earning second place in the 2022 prose category of McDaniel's Contrast Literary Magazine for her memoir "Its quiet." "People have said this piece has been helpful in their healing from losing friends and family to suicide," said Sherman. "I think that's the best impact I could hope for."

After graduation, Sherman will continue as the Assistant Editor of HealthLinks Magazine, published by McDaniel alum Cullen Murray-Kemp; begin apprenticing at a Soleado Lavender Farm working with wood, microgreens and aquaponics; and carry on contributing to the technology community in Carroll County and beyond apart of projects like the Autonomous Corridor.

Sherman seizes these diverse post-grad opportunities hoping to mature her interests for future education, hone her entrepreneurial inclinations and enable her car-camping goals, hoping to gleam directly transferable skills in woodworking and earn the freedom to work independently on the

road. "Molly has an eye for seeing opportunities that others might miss, and she combines that with a boldness and energy that can pull others into projects," said Dobson.

The world is open for such an opportunistic person as Sherman. It's with full confidence that she will go on to do incredible things, for herself and the communities she finds herself in. Sherman never backed down from fighting for the earth and the people on it, and never saw a reason to quit, even when the days got long and the nights too short.

With so many interests and an expressed desire for greatness, we're sure to hear about Sherman again.

"Whatever she does, I hope she will write about it!" said Dobson.

*"Your experience at McDaniel is what you choose to make of it."*



# Jasmine Reyes



(Photo courtesy of Jasmine Reyes).

**What is your major and minor?**  
**What other academic programs were you a part of?**

Social Work Major, Psychology Minor

**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

I worked for the Office of Student Engagement, as a student assistant and an Engagement Peer my senior year.

**What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?**

I've been a member of Green Terror Programs since my freshman

year. I was one of the General Events Co-Chairs, and this year I served as President of Green Terror Programs. I'm also a member of Phi Alpha, The National Social Work Honor Society.

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

I really enjoyed my time here. I loved the events that the campus put on. Being able to have fun with my friends was always the best.

**Who do you think was/is your best mentor?**

The whole Social Department

was my biggest help deciding what career path I wanted to pursue. Each professor helped me understand who I wanted to be and helped me become a better version of myself. The staff of the Office of Student Engagement helped me to become a better leader. They are always great to talk to and made my day whenever I worked there.

**Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.**

A lot of my favorite moments are ones I shared with friends. One was when my roommates and I held our own Oscar night. We got all dressed up and had our own paparazzi moment. Of course, we had to host our own Grammys night after that.

**What are some of the challenges you encountered and how did you overcome them?**

Time management can always be challenging. Especially with all the assignments professors give out. I always try to write down when my assignments are due to make sure that they don't sneak up on me. I put them on sticky notes and put them on my desk so I am able to see them whenever I am doing homework.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I plan to be a licensed social worker and hope to get my Masters some time down the line.

**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?**

Put yourself out there. I was really shy my freshmen year and did not go out much. But going to events and meeting people helped me find courage in myself.

**Where do you see the world in 10 years?**

I hope to see the world as being more accepting of others. Being able to welcome those who are different then you and see them as they are.

**How do you reflect on your senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

COVID really impacted many things. Online learning was something that we had to get used to and difficult for everyone involved. It took some time to adjust to the changes, but we were able to overcome them.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share with the McDaniel community?**

Check out all the awesome events that GTP and OSE hold. They're a great place to find people like yourself and create friendships. If you ever want to help plan the events, be sure to join GTP!

# Rachael Hartley

**What is your major and minor?**  
**What other academic programs were you a part of?**

Psychology Major, Marketing Minor

**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

Engagement Peer 2021-2022

**What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?**

Green Terror Programs— general event cochair for 2 years and vice president. Phi Alpha Mu Sorority—siblinghood development, new member educator, vice president, and president

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

Yes! I enjoyed every minute spent with my besties (shoutout to Ciara, Cara, Danadia, Alexis, and Jasmine) and I just love the atmosphere of McDaniel: my home away from home. <3

**Who do you think was/is your best mentor?**

Amanda Gelber and Courtney Cunningham. I think they have seen me at my best and my worst and still love me regardless! They inspire me to work as hard as they do and to be the best version of myself.

**Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.**

Literally every day I sat in the Whiteford Lounge my freshman year (which was basically every day that year). It is where the best friend group of my life emerged and I would be nowhere without them. <3

**What are some of the challenges you encountered and how did you overcome them?**

Becoming the president of my sorority my senior year of college was not something I planned on doing. While it may have been one of my hardest challenges I have faced here, I had the support of all my siblings and knowing I was building a better sorority for them made it worth the challenges :)

**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?**

Beware of dork porch sleepy



(Photo courtesy of Rachael Hartley).

syndrome (DPSS) especially during lunch time.

**How do you reflect on your senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

I think collectively as a class we have been able to make the best out of sometimes crappy situations due to covid. What we have had to go through over the last two and a half years was extremely hard and

I'm proud of us all for just getting through each day.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share with the McDaniel community?**

I love you McDaniel, and I can't even put into words how much so many people on this campus mean to me. I hope everyone here can find their people on the hill that make them feel the way I feel. :')

# Lillian Peters

**What is your major and minor?**  
**What other academic programs were you a part of?**

Major: Biomedical Sciences Minor: French

**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

I was a pre calculus tutor.

**What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?**

CASE Club-former president, BSU-general member, Africa's Legacy-general member, GTP-general member, ALD-general member, APO-general member

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

Yes I had fun, I had a pretty great group of people with me.



(Photo courtesy of Lillian Peters)

**Who do you think was/is your best mentor?**

Dr. Mangan was a fantastic first year mentor.

**Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.**

My favorite memory at McDaniel

was Jan term freshman year. I hung out with great people, created a new school of thought Lillianism, made powerpoints and played video games. It was fun being in school and just doing whatever the wind decided for the day. Little

responsibilities, and a lot of time.  
**What are your plans for after graduation?**

To get into the pharmaceutical field or biotechnology.

**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?**

Things may get difficult and you may face challenges in the future but never give up. Also, you were lied to. It is very possible to remain friends with people you first meet in college.

**Where do you see the world in 10 years?**

I hope there is less hate in the world.

**How do you reflect on your senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

A nightmare, but I did get a good capstone project out of it.



