

# The Pace Chronicle

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## Professors Voice Their Displeasure Towards Starfish

**SEAN BROWNE**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Pace University has implemented Starfish, a software where students have direct communication with the faculty so that they can see their success and weaknesses in the classroom since fall 2016.

However, Starfish is anything but a success, according to some professors.

"I refuse to use Starfish," said Marie Werner, Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology. "It is too complicated to use, and it's just a pain in the butt."

According to the Pace Universities information technology website, Starfish sends notifications to students, advisors, coaches, and others when an alert or a praise is raised by faculty. These notifications are

triggered by multiple items including notes and/or flags that alert us to something that threatens student success or praise in the form of kudos.

One of Werner's biggest issues with the site is that if a student is not doing well in class then they are sent to their academic advisor. However, Werner believes that the advisors are not trained in helping the students if the students problem is caused by a learning problem.

"A lot of these kids are not diagnosed with anything and they come into your class and they don't do well," Werner said. "So to send them to a advisor who is trained in diagnosing a student is wrong because the advisors aren't trained in dealing with a student who may have a learning disability."

Werner has also claimed

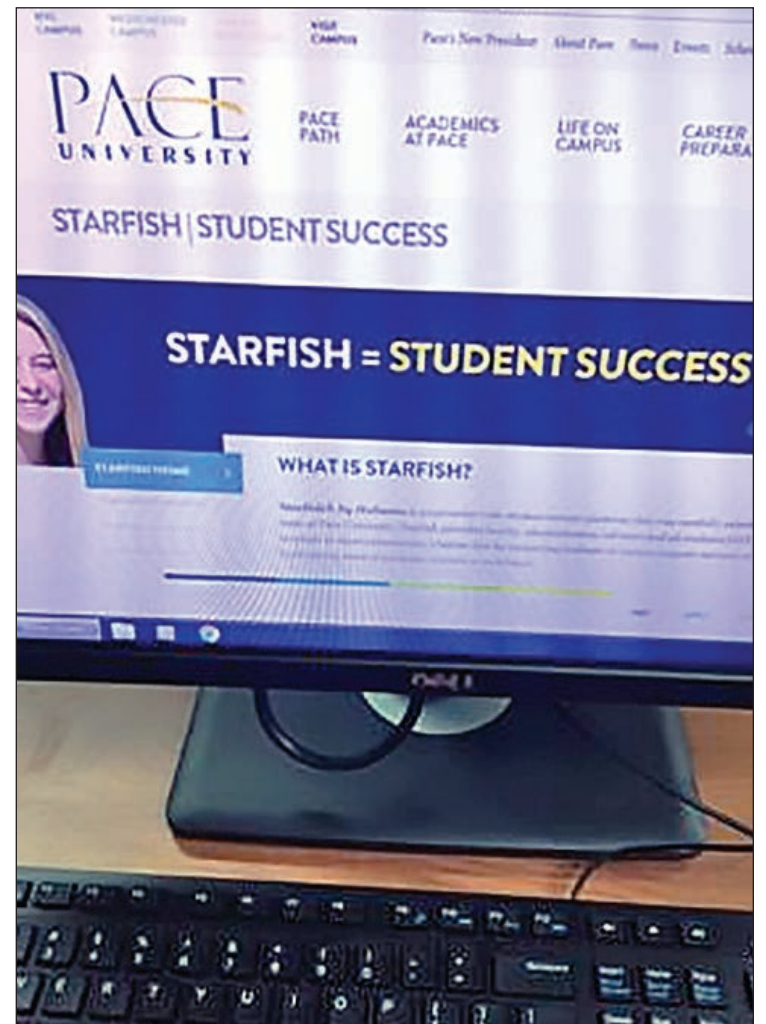
that in the past, she would receive messages about one of her students from another professor because they had a same student.

"If you flag a student for not doing well in their class, it will then go out to all of their other professors," Werner said. "Its designed to see if a student is having a pervasive issue, I shouldn't know how a student is doing in another class."

Barbra Farrell, Professor of Accounting who also doesn't use Starfish, has gotten messages in the past about students who have never even been in her class.

