

The Pace Chronicle

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CINEMA OBSESSION



INCLUSION IN TV & FILM CHARACTERS SEE PAGE 9.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE



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Live Hitting Suspended on New Softball Field Due To Foul Ball Hitting Car

JOSEPH TUCCI
Manging Editor

Pace's New Pace Softball Field has been suspended for live hitting indefinitely by the Athletic Department after a foul ball went over its fence and hit a car on the Taconic State Parkway during a practice on Feb. 28.

"[The ball] did go over the fence, it did a one-hop onto the road, it hit a car, there was no damage, no one stopped, there was no accident, no injuries. It didn't hit it square on," Softball Head Coach Claudia Stabile said.

After the incident, Stabile brought the situation to the attention of Athletics, who then suspended the field's usage for live-hitting the same day.

The issue was caused by a fault in the construction of the fence's back-netting solution that was supposed to prevent balls from landing off of Pace's property, according to Athletics Director Mark Brown.

The field is still available for defensive practices since the team can control where balls land.

"When we're just doing fly balls or ground balls, it's not a problem," Stabile said. "It's when you're playing live where you don't just know where the ball is going to necessarily end up."



The softball field, which was recommended for an adjustment in netting due to a ball hitting a car on the Taconic State Parkway. Photo by Joseph Tucci.

Athletics is examining options to change the back-netting with several architects, landscape, and design companies. Pace will order to the construction equipment and vehicles necessary to correct the problem once a solution is selected.

Once a solution is implemented, Brown says Pace will test the field to make sure that no more balls can exit Pace's property.

The softball team will use Pace Field, which was their old home field for the last 35 years located on Pace's former Briarcliff Campus, until a solution is reached.

The transition will be easy, according to Stabile.

"Briarcliff has been our home for 35 years, so it's nothing new. We are actually very familiar with the field, with the fence, with the wind, with the

sun. So there are actually less adjustments to make going back to Briarcliff," Stabile said.

In order to use Pace Field again, however, its fences had to be put back up, which is an annual event since the field is also used for soccer. Pace was already in possession of the fencing it put up according to Brown.

The former campus' owner, Research Center on Natural Conservation, allowed the university to rent Pace Field for \$250 per day of use, according to Brown.

Pace Field will be used for practice five-to-eight times and be played on for seven games depending on the weather, according to Brown.

New Pace Softball Field has been in use since the fall, this was the only incident the field experienced, according to Stabile and Brown.

"That's the only ball I've been aware of that has gone on any roadway, but one is too many," Brown said.

New Pace Softball Field was originally built by the Andron Construction Corp. The total cost of its construction is currently unknown as Pace is still receiving invoices for its construction, which wouldn't be finished until September of this year, according to Director of Administration and Communications Aisha Moyla.

New Course Offers Parenting, Prison And Pups

JOSEPH TUCCI
Manging Editor

Pace's Criminal Justice Department will be introducing a new criminal justice course with a focus on corrections facilities management this upcoming fall semester on both the Pleasantville and City campuses.

The course—CRJ 331: Strategies in Corrections Management—will be taught by Criminal Justice Professor Kimberly Collica-Cox and designed to have students teach a parenting program to female Westchester County Jail inmates with children in hopes of teaching the importance of parenthood and family bonding.

The goal is to decrease the recidivism rate—the tendency of a convict reoffending—through its Parenting, Prison & Pups program, which incorporates Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) using dogs from the Good Dog Foundation as a way of helping inmates restore their mother-child bonds, improve

self-esteem, and diminish inter-generational offending patterns.

Female inmates who are separated from their children are an at-risk population, according to Collica-Cox.

"Seventy percent of female inmates are responsible for a minor child and they suffer from high depression rates, self-destructive behavior along with other mental illnesses," Collica-Cox said.

The inmates that students will be working with can be in prison for any reason including violence, although Collica-Cox assumes most are incarcerated for non-violent offenses, as those are the most common crimes committed by females.

"For women, the top three charges that they are usually arrested for are public order offenses, like prostitution, property offenses, and drug offenses. It's mostly non-violent," Collica-Cox said. "There is a possibility we could have one or two [violent offenders] I wouldn't know until we actually



Westchester County Jail. Photo courtesy of the Journal News.

start the class because the population changes so frequently at the jail."

The class time is split between time spent in the class, volunteering with the Good Dog Foundation, and volunteering in the Westchester County Jail.

This course is also part of a research project done by Collica-Cox who hypothesized that

female inmates who complete an evidence-based parenting program augmented with AAT will have lower measures of stress, anxiety, depression, and disciplinary infractions, in addition to higher levels of self-esteem, increased contact hours with their children, more confidence in their parenting skills, continued on page 2

The Populism Movement and Where it’s Heading

SEAN BROWNE
News Editor

One of the biggest trends in politics recently has been populism and this political ideology has fueled the United Kingdom to leave the European Union and has put President Donald Trump into the White House.

Populism, by definition, is an idea that the working class majority should control the government and not the political establishment.

While this theory may sound ideal, Pace Political Science Professor George Picoulas believes that populism is an idea that has some faults.

“It’s the native feeling that you are not doing well and it’s not your fault, it’s the fault

of others like enemies within, foreigners, and bad deals,” Picoulas said. “It’s an easy recipe, it sounds very easy and simple to those who are uninformed.

Picoulas believes that the simplistic message that populism has to offer makes it so attractive to the public.

“It is centered around a simple message that uninformed people can follow,” Picoulas said. “I would maintain that people are uninformed. The main Google search after Brexit was what is the European Union.”

One of the simplistic messages that Picoulas is referring to is health care, a topic that Trump promised to be a quick and easy fix during the campaign.

“Trump said he had a ‘terrific plan and that everyone was going to be covered,’ okay that sounds very good,” Picoulas said. “But the more information I have the more I want to learn about the plan, and as it turns out Trump just said, ‘no one knew healthcare would be so hard.’”

Another issue that latched on to populism is terrorism. Picoulas believes that populist politicians have used terrorism to exploit people’s fears just to get them elected.

“When the Republican Primary was going on in South Carolina last year the number one issue was ISIS and I’m thinking the odds of ISIS getting you is next to nothing. You are more likely to get hit by a car, it’s important but it should

not be your No. one issue,” Picoulas said. “Someone is telling you that this is what we need to do because we need to defeat them, if something goes wrong it’s because we are fighting a constant war it’s an element from any totalitarianism regime, it’s a page from George Orwell’s *1984*.”

Picoulas points to Trumps proposed budget as an example of this because he plans to expand military spending by \$54,000,000,000.

But while populism was successful in 2016, it got off to a poor start this year with the most recent failure in the Dutch election a couple of weeks ago.

Geert Wilders campaigned on banning Muslim immigrants from entering the Netherlands, as well as leaving

the European Union, But with the victory for centrist candidate Mark Rutte, populism was dealt a blow that Picoulas believes to be the start of a new trend.

“I think that the world took notice after Brexit and our election that populism may not be the right choice,” Picoulas said. “Populism is good for saying things, but you have to deliver. That is what Trump is now noticing, you can use simple slogans to gain power but once you get there you have to govern.”

Later this year, Europe will have two elections with a populist candidate running for office with the French election occurring in April and May, and the German election occurring in September.

What Trump’s New Gun Bill Really Means for Veterans

MICHELLE RICCIARDI
Editor in Chief

The House of Representatives approved the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act last month, which would prohibit any person under the administration or benefits of the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) who “is mentally incapacitated, deemed mentally incompetent, or experiencing an extended loss of consciousness” from being blocked of the right to own or carry firearms without a court hearing.

According to the VA website, The VA conducts competency evaluations and adds the names of veterans deemed “unfit” to carry a deadly weapon to federal background check system.

However, Pace veteran student Mario Garcia says that the standards that the VA uses to deem veterans mentally incompetent or “defective” is unreasonable.

“When you make a diagnoses of someone’s mental state it has to be more than a generalization: Bipolar disorder, PTSD,” said Garcia. “Even then you have to be proven a danger to society or to yourself.”



Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Professor of Psychology and Assistant Director of Veteran and Transfer Credit Services, Robert Rahni, says that there is no disorder titled “mentally incompetent” in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM 5).

“The whole name [mentally incompetent] is arbitrary and leaves a level of doubt and skepticism,” says Rahni. “It is taking a group [of veterans] that mainstream society already has this stigma against when

in reality the rates of PTSD are much lower than what is perceived. Through this law, all people see are the headlines, ‘Gun law overturned so that veterans who are unstable can now have guns.’”

Garcia says that servicemen receive a disability rating from the VA on a scale from 0-100% for “service connected disabilities” upon their end of service, which includes lifelong physical injury. He also says that it has become common for

the VA to deem veterans mentally incompetent if they rely on a fiduciary.