## Andy Witten

**What is your major and minor?**  
**What other academic programs were you a part of?**

Business Administration Major,  
 Sports Management Minor. ODK,  
 ODE, Trumpeters, Pi Gamma Mu  
 Honors Societies

**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

Tutor/ Teacher Assistant,  
 Student Ambassador (Tour Guide  
 and Phone Calling)

**What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?**

Punter/ Kicker on the football team and was a member of the leadership committee, President of the Jewish Student Union, member of Green Life, member of Ultimate Frisbee club, member of Alpha Phi Omega.

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

I have absolutely loved my time here on the hill. Ever since I set foot on campus I knew that I was home. The friendly nature of the people around me and the extent of the opportunities I have been provided through McDaniel has been amazing.

**Who do you think was/is your best mentor?**

There have been so many influential people throughout my time here at McDaniel, from the coaching staff, to my professors, as well as the rest of the administrative figures that I have had the pleasure of interacting with. Overall though, I would say that someone who has been a constant when it comes to a support and guidance point of view would be Dr. McKay. She has always been there for the football team as well as the rest of McDaniel athletics along with being a professor here on campus and she truly is our number one fan who wants to see us become the best version of ourselves.



From left to right: Erick Lowe, Jack Bayne, Andy Witten (Photo courtesy of Erick Lowe).

**Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.**

It has to be the most recent Homecoming game, being able to see all of the alumni, family and friends, and people from the community back on campus as one was a memory I will never forget. Football in general has been something I will hold onto forever being able to continue my career here, and experiences like homecoming makes it so much cooler.

**What are some of the challenges you encountered and how did you overcome them?**

This would definitely be starting off Sophomore year completely normal just to be uprooted during the spring semester and have to adapt to the new normal come my Junior year and still trying to keep people involved within the various organizations I was in as well as keep myself in check in terms of academics, athletics, and work as well.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

A job through the Chesapeake Conservation Corps starting in Fall 2022.

**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?**

Don't be a History major, you're not a history major.

**Where do you see the world in 10 years?**

Hopefully, much more green.

**How do you reflect on your senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

I think that even though some of the best years of my life were different because of COVID, I still made the most of it.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share with the McDaniel community?**

FOOOOOETY

Currently I am interning with the Baltimore Orioles within the Ballpark operations portion of the ball club. With this, I hope to continue to build off of this experience with one of the Philadelphia sports teams as it is much closer to home. Though I would never be against staying close to McDaniel and maybe pursuing a job with one of the Baltimore teams as well... tbd.

**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?**

It has to be to always take a chance on a given opportunity. If you ever have the chance to try something new and the only thing holding you back is what if I do not like it, or what if I am not good enough, you might as well take the risk and worst case scenario, never do it again.

**Where do you see the world in 10 years?**

Hopefully cleaner and more friendly.

**How do you reflect on your senior year during the time of**

**the COVID-19 pandemic?**

I am honestly quite happy to see that even though the pandemic was amongst us for a good portion of my college career, myself and others still found a way to make the most of our time here. From hosting outdoor events like Shabbat Friday bonfires and s'mores, to football practices with only a few guys on the field at a time, it may not have been the go to plan, but in the end we saw great results and continued to be as involved as possible.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share with the McDaniel community?**

Thank you to everyone who has had an impact on my time here at McDaniel. It has honestly been an absolute pleasure and I look forward to keeping in touch with as many of you as possible. Professors, Students, faculty and staff alike, we are all Green Terrors and oh boy do we know how to tailgate.

## Jack Bayne

**What is your major and minor?**  
**What other academic programs were you a part of?**

Environmental Science Major with specializations in Policy and Earth Systems.

**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

Tour Guide

**What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?**

Baseball Team, Green Life, JSU, APO, Sunrise Organization

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

For sure! I enjoyed being a part of the baseball team and making relationships at McDaniel that will last a lifetime.

**Who do you think was/is your best mentor?**

Dr. Scullion

**Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.**

Raising a puppy at McDaniel.  
**What are some of the challenges you encountered and how did you overcome them?**

I think that getting past that first year of college and acclimating myself to college life was the hardest.

## Erick Lowe

**What is your major and minor?**  
**What other academic programs were you a part of?**

Environmental Policy and Philosophy majors, Religious studies minor

**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

Environmental studies ambassador, restorationist at the MEC

**What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?**

Green Life president, Rocket League international Relations Czar, McDaniel football, Jewish Student Union house member, Founding member of Environmental Climate & Justice Coalition, Dangersauce improv troupe member, Ultimate frisbee member, McDaniel Free Press staff reporter

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

Absolutely! Loved the community built in clubs and the bonds fostered by our professors. By far, professors are the strength of this school.

**Who do you think was/is your best mentor?**

Too many to list. From the Env

pairing of Dr. Scullion and Dr. Engle, to philosophy's Dr. Tyler and Dr. Jakoby, and football Coach White, I've been blessed to learn from so many great people.

**Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.**

Senior year improv show the night before [playing in] a football game.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

Work with the Appalachian conservation corps doing restoration work in the Shenandoah.

**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?**

College is literally as good or bad as you make it, don't hold back.

**Where do you see the world in 10 years?**

Man, I'm definitely not the person who would know.

**How do you reflect on your senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

I'm not getting into that, it's been an absolute rollercoaster and I'm just grateful we're here now.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share with the McDaniel community?**

Rock on McDaniel, never stop being you.

Connect with the Free Press!



@mcdfreepress



# Raquel Sobczak

**What is your major and minor?  
What other academic programs were you a part of?**

Majors: History and Religious Studies, Honors Program

**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

Admissions Ambassador, Center for Experience and Opportunity Ambassador, and Writing Center Tutor

**What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?**

President of Dance Company, Historian of Phenomenal Women, Historian and President of the Honors Program, member of McDaniel Yoga, Green life, music meditation, and Sunrise

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

My favorite thing about McDaniel is the ability to make personal connections with faculty and staff.

**Who do you think was/is your best mentor?**

My two most influential mentors are Dr. Upton and Dr. Stoddard. Both of them have helped me find what I am passionate about and have shown me pathways to pursue my interests (they are also both pretty funny).



**Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.**

The Pastafarian documentary watch party with thy holy dish, spaghetti.

**What are some of the challenges you encountered and how did you overcome them?**

During my time here I have lost family members and friends, went through a messy Title IX case, and had multiple mental health crises. All of these situations made being a student difficult, but through the support of faculty, staff, and peers, I was able to succeed here

on campus. Additionally, therapy is sick.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I have planned a cross country road trip to see national parks all while living out of my car. When I get back, I will pursue PhD programs.