"I have found that I am getting emails about students who I don't have in class and I am getting reports about a student's progress and when they fail a quiz," Farrell said. "It makes me extremely

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Some Pace professors won't even bother to use Starfish due to complications. Photo by Sean Browne

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## False Alarm On City Campus Sparks Change For Administration

**SEAN BROWNE**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Pace security misidentified a student as a potential gunman at the Manhattan campus on September 14.

Campus security was initially misinformed that the student was wearing a belt of gun ammunition. However, it was only a belt. As a result, Nicole Thompson, associate Vice President for Administration and Technology, decided that some changes need to be implemented.

In a statement released on Sept. 29, Thompson expressed her disappoint-

ment with regards to how the situation was handled.

"The false alarm incident at One Pace Plaza on September 14 has raised many questions about campus security and emergency response," Thompson said in her statement. "The length of time that elapsed before an eAlert message was sent to the University community was unacceptable, and we regret the decisions made that day that caused anxiety for many."

Thompson announced that she will be leading a complete overhaul of security and safety process at Pace.

"I am leading the implementation of a phased plan to overhaul safety protocols, processes, and systems at Pace. Included in the plan are initiatives targeted for execution in the next 90 days, and longer-term initiatives to be implemented over the next 12 months," she said. "This plan focuses on the restructuring of the security team, communications, safety protocols, and emergency education. We will be monitoring progress on the plan and publishing regular updates."

Pace will be recruiting positions recently vacated, with enhanced qualifica-

tions and skills as well as well as implementing a multi-layered communication approach to mitigate the potential for single points of failure.

Thompson also wants to hear feedback from the Pace community, so they know how their new safety system is operating.

"I am assembling a safety advisory committee that will include members from faculty and staff councils from each campus, adjunct faculty members, and student government representatives," Thompson said. "The purpose of the committee is to foster input into the

plan and improve engagement in safety education at Pace."

Thompson will also provide enhanced opportunities and training as well as online safety problems.

However, Pace has already taken action since the false alarm. Two security officers, Thomas Tresselt, Associate Director of Safety and Security, and Andrew McDonagh, Emergency Manager have departed from Pace.

Their departure was in relation to the false alarm on the Manhattan campus, according to Vincent Beatty, Executive Director of Safety and Security.

*"I am leading the implementation of a phased plan to overhaul safety protocols, processes, and systems at Pace... This plan focuses on the restructuring of the security team, communications, safety protocols, and emergency education. We will be monitoring progress on the plan and publishing regular updates."*

**Nicole Thompson,**  
**Associate Vice President for**  
**Administration and Technology**

## Professors Voice Their Displeasure Towards Starfish

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uncomfortable because I don't know this student and I have no reason to get this information and it makes me concerned."

Farrell tried to express her displeasure at a faculty council meeting a year and a half ago. But she said that she was never given an explanation as to why it was happening and she still gets these messages.

Beth Gordon, Assistant Vice President for Information Technology Services help operates Starfish on Pace assures

that faculty can no longer see how a student is doing in another class.

"Faculty can no longer see the alerts from other faculty members," Gordon said. "When we first had it set up that was one of the features, but now it is changed."

Gordon believes that Starfish is a good way for advisors to keep track of students in the event that they are doing poorly in their class.

"Before we had Starfish, then a student might be struggling in a lot of classes but when you ask the student they might

not know that or want to share it with the advisor," Gordon said. "Now an advisor can see through the system if a student is in danger of failing a number of classes and the advisor can take action."

But in order for Starfish to work properly, a professor has to share a student's progress with an advisor, and Werner and Farrell do not know a single professor on campus who uses Starfish because of its complications.

Werner and Farrell both prefer to speak with a student directly if they are doing poorly in class.



## Pace Responds to DeVos Ruling

EMILY BRESNAHAN  
Feature Writer

Pace University wants to ensure one thing: student's health and safety come first.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos recently revoked Obama-era rules for sexual assault investigations on campus with the belief that they were unfair to all involved parties.

This left many students unsure how it will affect their colleges and universities.

DeVos's plan is to pushback what was recently stated in Vice President Joe Biden's "You Are Not Alone" campaign, which

extended protection for victims, and instead allows individual states to decide how to proceed with a sexual assault allegation.

