

# The Pace Chronicle

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE 5

PACE UNIVERSITY, PLEASANTVILLE, NY

WWW.PACECHRONICLE.COM

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018

## First Generation Social Brings Pace Students and Faculty Together

CHRISTINA BUBBA  
Feature Writer

A first generation college student is when a student is from a family in which neither parent went to or graduated from college. The percentage of Pace University Pleasantville students who fit this criteria is an astounding 40 percent.

Last Wednesday, the Kessel Multi-purpose room was filled with roughly 30 people, half students and half staff, who identify as first generation college-goers. The diverse crowd mingled among high tables from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. laughing, sharing their stories and backgrounds, getting to know each other, and making connections over coffee and snacks.

Dr. Mary Ann Murphy, director of the Center



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA BUBBA

Students gathering at the First Generation Social.

for Community Action and Research, admits to the hardships students went through as a first generation college students and congratulates them for “taking the first step.”

Many students found this first step a challenge with no one in their family able to help them through

the process.

“Not having guidance was difficult,” commuter education major Vilmarie Feliciano said. “Being your own leader is scary... my mom doesn’t know anything about college.”

Despite the difficult process, being the first to go to

**Continued on page 2**

## Pace’s Late Night Intellectual Talks Creates Open Space for Conversation

CARMEN BALLON  
Feature Writer

In a crowded room, students debated heavily throughout the night, bringing life to Kessel while learning of new perspectives of controversial topics.

Pace’s Late Night Intellectual Talks gives students an open space to discuss relevant current events or controversial topics people normally shy away from.

President of Pace’s Late Night Intellectual Talks, Stephanie M Nazario, believes in the power of freedom

of speech, giving importance to allow students to talk about how they feel.

“It gives a free space...It is really about getting more people involved in speaking.... Like what they feel like and feel free to talk about what they think about these topics...”

The club was formed because of the lack of space to communicate on current events.

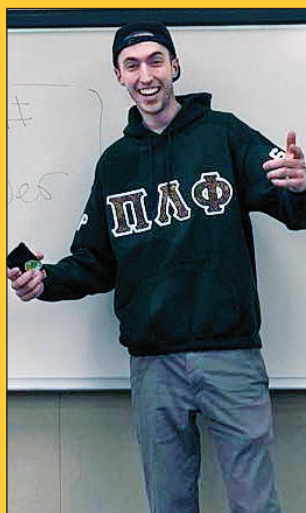
“A lot of freshmen kept saying there are things that we need to speak about and there was a conversation I

**Continued on page 2**

### FEATURE

Pi Lambda Phi  
Stirs Controversial  
Conversations  
at Fundraiser

**SEE PAGE 5**



### SPORTS

New Year, New  
Team; 2018  
Baseball Season  
Preview

**SEE PAGE 8**



### ALSO INSIDE

#### FEATURE

- INTRODUCING THE PACE GUITAR ORGANIZATION
- RHA’S DEBUT EVENT LEAVES A LOT TO BE DESIRED
- NITARA ORTIZ: MCVA STUDENT AND DIVERSITY ADVOCATE

#### OPINION

- LET THE PARTIES BEGIN
- CAN I PARK HERE?

#### SPORTS

- THE UNBREAKABLE BOND OF GEENA ROSALBO AND GABRIELLA RUBIN

WWW.PACECHRONICLE.COM  
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!  
@PACECHRONICLE  
ON FACEBOOK & MESSENGER

## Pace L.I.T. Creates Open Space for Conversation

**Continued from page 1**  
was having with a couple of football players...and we were talking about taking a knee in the game,” Stephanie M Nazario said. “That’s what sparked the idea...we were all sitting there and they said...we don’t get to talk about this on our team...and that’s why I feel this way...I feel so passionately about this...and then we had other people like come in...it just became a big discussion.”

Pace’s L.I.T launched last semester, with discus-

sions of sexual assault, abortions, and marijuana.

