

The **M** **N**ITOR

MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Education Department Receives Accreditation

Hayden Watkins

After a review from the Region Accreditation for Teacher Education (RATE), Marymount's Education department has been accredited by New York State.

The process began in November 2006 when five members of the RATE board came to Marymount to sit in on classes and accompany the staff to many student field experiences and student teaching sites.

Assistant Professor of Education Dr. Clare Lowell, whose focus is adolescent education, came to Marymount in the fall of 2005. Shortly after, she began working with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Marguerita Grecco and Social Sciences chair Dr. Kenton Worcester to help formulate drafts of accreditation and evaluation forms.

The Education Department added two new Faculty members in Fall 2006: Assistant Professor of Education Dr. Twila Liggett, who specializes in the literacy

aspect of education, and the current department chair, Dr. Roger Zeeman, whose focus is special education. The entire staff pulled together to push for the accreditation.

Students were also actively involved in the accreditation process. Students were interviewed by the Albany Faculty of RATE about what was going well in the department and what they felt needed work.

The RATE representatives spoke with MMC students who were involved in student teaching and their supervisors. The RATE members also contacted former Marymount education Alumni.

"There is a lot of pride that

"This accreditation is a wonderful validation of the quality of our program."

- Judson Shaver



Kyle Cochran/ The Monitor

they [education alumni] have in Marymount, and there is a lot of affection that they have for the education department," said Lowell.

All schools in New York State have to go through the accreditation process to maintain their certification and registration with the state. Applying independently for Teacher Certification can be a difficult process. However, by being accredited, the school can endorse students for their

Teacher Certification.

Currently, Marymount students can achieve certification in Inclusive Education, Special Education, Adolescent Education in English and Social studies, and Speech and Hearing Impaired Education.

"This accreditation is a wonderful validation of the quality of our program and the College's commitment to preparing our students to become effective teachers," said President Judson Shaver.

Zeeman and Lowell both said that Marymount's focus on field experience and student teaching helps prepare its students for employment after graduation. This experience is especially helpful for those going into Special Education which according to Dr. Zeeman is currently a very lucrative area of education.

"The field hours and the kind of credits you need to complete this program really prepare you for any demand that you would have in a classroom," said Lowell

Senior Theater major and Education minor and President of the Education Honor Society Ariana Paganetti thinks that the accreditation can only help the Education program.

"We're hoping that the accreditation helps retention in the program which will help retention in the society" she said.

For more information on State approved Teacher Certification Programs at MMC contact Dr. Roger Zeeman at rzeeman@mmm.edu.

Marymount Joins U-CAN College Database

Marielle Mondon

Marymount is taking further steps toward improving both the admissions process for high school seniors and the school, developing ways to make the school more efficient and competitive as a liberal arts college.

One step Marymount has taken as of September joining the University and College Accountability Network, or U-CAN. Like other online college resources such as CollegeBoard or the Princeton Review, U-CAN offers basic information

about colleges across the country.

What makes U-Can unique is its objectivity. Unlike Princeton Review or other college websites, which offer top ten lists and descriptions of schools from students and officials, the U-CAN Network provides basic facts, such as housing rates and average SAT scores, allowing visitors of the website to make their own interpretations.

"For any college that's listed you'll see the same information in the same standard format,

making it easier for comparison," said Vice President for Institutional Research and Planning Peter Baker. "Not every fact about Marymount is glowingly wonderful, but at least we are being more honest by joining this initiative"

While some statistics, such as a low diversity rate (a student body that is 71 percent white) or a 67 percent retention rate appear unattractive when compared to the resourceful liberal arts colleges Marymount is often grouped with, such as Amherst or Williams,

Marymount's central New York location continues to be an attraction to prospective students despite other flaws informed on the U-CAN website.

"It's time to be more transparent about who we are and what we do."
-Peter Baker

"I'm not sure a lot of people come to Marymount because they look at statistics," said Baker. "Lots of people come because there is a particular

thing they want to study or because they want to be in New York."

The administration is hopeful that by offering this unbiased information to students and counselors, the school will continue to make strides towards becoming a more developed, resourceful school.

"It's time to be a little more transparent about who we are and what we do," said Baker.

For more information on U-CAN and to visit Marymount's site, go to <http://www.ucan-network.org>.

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Requests for additional copies can be made by emailing monitor@mmm.edu or visiting the Student Office Space on the third floor of the Main Building.

For advertising information, or for comments, questions, suggestions, or letters to the editor, please email *The Monitor* at monitor@mmm.edu.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Marymount Community,

I am glad to report I have made it through the semester without pulling out my hair and calling it quits! I have learned so much about myself these past few months, it has been a great ride.

Yes, there were several ups and downs but I look forward to continuing in this position next semester.

It would be great to say I have had no regrets thus

far...but let us be realistic.

There were a couple of moments this semester when I let my pride cloud my good sense and I am sorry to those who were affected by my mis-judgments. Not all my decisions were well received but, such is life.

Unfortunately, I have yet to figure out a way in which to keep everyone happy. (Not sure if is it possible!?)

I would like to thank my amazing staff for all the

hard work they put into the four issues released.

I understand how difficult it was to make time for an interview or sit down and edit six articles when you had a term paper do the next day. I could not have accomplished anything without you.

Our Features Editor, Taylor Gordon, will be graduating this December. Her incredible dedication to *The Monitor* will be missed.

Congrats Taylor! We

wish you all the best!

I wish every student, teacher, and staff member the best during the holiday break! See you in 2008!