Debbie A Levesque, Assistant Dean for Community Standards & Compliance, believes New York State has a good handle on sexual assault procedures, and these changes will not affect our campus. In Article 129B, it states that each college and university must implement "uniform prevention and response policies and procedures relating to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking." (Article 129B)

"New York state law is really the toughest in the country with

regards to this issue," Levesque stated. "We made sure that our policies complied with that legislation... President Marvin Krislov is most concerned with student's safety."

When faced with sexual assault, students of Pace University have many resources and choices. The first step is always letting someone know, such as the counseling center, or the Title IX office.

From there the student can decide to start an investigation through Pace or through a more formal judicial system. Either way, both parties, the accuser and the accused, can find the help they need on campus.



Pace takes stance on sexual assault. Photo by Emily Bresnahan

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## Letters to the Editor Welcome

The Pace Chronicle encourages responses to the opinions expressed herein, and welcomes letter and comments. The Pace Chronicle cannot guarantee publication of letters to the editor, press releases or unsolicited manuscripts, and reserves the right to edit or comment editorially on them.

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## Delta Kappa Epsilon Hosts Drunk Scooter Game

ADIBA SIKDER  
Feature Writer

Students bumped and crashed into each other at the “Drunk Driving Scooter Game” event, which was hosted by Delta Kappa Epsilon.

The four-hour-long event began with the fraternity members setting up an inflatable obstacle course and vision-blocking goggles for students to feel the simulation of being drunk.

Although the setup took longer than originally expected, the event did not fail to portray their message to students.

This game was planned last semester and the goal was to teach students about the dangers of drunk driving in a safe, yet fun environment.

“We wanted a new way to raise awareness for the cause and this hasn’t been done before so we thought it was a great way for everyone to have fun and learn,” said Irwin Narayan, President of Delta Kappa Epsilon.

Delta Kappa Epsilon’s philanthropy is Vision Zero: a multi-national road traffic safety project to end deaths on the road and to enforce safety laws. They host events every semester in order to promote the cause.

Students were given refreshments in order to mingle with their friends and were then given a pair of goggles and a scooter in groups with their friends in order to show how easy it can be to crash into someone or something.

Several students came



Students test out the scooters at Delta Kappa Epsilon’ event. Photo by Adiba Sikder

out to spend time with their friends and support the brothers of the fraternity. However, there were several students that came out because they have been personally affected by drunk driving.

“My uncle died from drunk driving. He was driving back late one night, falling asleep at the wheel and missed the exit and tried to turn on to it,” said Monty Banevicius, a brother of Delta Kappa Epsilon.

Other students were there because they were afraid of the idea that this could happen to their close

friends because of the number of occurrences of college students drinking and driving.

“One of my very close friends was so drunk one night, drove and woke up to see that her car had dents in it and her rear was literally ripped off. I’m against it because I want everyone I care about to be safe,” said Serena Herrera, a sophomore at Pace.

When walking in to the event, participants felt confident that they would be able to go through the obstacle course without bumping in to the inflatable

borders set up for them.

However, after going through the obstacle course several students changed their minds and realized how uncomfortable they would feel to not be aware of their surroundings while

driving drunk.

“If you can’t drive a scooter with drunk goggles, why would you be able to drive a car while under the influence?,” said Nicholas Blandino, sophomore at Pace.

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## Jennifer Magas: New MCVA Professor and Communications Guru

ADIBA SIKDER  
Feature Editor

Professor Jennifer Magas, a new MCVA professor at Pace, is a master of many trades in communications.

Although many may consider her a communications guru, her favorite part of having this much experience is being able to pass on her expertise and seeing her students thrive.

“The most exciting part has been seeing all of my students getting internships, getting jobs, and getting into graduate school,” said Magas. “They always seem to come back, so I know I’m doing something right.”

Magas is an award-winning professor who transferred to Pace this semester after teaching at Southern Connecticut State University for 16 years.

She believes that the diverse student background and the combination of theoretical learning and hands-on learning that draws her to Pace.



Photo Courtesy of Jennifer Magas

“I am honored to join the Pace family and further the University’s commitment to a college education that is dynamic, intellectually

challenging, forward-thinking, simultaneously combining theory and practice to enhance graduates’ career readiness and entrepreneurial

agility.”

Magas has been teaching for over 20 years and is very passionate about enriching her students’ lives and is constantly going the extra mile and helping her students inside and outside of the classroom.