“[The VA] doesn’t give veterans their fair due process,” said Garcia. “I want to see [others] go to war and not have trouble sleeping at night. Some veterans just have a little bit of trouble readjusting but that doesn’t make them dangerous. This bill is restoring veteran rights that we fought to protect in the first place.”

Rahni says that the bill

will “instill a sense of inclusion” and reduce the sense of alienation that veterans feel when trying to transition into civilian life.

“The emphasis has always traditionally been on veterans having to readjust to society,” says Rahni. “The question has now become why doesn’t society readjust to the veteran.”

However, an article in *The Washington Times* reports:

“The Veterans Coalition for Common Sense — a group created by former Democrat Rep. Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona — claims the bill will put veterans and civilians in danger while denying the FBI’s National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) vital information.”

Retired Army General David Petraeus and other retired generals are backing the nonprofit organization’s efforts to fight against the bill as well according to the article.

“I see both sides rationally,” said Rahni. “On the one hand the veteran suicide rate is 20 a day on average. On the other hand it reinforces the false narrative that all veterans are broken or damaged.”

New Course Offers Parenting, Prison And Pups

continued from page 1 and higher levels of engagement and retention, when compared with female inmates who complete the same parenting program without AAT.

“The feeling is that there is a lot of trauma involved for women when they are separated from their children, so the animals will be used as a tool in the therapeutic process,” Collica-Cox said. “So the students who are going through this round will not only be coming to the faculty to help co-teach the parenting curriculum with me but also will be

helping me figure out what’s the best place to incorporate the [ATT].”

The course allows student something to put on a resume, as programs that give students hands-on experience working with inmates are rare, according to Collica-Cox.

“It is often difficult for criminal justice students to obtain criminal justice experience, especially with inmates, and this is an excellent opportunity for them to get direct experience working with incarcerated offenders prior to going out on the job market,” Collica-Cox said.

“This will be a great resume builder, especially if they do not have time to do a formal internship.”

Collica-Cox created this program because after she started at Pace, she was put on the Community Relation’s board of the Metropolitan Correctional Center where she discovered their female inmates were in need of programming. She proposed the idea to Executive VP of the Good Dog Program Bruce Fagin who supported the idea and helped her develop the program.

Ideally, Collica-Cox is

looking to have a class size of around 15 to make it easier to rotate what students can come with her to Westchester County Jail since she can only have three students with her at a time and they can only come into the prison four times before they have to get full volunteer training, which would hold the program back until the Summer.

The course is three credits and satisfies the civic engagement requirement.

To register for the class students must email Collica-Cox at kcollicacox@pace.

edu to receive a background form that must be filled out and sent back to her for it to be approved. Once approved, Collica-Cox will give students a form to take to the Office of Student Assistance to register for the class.

The class will run on Tuesdays from 12:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. while the section with students working in the prison will be hosted before or after each class.

Anyone wanting to register for the course has to have their background forms submitted by the end of April.

Connecticut-based Nature Center Looking At Museum Animals

JAMES MIRANDA
Copy Editor

A nature center visited Pace’s Marty McGuire Environmental Museum Wed., Mar. 22 expressing interest in taking some of the animals as the relocation process has begun.

A Connecticut-based nature center visited for approximately 15 minutes to look at some of the animals in the museum, according to Nature Center Director Angelo Spillo, who was present during the meeting.

“They came and they weren’t interested in all of them, [just] some of them,” Spillo said. “It looks like they have a nice facility, it’s a nature center type facility, and it sounds like they have a pretty big variety of animals.”

Senior Associate Dean of Dyson Richard Schlesinger made initial contact with the nature center, according to Spillo, and was not available to comment. The identity, as well as any specifics regarding the Connecticut nature center, is unknown at the time.

How many and which animals specifically they’re looking at is also unknown.

Spillo explained he and his staff have been in contact with two undisclosed Put-



A Connecticut-based nature center visited the Marty McGuire Museum on Wed., Mar. 22 to look at some of the animals. Photo courtesy of Samantha Mayrose/imgur.com.

nam-based nature facilities who’ve also expressed interest. One will be visiting the Dyson College Environmental House within the upcoming weeks, according to Spillo.

Nothing is set in stone with any of the three nature centers, however, according to Spillo.

The student resolution that SGA (Student Govern-

ment Association) leaders prompted students to create has a rough draft completed, according to Samantha Mayrose, who is working closely with students and SGA on the

document.

Mayrose stated that she “would not like to disclose the information” until after an undetermined meeting with Dyson administrators.

Former Student Arrested for Recording Other Student Claims He is Innocent

SEAN BROWNE
News Editor

The former Pace student claims he’s innocent and the situation surrounding his arrest for unlawful surveillance is “a very big misunderstanding.”

Anthony Abraham, the former Pace student, was identified as the individual arrested for unlawful surveillance, according to the Mount Pleasant Police Department (PD). He was allegedly recording a student using the urinal in the Miller Hall bathroom on Mar. 6.

Mount Pleasant PD would not disclose the victim’s name and contact information due to an ongoing investigation.

Abraham believes that he is innocent, however, and describes the whole event as “a very big misunderstanding.”

Abraham enjoys studying at his old university and went to Motorola Library at around 12:30 p.m. to study for his upcoming Medical College Admissions Test.

“At around 4:00 p.m., I went to the bathroom on the second floor where I found that the toilet was very bad-



Photo courtesy of webpage.pace.edu.

ly clogged and the odor was unbearable,” Abraham said. “I went into the bathroom at Miller Hall.”

Abraham explained he does not like to use the bathroom when other people are present therefore he looked under the stall wall to see if the bathroom was clear but he could not see anything.

He used his phone’s camera to see if the bathroom was clear or not.

“Here is where the misunderstanding occurred, a man was in fact still in the bathroom and saw my camera above

the stall,” Abraham said. “He became uneasy and concerned and told security.”

Once Abraham was in police custody, he offered his phone to authorities so they could look through his phone for evidence.

“I am very upset that this is happening to me,” Abraham said. “This hasn’t left my mind since that day.”

Abraham declined to comment any further.

This is a developing story and will be updated once more information is made to The Pace Chronicle.

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Dan Garcia: Once a Leader, Always a Leader

ALYSSA MADONNA
Featured Writer

Pace University graduate student Daniel Garcia got involved in several student organizations as an undergraduate, taking on leadership roles in an effort to make positive changes on the school's Pleasantville campus.

Garcia hasn't lost his passion for getting involved now that he has moved onto the next phase of his education. The graduate assistant for Leadership Initiatives is hoping to pass along what he has learned and help develop a new generation of leaders at Pace. One of the programs on which he works is the High Potential Leadership Series, a series of hour-long conferences held on Thursday afternoons in the Kessel Student Center's Conference Rooms A and B.

"[These programs] are aimed toward developing the personal and professional skills of the students here on our campus," said Garcia, who was also responsible for Pace's Make a Difference Day. That event took place last fall with more than 300 students volunteering their time for community service.

The programs don't discriminate as far as becoming a

member, however there are some leadership programs that the students have to apply for. One program in particular is the Setters Leadership Program, which is a multi-year program where students go through certain tiers and learn various individual, group, and community values.

"We instill different values like being congruent with your actions and being committed to your goals as well as being engaged in controversy, but with civility," Garcia said.

Garcia started to become active on campus when he became senator for SGA, followed by vice president, and finally, SGA Student Body President his senior year.

"That to me was emotional in a way because I never fully believed in my ability to succeed or let alone act in a leadership role," Garcia said. "I was always comfortable with taking a back seat to things."

He found himself in the front seat, however, as opportunities began to emerge for him during his presidency.

He met Congress Woman Nita Lowey and Governor Andrew Cuomo's Lieutenant Governor, Kathy Hochul, due to his involvement in Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention Programs at Pace.

Meeting such public officials led Garcia to seek an internship in politics. Last summer, he landed an internship position with local assemblyman David Buchwald, representative of the 93rd District of New York, where he got hands on political experience.

"[The internship] was a very valuable experience because I got an inside look as to how local government and state government works," said Garcia, who hopes to secure a political job in public policy, legislative work, or advocacy work. "The ultimate goal is to become an elected official, or what I prefer to call a public servant, as there is such a negative connotation behind the word politician."

Garcia believes that someone in a role of a leadership should have their focus on the community before themselves. He believes the task of the leader should be to better the lives of those struggling and puts a strong emphasis on a sense of community that works together rather than apart.

"This is not about me and my experiences always its more about what other people are going through and what I can do to make their lives better or lift whatever burden they might have," Garcia said.



Danial Garica. Joe Peoples/courtesy of storiesofpaceu.