Diana Kaltenborn, a new guest to the club, felt that Pace’s L.I.T. offered a safe haven for students.

“This club, is extremely important with what our life is like today. On the media...news...etc we here all these crazy things... but there isn’t a space to talk...there isn’t the right place to talk...I think it’s interesting that we have this now...it’s a pretty cool thing...”

During this past meeting, the topic was related

to black history month. A presentation was created to display different categories involving African Americans in music, sports, and entertainment. After each slide, a question was posed to the audience.

Every Thursday night, Pace L.I.T. meets. Prior to the meeting, a topic is chosen based on the club members desire or current events of the week.

Nazario, feels that it is important to have this open space and hopes that all students can join in the conversation.

## First Generation Social Fosters Connections

**Continued from page 1**  
college can also be exciting. One student was so eager to attend college that she went above and beyond before deciding on Pace. She scheduled meetings with admissions and department heads, figured out financial aid, and stayed overnight and attended classes to see if Pace was a good fit.

“I called it college shopping... I loved it,” sophomore Gabrielle Iannucelli said.

The goal of these socials are to connect first generation students to one another and to faculty who have

been through similar experiences.

“Connecting faculty and staff to students [is important] so they have people here to explain the complicated structure that is the college environment,” staff member Katie Hartman said.

It is an accomplishment for many to be the first in a family to earn a college degree.

“I’m excited to get a degree,” senior Chey-Ann Coleman said. “My family are immigrants and the whole point was for me to get a better lifestyle.”

# FEATURE

## Introducing the Pace Guitar Organization

**JACK FOZARD**  
Feature Writer

No music program but surely plenty of students who like music; A situation at the Westchester campus that can leave those looking to continue the study or appreciation for music at a loss – that’s where this new club comes in

The Pace Guitar Organization is a brand-new recently funded club at Pace that joins an otherwise lone music club, The Abyss of Sound choir, in offering Pleasantville Pace students avenues to explore music in at the Westchester campus.

The group was founded on mutual interest between President Cory Kinchla and Vice President Max Byrne earlier in the semester.

“Cory and I met on the first day of the school year and we immediately started bonding and we found out that we both played guitar, so we were looking around and we realized there wasn’t any club for guitar. There was only one music group on campus actually,” said Byrne. “that was the abyss of sound. We were pretty surprised there was nothing else so we decided that we were going to try and get together a club... really, overall we’re really trying to get people that already do play guitar interested so they can come and help out the new members and have fun playing, and we do have a lot of people that don’t know how to play that are interested in learning.”

While the Pleasantville campus doesn’t offer a music major or any substantial music courses, the original campus in New York City offers, in addition to a dedicated music major, clubs such as Tonal Recall, an A capella group, and Stand Up Productions, a music and theater production club.

Following the recent funding of the club, the Pace Guitar Organization has begun planning out specifics, with the only description for the club reading ‘We are a group of students hoping to find more students interested in learning how to play the guitar.’

“We’re going to try and have meetings every Thursday, we’re not quite sure



PHOTO BY MAX PIXEL / CC BY

when we will start having those right now, though hopefully in the next few weeks or so we’re going to start getting things up and running,” continued Byrne. “ideally, yes, we will be having new members learning every meeting, if experienced people come. Cory

and I, we figured that the two of us could teach but we still want to have other people that are involved that also know how to play.”

As for community events, more events in the vein of the recent talent

**Continued on page 4**



# RHA's Debut Event Leaves a lot to be Desired

STEFANO AUSENDA  
Feature Writer

Wanting to show a flick, the Pace Residence Hall Association (RHA) debut event for the semester, "Movie Night Out," was held on Feb. 21.

Despite setting the event up for about 40 or more people, the attendance seemed very underwhelming from the get-go. Most of the attendees consisted of representatives from Pace's Hall Councils.

As the film continued, students gradually started to exit the room, until the film's midpoint, when only about eight people were left watching. Most of the people who remained watching at that point were RHA E-Board members, the ones who organized the event.