She has helped over 70 of her students receive jobs and internships with high profile companies and has accepted over 140 students to intern and work with her public relations agency, *Magas Media Consultants (MMC)*.

Over the past semester, her interns were given the opportunity to represent Bobby Johnson, a man who was wrongfully convicted for murder and spent nine years in jail.

Magas is vice president of *Magas Media Consultants* and does all of the work regarding communications in her company, such as the press releases, writing, and handling social media.

She recalled that it was very difficult for her and her husband to start MMC because of how much needed

to be done.

“You can’t really prepare for the running of a business,” said Magas. “When you first start your own business it’s very overwhelming because you have to do everything on your own.”

Magas believes that building her brand over time helped her by creating her own website and continuously updating it over the years, which helped her company to become more successful.

“Build your brand early. I say this to all my students. Start with your resume and go to career services” said Magas. “You also have to think about what your digital identity is on social media. Google yourself.”

Since Magas started teaching 20 years ago, she has noticed a considerable difference in the role technology plays in the classroom within the last decade.

“The integration of technology is just amazing and it’s so exciting to see students embrace technology and bring that into the classroom,” said Magas.

## Kristina Gallagher, a True Traveler

GERALD OLVERA  
Feature Writer

Kristina Gallagher always wanted to see new places and people as a young girl, growing up in Ossining, N.Y.

She would travel every day with a handheld GeoSafari laptop and drew inspiration from a friend who also loved to travel, going so far as to plan her entire career around travel and leisure. Gallagher spent her childhood dreaming of places to visit and playing basketball.

While basketball was a part of her life in high school, the Johnson & Wales graduate discovered that the game she loved was conflicting with the career she desired.

“Studying abroad was not encouraged for athletes at my college,” Gallagher said. She chose a field that was based upon seeing the world and graduated with a degree in International Tourism and Hotel Management.

While living abroad in Thailand and Paris, she did some soul searching, and

returned to the United States with focus and determination.

Gallagher became the Education Abroad Advisor for Pace University in 2014, after completing her Master’s Degree in Higher Education and Administration from Baruch College.

“I had an epiphany while living in Paris that made me realize I needed to work in education abroad,” Gallagher said. “I needed to help students go through this experience.”

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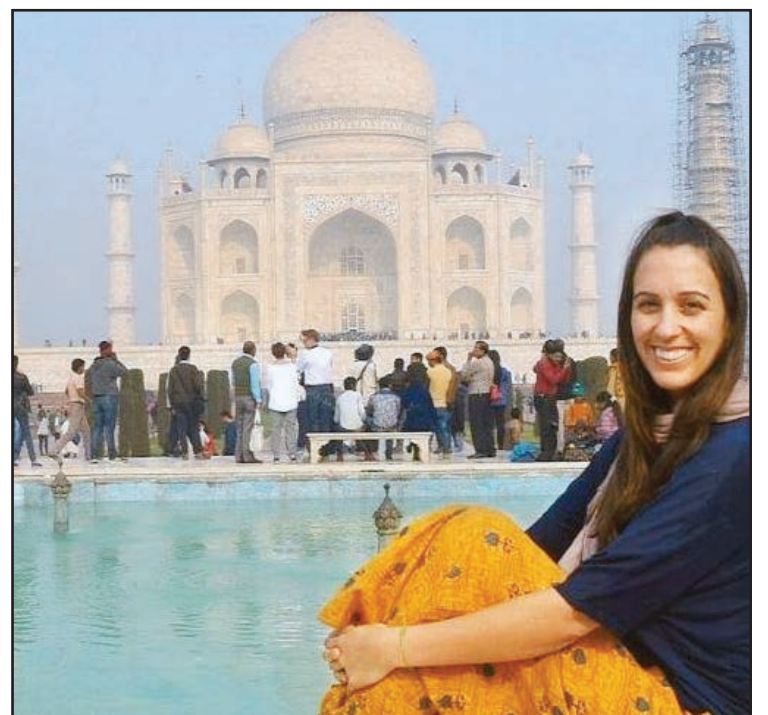


Photo courtesy of Kristina Gallagher

## Pace Hosts Wipeout

PAOLO FERREIRA  
Feature Writer

The Programming Board hosted Wipeout on September 29, which took place on Alumni Lawn. There were many activities to participate in, but the main piece was a huge blow-up obstacle course.