Students Take a Trip to Sing Sing Correctional Facility

ELISE ADAMS
Features Editor

Pace journalism students in the Digital Storytelling class taught by Dr. Katherine Fink took a trip to Sing Sing Correctional Facility on Mon., Mar. 20 to further investigate the prison system and prison reform.

Sing Sing is a maximum security all-male prison with a maximum capacity of 1,803 inmates at a time. Students were given a tour by Officer Mitchell who showed them multiple areas of the prison.

"I really wanted to find out what it actually looks like inside of a prison," said Christian Gisondi, a student in the class. "Because you see all these reality tv shows and it presents prison in a certain way, and I never actually believed that that is how prison actually was."

Students visited the commissary—the inmates' equivalent of a grocery store where they can purchase products such as snacks, hygiene products, televisions, and other miscellaneous items—, toured different cell blocks where inmates are held, and the showers where they learned the rules of hygiene for inmates.

Towards the end of the tour, the class was given the opportunity to sit down with 11 inmates, who were a part of a program called Voices



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia

From Within, for an open discussion where students asked the inmates about life in prison.

"I was curious to ask the prisoners these things I have always wanted to know," Gisondi said. "You know, how to avoid violence? Does prison work? Do they feel they regret what they did? And do they feel that there is anything they would want to change? Because we can say stuff as outsiders, but until you see on the inside you're not going to be able to come up with decent ideas."

Gisondi's biggest takeaway was being able to view prison in a different way and

understand what it's really like, aside from what television portrays it to be. He got to understand who the prisoners really are as people, rather than just unknown faces behind bars.

"It left an impact on me that these people are not inherently bad people, but they are cultivated in an environment that preaches being that way; it is just their culture," Gisondi said.

Students in the Digital Storytelling class will use their experience at Sing Sing to help with their final projects where they report on various topics regarding the current prison system.

STUDY ABROAD SERIES:

Dillon Sawyer

ELISE ADAMS
Features Editor

A passion for traveling and a love for experiencing new cultures and traditions is one way to describe Pace junior Dillon Sawyer.

Sawyer studied abroad in the fall of 2015 in Bilbao, Spain and already has plans to study abroad next fall in Florence, Italy.

The hospitality and tourism management major chose Bilbao for the International Business program the school offered as well as the intensive Spanish language program that helped him learn the language.

"Classes abroad for me weren't too different from my courses here at Pace; they were all relatively small, maximum of 30 students," Sawyer said. "My Spanish courses were even smaller with a group of only 12, allowing for a very personal relationship with each other and our professor. I felt I formed very strong bonds with my professors and to this day would feel comfortable reaching out to them with any questions I may have regarding my academic, professional, and personal life."

Sawyer's favorite memory while in Spain was Halloween weekend when he and friends traveled to Barcelona, which has a great bar scene and places to go dancing and meet people. Sawyer met a Barcelona local that he instantly connected with.

"This friendship has endured time and distance in that we are still very close today," Sawyer said.

Sawyer traveled to many different cities including Barcelona and

Madrid while in Spain. He also traveled throughout Europe to France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

"Over our long winter holiday, my friend Halle and I went to Amsterdam for a quick day and then continued to take the train to Dusseldorf, Germany, one of the more random yet incredible cities I've ever been to," Sawyer said. "I highly recommend trekking to the top of the Rheinturm, similar to the Space Needle here in the states."

Sawyer's biggest challenge abroad was realizing that all good things must come to an end and he would have to return home. He cherishes the memories of living abroad in the prime of his youth without a care in the world other than planning his next weekend trip.

He got to experience the different cultures throughout Spain's cities, especially where he lived.

"The Basque culture, of which I lived in the capital of, was incredibly unique given that they are their own people of Spain," Sawyer said. "Spain is very divided culturally speaking and the Basque are no exception. Their culture is so antiquated it's rather beautiful how devoted they are to their history."

Sawyer would recommend studying abroad until the day he dies. He describes it as a unique experience that offers young adults the ability to grow into the person they truly are. He believes that studying abroad allows one to develop their own personal identity that is shaped by something no one you have grown up with can influence.

Professor Spotlight: Michelle Land

AMANDA CUMMINGS
Featured Writer

Michelle Land, one of the two Pace Environmental Clinic professors, began the clinic’s work in the fall of 2014.

The clinic teaches students to research and lobby for the improvement of environmental issues. They are currently working on passing the Elephant Protection Act, which bans elephants from entertainment use.

Land worked as a wild-life biologist for five years after graduating from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. She then pursued her environmental law degree at Pace’s School of Law.

As a law school graduate, Land was interviewed to start the Pace Academy for Applied Environmental Studies by the clinic’s additional professor, John Cronin. Cronin and Land started the Academy in 2002.

“I liked the idea of working in academia,” Land said. “I enjoyed research and seeking



Michelle Land. Photo courtesy of EarthDesk.

more knowledge.”

The Elephant Protection Act was first proposed with a small citizens group in 2009.

“They came up to me at Pace Law School and asked if

we would help them convince the county to ban elephants coming to the county center,” Land said. “We went to the board of legislators and testified. The board passed on

doing anything, but we decided if we make this a state law, the county won’t have any choice but to comply.”

When the first semester of the clinic, began, so did Pace’s outreach campaign for the elephants.

“I wrote a bill that would ban exotic and large ranging mammals, lions, tigers, and elephants,” Land said. “Anyone who was traveling with an animal for 15 days wouldn’t be able to use it because anyone traveling with an animal that long is likely to be a circus.”

In the past, the clinic has worked on banning micro bead use in Westchester and the possibility of installing solar parking roofs in Metro-North train parking lots on the Hudson line.

“Microbeads are pieces of plastic such as the ones you’ll find in body washes,” Land said. “The pieces of plastic end up in water filtration plants that eventually end up in the ecosystem. Fish mistake them for food and it works their way up the food chain to

where eventually humans may ingest them as well.”

The clinic asked the county executive to ban micro bead use in products on shelves in the country. The federal government banned them anyway and plan to phase micro bead use out.

The clinic looked at Ossining train station to look at solar parking roofs.

“We identified the potential electrical feasibility and did a mock up of what the structures would look like,” Land said. “It is an ongoing project, we need another clinic to finish it up and propose it to the governor’s office.”

The next step for the clinic is continuing to get the Elephant Protection Act passed.

“We’d like to have the problem of identifying a new issue for the next clinic,” Land said. “If for some reason it doesn’t pass in both houses, then we would like to continue it because policy change can sometimes take a lot of time and patience.”

Pace Hosts Fear Factor

DAVID PAULSTICH
Featured Writer

Pace’s Programming Board hosted Fear Factor to test people’s fears and see how far people will go when their limits are pushed in Kessel’s Boudreau Lounge on Thurs., Mar. 30.

Vice President of the Programming Board Amber Borrero and her staff wanted to do something different, thus inspiring Fear Factor because it was something unique and has never happened at Pace.

It differs from the TV show “Fear Factor,” however. The event stepped it down a notch on how grotesque the challenges were setting up stations where students unknowingly tasted different types of baby food to try

to see whether they can be pushed to their limit.

“In one station, there is baby food but the students don’t know what the baby food is; some of the flavors are prune, apples and chicken, apples and banana,” Borrero said. “Another station is who can keep their hands in ice cold water the longest.”

Some stations aren’t entirely terrifying, according to Borrero, but it can definitely make your taste buds feel grossed out and make your hands hurt for a while if your competition wants to hold their hands in the ice-cold water for a long time.

“The odd mystery game is another station that I believe students will be grossed out from,” Borrero said. “We have pancake mix, chunky tomato sauce,

oatmeal, and slimy gummy worms, and the goal is to get the objects out the bowl. To me, this was one of the most disgusting stations [because] the feeling of oatmeal mix in your hands is disgusting. Definitely not the greatest feeling in the world.”

The most intense challenge was the hot sauce challenge where students tasted hot sauce by the spoonful without the help of water or ice.

“Another station that will probably burn some students’ tongues is the hot sauce challenge,” Borrero said. “There is mild, medium, and hot.”

Borrero wanted to make the event as gross and as fearful as possible and within school boundaries. Therefore, Pace required a safety waiver



The Fear Factor logo. Photo courtesy of Ember Sections.

to be signed for some events in order to have the stations set up.

“As a kid, I loved the show but would never be able to do it after looking at people

be in a box with a bunch of spiders because spiders were my biggest fear,” said Borrero, who loved watching the show on TV.

3rd Annual Women’s Leadership Conference Empowers Community

TJ COMBS
Featured Writer

The third annual Women’s Leadership Conference (WLC), which aims to empower women, was held in Wilcox Hall on Wed., Mar. 22.

Dozens of students attended the conference to celebrate and inspire young women from all walks of life, take on leadership roles in their personal lives and careers, as well as promote charisma and strength in a female’s daily life.