Your Editor in Chief
Michelle Diaz

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing to see if you all can look into a problem at the 55th street residence. I love my view. Its without a doubt one of the best views in this residence building, but it is hard to enjoy the fullness of my view with such dirty

windows!!!

I, along with every other resident at this building have paid too much to have such nasty windows! When I am in class at school, I always see those windows getting washed so WHY AREN'T OURS?!?!?!?!?!?

Please look into this problem and see what can be done. The windows look like they have not been washed since they were first installed when the building was built.

Daniel J Montelongo

Happy Holidays From The Monitor



Taylor Gordon/The Monitor

Wishing all our readers the very best this holiday season. Enjoy January break... see you next year!

Student Speak

**Problems with
the financial aid
office?**

**Looking for more
selection at the
C-Store?**

**Sick of waiting
on line for a com-
puter in the
library?**

**Sick of people
bashing your
school?**

**Tell the Monitor
We want to know!**

**monitor@
mmm.edu**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Local

MTA Starts Work on 7 Train Extension

The MTA will break ground Monday on a reconstruction project that will extend the 7 line from Times Square to the Javits convention Center. The 2.1 billion dollar project will include an new station at 34th Street and 11th Avenue.

Courtesy AM New York

National

US Downplays Iranian Nuclear Program

The new National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) said Monday that Iran may not be developing nuclear weapons or at least may be years from that point. The report may weaken the Bush administration's argument for tough action against Iran.

Chamber of Commerce Fights Climate Bill

The US Chamber of Commerce has announced that it will fight the Warner-Lieberman Bill which would mandate government restriction on carbon dioxide. The Chamber has issued an ad on its website demonstrating the change of lifestyle that would result from the bill.

Courtesy of AP

International

Teddy Bear Teacher Goes Home

Gillian Gibbons, the British teacher jailed in Sudan for letting her students name teddy bears Muhammed, was pardoned and released Tuesday after an appeal of her fifteen day sentence for insulting Islam.

Electoral Defeat For Chavez

Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez lost the constitutional vote on Sunday which would have allowed him to stand for election indefinitely. Without the constitutional overhaul, Chavez cannot run for re-election in 2012.

Courtesy of AP

Weird

Chimp Chumps College Students

Japanese researchers set young chimps against college students in short term memory tests and the chimps overall were more successful. Even with six months of training, three students could not catch up to the three young chimps.

Mafioso Busted During Mafia Miniseries

Michele Catalano, a suspected senior commander in the mob, was arrested Friday while watching the concluding chapter of a tv miniseries about the arrest of a mafia boss called "The Boss of Bosses."

Courtesy of Reuters news

Lecture Series at the Writing Center

Luciana Ramirez

The Writing Center here at Marymount showcases many free events for the community and for the students, including the new literary series *Irish Voices: The Clementina Santi Flaherty Series*.

Irish Voices began last September with the collaboration of the Writing Center's Director, Lewis Burke Frumkes, and close friend Clementina Santi Flaherty. The series aims to showcase Irish, female authors and Flaherty is the main benefactor having granted \$100,000 towards the program

"I thought of the name, and then I asked Tina if she wanted to do the series because she wanted to help me with the Writing Center and because she is very proud of her Irish heritage," said Frumkes.

Thus far, the *Irish Voices* series had suspense writers Mary Higgins Clark and Carol Higgins Clark, and fiction writer Edna O'Brien have given lectures. Author Alice McDermot will be featured on December 6th in the Regina Perugi Room at 7pm.

Apart from the *Irish Voices* series, the Writing Center also held the Jack Burstyn Memorial Lecture last month which featured Dr. John Alexander. The Jack Burstyn Memorial Lecture was created by Burstyn's son to

honor his life. Dr. John Alexander's lecture focused on his ideas about the future of non-lethal weapons and terrorism.

The lecture series do tend to over-book, but students can call the Writing Center to reserve a spot. "All are welcome." said Frumkes, "I will do whatever I can to make room for students. We do it for the students."

If you missed the opportunities this past semester, though, this coming spring, the Writing Center plans to have a bestselling author series featuring one major writer per month.

"The Writing Center tries to invite celebrated artists, writers, and scientists to Marymount for the benefit of the student body, administration, faculty, and community," said Frumkes. "We like to think that we showcase a cultural presence and that it presents Marymount as a cultural community"

The Writing Center also holds the weekly Classic Film Series which is presented by Director Lewis Burke Frumkes' younger brother, Roy Frumkes- a film scholar and producer. Every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m., the film series shows a movie for free with refreshments served afterwards. The Classic Film Series will run for the rest of the year if funds and interest continue to be available. The movies are shown in room 701 of the

main building.

The Writing Center also holds fifteen courses and master classes in areas of creative writing and journalism that are available to the community. Applications are available in the Writing Center with further specifications on the times and costs.

"The courses are taught by working professionals and are meant to cover areas where the



Courtesy of Amy Markel
Mary Higgins Clark book signing on September 18th.

college courses leave off," Frumkes said. "These classes are for people with a serious intent of being published"

For further information on the Writing Center's events and opportunities, stop by for a brochure on the first floor of the main building, and look out for newsletters in the outgoing MMC e-mails.

Bed Bugs Bite Again

Taylor Gordon
Features Editor

After infestations in September, three additional instances of bed bugs have been confirmed in the past three weeks at Marymount Manhattan College's residence halls: one case at 55th Street and two at The V.

"Residence Life is working with the facilities department and an entomologist to evaluate our current approach and to establish a prevention plan," says Misty Beasley, Director of Residence Life.

"We were informed that due to the nature, mobility and prevalence of bed bugs that there are no quick or immediate solutions," Beasley said, and therefore the problem continues.