**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?**

Separate yourself from people and things who do not add positives into life.

**Where do you see the world in 10**

**years?**

I hope that in the future people are more considerate of others and work to support each other rather than tear each other down.

**How do you reflect on your senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

I learned how to adapt and change my perspectives or actions to best fit any situation.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share with the McDaniel community?**

Be kind to one another.

# Micaela Champion



(Photo courtesy of Micaela Champion).

**What is your major and minor?  
What other academic programs were you a part of?**

English Major

**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

McDaniel Admissions Ambassador - president of the program junior and senior years, Resident Assistant, Writing Center Peer Tutor, Library Reference desk worker, Library Intern Fall 2021, summer 2021 research assistant for Dr. Mary (The Westminster Detective Library), chemistry tutor freshman and sophomore years, Men's Lacrosse Manager freshman and sophomore years

**What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?**

Alpha Phi Omega Coed Service Fraternity- Alumni Relations Chair, Membership VP, President, Prime Minister, Honors Program, Alpha

Lambda Delta First year Honor Society, Gamma Sigma Epsilon National Chemistry Honor Society, Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society, Trumpeters, Phi Beta Kappa Academic Honor Society, McDaniel Live Music Club- Secretary Fall 19-Spring 20, Student Alumni Council (freshman-junior years)

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

Yes I have! The thing I enjoyed most is the McDaniel community. All of the professors, faculty, staff, and my peers have truly made my McDaniel experience amazing. I have been given so many different opportunities, the ability to be involved in all of the things I am passionate about, and the support to grow as an individual. I have

truly found who I am at McDaniel and have gained the confidence to be who I am and pursue my true goals in life. McDaniel will always be like a second home to me and will hold a place in my heart.

**Who do you think was/is your best mentor?**

Dr. Mary Bendel-Simso who is a professor in the English department is one of my best mentors. She has supported me and helped guide me to be who I am today. Without her I would never have been able to find my confidence, find my happiness on campus, or be as successful as I have been academically. My other best mentor is Elizabeth Davidson who is the associate director and head of public services for the Hoover Library. She has supported me throughout my senior year and has helped me so incredibly much with pursuing a career in librarianship.

**What are some of the challenges you encountered and how did you overcome them?**

As a first generation college student one of the biggest challenges I faced was finding my definition of success. Coming into college I thought that I had to pursue a discipline of study that seemed "impressive," had to then pursue an occupation that was highly valued by society, and needed to show everyone that I was capable of doing the "hardest things." I soon became miserable with my studies and struggled to make friends. Once I realized my happiness was more important than others' approval, I finally pursued the discipline I have always loved and have found an occupation I am absolutely overjoyed to be pursuing.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I am planning on attending graduate school for library and information science and hopefully one day becoming an academic librarian working in a college or university library.

**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?**

Be yourself, open up to others, and be willing to change. It is so easy to get stuck in your ways but trying new things and putting yourself out there will open you up to a whole new world of possibilities.

**How do you reflect on your senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

While COVID has definitely brought some limitations to campus life, I feel as if with many protocols being lifted this year campus came back to life. This year opened me up to some of my fondest memories of McDaniel and has brought me some of my most beloved friends.



Becca Halaney

What is your major and minor?  
What other academic programs were you a part of?

English major, ASL and Writing minors

What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?

Ambassador, Writing Center tutor, Communications Office intern and assistant, Honor and Conduct Board student member, research assistant

What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?

Contrast Literary Magazine president

Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?

Yes! I love how the student body cares about each other; it's rare in my experience for McDaniel students to be exclusionary. I have

made deep and lasting friendships here.

Who do you think was/is your best mentor?

Dr. Dobson has shaped my career plans out of mismatched and unfocused interests. I am excited to take her advice post-graduation.

Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.

My Senior Homecoming, surrounded by so many friends from so many different disciplines and walks of life, feeling safe to be myself.

What are some of the challenges you encountered and how did you overcome them?

I received multiple diagnoses requiring surgery during my freshman and sophomore years. This added more considerations to an already large adjustment to college outside my home state, but I could depend on friends, campus staff and faculty, and the local

community to help me manage appointments and recovery.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I want to work in higher education administration for some years before applying to law school.

What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?

Take yourself less seriously, the stakes are often not as high as they feel. Do no harm but take no bull. Be kinder to yourself.

Where do you see the world in 10 years?

Climate change will have caught up with us, and hopefully we will have collectively acted in time to mitigate it in the present day's rapidly closing window. On that front, I'm not optimistic. I am optimistic about human resilience and I trust that regardless, we will adapt.

How do you reflect on your

senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Widespread disasters and crises bring out the extremes of humanity: I'm both touched by our capacity for selfless empathy and frightened by our selfish shortsightedness. Alongside the mass loss of life, health, and opportunities experienced to varying degrees across every demographic, I was pleasantly surprised to see that the strength of relationships and community can last over indefinite change, distance, and isolation.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with the McDaniel community?

After we graduate, can someone please let us in on the locations of the other secret dragons? Do they exist? Have we been duped? Please advise.

Danielle Wendt

What is your major and minor?  
What other academic programs were you a part of?

I'm a double major in English and Environmental Studies (focus in Policy and Management) with a minor in American Sign Language (ASL)/Deaf Studies. I'm also a part of the Honors Program.

What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?

I am a Writing Center tutor, and I was an environmental studies departmental tutor/lab assistant.

What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?

I was a member of Alpha Phi Omega (APO), the international co-ed service fraternity, all four years of college, and after serving as the secretary for a semester, I served as the Service Vice President for

two years (four semesters). I was a member of Contrast, the school's literary magazine and writing club, all four years, serving on the editorial board as a general member for the first two and serving alongside Becca Halaney as co-editor-in-chief for the second two. I also had more minimal involvement with several other organizations throughout my time at McDaniel, including Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD), Sigma Tau Delta (STD), Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), Phi Beta Kappa (PBK), Trumpeters, McDaniel Yoga Club, and Green Life/Sunrise McDaniel.

Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?

I have definitely enjoyed my time at McDaniel (especially the parts when I was able to physically be on-campus). I think my favorite part of going to school here was getting to build a community--I have so

many friends here who I hope will continue to be my friends for life, and I have met so many amazing professors who I know will always be in my corner. I'm really grateful to McDaniel for giving me that community.