“It’s beneficial for both men and women to come to this,” said the WLC’s Logistics Chair Alexis Neuville “People

learn a lot from it. It’s almost a safe space for people to talk about these views that are a bit controversial or aren’t expressed as often, and this is place for those conversations”

The conference was split into two sessions, all of which focused on this year’s theme of “She Can. We Can. Know Your Worth.” A feminism and masculinity discussion was included and hosted by Alumni Hall RD Alyssa Caffarelli and discussion about the history of colored women and their progress was included as well and hosted by Graduate Assistants Imerlyn Ventura and Melissa Adolphe.

The event closed out with



a message by Fran Pastore the CEO of the Women’s Business Development Council, which is Connecticut’s leading organization for championing female entrepreneurship.

“When women succeed, we all succeed,” said Pastore, who became the first in her family to attend college after going against her mother’s

wishes to marry and settle down after school.

Pastore attended Pace’s NYC campus and quickly nabbed a job on Wall Street after. Only then did Pastore quit that dream job after repeated sexual harassment on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

This inspired the busi-

nesswoman to not only uproot and start over in Connecticut in a field that not only promoted opportunity for women, but she started her own company as a fine example.

“Don’t miss opportunities. What’s important is to look for women’s empowerment initiatives,” the 1984 alumna said. “Today women of all socioeconomic backgrounds and ages are hungry for knowledge and to make an impact in the world. [WLC] is an opportunity to be inspired, and how to apply [inspiration] to your life.”

With the event being it’s most successful to date, next year may have a lot to live up to.

Daniel Giardullo Bakes Lots of Pizza for Pace

ALYSSA MADONNA
Featured Writer

Daniel Giardullo has spent the last seven years behind an oven for roughly 72 hours per week. As the owner of Sal's Pizza in Pleasantville, NY, Giardullo is constantly making pizza pies for his main clientele, who are families that live in town.

However, Sal's Pizza has made a name for itself at Pace University as well, where pizza is delivered to campus at least one hundred times per week.

"Sometimes from 9 o'clock to 10 o'clock, we'll have ten deliveries to Pace because people know we're about to close," Giardullo said.

Professor Paul Ziek has ordered Sal's Pizza for his students on several occasions.

Not only do Pace students and faculty love Giardullo's pizzeria, but the Pace community also trusted the restaurant enough to order 65 pizza pies for the Accepted Students Day event on campus last week.

"I just made pizza as fast as I could for an hour straight," Giardullo said. "We had to take two cars to deliver the pies. It was crazy."

In addition, many teenagers either on the Pace campus or in the Pleasantville community even fill applications to work at Sal's because of the pizzeria's reputation in town.

"There are so many students wanting to work at Sal's that there will never be a shortage," Giardullo said. "It's a win-win situation for both of us. We provide them with some extra money while they're in school and their help is super helpful to us."

Sal's even accepts Flex Dollars, a program that enables students to use their Pace One Card at local restaurants and eateries within the immediate area. Using the Pace One Card off campus provides an alternative for students to have meals besides the food provided in the Kessel Student Center.

Initially, Giardullo opened the Pleasantville location because he was a Pace student for three years. However, because of the pizzeria's success, Giardullo decided to open a second location in North White Plains.

"I like working in Pleasantville because it has allowed me to build great friendships with frequent customers," Giardullo said. "It's nice to



Daniel Giardullo, owner of Sal's Pizza. Photo by Alyssa Madonna.

see families come back time after time and the familiar faces. I've recently moved here after meeting my fiancé,

who is from Pleasantville, and believe it would be a great place to raise a family," said Giardullo.

Michael Ferraro: His Sister's Keeper

JAMES MIRANDA
Copy Editor

It was 9 a.m. on a spring weekend in 2005 when Pace sophomore Michael Ferraro was awakened by his older sister, Aimee Ferraro, asking for a favor. She asked him if he could urinate in a pill bottle for her to use to fake a drug test.

Utterly shocked and confused, he agreed and did what his sister asked of him because she was his sister and needed his help. Her parents, however, didn't fall for the ruse and confronted her later that evening. It was then that Michael Ferraro realized his sister was a drug addict.

"It was just one of those days that throughout the day you kind of keep questioning, 'did I do what was right or did I do what was wrong?' because you don't know what you're doing," said Ferraro, who was eight-years-old at the time. "I go, 'Listen, that's my sister, that's my blood, I'm going to help her.' My parents ended up talking to me about it saying you can't do this and I end up finding out at a young age what it all was."

His family moved to Long Island from Queens earlier that year and they were under the assumption the area was good.

It was on Long Island, though, where Aimee Ferraro began experimenting with marijuana, and other drugs, progressively getting worse, before ultimately becoming addicted to heroin. She had several ill-fated attempts at rehabilitation before her parents kicked her out of the house when she was 16.

"I think I hated my sister and not in the sense I actually hated her, but I was so hurt by everything that was going on that I just kept my distance," said Ferraro, who's one of four children. "You kind of put this person on a pedestal and you look up to them no matter what and something so drastic happens and you totally look at this



The inception of "My Brother's Keeper" was very much inspired by sophomore Michael Ferraro's (front row, second left) own experience with his sister Aimee Ferraro's (back row, second right) drug addiction. Photo Courtesy of Michael Ferraro.

person a different way. I didn't know how to look at her any other way.

"When I got older [Aimee] would call me and try to make a relationship, but I'd still push her away. It came to a point where I had to realize that you can't really give her another chance because I kept giving her chances and it would just go out the drain, but let her [help herself] and just let it go."

Michael Ferraro did get farther from her not just emotionally, but physically. He attended the Peddie School—a college preparatory and boarding school in Hightstown, NJ—on a football scholarship.

It was there that he met Dan Riscoe. Ferraro, a 5-foot-11-inches safety, formed a bond with his new teammate and friend when he learned

that Riscoe's brother was also a drug addict.

Ferraro always wanted to do something to help people affected by drugs, but could never figure out what his "next step" should be. Meeting Riscoe turned out to be that step. The two sophomores began sharing stories and it led to the birth of "My Brother's Keeper," an organization that helped others deal with similar situations.

"The whole idea wasn't to be something we all cried about, and it was ok to cry, but it was to learn, to understand, and this is something people hold close to them," said Ferraro, a business management major. "The idea was, let's make a safe place that is trustworthy to help each other understand, learn, and kind of feel better about a situation."

My Brother's Keeper started out small with fewer than a dozen people coming to meetings. As time went on and word got out around Peddie, people's curiosity piqued. There were more than 50 students attending events and meetings by Ferraro's senior year.

It became an official club at Peddie and is still operational, but Ferraro's mission now is to make it go nationally.

That day when Ferraro was eight, however, is what sparked his wanton to help, not only his sister but anyone whose friends or family members are addicted to drugs.

Aimee Ferraro, 26-years-old now, is four years sober, married with two children, and declined an interview because she's "moved on" from that day and that part of her life.

"I think I did the right thing [that day]; I think if I would have said no [to Aimee], I wouldn't be where I am today," Ferraro said. "If I would have said no, maybe my sister would have went to someone else, maybe the situation would have changed, and maybe my parents might have never caught her. So, I'm still glad I said yes because in a way it helped me grow up faster, learn, and mature."

Kirk Pineda: Not Your Typical Fraternity Brother

SEAN BROWNE
News Editor

When Pace senior Kirk Pineda sits in Mortola Library’s first floor, he knows why people are staring at him

It’s because, on this Tuesday, Pineda decided to wear high socks going up to his knees leading to his gym shorts, Tiger Schulmann’s t-shirt, and a beanie to top it off; not to mention the hot sauce- and honey mustard-drenched chicken fingers he was eating.

But even though Pineda is catching stares, he couldn’t care less.

Pineda has never been one to care about his appearance. He dresses in outlandish clothing and eats strange food because he knows his actions speak louder than his appearance.

“I am a strong believer that my work is what dictates how good I am at something,” said Pineda, as he takes a bite out of his mustard covered chicken nugget. “The work I do on campus matters much more than my appearance.”

The work that Pineda is referring to is being the President of Pi Lambda Phi (PLP) fraternity, which Pineda founded in spring 2015.

Instead of doing the stereotypical keg stands and mixer



Kirk Pineda (center) along with the rest of Pi Lambda Phi. Photo courtesy of Kirk Pineda.

parties, however, PLP raises money to promote racial and social justice and Pineda would not want it any other way.

“The reason why I wanted to start this fraternity is

because of the philanthropy and the elimination of prejudice,” Pineda said. “While that may seem like a very high goal to reach, there is a beauty in trying and along the way I have made

some great relationships with some great people.”