Even though RHA mem-

bers were clearly disappointed by the meager turnout, they were pleased with how it went.

"Even though we expected a few more people to attend, I think that the people who did turn out really enjoyed the movie," says Cassidy Caroselli, Pace senior and President of RHA. "We chose *the Parent Trap* because it's a movie that a lot of us grew up with, and we wanted to appeal to that demographic."

Vincent Simpson, Pace sophomore and RHA Vice President of Finance, said, "I can't really say why we had such low numbers come out... Even though I was a little disappointed by the turnout, I real liked the event."

Those who attended who weren't part of RHA enjoyed the event, too.



PHOTO BY STEFANO ASENDA

Students enjoy "the Parent Trap," during RHA's debut event.

"The only reason that I came was because a few of my friends went, and I wanted to show my support for RHA," said Andrew Cabrera, member of North Hall Council and Pace junior. "The way the room was set up and the

fact that snacks were provided gave the whole event a real movie theater feel. However, I planned to leave early to study for the quiz. But, for the brief time that I was there, I really enjoyed the movie."

Caroselli admits that RHA could have advertised and promoted the event more than they did.

"I think for our next event, [RHA] will market more to increase attendance," she said.

## The Pace Chronicle

861 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570

Phone: (914) 773-3401

pacechronicle@pace.edu • pacechronicle.com

### Editorial Staff

#### Editor-in-Chief

Sean Browne  
sb27610p@pace.edu

#### Copy Editor

Rachel Weiss  
rw44014p@pace.edu

#### Copy Editor

Tabatha Gonzalez  
tg50702p@pace.edu

#### Opinion Editor

Josiah Darnell  
jd56684p@pace.edu

#### Feature Editor

Adiba Sikder  
as19041n@pace.edu

#### Social Media Editor

Joe Tucci  
jt81331p@pace.edu

#### Sports Editor

Kwadar Ray  
kr39798p@pace.edu

## 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.

Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the administration or faculty of Pace University.

Website: [www.pacechronicle.com](http://www.pacechronicle.com)

Facebook/[pacechronicle](https://www.facebook.com/pacechronicle)

Twitter: [@pacechronicle](https://twitter.com/pacechronicle)



## Nitara Ortiz: MCVA Student and Diversity Advocate

ADIBA SIKDER  
Feature Editor

When Nitara Ortiz, a junior at Pace, walks in to a room, she immediately becomes noticed for her boxed braids and brown skin.

Ortiz believes that, often, this attention can feel negative. However, she accepts it with open arms because she loves standing out in a crowd, especially at Pace.

The half-Puerto Rican and half-Guyanese student considers her culture to be a big part of who she is.

“Diversity is an amazing thing. Be who you are and work with it,” said Ortiz.

Ortiz proudly boasts about her roots to the people around her and isn’t afraid to teach people about her culture when they question her actions, clothing, or demeanor.

Although Ortiz has a lot of confidence in herself and who she is now, she recalls a time when she wasn’t and how her experience at Pace has helped her evolve.

“In high school I was surrounded by a lot of toxic people, but it helped me show me who my real friends are,” said Ortiz. “They pushed me to come here because they thought it would be fun.”

A decision that was made because it sounded like it might be fun, ended up becoming a fulfilling and enriching experience for her.

Ortiz acknowledges that she learned more about film and photography during her college career than she would have if she didn’t attend Pace.

“I love taking pictures of people. People are so beautiful. Beauty exceeds shape, size, and color,” said Ortiz.

Ortiz has body dysmorphia and works to fight it everyday and wants to help remove the stigma of having a perfect body shape

by taking photographs of diverse people.

“I take pictures of my best friends and it makes me so happy to know that people like the pictures I take of them and see the beauty in themselves,” said Ortiz.

One of the biggest reasons that she loves her time at Pace is because of the connections that she has made through professors which has helped her gain experience and get her dream internships.

Ortiz is currently an intern for a casting company belonging to Rob Decina, a casting professor at Pace through his own recommendation.

