

The Pauw Wow

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Relief for Some, Headache for Others: New Jersey Approves Higher Minimum Wage

BY JOSE BUSTILLO
Staff Writer

New Jersey residents voted overwhelmingly to raise the state’s hourly minimum wage by \$1 Tuesday, November 5. While some small local business argued that the measure would harm their business, others, such as Lucas Diaz, 22, who makes the current minimum wage, cannot wait for next year’s hourly increase.

Currently, New Jersey’s wage standards are lower than in other states in the region and across the country. Since 2009, the minimum wage in the state of New Jersey has been \$7.25 an hour. Most employers are required to pay their employees the state’s minimum wage and overtime pay of time and a half. However,

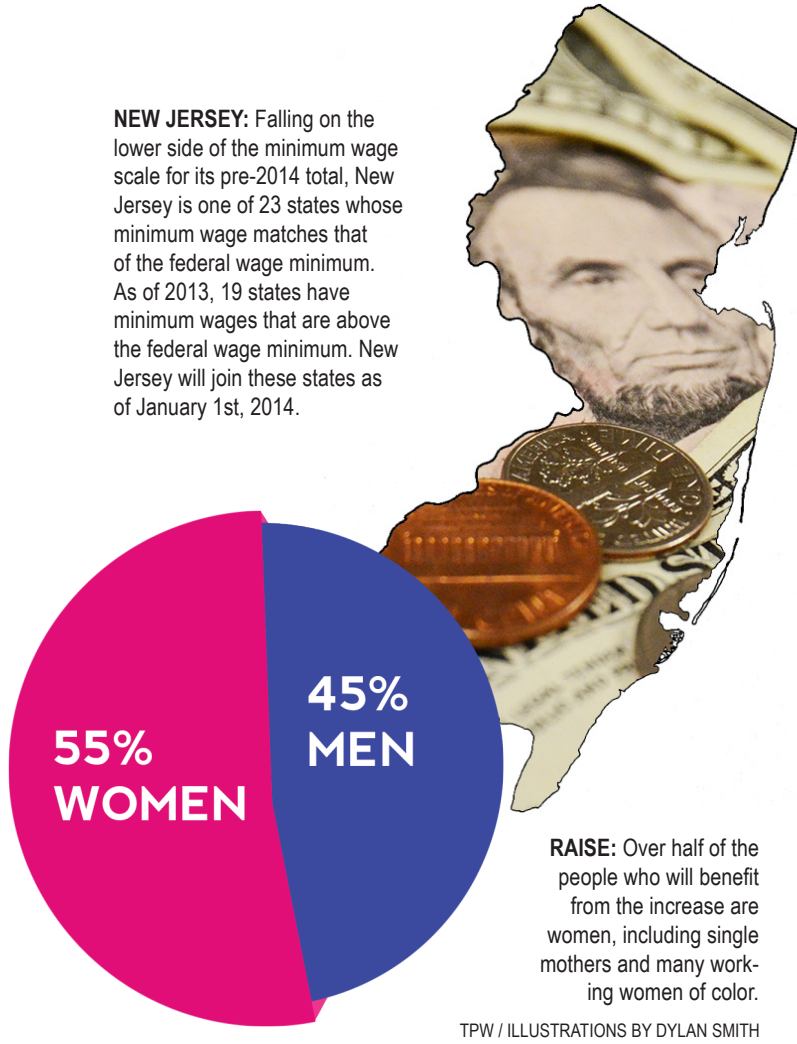
there are exceptions such as: automobile salespersons, outside salespersons and minors under the age of 18, except for minors working in retail, food service, the first processing of farm products, beauty culture occupations, laundry, cleaning and dyeing occupations, light manufacturing and apparel occupations and hotel and motel occupations. The latest measure passed on Tuesday would take the minimum hourly wage to \$8.25 starting on January 1, 2014.

According to the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) in Washington, D.C., raising New Jersey’s minimum wage to \$8.25 per hour would generate about \$195 million in additional economic activity in the state in the first year following the increase, which will lead

to the creation of over 1,700 full-time jobs. The EPI also estimates that close to half a million New Jersey workers would benefit if the minimum wage were raised to \$8.25 per hour, including almost 275,000 workers making under \$8.25 per hour and over 200,000 workers who earn just above \$8.25 per hour. More than half of the workers who would get a raise are women (55 percent) and more than half are people of color (55 percent).

Not everyone agrees. According to a senior economist with the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, D.C., John Schmitt, “Why Does the Minimum Wage Have No Discernible Effect on Employment,” concludes that the

NEW JERSEY: Falling on the lower side of the minimum wage scale for its pre-2014 total, New Jersey is one of 23 states whose minimum wage matches that of the federal wage minimum. As of 2013, 19 states have minimum wages that are above the federal wage minimum. New Jersey will join these states as of January 1st, 2014.



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TPW / © FRANCISCO DE JESUS
Students are filmed while working on a video project.

Lights, Camera, Action! Saint Peter’s Launches Film Institute

BY FRANCISCO DE JESUS
Staff Writer

Your actors are ready and the stage is set. The camera is recording and the sound is cued. All that is left is to say those three famous words that will set everything in motion.

In the world of filming, one’s idea is translated into a motion picture viewed by all. And for many aspiring filmmakers, it is the ability to artistically convey their thoughts that attracts them to the medium.

Now, Saint Peter’s University offers students that opportunity in the

form of the new Sorvino Film Institute. Starting in 2015, the school will offer lectures and seminars from professionals in filming, producing, editing and more.

Similar to programs like New York University and School of Visual Arts, the institute will be geared toward students wanting to be a part of the filming world. Between the months of May and August, they will receive first-hand training in using cameras, editing software such as Final Cut, and other skills that is the norm for both film and television.

Dr. Eugene Cornacchia, President of St. Peter’s

University, introduced the program during the Golden Door International Film Festival at the Loew’s Theater back in October. He goes into detail about the program, specifically being open to students beyond St. Peter’s.

“The Institute will be a non-credit certificate program open to aspiring filmmakers throughout New York, New Jersey and beyond,” he said. “Participants will work in groups in creating a short film, and will have access to cameras, editing software, and everything else they’d need to make a film.”

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New Jersey Wins Same-Sex Marriage

BY CARLOS GONZALEZ
News Editor

New Jersey became the 14th state to legalize same-sex marriage by a court ruling. The same-sex marriage battle has been pushing strong in the United States, which may lead to the downfall of the Republican party. While some may not find the ruling a surprise, the legalization is considered a milestone for the future of American civil rights movements that the LGBTQ community continues to face.

In NJ, same-sex couples were only given the chance to have civil unions until the court decision in October 2013. However, civil unions did not recognize the full benefits married heterosexual couples enjoyed in the state. Local activists and civil rights leaders alike believed that civil unions were a failed institution, as it did not enforce employers to recognize the relationship LGBTQ employees had with their partners.

“Under New Jersey’s new law, a civil union is the legally recognized union of two individuals of the same sex. Civil union couples receive the legal benefits and protections and are subject to the legal responsibilities provided under New Jersey law to married couples. But a civil union is not a marriage,” reports [lambdalegal.org](#).

The main issue that arose

during the times of the NJ Civil Union Act is health benefits, as acquired by the employers of an LGBTQ worker in a civil union. When a workplace was considered self-insured, it abides by federal law (when the Defense of Marriage Act was still in place) or by state law. But many employers refused to recognize the NJ Civil Union Act.

“Practically speaking, companies covered by ERISA, which comprised an estimated 50 percent of all companies in New Jersey, have an option, rather than a requirement, to offer equal benefits under the state’s Civil Union Act,” reads the New Jersey Civil Union review Commission published in 2008. Now that same-sex couples are recognized as married in NJ, and since the US Supreme Court overturned DOMA, the LGBTQ community can marry and utilize federal marriage benefits.

Self-proclaimed “Moderate Republican” senior Robert Guerra states that although he personally supports same-sex marriage, the way that NJ won its civil rights victory was dodgy.