Who do you think was/is your best mentor?

This is a really hard question to answer, because I have had two different homes at McDaniel with two majors, and I have had wonderful advisors in each. For environmental Studies, Dr. Engle has been an amazing support to me, because she really considers her students' mental wellbeing in addition to pushing to explore and be creative in all of her classes, and I love and appreciate her for that so much. For English, it's a bit of a three-way tie between Kate (Dr. Dobson), Vanessa (Professor Flora-Nakoski), and Dr. Mary, all

of whom encouraged me to pursue tasks outside of my comfort zone and supported my professional development. I'm extremely indebted to all three of them for that.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I like to consider myself an environmental storyteller, so I hope that, no matter where I end up, I am telling stories about our Earth and people doing or needed important work in it.

What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?

I would advise first-year students to take the time to enjoy being here. You never know what might happen that might prevent you from meeting new people and spending time on campus to build your community and to have fun, so take advantage of that time while you can.

Eamonn Fay

What is your major and minor?  
What other academic programs were you a part of?

English Major, Writing Minor  
What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?

I was a Free Press Funnyman, editor, contributor, and ever-present bum at Contrast, and member of Sigma Tau Delta.

Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?

I've really, really enjoyed my time here. I think my favorite part has been the people. I've made great friends here that I hope to stick with for a long time. Also, the professors I've met here are some of the most genuine and fun people I've ever met.

Who do you think was/is your best mentor?

I would NEVER have made it

this far without Dr. Becky Carpenter. She's been a supportive professor and advisor, and her encouragement has really helped me come into my own as a writer. I can't thank her enough.

Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.

It's so difficult to choose just one... but one that comes to mind is my first proper tailgate here. I'm not really into sports, but when the weather's that nice, you're surrounded by friends, and people are excited for a win, it's kind of hard not to get caught up in it too.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I don't have anything set up quite yet, so... I'm gonna take a little vacation then start filling out job applications like crazy. Wish me luck!

What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?

Know your worth, but don't get such a big head! Everybody has



(Photo courtesy of Eamonn Fay).

some good and bad in them, judging people (yourself included) like that is a recipe for disaster.

Where do you see the world in 10 years?

No comment.

How do you reflect on your senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?

After losing about a year and a

half of my college experience to the pandemic, it was just nice to have a mostly normal year again. I'm just glad to be here at this point.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with the McDaniel community?

Thanks for everything! Never ask me to do anything ever again.



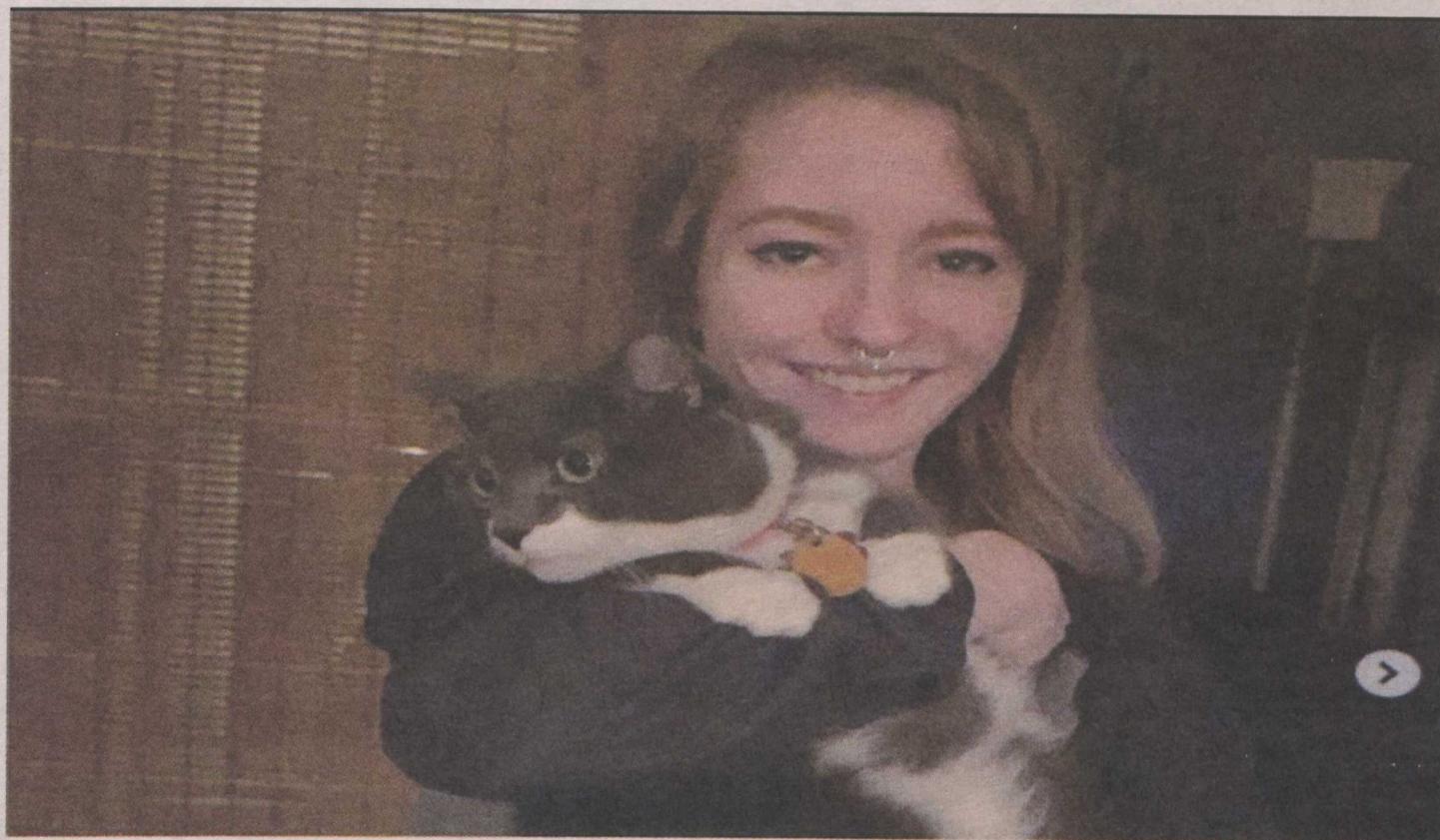
In order to honor our counterpart in fostering the writing community at McDaniel, the *Free Press* wanted to allow Contrast's graduating Co-Editors-in-Chief to share their college experiences in the best way they know how: creative writing and storytelling. If you're interested in getting involved with Contrast Literary Magazine next semester, reach out to their faculty advisor Kate Dobson, or follow them on Instagram, @contrast.lit.mag.