Though bed bugs can be hard to avoid entirely due to the

inherent issues of residence halls, Beasley advises students

Tidbits for Bites

Director of Residence Life Misty Beasley's advice to minimize exposure to bed bugs:

1. Educate Yourself
2. Vacuum
3. Keep bed away from the wall
4. Wash Vintage clothing
5. Inspect bedding frequently

If you suspect there are bed bugs in your bedroom please do not panic. Contact Office of Residence Life, do not move any of your belongings as this can greatly increase the chance of relocating the pests.

to become aware of the signs of bed bugs and check for bites, along with keeping rooms clean by vacuuming and changing bed linens frequently.

Traveling for the holidays can also increase the likelihood of spreading the pests, and inspecting luggage is a good precaution.

Should infestations affect students' decisions to choose alternative housing in the future, Beasley warns that "not all landlords will respond aggressively to bed bug complaints."

"Due to the prevalence of bed bugs in NYC students should approach the topic with the landlord before signing a lease," Beasley said.

Students and parents can contact the Office of Residence Life at 212-774-0740 or at residencelife@mmm.edu.

Union Negotiations Update

Michelle Lopata

In spring 2005, the adjunct faculty at Marymount discussed unionization. While it has been rumored that a number of pro-union faculty members at Marymount were let go at the end of last year after a failed attempt at unionization, a contract is in negotiation with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Mary Brown, the school archivist and a union advocate, said MMC's administration raised two objections to the union: that some petitioners were ineligible to sign the petition and that different types of staff members should be in separate unions.

The NLRB has held hearings on both of these issues and should come to a conclusion by spring of 2008.

Ideally, unions offer job security by creating an organization of workers in which a leader bargains with the employer and negotiates wages, work rules, complaint procedures, promotions, benefits, workplace safety, and hiring/firing policies. All the rules are drawn out so there can be no miscommunication between employer and employ-

ee.

According to Mary Brown, there are four steps to unionizing: First, petitioning the NLRB to hold an election and second holding the election.

Third, if the voters vote to organize a union, then the new union surveys its members as to what they'd like to see in a contract, establishes priorities, and goes to negotiate with management.

And finally, labor and man-

"Teachers are just trying to ensure that the job they love is protected."

-Desiree Gallardo

agement sign a contract and go about living up to it until it's time to negotiate the next contract (contracts are usually only good for a few years)." Right now, the adjuncts are at step three: creating a contract.

While many Marymount students were unaware of the union debate, they did offer their opinions on unions.

Sasha Hayes, class of '11, said she was unsure there should be a union.

"It is hard [for me] to decide

whether or not there should be a union in teaching," she said. "Different teachers do different things; therefore they should be rewarded differently."

However, Caroline Kaczor class of '10 said that unions should be implemented in all types of work environments, teaching included.

"Unions provide a lot of job safety," she said, "and if teachers feel secure that they will always have a job, then they will perform better and students will benefit from it."

Desiree Gallardo class of '10 agreed.

"Personally I think there should be a union for teachers because they are so often taken for granted and underpaid," she said. "Teaching is a very difficult job and they are just trying to ensure that the job they love is protected."

Mary Brown, for her part, is hopeful of the positive benefits.

"This is the best way for the staff to contribute to the college," she said. "A good contract can help keep MMC the unique place that is."

RA Applications for 2008

Lauren Coe

As the fall 2007 semester comes to a close students have begun discussing the Resident Advisor (RA) application process.

Many students living in the residence halls have been talking about applying to be an RA, mainly for the 08/09 school year, and what the process consists of. Interested in becoming an RA?

Junior Resident Advisor Jessica Dragonetti advises students to really consider what they are applying for.

"I would recommend that people apply only after they really think about why they want the position," Dragonetti said. "If it's only for the financial benefits then they won't enjoy it."

If a student would like to be an RA they must have a minimum GPA of 2.8 and have

lived in MMC housing for at least one semester.

The whole process is spread out over about two months. The student needs to fill out an



Michelle Diaz/The Monitor

The Residence Life office can be found on the 8th floor.

application along with a couple essays and a resume.

Everyone who applies for the following academic year

will meet on Friday February 8th from 6PM to 10PM for "Group Process."

After that, mandatory RA classes will be held throughout February and March. Then individual interviews will take place.

RA positions will be filled after the individual interviews.

Sophomore, Zach Harrell has enjoyed his experience as an RA, "It is really rewarding, definitely stressful sometimes, but there are so many fun aspects. I've built so many awesome relationships with other RAs and my residents."

For more information about becoming an RA, or to obtain an application, contact Andrew Burrows at burrows@mmm.edu or stop by the Office of Residence Life on the 8th floor of the Main Building, Monday through Friday from 9:00AM to 5:00PM.

10 Reasons to Come Back To MMC

CAB Events: Spring 2008

- 1) Tickets to a Knicks Game
- 2) Taste of Culture
- 3) Hunk of Love Male Pageant
- 4) Trip to Ronald McDonald House
- 5) Tickets to a Broadway Show
- 6) MMC Idol
- 7) Celebration of the World
- 8) Picnic in the Park
- 9) Boat Dance
- 10) Strawberry Festival

cab@mmm.edu

Extended Library Hours

Beginning Monday, December 3, 2007, the library will extend its hours of operation until the end of the semester, Wednesday, December 19, 2007.

Mon.- Thurs.	8:00 A.M.-Midnight
Friday	8:00 A.M.- 10:00 P.M.
Sat.	10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.
Sun.	Noon-9:00 P.M.