“I personally support gay marriage in NJ, but the way that it happened is what bothers me. The judge used a rather far-fetched interpretation of the Supreme Court’s verdict. The decision should have been up to the NJ State

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2NEWS

WAGE

FROM FRONT PAGE

minimum wage has little or no discernible effect on the employment prospects of low-wage workers.

But employees like Diaz disagree. Diaz lives in West New York and emigrated from Guatemala 3 years ago. Currently, he has two full-time jobs, one at the Olive Garden in Secaucus as a dishwasher, and the other at Waitex Warehouse in Clifton.

“Es excelente, porque me ayudara a hacer más dinero”- “It is excellent, because it will help me make more money,” he said. He added that an increase in the minimum wage would give him a better opportunity to help more his family back in Guatemala, as he only makes \$290 a week and it is obviously not enough money to pay for rent, phone, and other utilities. Diaz is concerned about his managers at Waitex, because managers disagreed with the new minimum wage measure, and he is afraid of getting fired.

The Economic Policy Institute (EPI), also estimates that parents comprise almost a quarter of workers who would be affected by this minimum wage increase, and more than 282,000 children in the state have a parent who would get a raise. Parents who would see a raise contribute, on average, 41 percent of their families' income.

Rocio Amore, 38, a Union City resident, used to make the minimum wage a few years ago. She believes the increase in the minimum wage would benefit many low-pay workers. Amore, is currently working as a busser in both Houlihan's and at the Olive Garden located in Secaucus.

“It is great positive news for all parents, because the economy is very bad,” said Amore. “I will help people to resolve more their economic problems, such as to pay rent and bills”.

According to Edwin Dickens, Professor of Economy at Saint Peter's University, increasing minimum wages will probably increase labor productivity.

“Increases in minimum wage will hence the potential output of the economy, by giving employers an incentive to mechanize production, i.e., substitute machines for workers,” he said in an email interview.

Meanwhile, Wal-Mart - the world's largest retailer - is under fire for its low wages. Wal-Mart workers and their supporters launched protests in 15 cities across the country, as part of a small but vociferous movement to raise wages and to improve conditions for some Wal-Mart's lowest paid workers. Wal-Mart has about 1.3 million workforce.

According to John Roman, Zone Supervisor at Wal-Mart Saddle Brook, the increase in the minimum wage to \$8.25 will

not make any difference at the store. In his location, employees start off at \$7.80 and \$9.50 for overnight hours. Roman, believes the store will most likely cut employees' hours to about 20 hours a week.

“Wal-Mart won't hire full-timers and Temps after a 6 month period become part-timers or get fired,” he said. “No one can make a living as a part timer at Wal-Mart”.

As a supervisor, Roman encourages his employees and other people to get an education for better job opportunities and wages.

Wal-Mart was contacted by email, but the media relations office did not want to comment.

Meanwhile, some feel raising the wages is unfair. Andrew Colaneri, a resident of Secaucus and a student at the University of Phoenix disagrees with increasing the minimum wage. He is concerned with the fact that some people with college degrees are only making \$10 an hour.

“Why should people without degrees be making the same amount of money, as people that have the degrees,” he said. Colaneri, added that in order to help out the poor, the government should make the middle class stronger.

A manager at McDonald's on Central Ave, in Jersey City Heights refused to comment on any information about the possible effects of the minimum wage in the franchise.

Students React to Minimum Wage Increase

BY MARISA CARLUCCI
Staff Writer

The recent minimum wage increase has brought students, many of whom have different sources of income, to think about their opinions about one of the newest laws that plans to go into effect soon.

Some students, though their jobs are able to offer them more than minimum wage, fully agree with the increase. Marie Ricca, a sophomore who earns \$10 an hour working at an after school program in Jersey City, is supportive of the minimum wage increase, “because more kids have the opportunity to save up when they get their paycheck.”

However, there is controversy regarding the fact that work study students will not be receiving a wage increase: all work study programs have restrictive budgets that prevent employers from paying each individual student more than a certain amount of money per school year, according to Pablo Orantes, the Associate Director of Financial Aid.

Toyin Ogundare, a sophomore who works at the

O'Toole Library as a work study student, explains that she is “very happy” about the minimum wage increase.

Other students who are not reliant on minimum wage as their main source of income are simply not interested in the fact that the New Jersey minimum wage was increased. “I'm indifferent,” said sophomore Jillian Boyce. “Because I don't work... [the minimum wage increase] just doesn't cross my mind.”

Overall, students generally reacted rather well to the increase--even those who do not rely on minimum wage jobs as their primary source of income. The minimum wage increase likely will benefit many students, from those who rely on their wage as their main source of income to those who choose to have an a second job just for the extra money.



HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE MINIMUM WAGE? TWEET US AT: @THEPAUWWOW WITH YOUR OPINIONS!

MARRIAGE

FROM FRONT PAGE

Legislature or state wide referendum,” Guerra said.

Either way, NJ would have most likely legalized same-sex marriage at some point due to its geographical proximity to one of the most liberal states in the US, New York, and its largely Democratic population.

Interestingly enough, Republican Governor Christie has managed to get reelected in NJ, despite his party's stance on the issue.

“[Christie's] position on gay marriage was to let the [residents of NJ] to decide, although it was ultimately decided by the courts. And it was fine as far as the Governor was concerned. So that suits him just fine,” said Political Science Professor Alain Sanders. Sanders explains that, since the courts decided, Christie had to respect the court system. Therefore, the legalization suited Christie for his reelection, and presumably will suit him for his candidacy for president, as many believe he will run for.

The question imposed for many Americans is whether or not denying same-sex marriage is discrimination, and if same-sex marriage is ultimately a human right.

Sanders explains: “When the question was reframed as a question of equality -- equal protection of the laws - thus, allowing some people to marry, and not other people to marry... is that treating people equally? When you reframe the question under those terms, it is very hard -- intellectually and legally-- to say ‘yes, it's equal to allow some people to marry and not others.”

After the media exploited the idea of recognizing same-sex marriage as an equal treatment, Americans were cornered into accepting that denying same-sex couples marriages constitutes discrimination.

The Human Rights Campaign's Answers to Questions about Marriage Equality states, “Currently in the United States, same-sex couples in long-term, committed relationships pay higher taxes and are denied basic protections and rights granted to married straight

couples.”

These taxes and protections include; hospital visitations, social security benefits, immigration, health insurance, estate taxes, family leave, accommodating couples in nursing homes, home protection, and pensions. When DOMA overturned, same-sex couples, whose marriage is recognized in their state, benefit from 1,100 federal benefits, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

Another argument that same-sex couples have struggled to overcome, is the burden of being seen as a second-class citizen.

“According to witnesses, gay and lesbian youth are harmed by the reality that their heterosexual siblings and age mates may expect to enter into marriages, but that the government has declared that LGBTI people cannot have that expectation and must settle for secondary status as civil union couples,” states the NJ Civil Union Review Commission. In states which same-sex marriage is not fully recognized, LGBTQ people can face outcasting of being

a second-class citizen by being denied the rights that straight couples enjoy.

Now that states are slowly providing full marriage equality for same-sex couples, the Republican party could need a new source to become a successful party once again. The Reagan days are over for the Republican party, and Tea Partiers are making the case difficult with a growing liberal society in the US. However, denying same-sex marriage might not be the answer to the Republican party's recent downturn.

“I don't think acceptance of gay marriage would really change the fortunes of my party. It's not an issue that affects a majority of the population nor is it a make or break for the Republicans,” said Guerra. Guerra said he believes that there can be other tactics for Republicans, as the party clearly states its moral principles against homosexuality.

“[The Republican party] cannot go on to be as the party of ‘no,’” stated Sanders. “[The party] has to figure out what they're ready to say ‘yes’ to. And it has to be

something that the majority of Americans are ready to say ‘yes’ to. And this is a big dilemma, because the Tea Party wants to keep saying ‘no’ to everything.”

Sanders explains the Republican party's continuance of denying many policies that can benefit the country as a whole. However, the party must begin to accept some policies in order to grow. Sanders argues that moderate Republicans are ready to say ‘yes’ to some policies, but they must configure if the policies are something the majority of Americans want. Whether or not this is same-sex marriage is still up for debate, although it is not likely that the Republican party will accept the notion anytime soon.