## Burnout Panacea

### Becca Halaney

Sirens and angry lights screamed through the windows of Dembe and Chrissie's apartment. In the kitchen, Dembe's eyes snapped wide open, and their dog bolted upright, skittering across the linoleum floor to bark and howl back at the noise. Chrissie's eyes met hers, honey under the fluorescent light directly behind a somewhat tearful Dembe's head. Both sighed, and Chrissie squeezed her roommate's hand tighter.

The wail of the ambulance had brought Dembe back from a wandering fantasy—something to keep her sane, some sort of mindfulness meditation. Her fears wormed through when she looked down at her feet to find them still inexplicably hovering a foot above the kitchen floor. Although she could not have been more uncomfortably aware of her unique situation as a person for whom gravity had broken, it still seemed so ridiculous that she hoped it must have been a hyper realistic dream. Christie's hand sweat into Dembe's. After ensuring that her floating roommate had a secure hold on the spice cabinet doorknob, Chrissie cautiously stood and jogged the short distance to secure their dog inside the bathroom and prop open



(Photo courtesy of Becca Halaney).

the front door. Their eyes met as she returned to the kitchen, but short of rejoining and holding onto Dembe, Chrissie froze. Before she had time to answer Dembe's searching, concerned stare, the paramedics strode in behind her.

The first to reach Dembe asked if she was the injured party, then crouched beside her and began assessing the situation. She met eyes with her roommate again, hoping that by that point Chrissie

would have come up with some description of how Dembe had defied the laws of physics, but Chrissie merely stammered. Dazed, Dembe swallowed and looked down at the blood pressure cuff being gently fit around her arm—and immediately she realized why none of the EMTs had seemed stunned by her condition: she found herself slumped safely on the ground, nestled against the cabinet door, fingers looped tightly around the

knob, stiff and shaking but firmly obeying the laws of gravity.

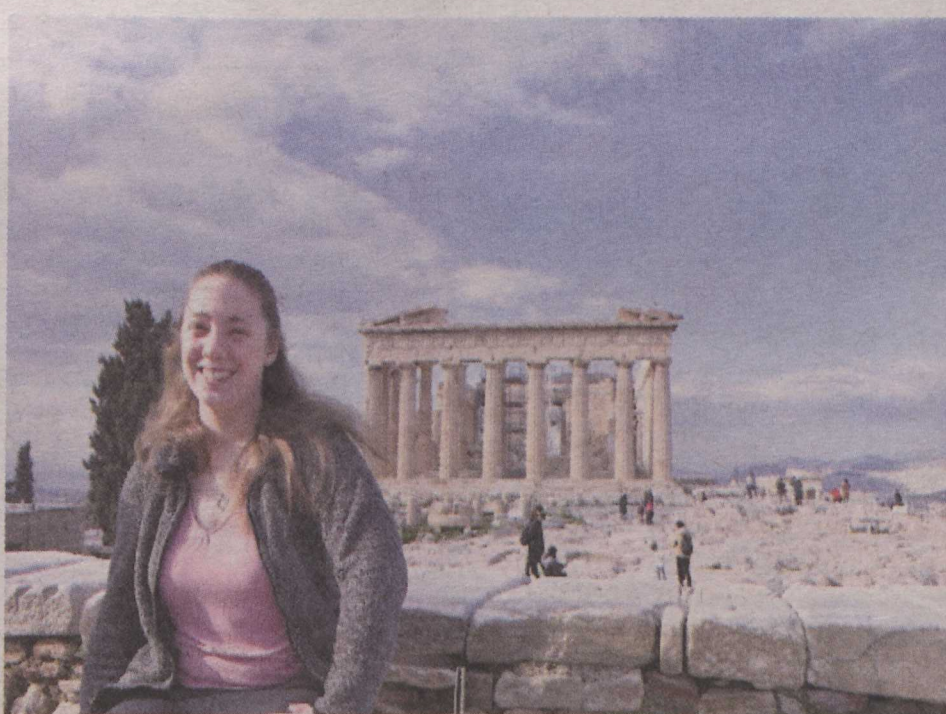


## Celebration Through the Storms

### Danielle Wendt

Most of my time in Crete is spent in the rain. During my Jan-term, we suffer many storms in Crete, one so intense that we are forced to stay an extra day, the ferry unable to safely leave the Cretan shore. One dreary morning, we wait to hear if the religious celebration on this, the final day of Greek Orthodox Christmas, will still take place. We wait on one of the many docks on the island, in a section across from a lighthouse. It's a great photo opportunity, and at my behest, my friend, Kaitlyn, picks up her phone and snaps a selfie of the two of us. It's my favorite picture of the entire Jan term, both of us bundled in coats, my hair horribly mussed from the wind, water flooding over the stone docks, both of us smiling very genuine goofy grins in spite of the storm.

After the photo, I watch my classmates race against the waves, their laughter all bright despite the wet and the chill. The wind is stirring the water into a frenzy—waves are constantly rocking back



(Photo courtesy of Danielle Wendt).

and forth, lapping at the docks, and every few times that the water surges onto shore, it spreads farther inland, to the point that even I, dozens of feet away from the edge, am in danger of getting wet. My more adventurous classmates, perhaps out of boredom, invent a game out of standing from the shoreline and awaiting the moment of the water's

rapid and excessive resurgence. When they hear the water start to rush onto the docks, they start to race, giggling as they consistently try and fail to outpace the waves.

Although the religious celebration we were waiting for happens, several swimmers holding their own races to retrieve a cross thrown into the

freezing waters, we miss out on seeing it, unaware of the rescheduled time and place. And yet...I remember standing on the docks so fondly, with such vividness. It's the same feeling I get when we finally do depart the island, a day later than expected. Even now, I still remember stomping through puddles in the water-soaked streets, stopping at Frenchy's for ham and cheese savory sandwich crepes, gooey and warm in their checkered red wrapping, wandering through alleyways dripping with holidays lights with my classmates, all of us aglow with the long-lasting Greek Christmas spirit. As the ferry departs, I know miss Crete, despite the storms.