The Only Living College Students in New York City

Loren DiBlasi

It's like a story from a Simon and Garfunkel song. Suddenly, we're young, we're in New York, and have the entire city as our playground. We now know what it's like to be a college freshman in the city. And music, not surprisingly, has a lot to do with that.

For those of us who came from a small town, it's a big change knowing that all of your favorite bands will definitely make your city a stop on their tour, since you no longer live in a hole in the wall.

And for those of us who are from other large cities, we get to experience a music scene that has forever been esteemed as one of the greatest in the world.

Basically, this is the capital of music in America. Jazz, rock, and the blues have flourished here for years, and it is the birthplace of salsa and hip hop. Blender, Punk, Spin, and Rolling Stone magazines are headquartered here. And New York is home to some of the most

ated a new counter culture. Years later, bands such as The Ramones, Talking Heads, and Television all graced the stage at CBGBs; paving the way for the city's world famous indie scene of today.

Each and every genre of music has been touched by New York in a way that no other city can compete with.

And although the Upper East Side, where many of us now live, is not particularly known for its music scene, we here at Marymount are never far from the possibility of great music.

During the spring, nearby Central Park begins its Summerstage series of outdoor concerts. Roseland Ballroom is southwest, in Times Square.

On a whim, we can ride over to the Upper West Side and visit venues like The Nokia Theatre or Terminal 5, which is so brand new that you can still smell the paint.

And thanks to subways and taxis, any sort of musical entertainment is at our fingertips.

But this is college, and we're



Taylor Gordon/The Monitor

famous venues in the country, like Madison Square Garden, Irving Plaza, and the Bowery Ballroom.

Some of the most acclaimed and influential artists in the world are from New York. Jazz pioneers like Duke Ellington and Billie Holiday spent their careers performing here. Hip hop was invented here by artists such as Afrika Bambaataa and Grandmaster Flash.

In the 60's, folk music from legends like Bob Dylan flooded the streets of downtown and cre-

ated a new counter culture, right? Well, to quote the words of Plato, "music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything".

So go see a show, buy a new album, or read about some up and coming bands. It wouldn't be very academic to ignore the words of Plato; just go ask your philosophy teacher.

Edwards for America?!

Samantha Gentile
Editorials Editor

Current punditry has been engaged in a premature infatuation with the next presidential election and since January we have hardly heard anything else aside from Edwards' incessant campaigning in Iowa, Hillary's tainted fund-raising with Lincoln Bedroom money, and Barack Obama lack of endearment to the African-American community.

On the other side of the aisle we have repeatedly heard about Rudi Giuliani's leadership on 9/11, Mitt Romney's Mormonism and not much else.

Sure there was the occasional interruption by the next Bush administration scandal or perhaps the next sex scandal of another sexually repressed Republican.

The issues were dealt with swiftly and they once again shifted focus to the horserace. I did forget to mention the valiant protest against the war but when a tree falls in the woods and no one hears it...

On the left the binomial Hillary-Obama has, in fact, consumed most of the attention. Who could resist? The first woman to have a serious shot and the first African-American to...well, have a serious shot! In the mix somewhere John Edwards has been lost.

Aside from his promise to raise taxes in order to provide universal Health Care and his wife's cancer there has been a scarce amount of coverage on the Edwards camp.

Meanwhile Republicans have been having their own dog-yard competition of who can be the meanest alpha male to kick terrorism's ass.

I say terrorism's ass because I don't actually know whom we are fighting. Mitt Romney became a member of the NRA, Rudy answered every question with "When I was Mayor of New York on 9/11...", and Fred Thompson didn't have to do anything, because, you know, he wasn't running.

Let's say for a moment that all these candidates are a sound choice for the office and would be more than qualified to deal with the shit-storm the Bush administration will inevitably

leave behind. Why then, have almost all these candidates made so many 180 degree turns, that if you were keeping track, your head would explode from spinning so fast.

I suppose such metamorphoses are to be expected. It is only natural for a candidate to zealously abandon his old shell in order to transform into the human the biggest number of people would want to have a beer with.

Actual ability and qualification count for much less than likeability and self-identification of the voter.

Voting in America is done with one's prejudicial gut instead of one's brain. People want to vote for the person that most resembles them. This is what brought on the walking embarrassment that is George Bush.

I do not want someone like be to be President because I wouldn't know where to start, and neither would you.

But these candidates do or think they have an idea. But when they parade themselves as "I'm just like you, Mike from Ohio, even though I'm a New York Democrat who summers on Martha's Vineyard", or they are lying to us.

What I want is a candidate like Hillary, White-House style, who is shrewd and calculating because this is not a nice guy's game.

Err...nice person's game. I do want a candidate like Gubernatorial Mitt Romney, who got himself elected in the most liberal of states, Massachusetts, because the man is smart and capable.

And I also want Obama and his professorial diction because it tells me that he has taught Constitutional Law and would also uphold this very vital document, unlike some President that shall remain nameless.

But all we get are watered down versions of the truth. These transformations, however, must not be reaching their target completely considering the lack of true excitement and a front-runner on either side.

I think that despite Hillary's and Mitt's back flips they will ultimately be clamorously defeated, not because of who they are but because of what



Courtesy of opensource.com

they are.

Barack Obama will have the same issue. When Americans are asked whether they would vote for a woman or an African-American for President, 90% of those surveyed respond positively.

When asked whether their neighbor would do the same, the number drops precipitously.

I may be too cynical or simply too harsh on America but I am fairly certain that when the time comes to drop the prodigious ballot into the box, many Americans will think that voting for a woman, a Mormon or a black man is perhaps not such a good idea.

This would leave us with two most innocuous candidates, qua, white men, of whom we know the least.