Building strong relationships was something Pineda was never good at growing up. Pineda always had a hard time

fitting in and making friends, he would commonly refer to himself as a “social butterfly.”

“I never really thought I would fit in from elementary school to high school,” Pineda said. “It definitely was not a happy feeling. I kind of got used to the fact that I did not have any friends. I grew sort of numb to it.”

He knew that a change was in order upon enrollment at Pace. So, he wanted to start an organization that shared his love for fighting for justice, thus the inception of PLP, which he couldn’t be prouder of the work that his fraternity has accomplished as he feels that they are one of the more productive fraternities on campus.

“We are not focused on a particular charity like we do not focus on AIDS/HIV awareness,” Pineda said. “We raise money for a foundation called the Elimination of Prejudice that promotes having a better understanding of people of different culture, religious, and social backgrounds.”

Pineda tries to recruit other students to join before his time at Pace is over. He hopes to inspire a generation that does not care if they are wearing sandals in the middle of winter or putting mayonnaise on a hot dog. If he does that he will have succeeded.

Happy Hour: Jeff LeBlanc Rocks Kessel

DAVID PAULSTICH
Featured Writer

Pace’s Programming Board hosted folk rock/indie singer and songwriter Jeff LeBlanc for their weekly Happy Hour event in Kessel’s Boudreau Lounge on Fri., Mar. 24.

LeBlanc, a Long Island native, followed an unexpected route towards becoming a folk/rock singer starting off his musical career singing in a recording studio in his high school.

“I had a class in the recording studio and that is how I got introduced and interested to performing,” LeBlanc said. “I have never been the kid in plays, I was always an athlete in high school. It was weird to be playing music, but I was always into music but I was never into where I would sing songs.”

During high school, LeBlanc listened to more hip-hop while playing sports but later on in high school, he listened to more John Mayer, Jason Mraz, and some R&B.

“I was and am into so many kinds of music, which makes it hard as a singer, but not a singer at that time because I wanted to play all those kinds of music,” the undecided musician said. “I’ve gotten into chill house lately but the problem is I don’t really

“Finding my own voice was the hardest thing for me because when you sing you try to sound like everyone you like.”

– Jeff LeBlanc

sound like chill house. But I am trying to incorporate it to the music that I sing just like how I incorporate a little of country music.”

In the beginning of LeBlanc’s music career, he admits he was not very good. He took a lot of criticism and gradually got a little better.

When LeBlanc was at Sacred Heart University, located in Fairfield, Conn., he was studying social studies to become a social studies teacher.

“When at Sacred Heart, I played at a little coffee house and people would slowly come to see me sing more and more,” LeBlanc said. “The biggest thing for me was to believe in myself.”

The hardest thing for LeBlanc when singing at the coffee house was finding his



Jeff LeBlanc. Photo courtesy of Connecticut Post.

own voice. When starting to find his voice, Leblanc wanted to sound like Justin Timberlake, Howie Day, or John Mayer.

“Finding my own voice was the hardest thing for me because when you sing you try to sound like everyone you like,” LeBlanc said. “I love those pop stars they’re pretty amazing.”

After LeBlanc was able to find his voice, he made his

first album in 2009 where he would as well do the acoustic on it.

Leblanc became more known in the music industry and started to open up for big-time singers like Tori Kelly, Parachute, Gavin DeGraw, Colbie Caillat, and much more.

Since LeBlanc’s first album, he has created three more albums and has a hit song called “Lost Tonight,” which as

well is his favorite.

LeBlanc continues to make music but for now, he wants to only make singles instead of albums.

“Right now, I want to make singles. Everyone seems to be doing singles only lately,” LeBlanc said. “I as well am singing at colleges and doing headlining shows, my next show is at a theater in Fairfield, Conn.”

Does Birth Control Prevent Cancer or Cause It?

JENNA FEBBO
Health & Beauty Editor

Birth control pills are known to have many positive and negative effects. They can act as a contraceptive and help regulate, reduce, and alleviate bleeding and cramping on periods, depending on the type of pill and the dosage. They can also prevent certain types of cancers. On the negative side, birth control pills do not protect you from sexually transmitted diseases (STD) or HIV, they have to be taken every day at the same time, and they may increase anxiety. They can also cause certain types of cancers.

Let’s start with the good news – studies have shown that birth control pills can prevent ovarian, colon, and endometrial cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, women who have been taking birth control pills for several years have a lower risk of developing ovarian cancer.

“Women who used oral contraceptives for 5 or more years have about a 50% lower risk of developing ovarian cancer compared with women who never used oral contraceptives,” the American Cancer Society said. “The benefit starts within 3 to 6 months after starting the pill. The longer you take it, the lower your risk.”

The longer the better is a reoccurring theme when it

comes to birth control pills preventing cancer. The American Cancer Society says that birth controls pills containing both estrogen and progesterone can lower the risk of endometrial cancer, also known as uterine cancer (cancer in the lining of the uterus). They also say that the risk is lower even after being off the pill for a decade.

Birth control pills and their role in preventing colon cancer still needs further research but can be effective, according to the American Cancer Society. It is possible that the pill lowers the levels of some digestive chemicals in the body, which may prevent colon cancer.

Moving on to the not so good news – some birth control pills can actually increase some cancers, including breast and cervical cancer. Most birth control pills are made up of a combination of estrogen and progesterone. Progesterone, commonly known as the “pregnancy hormone,” tricks your body into thinking you are pregnant. The pill then combines it with estrogen because you are not pregnant and your body needs estrogen. Too much estrogen and progesterone, or too much of any hormone for that matter, can potentially cause cancer because it disrupts the natural cell cycle.

Women who have taken, or are taking, birth control



Photo by Pexels

pills are more likely to develop breast cancer than women who don’t. The research that has been done is not clear on what the exact cause is but it hints that too much estrogen and/or progesterone is the cause, according to the American Cancer Society. There are also other factors that increase the risk of breast cancer.

“Hormonal and reproductive history factors that increase the risk of breast cancer include factors that may allow breast tissue to be exposed to high levels of

hormones for longer periods of time,” the National Cancer Institute (NIH) said.

These factors include menstruation starting at a young age, starting menopause at a later age, getting pregnant at a late age, and not having children.

The increased risk for cervical cancer is tied to HPV viruses and how it interacts with birth control pills.

“The hormones in oral contraceptives may change the susceptibility of cervical cells to HPV infection, affect

their ability to clear the infection or make it easier for HPV infection to cause changes that progress to cervical cancer,” the NIH said.

The bright side – the increased risk fizzles out for breast and cervical cancers after a woman has stopped taking birth control pills for a long period of time.

The American Cancer Society notes that intrauterine devices (IUD) are forms of contraceptive that might reduce the risk of cancer more effectively.

Debunking Hair Shaving Myths

JENNA FEBBO
Health & Beauty Editor

You may have been warned that shaving the hair on your face, legs, arms, and pretty much everywhere else on your body is not the best idea. Apparently, constant shaving causes the hair to grow back thicker, darker, and faster. Science says this is a myth.

At first shave, hair might seem soft and long, almost fluffy. When you shave it, you are simply just cutting the hair, not removing it from the root, so when it does start to grow back, it seems shorter and thicker.

“Post shaving, the hair grows back shorter and we get the illusion that it’s thicker, however, it really isn’t,” Mahnoor Khan, a junior Biology major, said. “What we are looking at is the cross section between the hairs at a shorter length which seems rougher, but if we were to let it grow for a period of time the hair would grow out to be much softer and thin at the end.”

To understand why this is a myth, one must understand how hair actually grows. Khan says the hair growth cycle is actually quite simple. The hair on our body grows from the skin in small pockets called follicles. Hair growth begins at the bottom of the follicles (root), which is made up of cell proteins and works its way up through the skin.

“These proteins are fed by blood



Photo by Pixabay

vessels and as more cells are generated, hair starts to grow in length through the skin, passing an oil gland along the way. Emerging from the pit of each of these follicles is the hair shaft itself,” Khan said.

The hair shaft is made up of keratin and has three main layers to it – the medulla, the cortex, and the cuticle. The medulla is the inner layer, the cortex is the middle layer, and the cuticle is the outer layer. The medulla and the cortex give the hair its color.

Khan says the more a person with darker hair shaves, the more it will show on the skin over time, but it does not cause the hair to become darker.

This has prompted many people to choose different alternatives to hair removal, such as waxing and threading because it pulls out the hair from the root. Which brings me to my next myth – constant waxing and threading can reduce hair growth. For someone who has incredibly dark, fast-growing hair and has to shave frequently

because of it, this would be music to their ears. But, is it true?

Waxing, threading and other hair removal methods where the hair is being removed from the root are a more effective way to achieve longer lasting results. Waxing and threading can, in some cases, last up to weeks.