Nonetheless, states that recently legalized same-sex marriage include Illinois and Hawaii, and will be effective in late-November and December of this year. The same-sex marriage fight still remains at-large in other Midwestern and Southern states, as the Republican party is largely in power in the region.

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FILM

FROM FRONT PAGE

Paul Sorvino, a prominent actor known for his roles in “Law & Order” and “Goodfellas,” will serve as the Institute’s Chairman Emeritus. Several members of his family, who also have had successful film careers, will contribute to the program’s development.

Several students have already expressed interest in the program and what it will offer. Ryan Pineda, a senior, feels the program can give students a new way to express themselves than ever before.

“I believe it is an innovation,” said Pineda. “It’s a new experience in Saint Peter’s University, and it provides a new horizon for students to express themselves in an artistic way.”

According to the Motion Picture Association of America, the film industry created 10,397 direct jobs and \$724.5 million in New Jersey as of 2011. Additionally, almost 6,700 of those jobs are production-related. Therefore,

the institute will prepare students with a proper portfolio to help them get hired into the growing field.

When asked how the partnership between the Sorvino family and Saint Peter’s began, Cornacchia explained it started as an initial sponsor to the Golden Door Film Festival. However, several meetings between himself and the festival’s founder, Bill Sorvino, resulted in the desire to have a well-respected film program.

“The relationship began as a simple sponsorship opportunity,” said Cornacchia. “And then blossomed to the point where we said, ‘You know what, what if Saint Peter’s stood up and joined forces with the Sorvino family to make this really happen?’”

Of course, with any new program, the institute will have several obstacles to overcome. Joseph Lamachia, a professor in Communications and advisor for WSPR Radio, cites one example in the form of proper exposure. Despite several press releases from Saint Peter’s and outlets

such as The Jersey Journal and Jersey Tribune, students and faculty are still unaware of the new program and its focus.

“There really hasn’t been any traction on what they’re going to do, how they’re going to achieve it, etcetera,” said Lamachia. “It’s supposed to include different aspects of film, but we don’t really know specifically what they’re going to do.”

Ryan Pineda suggests that the biggest obstacle the new program may face is getting initial students interested. Cornacchia recognizes this, and explains the institute will start out small.

“We won’t bite off more than we can chew,” he said. “We hope to start off with a small cohort of about 10-12 students, and grow it from there.”

Despite these challenges, people are seeing more positives than negatives. Harley Cabrera, a former alumna, is ecstatic at the institute’s concept, and wishes it had started before she graduated back in 2012.

“It’s about time,” she said. “There are so many

students who have a passion for media and film in the metropolitan area. I’m ecstatic that talented students will finally have the sources and tools to put their projects in motion.”

Pineda agrees, and feels that once the institute gains prominence, it will have the potential to achieve a number of accomplishments. “The greatest accomplishment in that program, which I believe will be, is that students will be able to contribute to major competitions such as the Sundance and Tribeca Film Festival.”

Depending on the program’s success, it could potentially lead to Cornacchia and Saint Peter’s to consider a film-ing major for St. Peter’s students.

“We envision the Sorvino Film Institute to live as a stand-alone, non-credit bearing certificate program for the first few years,” said Cornacchia. “If the market indicates to us that there is an even greater interest in film and television production, we will take a look at it.”

AROUND JERSEY CITY

According to the Jersey Journal, yet another incident of violence near a PATH station occurred on November 19th, resulting in a half dozen teens being taken into custody in Hoboken, officials said.

A group of what were described as high school students outside the Hoboken Terminal/PATH Station at about 1 p.m. were verbally harassing people and throwing bottles, New Jersey Transit spokesman William Smith said.

When Hoboken police responded, the teens fled into the train station, where they were taken into custody by NJ Transit police officers, Smith said. The teens were then turned over to Hoboken police to be processed, said Smith, adding that it did not appear that any commuters were hurt.

Protecting Your Brand:

Saint Peter’s Holds 42nd Annual Business Symposium

BY TY-KIERA BROWN
Staff Writer

On November 9, students and faculty congregated together for the 42nd Annual Business Symposium, excited further by the special guest - Paul Tagliabue, the former commissioner of the NFL.

Business and marketing students attended the event dressed in business attire to learn the fundamentals of marketing. Representatives of numerous businesses also attended the event, giving students the opportunity to network and learn about the dominating companies in the marketing field. There were four key speakers who shared their experiences with the marketing industry. Tagliabue was the spotlight speaker of the event.

“This is my first time being here [and] I really am

enjoying this event. This event is informative the four speakers are amazing and I understand the message that they are trying to convey,” said Richard Palma, a junior business student. “I believe that all majors would have benefited from this event. Porter Gale’s experiences in the marketing industry also inspired me to be more ambitious leaving this event.”

Palma is an international business major. Palma has never attended a business symposium, and believes Saint Peter’s should host more events that can inspire ambitious students so they can be prepared after their college graduation.

Porter Gale, former Vice President of Marketing for Virgin America, was one of the four guest speakers who attended the event, giving insight on the marketing business. Gale is the author of the book Your Network is Your Net Worth, which

stresses the importance of investing in friendship in order to be successful.

“I think students should come to the Business Symposium because there is practical advice on how to build your brand and manage your career and tips about when entering the workforce,” Gale said. “Students should monitor what they put on social media and be careful about the things they do not want to follow them ten years from now.”

According to Gale, 35% of companies are not granting interviews because they are Google-searching backgrounds and checking references, so managing one’s own brand is important.

“The information given is informative and can be applied to the real world,” said Charles Weening, an accounting major at Saint Peter’s. “It is interesting to learn how to build your

brand and I am happy to hear the speakers give advice on how to start and instructions on how to make your brand the best brand.”

Weening is an accounting major who was convinced to start his brand instantaneously. He was inspired by the other two speakers, Steve Stoute and Bill Rasmussen; both men discussed how to start from the bottom and rise to the top. Steve Stoute is the founder and chief executive of Translation LLC.

Charles also admired that they shared their experiences and success, and how nothing happens overnight. He believes that his worth ethic can be found compatible to both men, and he will utilize their advice.

“I cannot wait until the day I am sitting in my personal office reflecting on all the advice that was given,” said Palma.

Two men shot at each other near Wegman Parkway and Ocean Avenue in Jersey City at around 12:17 a.m. before fleeing the scene, according to a woman whose car was shot in the crossfire, a police report stated.

The woman said she parked her car at the northeast corner of Wegman Parkway and Ocean Avenue when a young man wearing a black jacket with a hood standing near her car was shot at by another man who approached the intersection, the report stated.

The young man then returned fire with his own gun while running away toward Martin Luther King Dr., the woman said in the report.

According to the Jersey Journal, county officials for Hudson County are not disputing claims that the game of “Knockout” is seeing high occurrences in this area of New Jersey.

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“Knockout” is a game where young teenagers often end up violently beat up or attack a pedestrian on any street or corner. The attacks are meant as wild, random and unexpected. Many of the targets in games of knockout are often homeless people who are either living or sleeping on a street.

Hudson County Assistant Prosecutor Gene Rubino told the Jersey Journal in September that the type of attack wasn’t a trend in the area.

“It’s not a trend in Jersey City. We’re not seeing it in Jersey City,” he said.

MORE ONLINE
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4 EDITORIAL

Men & Women For Others

a letter from the editor

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BY DYLAN SMITH
Editor-in-Chief

With the recent events occurring in areas of the Philippines due to Super Typhoon Haiyan, it seems more important now than ever to remember the message of the Jesuits and the message of Saint Peter's University - creating men and women for others. While a vigil has already been organized and taken place, there is much more being done still on campus to help those in the most need of services and resources, and much more the community can continue to do in order to help those in the Philippines.

The actions of selflessness seen in the many great men and women on campus is where one can find the most inspirational of actions.