John Edwards, whose wife has cancer and who wants universal Health Care, and Half-dead Fred who played a tough prosecutor on Law and Order.

Unfortunately for Fred, George Bush has made a mess so well beyond anyone's worst nightmares that he may have obliterated any chance for another Republican to be elected.

According to my calculations, by which I mean my casual ponderings, John Edwards will be the next President of the United States.

Festive Fashion

Lauren Levy

We all had that 2nd grade teacher who wore a different themed sweater vest for all 31 days of October. Who could forget the Baby Jesus earrings, or the Rudolph buckle belt?

Even then, we knew something was amiss in her closet (and not to mention her personal life.)

However, despite ourselves, there is a small part of us that wants to dress up for the holidays. It's nostalgic, transporting us back to the yummy Thanksgiving dinners of yesteryear.

It compels everyone we encounter into that holly, jolly mood (and we all know the holly, jolly mood is a dying one here in NYC.) But is it possible to be festive and fashionable? Absolutely!

Being a lovely (half) Jewish lady myself, I certainly don't want to leave my Hebrew famiglia out in the cold, so to speak.

With the "Festival of Lights" right around the corner, why not start dressing up for it now? The aptly named CoolJewishTshirts.com has some cute tops that will look fun and festive over jeans and a thin, knit scarf.

Emblazed with the Yiddish phrases we all know and love (Farklept, anyone?) it's a great way to flaunt your fabulous heritage, or just look fabulous, this season.

Another cute option you can purchase anywhere? Evil eye jewelry! While my grandmother swears by them, you don't have to believe they're anything more than an awesome little accessory. Mazel-tov to that!

If you're more of a Christmas girl or boy yourself,

try getting a little more creative than plain green and red this year.

One of my favorite "it" trends is bows, and what better way to anticipate opening gifts? Slip into Urban Outfitter's gold, bow front "Lame Party Dress" to get into the spirit.

The shiny fabric resembles wrapping paper, and you'll feel like someone's cute little present.

It's also perfect for the numerous holiday parties you social butterflies will be attend-

"With the "Festival of Lights" right around the corner, why not start dressing up for it now?"
-Lauren Levy

ing during the upcoming months.

Ok, obviously Christmas and Hanukkah are not the only religious celebrations coming up, and they're certainly not the only ones you can dress up for.

My favorite thing about New York is being exposed to every culture under the Sun.

If you look and feel fabulous this season, whatever you do or don't observe, it's a success.

Want to share your advice on relationships, auditioning in NYC, or living on a college budget?

The Monitor is looking for new additions to their editorial staff for the spring semester.

If interested please submit a writing sample to monitor@mmm.edu, subject columnist.

This Is Not High School

Kimberly Julien

As my first college semester comes to a close I can't help but feel that I haven't quite grasped what it takes to be successful.

My procrastination is at an all time high and I can't quite figure out why my high school spoon fed me all the answers meanwhile disguising it as preparation for college.

I look back on my four years with mixed emotions; academically it had been a vacation.

And now that I am faced with numerous papers and high expectations I feel myself buckling under the pressure.

For all I know my head might still be in high school and my efforts at Marymount Manhattan might not be enough.

So I am here to complain about being coddled in high school, yeah I said it. Don't get me wrong it was fun while it lasted but I cannot remember ever actually working hard to achieve good grades; they made it easy.

At the time I praised my teachers for considering us simple minded but now I can see that it hindered my work method. I have been met with several rude awakenings, one being that I had to stop thinking that I could finish an intricate reading 20 minutes before class. It doesn't work!

Especially when my professor is asking questions and I'm sinking into my chair hoping she will surpass me and our eyes don't meet.

All I am saying is that a hint of expectation added to the high school experience would not have broke me but only allowed me to take more pride in the work I put forth.

If you are having problems transitioning from high school to college take some time out of your day to check out the services provided to you by CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services). Their office is located on the 3rd floor of the Main Bldg.

Writers Revolt

Kelly McInerney

I'm sure most of you have heard of the WGA (Writers Guild of America) strike by now but aren't seeing any of its effects on television. Unless you're a die hard fan of late night talk shows – you'd only be seeing reruns. As of now at least one is airing new episodes.

Carson Daly is the first host to step up to the plate and resume production of Last Call without his writers. Carson began filming for his talk show again the week of November 26th.



Michelle Diaz/The Monitor

Aside from late night, consider prime time. Quite a few shows like Heroes, Private Practice, and Pushing Daisies are running low on their episodes (Heroes and Daisies have three while Private Practice just has two).

The Office has already run out and is forced to air reruns. And although this year and next year are jam-packed with movies, 2009 will be quite a dry spell.

For those of you who may be confused as to why this strike is happening, let's get you caught up.

On November 5th a little over 12,000 writers walked off their movie and television sets to strike because their contracts were up on November 1st and they wanted to begin negotiations for a new contract.

The WGA warned everyone months beforehand that they would not continue with under their original contracts because they wanted more money for

residuals. "What are residuals?" you ask. Residuals are the amounts of money a writer receives each time their work is watched on television, in theatres or sold on VHS or DVD.

But we are now heading into the digital age and anyone can stream television online or even download favorite shows and movies from iTunes.

For instance, I remember when attending a year of school in Chicago I always worked on Thursday nights and couldn't see 30 Rock or My Name is Earl live. I would watch it the next day on NBC.com, which millions of viewers are doing.

What are the writers getting out of it? Nothing. The writers are not getting paid at all for streams and downloads and they want to change that.

I, personally, completely agree with the writers on this point because who makes that television show or movie what it is? The writers.