“Waxing is more effective than shaving because it removes your hair further down the shaft so it takes longer for it to grow back and become noticeable, along with a smoother finish,” Khan said. “However, if you regularly wax your legs, you may be able to attain permanent hair removal over a long period of time.”

Khan says this may happen because constant waxing and threading weakens the hair and *may* eventually cause it to stop growing. Her experience with waxing has proven to be the most effective for her. The hairs grow back at a slower rate and became thin, softer, and lighter in pigmentation.

“After waxing for a few years, you start to notice that your hair grows at a much slower rate and a few at a time. It also prevents ingrown hairs, which is a common problem many men and women go through with hair removal,” Khan said.

The hair may weaken over time but waxing and threading do not guarantee complete hair removal. Whether or not this occurs also depends on the individual’s hair growth, hair type, and skin type.

Inclusion in TV & Film Characters

JANINE JONES
Copy Editor

2017 seems to be the year of milestones in television and film. This year four characters have been introduced to the world to help normalize people like them and to add more diversity to characters, two of those characters are LGBT+ and the other two are on the autism spectrum.

The first of the four characters is LeFou, played by Josh Gad, from Disney’s live-action rendition of *Beauty and the Beast*, who is Disney’s first openly gay character. Gad has expressed how he is “beyond proud” to bring this character to life. While the definition of “openly gay” is up for discussion because the character only has one or two scenes that would indicate his sexuality, it’s still a step in the right direction for Disney.

“LeFou is somebody who on one day wants to be Gaston and on another day wants to kiss Gaston,” director Bill Condon told *Attitude* magazine. “It’s somebody who’s just realizing that he has these feelings. And Josh makes something really subtle

and delicious out of it. And that’s what has its payoff at the end, which I don’t want to give away. But it is a nice, exclusively gay moment in a Disney movie.”

Two characters in the new *Power Rangers* movie are used to “reinforce core brand messages of inclusivity, diversity, and empowerment,” according to the movie’s creator, Haim Saban. It’s also important to mention that four of the five rangers are people of color. The yellow and blue rangers, Trini and Billy (respectively), played by Becky G and RJ Cyler, are symbols for this message.

Trini Kwan is coming to terms with her sexuality in the film and has a small moment that the director, Dean Israelite, considers “pivotal” for the entire film. Billy Cranston, on the other hand, shows subtle signs of autism like expressing anxiety in new situations or shouting when his friends are trying to stay quiet. For both portrayals, writers were careful to stay away from caricatures.

“We wanted to take a character like Billy and celebrate those abilities and manifest in a movie the idea that without Billy and without



Power Rangers promotional poster. Courtesy of Google Images.

the qualities he has, this team would never be victorious,” Israelite told *Teen Vogue*.

It was also announced that *Sesame Street* will be adding a new friend to the neighborhood this month when it debuts their first puppet with autism, Julia. The children’s television show first created Julia as an online character in 2015 as part of an initiative to provide parents

with educational resources on autism, but she was so well-received that the show decided to bring her to life. Her first episode will air April 10 on PBS and HBO.

“Our goal was to try and help destigmatize autism and increase awareness, understanding, and empathy,” said Sherrie Westin, *Sesame Workshop*’s Executive Vice President of Global Social Impact

and Philanthropy.

While these characters are important, they are just small steps to furthering the need for more inclusion in television and film. It’s important that people, especially children, be able to see that all kinds of people exist in the world and they’re no more or no less than someone who looks, acts or loves differently than they do.

TV Review: 13 Reasons Why

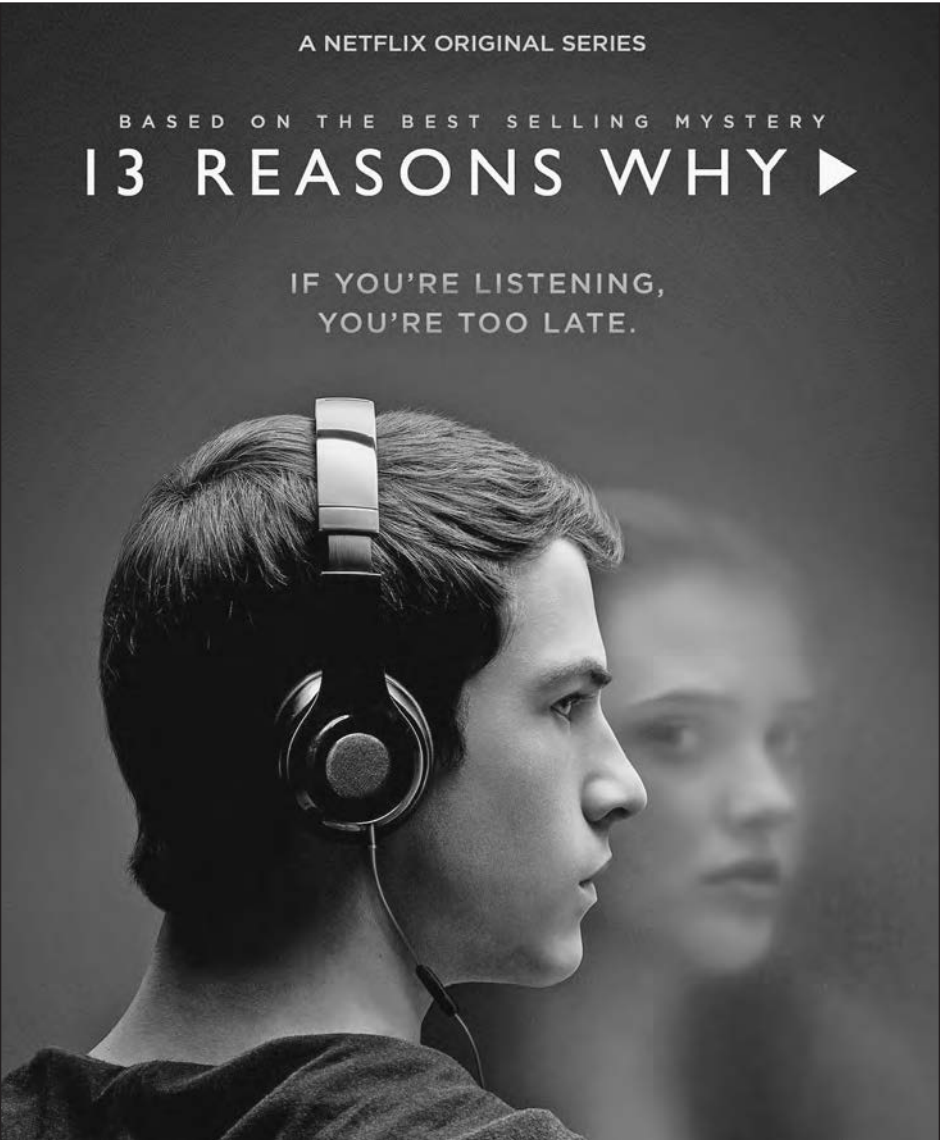
JANINE JONES
Copy Editor

On Friday, March 31, Netflix premiered their new show *13 Reasons Why*, which is based off the book written by Jay Asher. After years of rumored movie deals with Selena Gomez starring as the main character, it was announced that Gomez would actually be playing the role of executive producer for the series with Netflix. The release comes following the 10 year anniversary of the book that sparked conversations about suicide and bullying nationwide.

The story is portrayed in a butterfly effect view following Hannah Baker’s suicide, starting with the picture of a grieving high school student body complete with locker shrines, sad face selfies and “recognizing the signs” lectures from teachers. Clay Jensen, played by Dylan Minnette, comes home from school to find a package waiting for him on his porch, inside he finds a map of the town with stars over some locations and seven cassette tapes.

After listening to the first tape, Clay realizes that Hannah, played by Katherine Langford, recorded a series of tapes narrating the thirteen reasons why she decided to take her own life. The tapes set into motion a chain-letter system that was to move through each person Hannah deemed responsible for her death, one by one. In the tapes, Hannah makes it very clear that if the chain was to stop or if someone didn’t listen to all thirteen tapes, there was a secret second set of tapes that was going to be released in a more public fashion by a mysterious person.

While listening to the tapes, Clay gets freaked out by the things that were



13 Reasons Why promotional poster courtesy of Netflix.

done to Hannah and begins asking other people in the chain questions about why they did what they did to her. In the beginning, the answers were the same “Don’t believe everything you hear”, “Hannah was a liar”, “Why do you care

so much?”, but the longer it took Clay to get through the tapes the more paranoid the rest of the group got that he would try to hand them over to a parent or the police.

The series shows both Hannah’s

version of past events and Clay’s current journey through her story, which you can decipher through visual differences. Hannah’s version there’s a warm tone to the scenes, where Clay’s version has a blueish tone to it, portraying it as a darker time.