Similar themes can be found throughout the pages of this issue. From articles about the raising of the minimum wage to New Jersey's winning of the right to same-sex marriage, the thought of having others in mind while we think of what we have and what others don't is a prominent. I, for one, am glad to see Saint Peter's, as always, step up and come together for cause greater than any one individual person.

Also inside our pages is coverage on both sides of the lines between arts

and sports. This includes a review of the recent series of performances done by the Argus Eyes Drama Society of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" and the recent start of seasons for both the Men's and Women's Basketball Teams. A profile of two young men - one currently on the Men's Baseball Team and one an alumni of such honor - also showcases how dedicated the sports teams at Saint Peter's University are.

Inside our pages is also information on how one can reach out and send help to those recovering from Super Typhoon Haiyan and recent coverage on the 42nd Annual Regents Business

Symposium held at Saint Peter's University.

In turn, I hope those who pick up the issue are left inspired, but also left questioning what the world around them means. With the backdrop of the raise in minimum wage set, it is important for every person - young and old, rich and poor, male and female - to reflect on just what these increases can do for people, especially those who are the most in need of them. This attitude is needed even more-so in a time where people reflect on what they're thankful for, keeping in mind what they have that others do not have,

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Saint Peter's
UNIVERSITY

The Jesuit University of New Jersey

Review: Argus Eyes Drama Society Tackles “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”

BY JESSICA FACCHINI
Staff Writer

Argus Eyes, Saint Peter’s University’s drama society, has brought another new and successful show to campus. “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”, directed by Mason Beggs, had a running of 5 days last week and it kept audiences entertained with its lovable, laughable characters and plot centered on diversity.

The comedic musical is about a spelling bee that takes place in Putnam Valley Middle School and consists of several unique adolescents and varied personalities. Each character that takes part in the spelling bee has their own quirks and a background story given by the musical.

Don Pflaster played Douglas Panch, the middle school’s cynical vice principal who was arguably the musical’s funniest character. Vice Principal Panch is one of the moderators of the spelling bee and has the responsibility of calling out the words. The character repeatedly made the audience laugh with humorous definitions and sentences that followed the word that was called.

Blake Boles played Mitch Mahoney, a “comfort counselor” on parole who is forced to be at the spelling bee due to community service and does anything but comfort the kids who did not win while simultaneously making the audience chuckle.

Alex Pflaster played Rona Lisa Peretti, an upbeat moderator and former winner of the Putnam County Spelling Bee who remained positive and uplifting, being a more refreshing moderator after experiencing the cynical humor of Vice Principal Panch and the intimidating “tough love” method of Mitch Mahoney.

Matthew Holowienka played the role of Leaf Coneybear, a hyperactive and eccentric boy who wears a cape and a helmet to the bee. Coneybear freezes all of his thoughts and his rambles when he spells a word, almost turning into a completely different character for those few seconds. Leaf’s character is loveable and humorous, and his happiness is seemingly contagious to the audience.

Nicholas Mederos played Chip Tolentino, a speller who becomes lovestruck by Leaf’s sister in the middle of the spelling bee. The sudden crush distracts him and prevents Chip from doing well in the bee. Tolentino’s early disqualification is made worse when he is forced to perform the shameful and embarrassing task of handing out cookies, brownies, and other treats during the spelling bee’s snack break—which was right after the musical’s intermission, when the second half was about to start. Mederos played the part by tossing the snacks to members of the actual audience, which was a delightful surprise to hungry people who were not expecting it.

Siobhan Gordon played Logainne Schwartzandgruenierre, a motivated and independent speller with a lisp who practices spelling with her two fathers and invisibly writes the words out on her arm before she spells aloud. Logainne is under pressure to live up to her fathers’ high expectations of success and is therefore a bit uptight.

Courtney Bowen played the role of Marcy Park, an “all-business”, mature, and slightly stuck up speller. She is over-confident in the accuracy of her spelling to the point where she walks back to her seat after spelling a word, without waiting to hear the moderator’s verdict. She is an over achiever who speaks 6 languages and is sick of always winning.



© VICTORIA SOSTRE

Matthew Holowienka (left) and Siobhan Gordon (right) as eager spellers participating in the bee.

Lisette Santiago played Olive Ostrovsky, a girl who is anxiously awaiting her dad’s arrival at the bee. Her mother is in India on a spiritual quest and Olive misses her terribly, as is prevalent in the song “The I Love You Song”. Olive becomes friends with William Barfée throughout the spelling bee.

Garvey Potter played the role of William Barfée, a lethargic, monotone, and dismal speller who was eliminated from the last spelling bee he took part in due to an allergic reaction. Barfée has a “magic foot” and writes the word on the floor with his foot before spelling it out loud, which he ends up realizing is not necessary for

him to spell correctly.

As always, Argus Eyes did not disappoint and put on a terrific performance. The cast sung wonderfully and acted terrifically; they truly proved the extent of their talent.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of Argus Eyes’ performance of “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” was the interaction with the audience. In the lobby of the Roy Irving Theatre before the show started, Argus Eyes members were recruiting volunteer spellers that would be featured in a few scenes of the show—the volunteers even slightly interacted with the main characters on

stage.

The show was a hit among Saint Peter’s University students—the crowd was laughing throughout the two enjoyable hours.

“I enjoyed it,” said Mike Joll, a sophomore at Saint Peter’s majoring in psychology and political science. “Every character has their own unique personality and life story.”

“The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” is a play that presents the diversity of those around us and how everyone we encounter has their own struggles and complexities.

Emily’s Lit-Picks: Stuffed with Sagas

BY EMILY ALEQUIN
Arts Editor

Halloween is over and the first of the holidays is upon us: Thanksgiving! While I love all of the food and opportunities to decorate and go to the kitchen for seconds of pumpkin pie, I love the 4 days worth of free time even more. So after my family is finished making me eat more and more of the delicious home cooking, I can finally get started on the stockpile of novels that has accumulated during the weeks of stressful school work. It’s the perfect time to catch up on certain book series, but how to decide on which series to start can almost be as hard as deciding on which dessert to try first.

1.) The Hangman’s Daughter Series - Oliver Pötzsch

For the mystery and historical novel lovers. Oliver Pötzsch’s first book in The Hangman’s Daughter novels was published in 2010 and, since then, he’s added 3 more books to the series, the most recent being The Poisoned Pilgrim. Stories of a midwife accused of witchcraft and corrupt secrets hidden away in a monastery are two of the plots that have already been featured. Pötzsch continues to use 17th century Germany as his main setting and each book focuses on the same central characters: the infamous Schongau Hangman, his daughter Magdalena, and the young town physician Simon. There’s a new adventure to be had and a new mystery to be solved in each installment and it’s easy to pick up wherever you’d like - you don’t have to start at the beginning if you don’t want to but it’s definitely a nice way to learn of the changes in their society

and to watch the characters development

Books currently in the series:

The Hangman’s Daughter
The Dark Monk
The Beggar King
The Poisoned Pilgrim

2.) Divergent Trilogy - Veronica Roth

The teen vampire novels are becoming less popular and the dystopian novels have started to flood in. Divergent is constantly being compared to The Hunger Games and now that the trilogy is also getting it’s own movies, it doesn’t seem like the comparisons are going to stop any time soon. Still, there’s nothing wrong with indulging in the genre--especially when the cravings hit. Divergent follows the story of Beatrice Prior, who lives in future Chicago in one of the five factions society has been divided into: Abnegation, Amity,

Candor, and Dauntless. Each faction represents a different virtue of humanity, a code to live by. Once a person comes of age they will have to make the choice of which faction they will live in for the rest of their life but Beatrice will learn of the harsher realities behind those choices and will be led to question everything she once thought was truth.