It was even stated that we might not even have an Academy Awards this year because there's nobody to write the host's material.

Imagine...we wouldn't even have award shows. Without the writers we would have to watch reality television all the time and probably lose a multitude of brain cells because of it.

The producers are doing this to themselves, since they could easily spare some of the billions they get from the theatres, television, and especially digital to their writers.

It's pretty ridiculous that the strike has lasted this long because of their stubbornness.

But with the strike still waging on, it looks like there may not be light at the end of this dark tunnel.

Thankfully though, as of press time the WGA and the AMPTP (Alliance of Motion Picture and Television

Producers) will resume negotiations on November 26th, so hopefully, by the time you read this, long-awaited movies such as Angels and Demons along

with hit television shows like The Office have resumed production and reruns for late night shows will be a thing of the past.

An Important Reminder From the Office of Residence Life

All residents must vacate the halls by NOON on December 20.

The halls will reopen for the Spring 2008 Semester on January 24, 2008.

Have a happy and safe Winter Break!

Mandatory Policy for International Students

Fernanda Ferreira
President, International Students Society

Marymount Manhattan College has a mandatory policy in which all international students must participate in the college's Health Insurance plan.

I'm a foreign student from Brazil and I transferred to MMC in the spring of 2006 as a sophomore. Upon being charged \$386 for a health insurance bill for the spring semester, I realized that the school system automatically enrolls international students without questioning whether they want the plan or not.

I understand that as a College requirement, all full time students enrolled in twelve or more credits are required to have adequate health insurance.

However, the mandatory policy for international students is discriminatory. The college is making a distinction between two groups of people. For domestic students, like Fallon Forbush, a freshman from Elyria, Ohio, the MMC health insurance plan is optional.

Upon enrollment he had the option of purchasing MMC's insurance or he could keep the insurance that he already had under his parents.

For this reason, there is no suitable explanation for such a policy. If a student despite his/her ethnic background demonstrates that he or she already has health insurance and this plan is compatible with the college requirements, that should be sufficient.

Upon conducting research, and a further investigation on what best serves foreign students in the USA I came across (ISO) The International Students Organization, a membership organization for international students who are currently studying in the United States.

The basic Health Insurance plan offered by ISO costs half as much as the one MMC compels current International students to have.

Besides providing comprehensive medical insurance plans, ISO medical plans meet or exceed U.S. State Department requirements for international students with F-1 or J-1 visas.

On behalf of my fellow foreign students, who like me, dislike not having the option to purchase a health insurance other than the one MMC provides, I suggest a revision of the mandatory policy. As President of the International Students Society, a club that has in its primary mission to unite foreign students with the MMC community, and build awareness of cultural differences, I feel the need to express my dissatisfaction.

I truly believe that upon a revision of this policy, MMC would continue to allow us, foreign students to equally integrate with our community successfully.



Call for Projects
for
Academic Honors Day, 2008
to occur on
Tuesday, March 11, 2008
Application Deadline Monday, February 11, 2008

Present your work to friends, family, faculty and staff at the annual
ACADEMIC HONORS COLLOQUIUM.

Cash awards for the most outstanding projects or papers!

Open to any student who has completed an outstanding scholarly or creative work - a paper, project or performance - for a course or independent study at Marymount Manhattan during the calendar year 2007.

If you are a STUDENT who would like to submit, TALK TO THE PROFESSOR WHO TAUGHT THE CLASS in which you did your excellent work, and begin preparing material to submit.

This call is open to all classes, upper and lower level, and all divisions. Applications will be available soon in the Academic Affairs Office (3rd Fl. Main), Library, Acting, English, Social Sciences and Psychology offices.

Sponsored by the Academic Honors Committee and Alpha Chi Honor Society
Thank you for your help in making this one of the best Honors Days ever!

Want to be an RA?

MADE

I WANT TO BE AN RA!

Do you want to apply to be an RA? Here's how.

Applications will be available in the Office of Residence Life beginning November 26th.

To be considered for potential spring positions, applications must be in no later than December 3rd by 5pm.

If you are applying for positions in the Fall of '08, those applications are due January 30th by 5pm.

If you have any questions, please contact Residence Life at residencelife@mmu.edu or call us at 212-774.0740.

Student Speak Out

What is the weirdest holiday gift you've ever received?

Elektra Yao
Junior
Communication Arts



"I got a bag of old halloween candy from my friend...then I told her I wanted a better gift and she gave me a picture frame."

Kendell Henle
Junior
Theater Arts



"My Sister gave me a Brazilian string bikini...a Brazilian thong, string bikini in front of my parents."

Lo Etheredge
Sophomore
International Studies



"A scroll saw... It's kind of like a jig saw, but more precise."

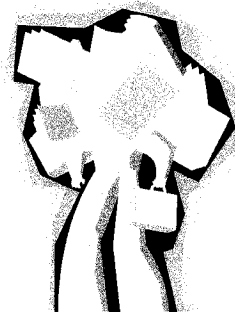
Peter Martin
Sophomore
Theater Arts



"I got a little mermaid doll, it was supposed to be a present for my sister."



Feeling STRESSED!



It's time to relax!

Stress Down Day
Tuesday, December 11th
10:30am-2:30pm
Regina Peruggi Room



Free Massages!

Stress Balls!



yoga

Free Food!

and a Nutritionist

Tips for managing stress

Chiropractic Care

Acupuncture

Sponsored by Health and Wellness Services

Are finals, work, and holiday shopping stressing you out?