The tapes recount a sort of snowballing series of experiences ranging from somewhat harmless high school cruelty to bullying and slut shaming to sexual assault (of both, Hannah and her former friend, Jessica).

In the 10 years since the book’s original release, it feels as though the story is relevant more now than ever. High school has always been recognized as a universally hated period in life, but the things that happen in school are more likely to follow you home because of cellphones and social media, so there’s no real escape.

13 Reasons Why also addresses how things can go wrong when people who do need help try to reach out to those who are supposed to be able to help are unsuccessful because they either don’t have the proper skill set or the person in need doesn’t know how to ask.

The most prominent theme in the show was if one person had done something differently Hannah would still be alive, which is a spin-off of the bystander effect. The series strongly advocates for basic human decency and communication and shows how the various people in Hannah’s life “failed” her in certain situations.

Overall, the series is a must see. While difficult to watch, it gives real insight into the modern high school/teenage experience for a lot of people. Everyone can find at least one piece of the series relatable.

Why We Should Never Wait to Prioritize Relationships

MICHELLE RICCIARDI
Editor in Chief

During my senior year of high school in 2011, my best friend lost her boyfriend. He was driving around with a friend and the car crashed. This 21-year-old man went through the window and suffered traumatic brain injury while in a coma. While he did eventually wake up, he was not the same person that he had been.

Recently, I went to visit this friend in South Carolina. We sat on the beach one night and reminisced on high school when she brought up this loss again for the first time in six years.

I began to think of all the things that her now ex-boyfriend would never get to do and what he might have done differently if he had known his fate that night.

Would he have loved her better? Would he have loved himself better? Would he have made amends with estranged friends and family members?

Then I got to thinking: *Relationships are perhaps the most important things in life.*

Think about it; when you're on your death bed, what will you regret? I don't think many people would respond, "I wish I spent an extra 25 hours at the office every week!"

No, we will instead regret not taking our moms out to more dinners. We will regret not going to enough baseball games with our dads. We will regret letting a potential love escape us because we are too busy focusing on work and every other distraction that life throws our way.

If all I had were today, I would regret not saying "I love you," enough to the people who matter most to me. I would regret not being able to walk down the aisle and have my dad give me away at my wedding. I would regret not having my first dance with my husband and not being able to hold my first born child. I would regret the little league games I never got the chance to go to and the dance recitals and the anniversaries and the birthday parties and family vacations.

I wouldn't miss not reaching the top of my career

or the fancy painting that might hang above my bed. If my house were on fire and all of my clothes and material objects perished, all I would have left are my memories and my relationships. My parents would still love me and my friends would still be there for me.

So if those are the things that would be most important when tragedy strikes or your life comes to an end, why shouldn't they be important now? Why should we devote all of our time to other things not nearly as important like work. And I'm not saying don't strive for success, I'm simply saying that we shouldn't live to work, but work to *live*.

Life waits for nobody. Cherish your relationships and ask yourself what you would regret if it were all of the sudden the end for you, because our time is finite and nothing is guaranteed regardless of how young or old you are. Make sure you remember what is important to you in life and then devote time to what you truly care about, because one day-whether it's in five days or 50 years-it might be too late.



Photo courtesy of Google images

Here's Your Senior Year Exit Strategy

NIHAL AL QAWASMI
Opinion Editor

Well would you look at that, it's already April. That means graduation is about six weeks away.

No, I am not exaggerating – check your calendars, seniors. I know anxiety and stress levels are at an all-time high right now. As the end nears, we're all asking ourselves the same questions. *"What's going to happen after graduation?" "What will I do?" "Did I choose the right path?"*

Have no fear – those questions are absolutely normal, even for the most organized, goal-oriented and structured student. That's why I've taken it upon myself to come up with this quick senior year exit strategy checklist.

Polish Resume

Granted, you should have been doing this throughout college – but if you haven't had the chance to yet, now is the time. If you plan on trying to get a job for the summer or fall, now is the time to brush up on your skills, update your resume, and practice your cover letter expertise. Do not wait until last minute to get this done.

Narrow Down Applications

Once you are done updating your resume, create a list of companies and positions you want to apply for. If you have the energy to apply to a few dozen, then go for it. However, let's be practical. Filling out applications, finalizing references and recommendations and writing up unique cover

letters takes time. That's why you should create a list (not a mental list, a physical one) of your top job postings and their deadlines. After that, block out a few hours once a week and dedicate it to solely finalizing applications and sending them out. Or take it step by step and dedicate that day to only writing cover letters. You know yourself best, so figure out a system and get the ball rolling because deadlines are around the corner.

Don't Forget About Your Classes, But Also Have Fun

Although you are so close to the finish line and are probably already hearing back from potential employers – don't forget you also have a GPA to keep up. Believe me, I know it gets overwhelming. However, balance is key. So don't slack on your homework, prioritize your to-do-list (and self) and remember to take it all in. Your undergraduate career only comes around once – so enjoy it. Go to that event on campus, take a day off but don't forget about your responsibilities.

Get Advice From Fellow Seniors and Alumni

The best part about this new journey is that you're not doing it alone. You're graduating with an entire class that is going through the same thing and feeling the same emotions. On top of that, countless before you have done it too – so tap into the Alumni network at Pace! Get their two cents; ask how they dealt with the senior year struggle and what their exit strategy was. If that doesn't

cut it, here's a piece of advice from a current senior at Pace: Maricelo Gomez, '17

"It's hard for anyone I can imagine to deal with graduation, and there's no secret formula to avoid that panic attack I feel. Personally, I've always been involved in organizations and network groups that are relevant to my career goals such as SRMUN and NMUN, as well as currently interning for the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations," said Gomez.

"I am incredibly busy more than ever, but make sure not to waste any time and am currently applying to jobs and thinking of graduate school for the future. Overall, I believe by **setting great goals, maintaining an effective work ethic and building your network it helps me greatly to be organized and positive in this transition out of Pace.** Also, my family and mentors have been so supportive! It will be difficult embarking on this next chapter, but I leave Pace more positive and faith in my work than ever," Gomez continued.

Send Thank You Notes to Friends + Professors + Mentors

Lastly, before you cross that finish line, don't forget about the people that helped get you there. Whether it was your parents, close friends, a professor that changed your life or a mentor you look up to – give credit where credit is due. It doesn't have to be grand, just genuine and thoughtful. Good luck!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Real Scoop on Hoop House

The article in the Feb. 10, 2017, issue of The Pace Chronicle entitled "Environmental Club is Growing the Future," sadly leaves out the most important information — acknowledgment of those who actually built the hoop house. (For anyone who may not know, the hoop house is an inexpensive 12' x 16' greenhouse made out of heavy-duty plastic and wooden framing instead of glass and metal and you can find it at the Nature Center here on the Pleasantville campus. Its purpose is to extend the growing season by starting seedlings in the early spring and housing cold weather crops in early winter).

Let's give credit to Anthony Jones, a student of my "Food Revolution" class, who wrote and submitted a proposal to the Student Government Association in December 2015 and got a unanimous approval to fund the Hoop House Project through the Pace Legacy 2016 Fund. Anthony and I (the unnamed professor in the article) worked tirelessly to handle purchasing of supplies, gathering volunteers and seeing its completion. Construction began on a snowy day almost one year ago in early April and ended late June, not in the fall of 2016 and winter 2017 as reported. The Environmental Club at that time was called N.A.T.U.R.E and Anthony was its president. He also was an Environmental Studies graduating senior whose independent research project examined the challenges of growing food on college campuses. We received tremendous help from individuals outside of the

Pace community, such as Rudy Rodriguez, an instructor at New York School for the Deaf, Laurie Evans of Westchester Safe, Pastor Kyran Leo John from the First Seventh Day Adventist Church of White Plains who picked up and delivered a free door, Wilson Chang, an organic farmer from Ridgefield, Conn., and a handful of die-hard alumni that were at one time my students — Serena Veith (now a student in Pace's program for Mental Health Counseling), Nicolette Maio and Ryan McPartlan. They all deserve recognition. The article that appeared in the Feb. 10 issue fails to give a sense of how widespread community participation really was. The Environmental Club members did help on two Sundays in April, one day installing the aluminum hoops, and another day building seeding tables, and the organization generously funded lunches for hungry crews.

While it is nice to hear of a ribbon cutting ceremony for the hoop house and plans for its future use, neither Anthony nor I, nor the Pace alumni were invited. In fact, none of the people who did the work were invited. It's too bad that Pace Chronicle readers weren't told the whole story because it's a good one. The hoop house was built with love. It is a generous gift, not monetarily, but in spirit. Remembering its legacy starts with these small seeds of recognition.