Books in the trilogy:

Divergent
Insurgent
Allegiant

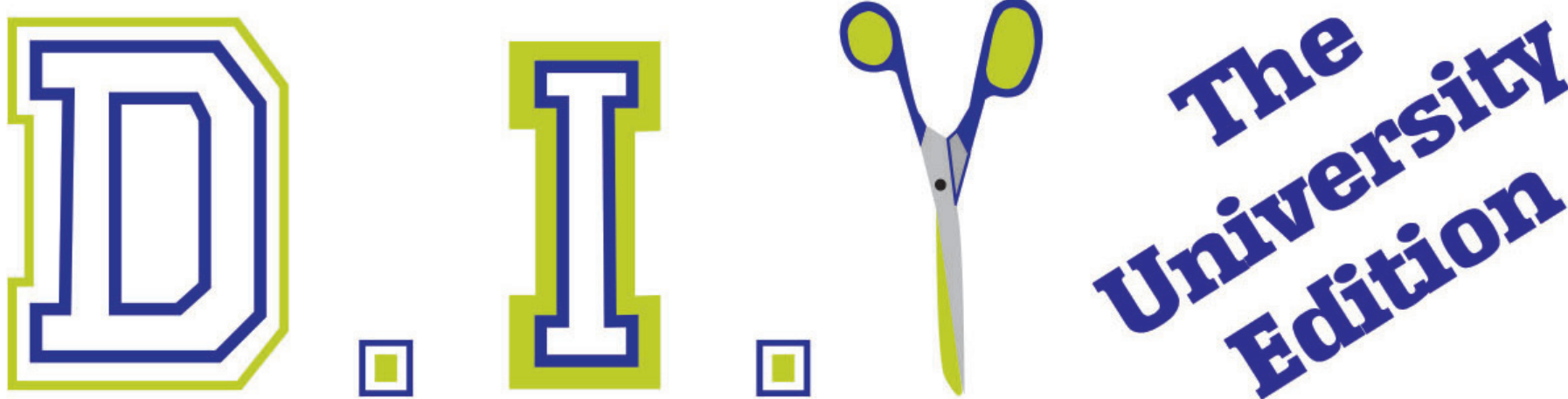
3.) The Walking Dead Novels - Robert Kirkman and Jay Bonansinga

There’s already been five episodes in the newest season of the show and there’s plenty more to come. By now anyone who watches The Walking Dead or reads the comics knows about The Governor, one of the most creepy and intimidatingly scary antagonists to exist in a

television show. But how much do viewers really know about this villain? Who was Philip Blake before the deadly zombie outbreak? How did he get to Woodbury? How did he become known as “The Governor”? Was he always that psychotic or was he actually a little more sane to begin with? Well, to find out the answers to these questions and many others, you’ll have to start reading! The most recent book, The Fall of the Governor: Part One, was released in October while Part 2 will be released in March of next year - giving readers and Walking Dead fans plenty of time to catch up.

Books currently in the series:

Rise of the Governor
The Road to Woodbury
The Fall of the Governor: Part One



BY NATALIE CASTILLO
Online Editor

The more you pile on your plate, the more pounds you're likely to gain.

According to the Calorie Control Council, the average American consumes 4,500 calories and 229 grams of fat just from a Thanksgiving Day meal, which doesn't include snacks or second servings. This means that some of us may consume up to at least 2-3 days worth of food in one day!

For most, the main Thanksgiving meal is the only big meal of the day. While waiting for the Thanksgiving dinner, it is healthy to eat some fruit or

a salad prior to the feast.

When it's time to serve the meal, using smaller serving spoons or plates will help you control your portions. Make sure the serving table has a variety of foods. Pumpkin pies and turkey shouldn't be the only dishes on the menu. A healthy Thanksgiving meal should consist of fruits, vegetables, protein, and starches.

To portion your plate, you should divide your meal into four sections. Two areas should be reserved for vegetables or fruits and the other two sections are meant for protein and starches.

If you don't have portion plates or if you're not sure on how much of a food you should eat, use familiar objects to help measure quantities.

For example, a majority of the portions for Thanksgiving foods should be no bigger than the size of a baseball or your fist. These foods include: mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, green beans, or cranberry sauce.

Entrees like chicken, turkey, or even a slice of pie should be about the same size as a deck of cards.

And when you're snacking throughout the day, it's best to not eat straight from a bag, box, or the ginormous bowl that sits on the middle of the table in the den. The portion for snacks is equivalent to nine-volt batteries.

Alcoholic beverages are also part of a majority of Thanksgiving traditions, whether you're watching the big game on TV or

chatting it up with family and friends before dinner. The preferable and healthier choice of beverage this holiday season should be water. It's fine to have a couple of drinks, but you shouldn't consume more drinks than food. To control your alcohol or soda consumption, it's best to have a drink with your dinner rather than before. You can also use tall, slender cups for your drinks rather than small, wide ones. This tricks your mind into essentially thinking that you are consuming more than what you actually are.

Immense preparation always goes into a Thanksgiving dinner that everyone will eventually want seconds. Second servings shouldn't occur right after you just finished your

first plate. It's best to wait 15-20 minutes before getting a second plate or even dessert.

Although the amount of calories consumed in a day are based on age and how active one is, the average calories for males and females from 19-30-years old ranges from 2,000-2,600 calories.

The American Heart Association recommends eating lower-fat and reduced foods prior to Thanksgiving Day. And instead of crashing on the couch after the meal, try going for a walk and burn some calories.

No one wants to count calories on Thanksgiving, but if you do it right, you'll save yourself a trip to the tailor.

Thanksgiving Traditions Passed On

BY TATIANA FERRARO
Staff Writer

While most American families have a turkey on their table for Thanksgiving other cultures keep the traditions of their ethnic background alive by having different foods appropriate to their culture.

Alex Lopez, a student of Puerto Rican heritage, says her family has turkey for Thanksgiving, along with pernil, which is considered to be pork.

"When my parents were growing up in Puerto Rico they strictly had pernil for Thanksgiving," Lopez said. For my siblings and I growing up in the United States we are a little more Americanized so my mom always prepared both a turkey and pork for us. She made sure we remained in touch with our culture while also eating foods that are not traditional to the island."

Different foods that are cooked in a Puerto Rican family for Thanksgiving include:

"Arroz con gandules (yellow rice w/ pigeon peas), pasteles, platanos maduros (sweet plantains), turkey, pernil (pork), mashed potatoes, vegetables, empanadas, turkey stuffing, pumpkin pie, and sweet potatoes," Lopez said.

These traditional sides are important to Lopez's family because they have been cooked for many generations.

"The foods cooked are important to us to continue cooking for generations to come," Lopez said. These are the foods that my grandmother grew up eating on Thanksgiving. Her mom taught her how to cook these

recipes and then she cooked them for her children. My mom was taught these recipes as she was growing up and now cooks them for her kids. One day, when I have kids, I will prepare the same Thanksgiving dinner I've grown up eating."

Although some traditions may change over the years, some remain the same and these are the occasions in which families unite and relax together.

"Thanksgiving is important to us because it's a time to get the whole family together," Lopez added. It's a tradition of ours to have Thanksgiving dinner at my aunt's house every year. If we are busy and get caught up in our own lives throughout the year, we can guarantee that we will see each other and be together on Thanksgiving which makes it more special to us."

The most treasured part of Thanksgiving is to eat the foods families have grown up loving on a holiday when everyone is together.

"As in most cultures, food is a way to share your love and we take pride in being able to share food specific to our culture. Thanksgiving is also one of the holidays when we usually only prepare certain foods such as pernil and pasteles which is also something special for my family and I," Lopez said.

Chinedum Emelumba, a student of Nigerian heritage, says that she and her family also have turkey for Thanksgiving.

"My mom loves to cook. In addition to turkey, we have baked chicken, and baked fish," Emelumba said. "She mixes a bunch of different foods – some traditional and some American dishes. She makes jollof rice (traditional Nigerian dish),

macaroni and cheese, pancit, vegetable pasta, puff puff (Nigerian snack), baked ziti, pepper soup, homemade carrot cake, separate brown rice and white rice, bean and vegetable toss."

For Emelumba's family, Thanksgiving is also a time to get together and relax with loved ones.

"Thanksgiving is such an important holiday to my family because during the year everyone is always on the go and we barely get any time to all sit together and just relax, eat and share laughs," Emelumba explained. "So, during Thanksgiving we make the best of the day and most importantly we pray and thank God for keeping us all together and alive and well. So, it's a very important holiday for us."