I feel the same way about my time at McDaniel. Despite over half of my college experience being battered and bruised with the arrival of a global pandemic, I have loved my time here. My final semesters have taught me to savor moments of joy amidst the chaos. Like my time in Crete, I know I will miss McDaniel and the amazing community we have built here. Thank you to everyone who helped me celebrate through the storms.



## Maddy Lee



(Photo courtesy of Maddy Lee)

**What is your major and minor?**  
**What other academic programs were you a part of?**

Political Science Major (IR Specialization), Honors Program, Global Fellows, Model UN, Model EU, Maryland Student Legislature  
**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

Writing Center Tutor, Peer Mentor (2019-2020)

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at McDaniel and have most enjoyed the small, intimate campus. I know the Hill like the back of my

hand and always notice when there's a new face about. Sometimes people recognize me and know me by name before I can even remember how we know each other.

**Who do you think was/is your best mentor?**

Dr. Grice. He is truly doing what he is called to do. Teaching seems as natural to him as breathing and I've learned most of my own teaching skills from him.

**Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.**

In my freshman year, I participated in a simulation of Asia-Pacific international relations. By the end of the week, I sued China. It was great.

**What are some of the challenges you encountered and how did you overcome them?**

I found myself without secure housing during the pandemic. I was only able to continue my studies and take care of myself because of the kindness of fellow McDaniel students. We take care of each other.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

To attend the University of Hawaii's Manoa campus for a Masters in Political Science.

**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at**

**McDaniel?**

Don't be afraid to talk to new people. You'll feel nostalgic for each and every face come senior year  
**Where do you see the world in 10 years?**

I see people learning the same lesson every generation has to: that we shape what our future looks like. We will try, fail, recover, and try again. Our triumphs will be our children's norms and they will ask why we passed the torch to them just as we asked our parents. I hope our answers will be better.

**How do you reflect on your senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

I see a senior year I would never have predicted and friends I didn't expect to make or keep. I can't help but believe we are all a little older and a little wiser than we would have been in "normal years." I look forward to seeing what "normal" becomes next.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share with the McDaniel community?**

This school is small. Take advantage of that. Visit a professor's office hours. Let them know your name. Participate in a campus event. Wave to familiar faces in Red Square. It's hard to be seen at larger colleges, but here, you can be. It's worth it.

## Jyoti Duwady

**What is your major and minor?**  
**What other academic programs were you a part of?**

I am majoring in Accounting, Economics and Business Administration with a concentration in Leadership and Management. I am also part of the Global Bridge program at McDaniel.

**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

I have worked at the admissions office since my freshman year and the Writing Center since my sophomore year. I serve as one of the student members on the Honor and Conduct Board. I was also an honors peer mentor and a local leader.

**What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?**

I have been the treasurer of Palabras to Words (P2W) for two years! P2W is a service organization on campus centered around tutoring students and community members whose first language isn't English. We also host different language and culture centered events! Other organizations I have been part of are the Student Alumni Council, the GSA, the Asian community coalition, and the Japanese culture and anime club.

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

Yes! I have loved my time at McDaniel, even if it was interrupted by covid. Despite graduating early, I have still made a lot of great friends and fun memories. My favorite thing about my time here is living in North Village with my friends. I brought a projector and we had a lot of fun nights watching movies or playing games together. It was also fun to go to all the fun

events different clubs hosted. GTP bingo and trivia were very popular hangout activities. We also went on a lot of fun hikes, especially during the peak of covid where we had to be creative on how to hang out safely.

**Who do you think was/is your best mentor?**

My best mentor on the hill is Professor Flora-Nakoski/Vanessa. She has been my boss at the Writing Center for most of my time here and she will be sorely missed. In addition to writing and tutoring advice, she also gave me life lessons for the world after McDaniel and how to navigate it. Spending time with and talking to her is always a highlight of my week and I learn something new after each conversation.

**Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.**

My favorite memory at McDaniel is Jan term 2020. Most of my friends were here and we were all taking just one class. We were together from noon to midnight almost every night just having fun. McDaniel also had a lot of things going on then so we were rarely bored. It was like being in college without all the stress associated with classes.

**What are some of the challenges you encountered and how did you overcome them?**

The main challenge I encountered at McDaniel was the COVID school year of fall 2020 to spring 2021. All my classes were virtual for both semesters. I had difficulties focusing and understanding the course materials. Since English wasn't my first language, I was also having trouble understanding all the readings I had to do, especially in asynchronous classes. I overcame these challenges by setting up a routine and reaching out for help. I structured my day



to mimic a regular class schedule to avoid being overwhelmed and put down every assignment on my planner so I don't miss any assignments. I also reached out to SASS, who were very helpful and gave me access to a text to voice software despite not having accommodations since it was a very stressful year for everyone.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I will be an auditor for PWC's DC office starting in September! I plan to spend my summer studying for the CPA exam, catching up with family, and taking a long-awaited break.

**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?**

As a very anxious first-year, I would tell myself to relax and to enjoy the journey instead of focusing on the destination. I already knew I wanted to work for a big company, so I spent a lot of energy doing things I may not have been interested in but thought would look good in a resume. I spent a lot of time stressing over things that did not matter in the long-run. With what I know now, I learned that having fun and growing as a person is also a huge

component of going to college.  
**Where do you see the world in 10 years?**

In 10 years, I hope the world will be a kinder place and that people will make the environment a priority.

**How do you reflect on your senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Senior year was much busier than what I originally planned, both due to covid and graduating early. While it would have been nice to spend the full four years, my senior year still has been an amazing experience. While it felt like it was going by so slowly each week, the semester actually flew by. I am thankful that my friends and family have been healthy during the pandemic and I look forward to when covid is nothing more than a memory.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share with the McDaniel community?**

Thank you to everyone I have met at McDaniel! Everyone I've met has been part of my journey from freshman to senior year. I think I am a much more open and well-rounded person thanks to my time here and I could not have done it alone.



# Katherine Carstensen



(Photo courtesy of Katherine Carstensen)

**What is your major and minor?**  
**What other academic programs were you a part of?**

English major and Secondary Education minor

**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

Hill Center Desk Attendant

**What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?**

Member of the women's soccer team, member of Alpha Phi Omega co-ed service fraternity, Student Athlete Advisory Committee

representative, member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes  
**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

I've loved my four years on the hill. I've truly enjoyed being able to learn more about who I am, what I'm passionate about, and making lifelong friendships.

**Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.**

Winning the Centennial Conference Championship with the women's soccer team in 2021.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I will be returning to McDaniel for a fifth year and getting my master's in Secondary Education.

**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?**

Learn how to prioritize your time and have fun because it goes so fast.

**How do you reflect on your senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

It was strange but I feel that I've been able to make the most of it.

## Spring 2022 Editorial Team

**Ciara O'Brien '22**  
 Editor-in-Chief

**Rachel Allen '20**  
 Assistant Editor

**Molly Sherman '22**  
 Assistant Editor

## Kealey Allison

**What is your major and minor?**  
**What other academic programs were you a part of?**

Business Administration Major, Sports Business Minor

**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

Gill Center front desk

**What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?**

Vice President of SAAC, Women's Lacrosse

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

Yes! I have loved every year here at McDaniel. I enjoyed getting closer with my teammates and experiencing life in college with them and excelling on the field with them.

**Who do you think was/is your best mentor?**

Coach Ramey

**Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.**

My favorite memory at McDaniel

is the two spring break trips I got to take with the lacrosse team.

Freshman year we got to go to Nashville which was so much fun! This year, we traveled to Colorado which was such a cool experience with my teammates.

**What are some of the challenges you encountered and how did you overcome them?**

I think one of the biggest challenges I encountered was having to go back and forth with online school and in person classes. I am a student who needs a routine and structure. I overcame this by making myself a schedule while we were at home due to covid. I also have to thank the professors who realized the challenges, and helped us through them with extra office hours and meetings.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I am using my year of eligibility at Saint Leo University while getting my MBA

**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?**



(Photo courtesy of Kealey Allison)

Do not be afraid to meet with your professors and ask for help.

**Where do you see the world in 10 years?**

I see myself in Florida working for the business side of a sports team.

**How do you reflect on your senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

I am very sad that we missed the "whole" college experience. Is there anything else you'd

**like to share with the McDaniel community?**

Thank you for supporting the McDaniel students through a hard couple of years due to the pandemic. We were able to make the most of it and felt safe the entire time!

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## Elva Joya



Joya posing with her parents  
(Photo courtesy of Elva Joya)

**What is your major and minor?**  
**What other academic programs were you a part of?**

Major: Psychology Minors: Biology, Chemistry, Spanish Academic Programs: Honors Program and Global Fellow

**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

I held a few jobs. I was a note taker my First and Second Year. I worked at the Wellness Center as a Public Outreach Specialist my First Year. I worked as an Resident Assistant from my Sophomore to now as a Senior, having been Head RA for independent housing my Junior year. I worked for the Center for Experience and Opportunity as a CEO ambassador my Sophomore through the Fall semester of the Senior year.

**What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?**

HLA - President for two terms, Treasurer for one term, P2W - Vice-President and Tutor, LULAC - Vice-President and Secretary, Honors Program - Event Coordinator, STEM Club, Pre-Health Club,

Tri-Beta Biology Honors Society, Gamma Sigma Epsilon Chemistry Honors Society, Psi Chi Psychology Honors Society National Society, Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, Global Fellows

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

I have enjoyed my time at McDaniel tremendously. I enjoyed the lifelong friends that I have made over the years, building the Latinx and ally family network, building professional connections with my mentors and being able to spend time on this beautiful campus.

**Who do you think was/is your best mentor?**

It is really hard to choose because I had mentors for different aspects of my life. My mentors include Dr. Amy McNichols, Dr. Dana Ferraris, Dr. Manuel Ruiz, Dr. Katie Staab, Professor Sarah Lippy, Dr. Paul Mazeroff and Martha Smith. <3

**Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.**

Hands down, the whole preparation process and execution of The 18th Annual McDaniel

Yes! I enjoyed meeting my friends, who will continue to be my friends once we graduate from McDaniel. **Who do you think was/is your best mentor?**

Professor Chloe Irla

**Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.**

There are so many to choose from! During an Admitted Student Day, a prospective student came up to me and said: "It was a pleasure meeting you and I just wanted to let you know that you really helped me make my decision to come here." It truly made my day!

**What are some of the challenges you encountered and how did you overcome them?**

Certain courses were more difficult than others and I was challenged by the material that I had to learn for those specific classes.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

Traveling around Europe, and

College Hispano-Latinx Alliance. It was the first we had been able to do this since the Fall semester of my sophomore year due to COVID. I was impressed by the collaboration and the fun we had with the whole HLA familia. Additionally, I cannot forget all the days and nights that I spent with my Best Friend Christian Torres when we lived in North Village my Junior year. We really made the apartment a home especially in the Spring semester. **What are some of the challenges you encountered and how did you overcome them?**

When COVID hit, I was able to be more in touch with my emotions and it was then when I realized that I was avoiding them by being so productive. Therefore, having to cope with everything hitting me at one was challenging. I also suffered from severe burnout trying to do everything all at once. It took some time, self-care and therapy to get myself back together, but I am so grateful that this happened during this time where I was very supported by my campus resources, my friends and my loved ones.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

Sleep... lots of sleep... I will be taking a much needed break after my undergrad to find myself outside of academics and to determine what really makes me happy. I want to engage in new adventures outside of my comfort zone to nourish my brain and my soul. Then, I will be connecting back to the world after approximately a year and work as a medical scribe or for a BioTech company while taking Physics 1 and 2, then, preparing for the MCAT and applying to medical school so that I can specialize as a Child Psychiatrist.

**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?**

I would advise a first year student

to not overbook themselves their first year and to enjoy and take advantage of every opportunity that comes to them from the Office of Student Engagement. I would also advise them to use Google Calendar to plan out their whole life hour-by-hour because it helped me ensure that I was where I needed to be 24/7. I would also advise a first-year to be open-minded and start a conversation with anyone, you never know what could become of it. Go where your heart takes you and remember that you can quite literally create anything on this campus if there is not a space where you feel like you fit in. Go to your professors office hours, these are the connections that you are going to need following your undergrad years—their networks are huge! Above all, prioritize your mental and physical health. Nothing matters more.

**Where do you see the world in 10 years?**

I hope the world is kinder, healthier and more compassionate.