Thank you,
Tracy Basile
Adjunct Professor of Environmental Studies and English
Pace University, Pleasantville, NY

Here's What You Should Do Before You Register For Next Semester

NIHAL AL QAWASMI
Opinion Editor

Hey, Setters! Can you believe how fast time is flying? It is already advising period! ***Undergraduate registration for the Fall 2017 semester begins on Apr. 17***, so if you haven't reached out to your academic advisor by now – make sure you do so because appointments fill up fast. The earlier you start planning, the more chances you'll have of getting the schedule you want next semester.

Personally, I would recommend meeting with both your school and major/department advisor to ensure everyone is on the same page, there are no delays, and you will feel less overwhelmed – despite the fact that meeting with more than 1 advisor might seem daunting. And if you don't know your advisor, be sure to email ismyadvisor@pace.edu.

Another great tool related to advising is **Degree Works** – which can be accessed through MyPace Portal. It is a web-based academic planning and advising tool that outlines the requirements of each major



Photo courtesy of Google Images

and the paths to complete it. Although you should not rely on it entirely for all of your registration needs (such as which classes are required) it is a helpful platform to get the general idea of your track sheet – what you've completed and what you have left to take. After checking it out, it's best to consult with an advisor in the event the system is not updated with any recent waivers or changes made to your degree.

Besides meeting with advisors, there are so many other related opportunities and resources available to Pace students. Unfortunately, not many take the time to discover them or use them to their fullest potential. Therefore, with help from the Department of Student Success, we wanted to break down some tools and resources that are available to you with the click of a button – literally.

“Over the past year or

so, the University has invested heavily in software platforms to support student advising and success. Many students are already using some or all of these, but some students may still not be aware of what is available to them. We wanted to remind students of the resources they have at their fingertips to maximize their success,” shared Dr. Sue Maxam, Assistant Vice President for Student Success.

Among them is the **Schedule Planner**, which is also on MyPace Portal. This tool helps students identify potential schedule options based on intended courses and their desired availability. You're basically making a virtual schedule before registration to prevent any overlaps and ensure you're maximizing your time efficiently.

Another technology-based tool is **Starfish**. Professors and instructors use this platform to share both concerns and praise related to individual student academic performance. You can log into your Starfish account at <http://starfish.pace.edu>, but the great part is that you get the alerts straight to your Pace inbox, too. When you are alerted to this feedback, it is encouraged to follow-up with your Instructor immediately for discussion, support and referral to University resources based on the feedback.

We hope you found these resources and tools helpful, and encourage you to use them. Good luck planning your next semester!

Is Residential Life Staff Friend or Foe?

ABBY STUCKER
Featured Writer

I wanted to know what students generally thought about Residential Life on campus, specifically how they feel about the quality of work of their Resident Assistants (RA) and Resident Directors (RD) on campus.

While Residential Life wasn't available to be interviewed, multiple students said they loved their RDs.

One mentioned, “She's really nice, easy to talk to and she's relatable, I think it's because she's younger.” Another student said of their RD, “I haven't talked to her much but I think she does a good job as an RD and we always have events going on in our Hall so I think I can accredit that to her.”

Other students had opposing thoughts, however. A sophomore explained their personal experience with the Residential Life staff.

“The toilet in my house has been broken for a week and nothing has been done to fix it,” the anonymous student said. “[RAs] don't care about people with roommate issues and are not committed to helping. They just want free housing.

“This is particularly a problem with the RDs who are more disconnected from the students but have the most influence. They are more interested in doing the bare minimum that is required of them and do not care about the resi-

dents or their issues at all.”

One other girl, I spoke to told me that she had an issue in her room and when she went to the RD to try to resolve the issue she said it “felt like nothing was done to help” and believes made the problem worse.

By definition, an RA helps the social, academic, and personal adjustment of students to the residence hall and university. The RA develops a sense of community among residents as members of a floor, residents of a hall, and active participants in the residence life system.

The RA enforces the rules and policies of Residence Life and the University. The RA acts as a link between residents and the University administration.

And RDs are specially trained full-time university employees, generally responsible for the management and daily operations of campus residence halls or dormitories. Another aspect of being a Residence Hall Director is that they also tend to live in the hall or a separate adjoining apartment. They also tend to be on call 24-hours a day and are generally called by their RAs if problems arise.

The question is: are Pace RAs and RDs living up to their job descriptions?

I believe there should be a forum where students can anonymously send in complaints or concerns. The only personal information that should be disclosed is where



Elm Hall, one of Pace's residential buildings. Photo by Joseph Tucci.

the student lives, so the staff knows where the complaints are directed.

This could be really beneficial because students can provide their real, honest thoughts and complaints without being judged. And the receiving end of the forum could benefit because they'd be receiving messages about issues that are really going on with no sugarcoating.

Also, it would be a way for students to express and acknowledge anything they really liked or appreciated that an RA or RD did. This idea can

really open up lines of communication between both parties. This way there's a solution to relieve the possible tension or frustration that students might be feeling towards Residential Life.

I know Pace sends out surveys for students to complete for feedback and I think they have the right idea by sending those out to our school emails.

I personally find two flaws in that system, however. First, those surveys ask specific questions and the required answers are directed towards

those questions. Second, the surveys are not mandatory so not every student is going to fill it out, thus, the overall reaction may not be accurate. Some students think the surveys don't make difference anyway so they don't fill them out.

One thing I know for sure is that students have thoughts and those thoughts should be heard in the community.

We are a progressive university and with the initiation of this forum, we could progress even more as a community.

A Creature of Habit

TJ COMBS
Featured Writer

It is said that pitchers are creatures of habit and that any microcosmic change or adjustment to their game, preparation, or lifestyle will upset the universe. Pace softball’s pitcher Kaitlynn Nelson habitual and anti-superstitious ways makes all the difference, however.

A two-time Northeast-10 (NE-10) Conference Pitcher of the Week and All-Conference player, it may come as a surprise that an athlete with natural skill on the field relies on a bit of good fortune to rack up wins.

Whether it’s a lucky handshake with her catcher Nikole Larm or eating the same protein bar before every game, the senior starting pitcher says luck plays a sort of role in big wins both home and away.

“I don’t like to be like everyone else,” said Nelson, who won NE-10 Pitcher of the Week between Mon., Mar. 20-26. “I want to be different and define how I stand out,



Kaitlynn Nelson. Photo courtesy of Pace Athletics.

[even] through my pitching.”

Luck and superstition aren’t all Nelson relies on when she pitches, but she also puts faith into a lucky sunflower she wears in her hair every

game.

The sunflower is in respect to the Florida Gators softball team, her favorite D-I softball team. The Gators wear the flower to honor Florida teen

Heather Braswell who passed away from cancer in 2014.

“I love the fact that she worshiped them but in the same respect they looked up to her,” Nelson said. “That resonated with me and I liked that symbol. It’s good to play for yourself but I like to have that [symbol].”

Nelson was an incremental piece to the Setters’ 28-16 overall record and NE-10 Conference Championship title before falling to LIU Post in the NCAA East Regional round in 2016. to went 11-6 with a 2.17 ERA, allowed 82 hits, 108 strikeouts, and made the NE-10 All-Conference Team.

“Softball has been the most constant thing in my life, whether it’s work or a social life, it’s softball before everything else,” said Nelson, who’s 5-2 with a 1.98 ERA as of Apr. 2. “[Softball] requires constant communication skills and this sport has developed me 100 percent to the person I am today.

“It has taught me more than I’ve ever realized, whether it’s being on time, having

responsibilities, or showing up but not just showing up and going through the motions. You put in work, build relationships with people, and keep pushing.”

Nelson, the sister of a US Airman, also writes her brother’s initials in the dirt after every pre-game National Anthem to honor his service, as another example of a good luck pregame ritual.

Nelson plans on using her business management degree to explore the world of fashion or event planning after graduation this May.

“My desire is to be different, that’s why I guess I like fashion,” the 21-year-old Ojai, Cali. native said. “I’ve never really followed trends.”

For the remainder of the season, Nelson will still have that lucky sunflower in her hair, a protein bar before every game, and draw her brother’s initials in the dirt. It’s those remedies that will make Pace Softball conference champions two years running, but chances are this seasoned starting pitcher has little to leave to chance.

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This Week in Sports

TJ COMBS
Featured Writer

BASEBALL

4/2 Setters baseball wins double-header against Stonehill College 5-1, 10-2

4/5 Baseball’s streak comes to an end with 1-4 loss to Adelphi University

SOFTBALL

4/5 Softball wins first in double-header against University of New Haven 5-4, 2nd game postponed

LACROSSE

4/5 Men’s Lacrosse falls to Le Moyne College 15-4

4/5 Women’s Lacrosse also falls to Adelphi University in a 10-19 game