In Nigerian culture traditional clothes are worn and traditional meals are cooked.

"We keep the culture alive through things like our traditional clothes and the traditional meals that we prepare," Emelumba said.

A traditional prayer and bowing of the head at the table before meal is important to Emelumba and her



mashed potatoes, creamed spinach, and pumpkin pie. It's more about the family relaxing and me taking care of them," Lim said.

There is a special kind of symbolism in the foods at Thanksgiving dinner for Filipino culture, according to Lim.

"In Filipino culture, the amount of food at a gathering, whether it's a party for someone or just a casual get together for a big family dinner, is equal to the amount of love," Lim said. "No matter which side of the family I spend the holidays with there is always lots and lots of food, it's almost endless. So you know that means there's lots and lots of love too."

Whether you're Filipino, Nigerian, Puerto Rican, or American Thanksgiving is about delicious foods and the people you share them with. Every culture may not have the same food in common, but they do share an immense gratitude for their loved ones during the holidays.

family.

"My culture is very religious and they always like to stop and give thanks to God for the things and people that they have in life, daily," she explained. "On Thanksgiving after all of the food is prepared and the tables are set, someone always leads with a strong prayer and blesses the food and it's a really special day being that we're all together and no one has to be anywhere else."

Gabrielle Lim is an alumni of Saint Peter's University. She is of Filipino heritage and her family eats turkey for Thanksgiving, which isn't out of the ordinary.

Lim cooks Thanksgiving dinner for herself and her family when it's at her mother's house. It's something she enjoys doing because she loves to cook.

"If we're going to see my mom's side of the family, that usually means there won't be too many people and they'll be coming over to our house. That means I'm cooking and all they need to bring is their appetites. When I cook, everything is traditional. Oven roasted turkey, stuffing,



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Body Modification in the Workplace

BY SABRINA CARTEGENA
Staff Writer

Professional careers often call for employees who will dress the part, often meaning employees cannot have visible tattoos, facial piercings and unnatural hair colors. Many people see this as discrimination against people with body modifications.

Body modification is the permanent or semi-permanent deliberate



alteration of one's body. This can include well-known modifications like tattoos, piercings and plastic surgery, to more "extreme" modifications like scarification (in which designs are cut, branded or abraded into the skin) and tongue-splitting.

A petition on change.org is aiming to "include body modification

in equal opportunity employment." This is referring to the federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a potential employee based on the person's "race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information," according to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

"In conjunction with www.SoTattooed.com, we believe that people who choose to express themselves in the way they best see fit will continue to receive discrimination when trying to get a respectable job," the petition states. "Body modification is as much a choice as religion, which is included in equal opportunity employment."

Sophomore Danielle Pimentel-Avila has a nose piercing and used to have pink hair and green hair before that. She works as a server at Red Robin, where she had to dye her hair to a natural color.

"I work at a family restaurant, so if you are working in the front of the house you can't show any tattoos or piercings," Pimentel-Avila said. "Your hair has to be a natural color, like blonde or brown. All facial piercings must be taken out and tattoos must be covered up."

To some, hair dying does not fall under the "body modification" umbrella as it is not



permanent and not part of the body. However, most people fighting for more job opportunities for modified people believe hair dying should be a freedom as well.

In a blog post titled, "Why Businesses Discriminate Against Body Modifications (And Why It's OK)" on local-bandhero.com, blogger Phill said businesses can "discriminate" based appearance because they have an image to maintain.

"If a customer walks up to your customer service desk and is greeted by someone with a nose ring, two lip rings, 8 earrings, and a few tattoos adorning his or her face and neck ... the customer will most likely be turned off to the company," Phill said. "Not just because it's 'out of the norm' but because it's also intimidating to the customers."

Director of Cooperative Education & Internships

Sondra Buesing Riley said there's truth to the expression, "First impressions are lasting."

"We react first to what we see, next to what we hear," Riley said. "In an interview or workplace setting, conservative is always best - that is, if you want to get, and keep the job."

Employers have every right to exercise discretion and preference in hiring, according to Riley

"It's important to realize that people with body piercings and tattoos do not belong to any of the protected categories: race, color, religion, age, nationality, origin and gender," she said. "Because the job market has been tight for a number of years, and competition has increased for the same jobs, modified people may be at a competitive disadvantage."

However, not every job or career requires one to look a certain way, and

may embrace body art. If a modified person wants to work in most any artistic fields, he or she will probably be welcomed because it is an art form. Other professions where body modification may be accepted include bartending, cooking and hair-styling.

Jobs in construction, commercial driving, and waste management may not be as glamorous, but are also generally accepting of body modifications.

Despite changing her own appearance for a job, Pimentel-Avila said a person's appearance should not affect his or her career.

"I believe if the person is qualified and willing to work then they should be hired regardless of how they look."

OPINION

FAFSA After the Death of a Parent

BY ROSE DRISCOLL
Managing Editor

Your parent is someone who is responsible for you. Your parent is likely someone who took care of you, who made sure you were fed and wearing clean clothes and got to school on time. Your parent is someone you'll miss when they're gone.

When your parent dies, though, they become what the Internal Revenue Service calls a "decendent." And someone has got to file the decendent's taxes.

The IRS wants the decendent's closest living relative to file the decendent's taxes, so that might be your parent's spouse or sibling. While it's not guaranteed that you'll have to file their taxes, you will have to fill out your Federal Application for

then you have to separate their incomes in the paperwork. Hofstra University advises that you get help from a financial aid counselor in doing so.

If you're filing your FAFSA after your parent dies, you might be able to get a dependency override, the same option available for students with abusive or neglectful parents.

According to the association National Students of Ailing Mothers and Fathers, one in three college students experience the loss of a family member or close friend. No statistic was available to indicate whether the decendent in those cases acted as the student's primary financial supporter.

My father was the primary financial support for a household of 12, going by the IRS's definition which counted his dependent spouse - my mother - and his three college aged children

almost entirely.

A few days after his death, I received an email from Saint Peter's administration to offer condolences. I had not informed them, but I guess they found out through alumni because my older brothers also graduated from Saint Peter's - Thomas in 2006 and James in 2012. I replied with my thanks.

Another few days later, I received an email telling me that I owed the school several thousand dollars. I could not approach my mother with this at the time, as she was in the middle of planning a funeral. Instead, I rectified it myself, increasing my loans when the semester began.

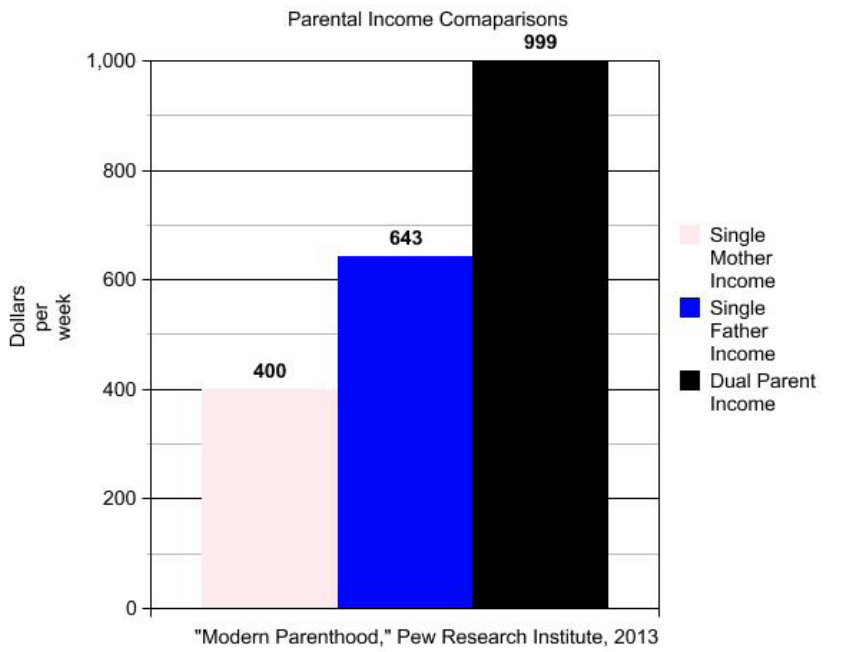
My father's death, which happened nearly a year ago, has set me and my family back significantly. My mother had to file taxes on the late deadline, October 15, and was delayed by the recent government shutdown. The IRS in its infinite mystery assigned a "tax advocate" who communicated directly with the Enrollment Services office to ensure that I wouldn't be tossed out of school.