Here are some Great Stress Buster Ideas

Brought to you by MMC Health and Wellness Services

- Make lists
- Take a deep breath
- Massage tense muscles
- Budget Time and Money
- Cry
- Take a deep breath
- Avoid Distractions
- Think positively
- Sing a song
- Laugh Often
- Take a deep breath
- Give hugs
- Smile
- Screen your Calls
- Take a deep breath

Lowerre Family Terrace: Now and Then



The Monitor

Rooftop Garden
August 2007



Courtesy of Andres Garcia

Rooftop Garden
November 2007

Spotlight on Service

Erin Schwartz

Community Outreach

Coordinator

Check out some of the great community service projects that fellow students have been involved in this semester:

Freshmen Nicole Clopper and Jaq Fonté trekked down to a **Habitat for Humanity** build site in Brooklyn to help in the beginning stages of what will be the new home to 41 working low-income families.

The building is Habitat NYC's largest project yet, providing twice the number of homes produced in a typical year. Volunteers used everything from hammers to electric saws to build and install wooden window frames and help out around the site.

Numerous groups of students have taken trips to local **soup kitchens** this semester, serving warm meals to over 350 homeless individuals in Manhattan. Heather Lucas and Noreen O'Neill, RAs at the 55th Street Residence Hall, took 14 residents to the All Saints Episcopal

Church to serve lunch. Other students such as Julie Gallup, Alexis Taylor, Lara Butfilowski, Jaq Fonté and Amber Lee volunteered at Yorkville Common Pantry on the Upper East Side and at Jan Hus Neighborhood House, just up the road.

Students in Magdalena Maczynska's **Writ 101 service-learning** course have been taking their learning beyond the classroom through a partnership with East Harlem Tutorial Program. On Saturday mornings throughout the semester, MMC students have held interactive writing workshops with local high school students.

Through the New York Voices Project, the high schoolers are profiling their favorite places or people of New York and will publish a compilation of their work at the end of the semester.

In addition to planning for their upcoming Alternative Spring Break trip, MMC Outreach members Lauren Eichelberger, Lauren McCrea, and Alex Krueger put their efforts toward raising awareness

at the local level. For **Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week**, the student club held events including a panel discussion, a candlelight vigil, and a documentary screening.

Expressions of Grace used their talents to give back to the community through free **performances** on numerous occasions this semester. They danced at such locations as the Second Presbyterian Church and Network for Peace Through Dialogue.

Sean McCarthy and Ellesse Credaroli of the HIV/AIDS Awareness Club have developed **Task: Outreach!** to recruit volunteers to participate in education and outreach to individuals citywide affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Groups such as the International Studies Club, CAB, BLSA, the French Club, FMLA, ODK, and Expressions of Grace have held **fundraisers** to raise money and much needed supplies for a variety of causes and organizations.

Fall 2007 quick facts:*

\$7,000 = total amount raised in fundraisers

505 = hours of community service reported by MMC students

\$11,918 = value of volunteers' time, as calculated by the Independent Sector

*Figures include only students who have reported their service.

Want to find out how you can get involved? Contact Erin Schwartz, Community Outreach Coordinator, at eschwartz@mmm.edu.



Do you know why these signs are posted around campus?

If your answer is no than chances are you have no clue about the outdoor terrace being built at your school.

What are your thoughts on the rooftop garden?

Let us know at monitor@mmm.edu

Jewelry Sale Success



Photo Courtesy of Heather Lucas

The Campus Ministry ceramics and pre-owned jewelry sale was held on November 15th on the eighth floor space of the Main Building.



Interested in Joining the Monitor?
email us at monitor@mmm.edu

Maximum Entertainment at Minimum Wage

David Rigano

Many students have worked in minimum wage burger places to make ends meet while in school. But for those of us who knew nothing about working at one of these facilities, going into Minimum Wage: the musical was not only an evening of entertainment, but of education as well.

For walking into the audience of this show is the equivalent of walking into a training session at Happy Burger University.

Be sure to sit nice and close like a good student. The show starts with Happy Burger University's very own collegiate cappella group introducing themselves while handing out Burger Boy hats to the crowd.

The troupe is comprised of Hux (creator/composer Jeff LaGreca), his brother Orwell (creator/composer Charly LaGreca), the somewhat shy Bradbury (Bill Caleo), the somewhat promiscuous Piercy (Elena Meulener) and finally the

somewhat unhygienic Titus (MMC senior Tony Daussat). These 5 then proceed—without the aid of a pit band—to sing the audience through the entire training session.

So what makes Minimum Wage so special? Well, for one thing, it's an entirely a cappella musical, meaning that all of the music comes from the 5 performers' own mouths.

It's also audience interactive, so don't plan to just sit back and let this one wash over you. Be fully prepared to participate, even if it means shaking your booty with danger. And do pay attention, as there is a quiz at the end of the show.

Minimum Wage is a concept musical that breaks the boundaries not only of dramatic form, with lots of flashbacks, but also of theatrical conventions by making the audience an active part of the show. We are taught the art of Spatulation and the intricacies of Post-Mustardism, all under the umbrella of Hamburger-ology.

But don't let this fool you.

Underneath all the schtick there is a big heart, and though each character appears to be a caricature of a type you'd find in a minimum wage burger palace, they all have aspirations much like you or me.

The show is a delightful mix of schtick (as well as sticky fun) and surprising pathos. As the characters' inner fears and dreams come out we find ourselves cheering them on, not only because they can make us laugh but because we truly care about them.

The highlight of the evening for any MMC student would have to be Daussat's performance as the hapless bass, Titus, who just wants a chance to sing a solo.

Many who have enjoyed Daussat's performances on MMC's stage in productions such as *The Inspector General*, *The Wild Party* and *The Old Law* are familiar with his wide range of character acting, also displayed in his multiple supporting roles in *Minimum Wage*.