Similar to the television show, the course had three giant balls that students could jump from one, to the other, without wiping out.

A crowd filled the quad, watching as people either fell or bounced across the finish line. Many students attempted to conquer the course, which was a lot harder than it seemed.

"I went to the headquarters of the company where

I got the obstacle course," said Keyshana Dupuy, the event's coordinator. "When I completed the course myself, I knew that I had to bring it to campus for other students for them to enjoy."

It also gave all students time to engage with each other, laugh, and get to meet new people on campus.

"Promoting events on campus can sometimes be difficult because you never know if people will actually come. For programming, we focus on advertising on social media," stated Dupuy.

Many different events on campus, such as Wipeout, are advertised on social media, so be sure to always check to see what's happening at Pace.

## Gallagher

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There wasn't a study abroad program when she arrived at the Pleasantville campus, it was still in a developmental phase. Her position was created to build a foundation for the education abroad program.

"I've been working to create a culture for study abroad and international students," Gallagher said. "I'm passionate about students getting out and having this experience."

She continues to travel as a requirement for the position and it still is very realistic for her. She keeps the perspective for new students entering this program.

The Study Abroad program is a wonderful privilege and reaching out to students can be difficult. They can get overwhelmed with pressure and stress from

school and social media, but Gallagher expresses she sets students up for success.

"I can relate to students," Gallagher said. "I know what they will go through and will be there for them." Her first time abroad was not very pleasant. She was stuck in an airport for ten hours and arrived in Greece without her luggage.

She said it was hard being in a country where you don't speak the language. The culture shock of not having your everyday norms and nuances were really uncomfortable. However, Pace's abroad leader has visited 23 countries and is ready to see more.

"I have the travel bug, it never left, even when I was pursuing other ventures," Gallagher said. "I need to keep travel in my life every day!"

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## The Pace Chronicle

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## Westchester Family Weekend Oct. 6-8!

Each year, Family Weekend is a wonderful opportunity for families to visit with their students and celebrate their accomplishments. This weekend provides the chance for students' relatives to experience Pace University firsthand and to interact with faculty, administrators, and other Pace families.

**This year's activities will include:**  
**Robert Channing, Mind Reader & Psychic Entertainer**  
**Family Brunch**  
**Field Hockey Game**  
**Nature Center Tour**  
**First Generation Family Social**  
**Cheers to Senior Year**  
**Casino Night**  
**and, more...!**

See <http://www.pace.edu/family-weekend/westchester/schedule> for details.



# Stop The Three Hour Classes

**JOSIAH DARNELL**  
*Opinion Editor*

Three hour classes seem to be a part of the everyday struggle here at Pace and most students are fed up with it. No one really understands why classes need to be three hours long in the first place. There is a lot that can be covered in one hour and twenty-five minute classes or even two hour classes to be reasonable, but three hours is just too much.

The New York Times published an article last January that contained a study of the attention span of people in this day and age. The study was conducted by the Microsoft Corporation and consisted of a survey taken by 2,000 participants.

Microsoft studied the brain activity using electroencephalograms, which are electrical currents within the brain, to observe the attention span of the participants. After the results came in they concluded that the average attention span of an individual is eight seconds. That is shorter than the attention span of a goldfish, with theirs being nine seconds.

If a person can't fully pay attention for more than eight seconds, then how do you expect them to concentrate in a three hour class? That's a tall task for a lot of people. The world is turning into a digital notebook more and more every day and that just means that our attention span will continue to decrease and eventually hour and a half classes will become too long for students.

I have personally had four three hour classes in the two full semesters I've been here at Pace and in each of those classes the professors never kept me there for the full three hours.

I know one professor that told the class straight up that he doesn't know why they give him a class for three hours when he knows he doesn't need to teach the full

three hours, nor will he keep us there for the full three hours. I've talked to other students and they feel the same way.

The most common three hour classes are 6:00pm-9:00pm and 1:20pm-4:20pm. 6:00pm-9:00pm classes are brutal because it cuts your day short. Who wants to do homework or really anything after a 9:00pm? Once that class is over, you are ready to go eat, and relax until it's time to hit the sheets. 1:20-4:20 classes takes up the middle of the day.