The people in the Enrollment Services office and the financial aid specialists at Saint Peter's are amazing. With much patience and understanding they helped me sort out the financial troubles that my family is facing, helping

me to finish my degree on time and without too much headache.

While I can't count on my parents for grocery money or new clothes, I know that I'm still very fortunate to finish

Nerdwallet.com, under a section offering advice for filing the FAFSA, apologetically says "The FAFSA can be difficult for non-traditional families." Since only half of American college students



my education and improve my future prospects.

Changes have got to be made. Only about 50% of parents today are unmarried, according to the Pew Research Center. Their "Modern Parenthood" study from March 2013 shows that single mothers make \$400 per week where single fathers make \$643 and two-parent families can bring in \$999 if both parents are employed. This disparity in income is attributable to the increased child and house care responsibilities single parents face.

have two living, married parents, it might be time to change the protocols.

Many of the same financial uncertainties that come with the death of a parent follow divorces, separation, and declaring emancipation from one's parents. The IRS and consequently the FAFSA have to be changed to suit not some false idea of a traditional family, but the true diversity of today's university student's background.

Student Aid, or FAFSA, if you want to stay in school.

When you're filling out the FAFSA, you file only your living parent's income. If your parents filed jointly before one of them died,

as well as the seven younger children. At the time of his death last December, two of his children had graduated from college and one more had started. Our family's reported income dropped



10SPORTS

Record Holding Peacocks Pitcher Takes His Talents to the Classroom

BY JESSE KICKEY
Staff Writer

Former Saint Peter’s pitcher Chris Innis was able to enjoy both a record setting baseball career and a successful academic endeavor during his time at the university.

Innis left a lasting impression during his career as a Peacock, and many of the accomplishments that he achieved during his time at Saint Peter’s remain school records today.

“As of now, I [still] hold the record at Saint Peter’s for most pitching strikeouts with 217,” Innis explained. I am also the leader in pitching walks, and in the top 10 of several other pitching categories. I was a two-time MAAC Pitcher of the Week.”

That record is more like a target in the eyes of current Peacocks pitcher, Zach Hopf, who is hoping to break the record when the baseball season gets underway this spring.

However, Innis can’t worry about this. He has traded in his uniform and his glove for some chalk and textbooks. He is now a social studies teacher for a New Jersey middle school.

After graduating, Innis, who dreamed of playing professional baseball, found himself back in the classroom. Instead of being a student this time, he returned to the classroom as a teacher.

“I attended St. Peter’s from Fall 2004 to December 2008,” said Innis, who majored in Elementary Education with a minor in American Studies.

During his time at Saint Peter’s, Innis was able to balance being both a student and an athlete. He excelled in the classroom and on the field.

“I played baseball at Saint Peter’s. I was recruited as an outfielder and started in the outfield,” explains Innis. “As our first season went on, I would start in the outfield and then come in later in the

game as the closing pitcher. My sophomore year I started as a closing pitcher, and then became a starting pitcher. By my junior year, I would close some games out and I would also start. Senior year, I was a conference starter and closer.”

For Innis, sports became an important fixture in his life from a very early age.

“As far back as I can remember, I was always doing something with sports. My dad would take us to the park and we’d play tackle football when I was 4. I must have started playing tee-ball when I was 5 and I remember that it was something that just clicked. The other sports were fun, [such as] football, wrestling, [and] basketball, but baseball was always my favorite.”

Just like many other athletes, Innis had role models in the world of sports. As a child, his favorite was Mickey Mantle, a famous baseball player, due to listening to his grandfather talk about him often. When it comes to more contemporary athletes, Innis likes Frank Thomas, famously of the White Sox.

“I always liked Frank Thomas from Chicago. He came out with his own sneakers in 1995 that I bought, they were super ugly, black and white zebra striped, but I liked him. He was a big bulky guy that hit the ball a long way. The first Home Run Derby I ever watched was with Frank Thomas.”

In addition to having sports role models, Innis also has role models in his own family. Both of his parents were great supporters of him, but his dad was and remains his biggest influence.

“No matter how many hours he worked, he would always be up for throwing the football/baseball/basketball around. He really pushed me in terms of conditioning and the mental/psychological aspect of sports,” Innis reminisced. “One of his biggest mantras was ‘If you want the results that everyone else

gets, do what everyone else does. If you want different/better results, do something different/better.’ That stuck with me for a long time.”

Innis’ parents were able to watch him from the very beginning and were with him every step of the way.

“Baseball has always been Chris’ passion since he was very young. It’s only gotten stronger over time,” remarked Mr. & Mrs. Innis. “He really became a student of the game through reading books and articles and playing wherever he could. His exposure to playing in different leagues outside of the traditional season enabled him to build friendships and make contacts, some of which are still strong today.”

Innis comes from a sports family and even has a connection to a former professional player. His brothers are wrestlers and his sister plays both basketball and rugby. His father both wrestled and played high school football and his uncle was a college football player.

“My grandfather was being scouted by the Chicago White Sox as a pitcher,” said Innis. “My second cousin, Jeff Innis, was a relief pitcher for the New York Mets in the 1980s. He was a submarine-style pitcher.”

Like many college baseball players, Innis aspired to continue playing the sport that he loved after graduation.

On a cold day in Virginia, with the Peacocks trailing by seven, Innis sat in the bullpen, not planning to pitch in that game. He was hungry and so when a teammate brought chicken from the hotel, Innis had to have some. In the end, he ended up having to come into the game to pitch. Innis recounts the day:

“With chicken grease all over my hands, and at this point my pants and jersey, I started warming up. I went in and threw the hardest I had ever thrown in my career, 91mph. The problem was that the chicken grease wasn’t allowing me traction on the ball. I left one of those 91mph fastballs at belt level, dead center of the plate, and their 3 batter promptly deposited it over the center field fence. What I didn’t know was that an area scout for the St. Louis Cardinals was there to see



© CHRIS INNIS

someone else on my team and my radar gun numbers impressed him. I got a letter saying they would follow me for the season and keep up the hard work. I felt like that was the start of a life-long dream coming true. Later in the season, I blew out my elbow and the offer disappeared, but it was cool to have the opportunity.”

During his pitching career, Innis encountered some injuries that he had to overcome.

“A few weeks after the St. Louis Cardinals letter, I blew out my elbow and ended up with painful tendinitis. It wouldn’t hurt to do anything other than pitch, which was ironic. I wasn’t supposed to pitch on a Saturday, but our starter slept in and missed the game. A scout from the Detroit Tigers would be there to watch a pitcher from the other team throw, so I volunteered to pitch when our coach asked us if anyone could be ready on short-notice because I figured that extra exposure couldn’t hurt. I pitched ok, but it wasn’t my best.”

Despite the injury, Innis still persevered and tried out for several independent teams.

Innis then used his Saint Peter’s degree and pursued a teaching career. Sports are still a part of his life today as he also coaches the girls’ middle school basketball team and previously coached high school baseball

“I am happy teaching, it’s what I love. If I could go back I would have worked a little harder because teaching is something you can always go back to, being a professional

athlete is something that only a few are lucky enough to do. I always hated school but I loved playing sports. As I got older I realized that I couldn’t have one without the other.”

Coming from a sports family, Innis would also want his children to participate in them. He recommends that parents let their children play seasonal sports.

“As a teacher and coach I have often seen parents guiding their children towards one particular sport. I have girls on my team that play 50-60 games of basketball before they even get to our season in December. I feel like that’s putting all your eggs in one basket. What if your child burns out and hates the game? What if an injury bars them from continuing to compete? In my opinion, children need to play different sports to develop their different skill sets. It also helps them interact with other children who may only play one sport.”