His performance is a glow-

ing reminder that there is indeed a chance that you, too, will work in the theater after you graduate.

And did I mention how good the music is? In my experience the music is the last priority for many comedy-driven musicals, but this is not the case for this show. The tunes are inventive, infectious and wildly fun (perhaps even more so after a few drinks...the performance is BYOB).

The talented composers of *Minimum Wage* have created a joyous piece that runs the gamut from gaudy to ridiculous—even with a touch of pathos. Every Saturday night at 10:30 tickets are only \$10 when you present your student ID.

That's for everyone out there living on minimum wage.

Minimum Wage: Bleecker Street Theatre, 45 Bleecker Street (6 Train to Bleecker Street stop, walk west to Lafayette)

Got Something to say? Shout it out in the school paper!

SHOW US WHAT YOU GOT!

Monitor@mmm.edu SAY IT...it is your paper.

email us at or drop by our office on the 3rd floor of the Main Building

Wait... I pay an activities fee?

Shannon Thompson
Business Manager

At the start of every semester, each full-time MMC student is charged a \$30 Activity fee.

"Events, for the most part, are directly funded by the student activity fee within the tuition," states Jessica O'Brien, President of the Campus Activity Board (CAB).

This year, CAB has organized tickets to events such as a Yankee Game and, more recently, the Cirque Du Soleil show at Madison Square Garden.

Many more events are being planned, including tickets to an upcoming Broadway show, as well as the annual Boat Dance.

With busy schedules and other commitments it is difficult for some students to take advantage of the variety of activities offered.

O'Brien and fellow members

of CAB remain active in promoting as much student activity as possible.

"We send information out through email, flyers, posters, as well as face-to-face interaction with students," says O'Brien.

With a student body of about 2,100, it is virtually impossible to offer enough tickets for all for each event.

However, it had been speculated that not all tickets were even being offered to students, and that some of the tickets were reserved exclusively for CAB members.

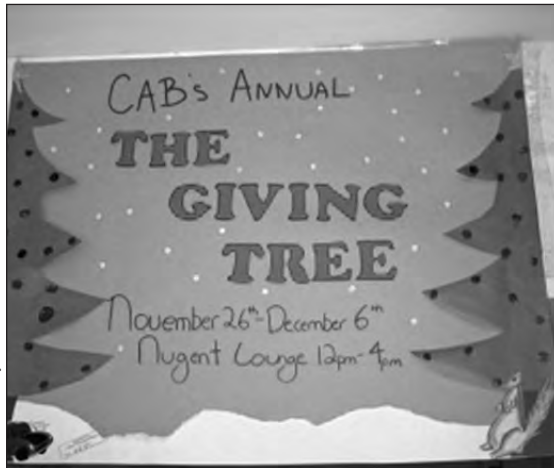
O'Brien denies this claim, saying, "All tickets are available only on the day they are advertised to be sold. The only CAB member that is guaranteed a ticket beforehand is the CAB member that is in charge of running the event, meaning distributing tickets and escorting students to the venue."

If there are not enough tickets for the majority of the student body then why offer them at all? And why aren't more tickets available to these events?

O'Brien's answer is money. "If we had more money, we could buy more tickets. Trust me, it is not our choice to only purchase 30-60 tickets for the student body. But unfortunately, CAB does not have the ability to buy beyond that."

Money remains a factor on the limitations of CAB as well as all clubs and organizations at MMC.

If the student body demands



Shannon Thompson/The Monitor

Check out the CAB posters in the Nugent Lounge for upcoming events.

more events then either the activity fee will need to be increased, which in turn raises the tuition, or another solution to this dilemma that is yet to be discovered.

JOIN
GRIFFIN

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Take my blood! Save a life!



Courtesy of Chris Mosier

Hayden Watkins feels the pinch while donating her blood at the blood drive held on November 13th in the 8th Floor Space.

RA Applications are due

January 30 by 5 pm

to the Office of Residence Life.

email residencelife@mmm.edu for more information!

The Monitor is looking to recruit several new writers for the spring semester.

Positions open in the following sections:
News
Op-Ed
Features

If you are interested in working with your school paper please email us at monitor@mmm.edu



for more information,
email cmosier@mmm.edu

Personals and Classifieds

Looking for someone with recording equipment to help me make a demo. I have all the songs ready and am willing to pay. My cell phone # is 207-468-2294.

Happy 21st Birthday Jess -Your best friends, Phil, Mandy, and Adam

Merry Christmas Shannon! Enjoy your winter break... I'll miss you. Michelle

Upcoming Events at MMC

December 6th
Dance Fall Repertoire 8pm
Free for MMC Students! 212-517-0610 to reserve tickets

Irish Voices: The Clementina Santi Flaherty Lecture Series
Featured Speaker Alice McDermott
7pm in the Regina Peruggi Room
212-774-0480 to reserve a spot

Senior Soiree
8pm in the Nugent Lounge- seniors only!

December 7th
Dance Fall Repertoire 8pm

Snowball at BLVD
10pm-2pm

December 8th
Dance Fall Repertoire
2pm and 8pm

December 9th
Third Space at the Elizabeth L. Sakler Center for Feminist Art
Meet at the 55th Street Residence Hall by 2:00 pm

December 10th
International Studies Club Holiday Fair Trade Sale
12pm-7pm in the 8th Floor Space

Remember the personals and classifieds section is free for the entire MMC community!

Please take advantage of the space we have provided you with.

email all submissions to monitor@mmm.edu
subject Personals and Classifieds

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