“Pace is great for connections. I found an amazing internship that I truly enjoy. I’ve been learning a lot from them,” said Ortiz.

Ortiz believes that students that are pushed, even slightly, to go to college should go because there are endless career possibilities and opportunities waiting for them.

“It might not be for everyone, but if you’re torn, you should go and find out what you love. Try a little bit of everything until you find what you love but don’t give up just because it’s a little hard,” said Ortiz.

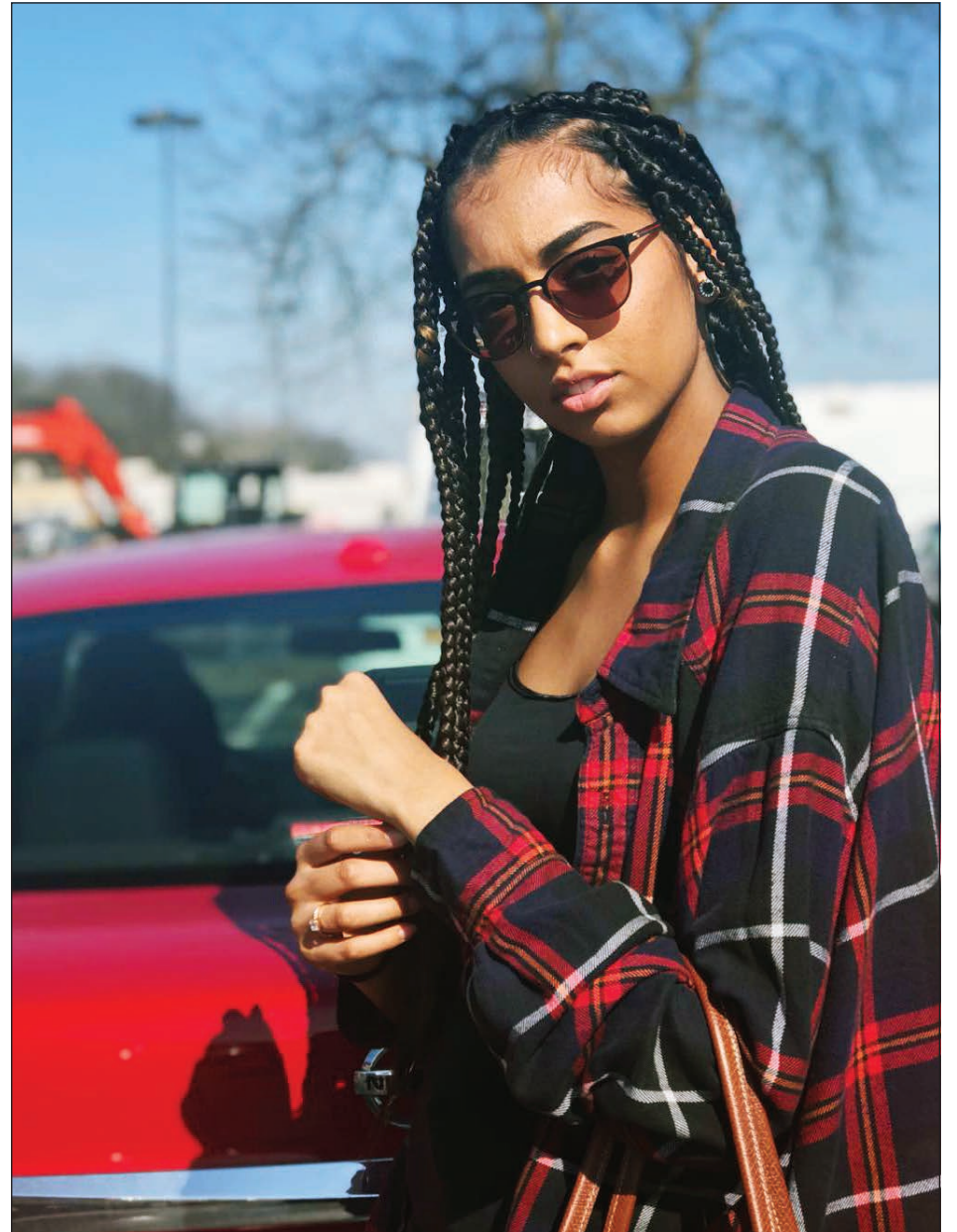


PHOTO COURTESY OF NITARA ORTIZ

Nitara Ortiz

## Pace Guitar Organization

Continued from Page 2

show could be in store on more than an annual basis.