After those classes, you feel like you're trying to play catch up and get as much work done as you can, so that you have some down time from the stress that college can put on you. I have experience with both of these three hour classes and every time I get out of them, I feel like the day is lost and there is nothing I can do about it.

Three hour classes are too long, and the ones that are scheduled at the end of the day are just too much. Let's put a stop to the nonsense.



Photo by Josiah Darnell

## This Week in Pace Sports, September 29-30

**KWADAR RAY**, *Sports Editor*

**9/29** – Pace Men's and Women's Cross Country had an impressive outing, finishing 30<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> place respectively in the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Paul Short Run in Bethlehem, PA.

**9/29-9/30** – Pace Field Hockey defeated University of New Haven and Molloy College by scores of 6-0 and 5-0. Senior goalkeeper Lesley Sanchez Alvarez now has six shutouts this season. With the win over Molloy, the Setters are now 9-1, which ties the record for most wins in the program's history.

**9/30** – Pace Women's Soccer came away with a 2-0 road victory over Merrimack College. The Setters are now 5-5 and 4-2 in the NE-10 Conference.

**9/30** – Pace Women's Volleyball competed in a pair of matches in Rochester, NY. The team defeated Roberts Wesleyan College 3-1 in the first game, but fell to Daemen College 3-1 in the second game. They are now 5-10.

**9/30** – Pace Football defeated Bentley University 20-17 at Pace Stadium. The Setters' defense, which was led by fourth-year junior defensive back B'Jon Couthur who racked up nine tackles and an interception, gave great effort against Bentley's high-powered offense. Running back Jhalen Bien-Aime led the offense with 153 yards from scrimmage. The Setters are now 3-2 heading into its bye week.





Photo courtesy of Pace Athletics

## Women's Volleyball Rebounding After Shaky Start

**KWADAR RAY**  
*Sports Editor*

Pace University's women's volleyball team began this season with an 0-6 record, which was a disappointing start after last year's team had the program's best season since 2000.

The Setters have bounced back a bit since, and now have four impressive victories under their belt. Nevertheless, the slow start to the year still begs the question: How did a team that started the year ranked fifth in the NE-10 conference suffer six straight losses to begin the season?

"We opened up 2017 playing some very strong competition," says eighth-

year head coach Karrin Moore. "There were two top 25 teams, as well as another two that qualified for their NCAA regional tournament in 2016 we had to face."

Coach Moore also attributed the injury bug biting the team as one of the reasons for the rough start.

"We actually returned a majority of our roster from 2016, but we have been battling some injuries since the start of the season," Moore said.

Playing against elite competition and attempting to overcome injuries was certainly difficult. The team playing its first four games in unfamiliar territory in Tampa and Lakewood, FL., could not have

made it much better.

Moore says she and the team took the early losses as a sign and an opportunity to improve.

"While more wins would be nice, the team has learned a ton facing tougher competition to start the year," she said. "We are working our hardest now on minimizing our unforced errors we had early in the season."

The players and coaches had an option to either feel sorry for themselves or bounce back and rally against adversity. They chose to do the latter.

Look no further than the team's 3-0 upset victory against Molloy College on Sep. 22, one of only two losses Molloy has suffered all season, as

an example of the Setters recuperating and getting its season back on track.

"Beating Molloy was a big win for us this year, it showed what we are capable of doing," Moore said.

Coming into the game, Moore says the team was not focused on how big of an upset a win would be. They also did not come in necessarily expecting to win.

Rather, they simply took their common game day approach, which is executing the game plan and letting the game play out.

"We don't go into every game expecting to win," Moore said. "We go in expecting to work hard and do the right things. And when

we do, the wins follow." The victory against Molloy, which showed glimpses of why the Setters were so successful in 2016, confirmed they can hang with anyone as long as they carry out the game plan properly and avoid mistakes.

Despite the relatively recent success, it could still be quite discouraging to lose as many games (nine) in a 13-game span as the previous year's team did all last season. However, Moore still has great confidence in the team.

"The team has been working hard day in and day out," she said. "With a majority of the season ahead of us, I have every confidence in them that we will have a solid season."