**How do you reflect on your senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

It was a shock to come back to completely in-person classes and living accommodations. It was a hard adjustment coming from being online and hybrid, the expectations were back on and we as a community were not used to being so productive after having been stagnant for many semesters. I do not recommend this experience for anyone, especially being so restricted.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share with the McDaniel community?**

Just because I will have graduated, does not mean that I will not stay connected to the McDaniel community. I wish everyone the best and to remember to take care of yourselves and each other.

## Liz Mince

**What is your major and minor?**  
**What other academic programs were you a part of?**

Art with a specialization in Graphic Design. Minor in Art History. Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society.

**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

FYS Peer Mentor, SASS Peer Mentor, McDaniel Student Ambassador, Rice Gallery worker What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?

President of Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM), Secretary for the McDaniel Student Art League, Member of ALD (Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society)

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**



I plan to work at McDaniel after graduation.

**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?**

Take advantage of Office Hours. This one-on-one time with your professors allows you to introduce yourself and talk about your personal/academic life.

**Where do you see the world in 10 years?**

I hope to see the world as a community that invites creativity.

**How do you reflect on your**

**senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

It was challenging, but I made many memories with my friends, peers, colleagues and professors that I will cherish forever.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share with the McDaniel community?**

I am so glad that I chose to come to McDaniel. I know that I made the right decision four years ago and am so grateful for the amazing experiences that I made while I was on the Hill.



# Emily Camizzi

**What is your major and minor?**  
**What other academic programs were you a part of?**

I am a social work major and a psychology and sociology minor.  
**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

Since freshman year, I have been a mentor at the Boys and Girls Club of Westminster.

**What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?**

At McDaniel, I have been a part of Phi Mu Fraternity since my freshman year. While in Phi Mu, I have been the Ritual Chairman and the Honor Committee Chairman. I also belong to Alpha Lambda Delta, Phi Alpha, Pi Gamma Mu, and Alpha Kappa Delta honor societies. Recently, I helped create a new club on campus called, McDaniel Agents of Change, and was the treasurer of the club.

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

I have definitely enjoyed my time at McDaniel and I am thankful for the many memories I have made here. I think one of my favorite things about McDaniel is the campus.

**Who do you think was/is your**

**best mentor?**  
I have had many mentors while I've been here, however, I think my best mentor was Professor Young. She has always taken the time to talk with me and helped me figure out the next steps in my college career and life.  
**Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.**

My favorite memory at McDaniel was joining my sorority. I remember bid day like it was yesterday and running home to my sisters. I have had a great experience and I know that I will forever stay connected with my sisters.  
**What are some of the challenges you encountered and how did you overcome them?**

The transition back to campus after the height of COVID-19 was very difficult. I was home all of my junior year and coming back to campus my senior year was exciting, but also daunting. It was weird to be back at first, but then everything fell into place.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**  
I will be attending Boston University in the fall to pursue my masters in social work.  
**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?**  
I would tell myself to have fun and make memories, but also have



(Photo courtesy of Emily Camizzi)

time to relax. I remember freshman year feeling a lot of pressure to do well and if I could go back, I would be more calm. Everything works out in the end and it's important to stay true to yourself.

**Where do you see the world in 10 years?**

I see myself in 10 years eliciting change and helping to reduce social issues. I want to further my education so that I can help others and I know that in my career I will achieve this. There are many issues in our society that need to be addressed and I want to be at the table when policies are being created and change is occurring. Although I am not 100% sure where my career will take me, I know that I will use my knowledge and education to create systemic change.

**How do you reflect on your**

**senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Being a student during COVID-19 has been an interesting experience. I miss going to class without masks and having a "normal" college experience. However, I'm happy that things are getting back to normal and that the weather is getting warmer.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share with the McDaniel community?**

I have had a great past four years here and I am so thankful to have had the opportunities that I did. I'm definitely going to miss walking around campus and seeing all of my professors. McDaniel is a special place and I'm happy that I was able to call it home for the past four years.

# Kaylen Buschhorn

**What is your major and minor?**  
**What other academic programs were you a part of?**

Major in Art with a Specialization in Graphic Design and a triple minor in Sports Management, Marketing, and Art History

**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**

Student Associate of Creative Development at The University of Texas Athletics, McDaniel Football

Graphic Designer, and Social Media Consultant for Athletes Unlimited  
**What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?**

Alpha Lambda Delta, the Honors Program, and Phi Mu- served as Vice President and Public Relations Chairwoman

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

Meeting so many amazing people that I will be friends with for life.  
**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I will be working as a Social Media Intern for ESPN during Summer 2022 before heading back to Austin to attend The University of Texas to pursue a master's in Advertising and continue working as a Graduate Assistant in Texas Athletics Creative Development

**What advice would you give yourself as a first-year student at McDaniel?**

Girls Club

**What organizations were you a part of at McDaniel? What positions did you hold?**

Phi Mu - Treasurer, Women's Tennis - Captain, Alpha Lambda Delta, Phi Beta Kappa, Yearbook Club

**Have you enjoyed your time at McDaniel? If so, what did you enjoy the most?**

Living with my best friends and meeting so many amazing people from the tennis team

**Who do you think was/is your best mentor?**

Dr. Holly Chalk and Dr. Robert Trader

**Describe your favorite memory at McDaniel.**

My tennis senior day because all the people I love were together in one place.

**What are some of the challenges you encountered and how did you overcome them?**

Take risks that make you step out of your comfort zone!  
**Where do you see the world in 10 years?**

Hopefully working as a Social Media Manager for a professional sports team or Formula 1 Team!  
**How do you reflect on your senior year during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

I am sad to have missed out on a normal college experience but glad we made the most of it on the hill!

# Kassidee Wright



(Photo courtesy of Kassidee Wright)

**What is your major and minor?**  
**What other academic programs were you a part of?**

Double Major in Psychology and

Communication  
**What are some of the jobs you held while at McDaniel?**  
RA, Internship at the Boys and



E	K	Y	E	J	A	A	E	M	I	L	Y	L	E
D	J	L	K	A	Z	K	E	A	L	E	Y	L	E
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RAQUEL

RACHAEL

KEALEY

JASMINE

ANDY

CIARA

KAYLEN

JYOTI

LILLIAN

MOLLY

LIZ

KASSIDEE

BECCA

DANIELLE

MICAELA

ERICK

ELVA

EMILY

KATHERINE

EAMONN

MADDY

JACK

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