“We’re currently thinking that we will try to host talent shows,” continued Byrne. “I’m going to start working at the Perk soon, so [for] open mic night at the Perk we could put together guitar performances...recently Cory did a talent show here and there were I think maybe one hundred, one hundred fifty

people that actually attended the talent show, so there was a lot of interest in it.... everyone enjoys music so I think that it’s a great to just get people to bond together.”

Byrne, a freshman along with Kinchla, has only recently begun to play himself.

“I mean I feel like a lot of people do want to learn to play guitar, I mean personally I had always wanted to and I didn’t even think about until, or real-

ly commit to the idea until last summer. So I think that there are a lot of people out there that want to learn,” said Byrne. “I mean really anyone is welcome, even if you have absolutely no idea about anything music related, like I hadn’t really- I didn’t really know anything about music before I started playing and there’s always a process of learning so anyone of any skill level is welcome.”



# Pi Lambda Phi Stirs Controversial Conversations During 'You v 49' Fundraiser

ADIBA SIKDER  
Feature Editor

The brothers of Pi Lambda Phi used their fun demeanor and comedic questions in order to make learning about prejudice and the elimination of prejudice entertaining for students during their annual *You v 49* fundraiser event on Wednesday in Willcox Hall.

Students were required to donate five dollars to enter and, in exchange, received tickets to enter the raffle in order to win one of five possible prizes: a movie, a Pace sweatshirt, a Samsung Television, and a Bluetooth speaker. Students were also given the option to pay additional money for more raffle tickets.

All of the proceeds of the event were donated towards the fraternity's philanthropy, the elimination of prejudice.

The goal of this event was to help raise awareness to the definition of prejudice and the obstacles that groups that are considered minorities in America have overcome.

"It's about opening your eyes to these kinds of situations" said Gjek Vukelj, president of Pi Lambda Phi. "Yes, it's 2018 and there's a lot less prejudice than there used to be but there's a lot of backlash and a lot of prejudice that people get just for being themselves."

The fraternity members believe that there are many common misconceptions when it comes to prejudice and that often people perceive it to be about the problems that are arisen by



PHOTO BY ADIBA SIKDER

Geek Vukelj, president of Pi Lambda Phi and host for *You v 49*.

the media.

"A lot of the ones [prejudices] that we associate with the word are just the tip of the iceberg," said John Watson, a brother of Pi Lambda Phi.

When the game started, students were given 49 trivia questions with a mixture of witty, general knowledge questions and questions related to Pi Lambda Phi's philanthropy with breaks in between to see who won the raffles.

Students began engaging in controversial conversations with each other during the general knowl-

edge questions on topics such as being prejudice against oneself, women's rights, and internalized racism.

"I think we need to have more conversations and have more events like this. We live in a time where people still face prejudice and it has a real effect on them monetarily, socially and mentally," said David Mulcahy, freshman at Pace.

The brothers of Pi Lambda Phi encourage students that are experiencing prejudice or see their peers experience it to be courageous and take action.

There are several resources on campus for students to contact if one is experiencing prejudice and want to take action and prevent it from happening to others. Some of the resources are Resident Assistants, the Counseling Center, Pace

FIRE, deans, and Pace security.

"Just treat everyone the way you want to be treated. It's the golden rule, it's what everyone learns as they're growing up," said Jeremy Langdale, brother of Pi Lambda Phi.

*"I think we need to have more conversations and have more events like this. We live in a time where people still face prejudice and it has a real effect on them monetarily, socially and mentally."*

David Mulcahy,  
Pace freshman

## Let The Parties Begin

**JOSIAH DARNELL**  
*Opinion Editor*

The social aspect of college life is a determining factor in the decision making process for students when they try to figure out if they want to remain at a school or not. Social life can include campus activities, friendships, clubs, organizations, and parties. Especially parties.

A lot of the time when high school seniors talk to college students one of the number one thing they ask them is, “how are the parties?”, or “is the school lit?” These are questions they feel they have to ask because they don’t want to be on a “boring” campus.

The parties here on the Pleasantville campus have three popular locations: Paulies, Brother Jimmy’s and the Townhouses. Don Coqui is also starting to become a more familiar place now. In order to get into Paulies and Brother Jimmy’s an ID

is required. Some students may not have an ID and other students will get denied for obvious reasons.

That leaves just the other two locations: the townhouses and Don Coqui. The townhouses or houses for short aren’t always having parties due to weather and just vibes alone and there is still the uncertainty of them being shut down. Once the house party is shut down that leaves students asking themselves what’s the next move?

An ID isn’t required for the entry into Don Coqui but a dress code is required and the commute there is never a guarantee. Being that it is located in White Plains makes it difficult for students to find a way there. Then if you show up in an attire that doesn’t fit their ideal look you can be turned down at the door. With all of these in mind it can leave students with a party-less night.

After talking to a couple



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE

**Willcox Multipurpose Room, home to a lot of the parties that have taken place on campus.**

of students they proposed the idea of more student run parties. We have had some in the past and a lot of them took place in Wilcox Hall. Now what that does is gives students the chance to have an enjoyable time while still having the ability to enjoy the comforts of home. Home meaning campus. There will be no need for an ID and there will be no struggle in trying to find a way there.

Students wouldn’t have to worry about what they next move will be, if they plan on popping out off campus or not, and carrying extra money just in case things don’t go as planned. Student run parties will also keep students a lot safer and can ensure that they have a safe trip back to their dorms.

After a certain time, shuttles stop running from Memorial Plaza to the cam-

pus so Uber and Lyft gets more involved and that’s more business for them but students may not want to spend that extra cash. More students run parties will also have Pace University students talk more about how lit the campus is, which will then boost up enrollment because those high seniors will now want to be a part of the fun and action.

## Can I Park Here?

**JOSIAH DARNELL**  
*Opinion Editor*

Parking on this campus has been an issue for quite some time now and the restrictions on certain parking areas doesn’t make things any better. Due to the newly built dorms in Alumni and Elm, parking spots were compromised, leaving North and the Townhouses with the abundant amount of parking.

What does that mean for students who don’t live in North or the Townhouses? Well that means

try to find a way to enjoy the commute to your dorm because the walk will be something you don’t always want to endure. If you want to endure it at all.

That leaves the overnight parking issue. There are a couple of lots that could be useful in the fight for parking. Those lots include the one at Goldstein fitness center and the one that goes along the hill towards OSA and Financial Aid. We can identify them as lots H and L.

I know that these restrictions are placed most

likely for security reasons and there is no other reason better than the safety of students, but because of these restriction students take it upon themselves to find creative alternative ways to find parking. Some students help themselves to handicap spots knowing that they’re not supposed to and creating spots in open spaces when there isn’t supposed to be a spot there at all.

That then leads to the accumulation of tickets and no student wants to spend extra money if they don’t

have to, especially when college can be the financial strain that it is. These parking restrictions could be a little less strict so that students have more flexibility and can start reducing those the amount of tickets that end up on their windshield.

Students in Alumni and Elm would know that when it’s time to find parking their commute shouldn’t be that much of a hassle and hopefully wouldn’t have to think about walking down from the townhouses. That goes for the students in Martin as well. It’s all about

being convenient for the students and cutting down on illegal parking will lead to less illegal parking.

Students, and people in general, will always try to find ways to bend and stretch the law to make it fit for them and that same mentality is being applied here. Students will always find a way to find the light in the dark with the parking situations and they may not always go about it the right way. Why allow that when all that can be changed is a couple of more parking spots.



# The Unbreakable Bond of Geena Rosalbo and Gabriella Rubin

**KWADAR RAY**  
*Sports Editor*

One does not have to be an exceptional observer to see that Geena Rosalbo and Gabriella Rubin, the senior captains of Pace Women's basketball team, have a shatterproof relationship.

The two are both fiery competitors, they can effortlessly finish each other's sentences, and they're even averaging the same amount of points this season at 9.1.

While the bond Rosalbo and Rubin have developed during their four years at Pace is self-evident, it was not always sunshine and cheerfulness for the two Staten Island natives.

Rosalbo and Rubin played for rival programs in high school while chasing for the common goal of a championship. The two did not personally know one another, but certainly knew of one another.

"We didn't really like each other too much at first," Rubin said. "We're both very competitive and we were some of the best on Staten Island, so there was a rivalry there."

Even when the two left high school and began their stints at Pace, there was no smooth sailing.

"We butted heads a lot," Rosalbo said. "We disagreed with each other all the time."

Their personalities constantly combated. Rosalbo entered Pace a shy and soft-spoken freshman, while Rubin was admittedly an outspoken newcomer who could let her emotions get the best of her from time

to time.

"We'd be on the court and [Rosalbo] would say, 'catch that pass,' and I'd scream back, 'throw a better pass,'" Rubin laughed as she recalled their early disagreements.

Rosalbo and Rubin soon realized they could not be in constant conflict if they planned on being successful pieces to the Setters' puzzle.

Despite both athletes being as talented as they were, both playing on scholarships--Rubin even received a college letter from a Division-1 school--their freshman years were not stellar.

"We both realized we were struggling, so arguments about who was better or whatever had to go out the window," Rubin said. "We needed each other because we were both going through a lot. Freshman year is tough and it was definitely challenging for us, so we needed each other."

Rubin's personality that Rosalbo may have initially found a bit irritating, turned out to be a saving grace for her when senior captains would target her.

"During freshman year, she had my back when the seniors came at us," Rosalbo remembered. "I was very quiet and would not say anything, but she had my back. That is something I can remember. She always stood up for me."

"As the years went by, we got closer and now our bond is unbreakable," Rosalbo said.

By their junior campaigns, Rosalbo and Rubin



PHOTO COURTESY OF PACE ATHLETICS

**Pace Women's basketball senior captains Gabriella Rubin (L) and Geena Rosalbo (R) look back at their relationship through the years as they approach the twilight of their playing careers.**

had already developed a decent bond, which was beneficial due to the unexpected challenges the two would face that season.

Rubin tore her ACL 10 games into the season and Rosalbo learned she had appendicitis 19 games into the season.

The unfortunate fact that both could not complete their junior seasons, and ultimately missed their would-be first postseason run, actually helped the two grow closer.

"We definitely did talk to each other throughout our recovery," Rubin said. "We had to stick together, so that definitely made us closer."

The partnership Rosalbo and Rubin developed has culminated to this season, where Rosalbo and Rubin entered the year as captains and the only seniors on the roster.

"We said to each other, 'This is our last year and we have to give it all and we need to make it count,'"

Rosalbo said.

Under the leadership of head coach Carrie Seymour, along with the veteran leadership of Rosalbo and Rubin, the Setters have made their second straight postseason berth.

What has made this team more successful than the previous ones Rosalbo and Rubin have been on, is the fact they were both on board with the coaches.

"In the past, I would fight back or argue with the coaches and I feel like it takes a certain level of maturity to realize we have to work together," Rubin said. "We can't go back at them because they know what they're doing, so we just appreciate them and because of that, our team is very close."

Rosalbo and Rubin are now participating in their first postseason, while also staring the final days of their basketball careers in the eyes.

Rosalbo has played

basketball since pre-K and Rubin has played since third grade. It is understandable that the only players remaining from the freshman class of 2014 are afraid of letting it all go.

"I think it will be very emotional," Rosalbo said. "It is hard to know that our college basketball days are ending. I'm going to miss competing, playing and being a part of the team because those are the people who we create memories with."

Rubin shared a similar sentiment.

"It's bittersweet because we're older now and we are starting to get ready for that next step, but we are not fully ready yet," she said. "This is all we know. Having a team who has your back and competing every day--it's our lifestyle. Like, even when we are off during the summer, we still have a routine that is always there. It is a lifestyle. When people say, 'ball is life,' they're not joking."





PHOTO COURTESY OF PACE U ATHLETICS

Senior catcher Michael Gulino (23) is one of seven active seniors expected to lead the new look Setters team.

## New Year, New Team: 2018 Baseball Season Preview

**KWADAR RAY**  
*Sports Editor*

Alongside rainy weather and blooming flowers, the spring also welcomes the Pace baseball team's new season.

The Setters enter 2018 ranked fourth in the Southwest Division in the NE-10 preseason Coaches' Poll after their 29-19 season last year.

The Setters aim to reach a fifth consecutive NE-10 Tournament with a new makeup that's far from identical to last season's squad.

"What excites me about this team is the blend of old and young," 18th-year head coach Hank Manning said. "I'm curious to see how freshmen and first-years starters mesh with the older guys."

Only having four remaining starters from their offense last year, Coach Manning expects to experiment with the team's lineups to begin the season.

Juniors Michael Barbato and Alex Pia are a couple of players who have not significantly contributed

to previous years' teams, but are expected to step up in 2018.

"Barbato is going to see some time behind the dish and will also see some DH time," Manning said. "Alex [Pia] will get opportunities and if he takes it, he'll at least be a guy who has been around college baseball the past couple of years with experience."

However, the pitching staff--which Manning sees as one of the stronger aspects of the team--will be full of familiar faces. The Setters will rely heavily on the group to keep them competitive against fierce NE-10 competition such as New Haven, Le Moyne and Southern Connecticut State.

"I think we'll be in every game because our pitching staff is senior dominant," Manning said. "We have guys with experience, so anytime we have that group pitching, we have potential to be in every game."

As for the infield, Coach Manning expects to see sophomore Brian Bohlander anchoring first base, senior Michael Salmonese at

second, senior Matthew Kurdewan at third, and senior Paul Piccolino at shortstop.

Outside of his role behind the dish and in the outfield, Senior catcher Mike Gulino may also see some time at first base.

Gulino, who was named to the NE-10 All-Conference First Team last season, is entering his final year and despite his high play from last season, he still sees areas where he wants to improve his game.

"Hitting wise, I'd like to drive the ball to right field more and try not to pull everything," Gulino said. "Of course, I'd like to hit more home runs too, but also spread the field more by hitting the ball to right, left, right center and center field. If I can expand myself as a hitter throughout the whole field, that'd just help me in the long run and help the team out."

Despite the amount of newcomers that have arrived to the team, Gulino is as excited as Coach Manning to see how the new outfield and roster plays out.

"We have newcomers in the outfield that can supply things that last year's outfield couldn't," he said. "This outfield may have more speed and maybe better defensive skills, perhaps not at the plate, but we can make up for that."

Alongside his fellow seniors, Gulino has been waiting for his time to be the leader of the team since he first donned the blue and gold uniform his freshman year.

"Our seniors all understand that it's our team this year and we know how we want to run it," Gulino said. "We've known how we wanted to run way since our freshman and sophomore years because we always talked about it, and now it's our time to do it. I think I have so much confidence because the seniors understand that the younger guys look up to us and we know we can set great examples, grind out every day and the underclassmen will do the same thing."

The Setters open the season at home against Bloomfield College on Mar. 2.