To his fellow college student-athletes, Innis shared some insightful advice.

“I would tell a college student athlete to look at your major as ‘Plan A’ and your sport as your ‘Plan B’. You never know what’s going to happen and if you are taking classes that are easy to accommodate your sport, you’re in big trouble. I wasted time in classes that I didn’t need because I didn’t feel like going to class after early morning workouts, or I didn’t feel like coming back at night after playing.”

Throwing the Kitchen Sink

BY JIM SMITH
Staff Writer

On a windy October morning, a man waits in the dugout of a ball field. His pregame routine is complete and he makes his way to the mound. As he walks out to the middle of the infield, his presence is not only felt by his teammates, but by the opposition as well. He goes through his warm up pitches, and every pitch hits the catcher’s mitt with the sound of a twelve-gauge shotgun. Three different fastballs, a curveball, a slider, and a change-up all come out of his hand looking exactly the same, confusing batters every time he throws a pitch. The catcher throws down to second base on the last warm up pitch, and he begins to go through the Rolodex of



© REENA ROSE

The Saint Peter’s seniors pose with their gifts and their loved ones for their last game at Saint Peter’s senior day.

information he has collected on each hitter in the lineup he faces. He toes the rubber, and goes to work.

Senior Zack Hopf is the undisputed ace of the Saint

Peter’s Peacocks Baseball team. His work ethic, execution of each pitch, and the plethora of pitches that he throws has helped to keep him pitching deep into

games, and has helped him to approach two pertinent records in Peacocks history. Hopf has thrown 257 innings in his career, only 56 innings shy of becoming the all-time

leader in innings pitched in Saint Peter’s Baseball. He also has racked up 180 strikeouts, which put him 27

PITCH

FROM PAGE 10

away from being the strike-out leader in school history.

“These accolades mean a lot to me,” said Hopf. “If I’m able to obtain these records, it would mean that I’ve pitched longer than any pitcher at this school. It means you gave it your all every time on the mound, and that’s why it’s so important.”

Hopf grew up in Woodbridge, New Jersey, where he was the all-star pitcher and shortstop of his team. He attended Woodbridge High School, where he became the school’s ace pitcher and starting third baseman.

“High school was a lot of fun,” Hopf said. “It helped me grow as a player on the field, and by the time I was a senior, I proved that I was ready for college baseball.”

Hopf’s coaches are very impressed with how well he composes himself. Matt Owens, the pitching coach at Saint Peter’s, has only

been here for three months, and he has full confidence in Hopf both on the mound and as a leader on this team.

“Zach is someone that I have complete trust in to handle all daily routines of the entire pitching staff,” said Owens, who pitched at St. John’s University and Long Island University, “He is someone that I can fully trust with any task and I know that he will get it done. Zach is the type of player you need in order to build a strong program.”

What sets Zach apart from most players is his preparation before each start. The night before his start, he spends time in his room looking over statistics, scouting reports, and prior games versus certain batters to prepare a game plan for every hitter on the team he faces the next day.

“Preparation doesn’t start the day of your start,” explains Hopf. “It starts as soon as you come off of the mound. I try to look up how the next opponent’s doing in their last five games. Who’s

hitting well. Who is the power guy in the lineup, and who the other pitcher will be

natural leader by example.”

“Over my four years here, I’ve learned how to pitch and

a righty batter,” says Hopf, “I’ve also been working on throwing pitches inside to

“Preparation doesn’t start the day of your start,” explains Hopf. “It starts as soon as you come off of the mound.

when I’m pitching.”

“I’m always thinking about I can get better between my last start and my next start. You have things you have to work on during the week to get mentally right.”

As a senior, Hopf has worked his way into a leadership role over his four years. His work ethic, effort, and positive attitude are things that the underclassmen look up to and aspire to be.

“[Zach] is willing to do anything it takes to show his teammates that he wants to lead and wants to win,” Coach Owens said. “He is a

not just throw,” says Hopf, “in high school, you can throw balls right over the middle of the plate and hitters will miss. In college, you can’t just throw it and hope they miss. Here, guys are going to hit pitches you got away with in high school. Now, every batter was the best hitter in their high school.”

Hopf said he knows that he has come a long way from where he started here at Saint Peter’s, but the Peacocks’ ace knows there’s room for improvement.

“I’ve been working on locating my change-up to

hitters on both sides of the plate without hitting them.”

It may be Hopf’s last season in a Peacocks uniform, but his work ethic and determination make it almost certain that his name will be etched in the record books for years after he is gone. It is hard not to like a guy who willing to throw everything at you, even the kitchen sink, in order to win the game.

Swimming & Diving Aim for Big Splash

BY YAOMI LOPEZ
Staff Writer

The Saint Peter’s University women’s and men’s swimming & diving teams expect to make a huge splash for their up-and-coming season. Finishing off last season placing in 4th for the men’s team and 5th for the women’s team in the MAAC Competition, they are working hard in practice to hopefully take first place this time around.

“Both the men and the women’s team did their best they [could] have ever done in the past [season]. And the women’s team really showed off last season at MAAC by placing 5th overall, with only 12 women [swimmers] and no divers,” said Brigitte Rasmussen, a sophomore.

The team practices are held at 6 a.m., and that in itself displays the biggest form of dedication and commitment because not many student athletes roll out of bed in the morning hours to go train. The physically demanding sport requires precise

hand movement, as well as a large amount of body control when swimming and/or diving. The players on the team devote hours on end to practices to be able to win as many matches as they can, and hopefully place first at MAAC at the end of the season.

The Men’s Swimming & Diving team has a chance to display their hard work to use November 15th at NJIT’s Estelle and Zoom Fleishe Athletic Center in Newark at 6 p.m. All eyes will be on freshman Jonathan Gomez, who was named recently MAAC’s Men’s Swimmer of the Week for the week of October 16th-22nd.

As for the Women’s Swimming & Diving team they will be competing November 16th, at Fairfield University at 5 p.m. with the Men’s team by their side. Veteran Alex Sison is the one to watch. She placed first in the MAAC Competition last year.

“I have to say Alex Sison is someone I will always look up to. She is by far one of the most dedicated athletes I have ever met. She won MAACs last year



TPW / © YAOMI LOPEZ
The 2013-2014 Swimming & Diving roster pose together.

and I’m sure she will shine again this season,” said Rasmussen.

Packing up their swimming gear, goggles, and confidence the Men’s and Women’s will make their way to Fairfield University Sunday night to compete in

their first meet of the season. Hopefully, the Saint Peter’s fan base will attend the event and give the teams the well-deserved support they have earned with their past winning seasons.

“We have been training

hard every day, so we are ready for anything, and really give it our all at MAAC. I think the team is very prepared for any upcoming meets,” said Rasmussen.

Peacocks Beat Siena on Senior Day

BY ALEXANDRA
LIVINGSTON
Staff Writer

The Saint Peter’s men’s soccer team beat the Siena Saints 2-1 at Jaroschak Field November 9, Saturday afternoon. This game marked the last game of the season and was dedicated to the five graduating seniors.

The Peacocks were coming off of a tough loss against Fairfield University when they met Siena College on Saturday. The win was big for this young team, who has had its fair share of bumps in the road this season.

“We’ve been struggling for results all season but we’ve been playing well for the most part and it’s an

incredibly young group,” Head Coach Julian Richens said. “We have 13 freshmen, and 2 Junior College players coming in, so that’s 15 players out of the 23 players who haven’t played Division 1 soccer before. So with everything this year, we’ve been very good at times, got punished a few times for our inexperience, but it’s just a case of every 90 minutes we have is an opportunity for us to prove ourselves and be better for the next time we play.”

The Peacocks had an aggressive start against the Saints with the majority of the first half spent on the offense. This aggressive style of play lasted throughout the game and eventually led the Peacocks to a win in the final minute resulting in a 4-9-5

final record.

“It was pretty intense, but there wasn’t a lot of pressure on us because it was the last game of the season, because unfortunately we didn’t make the play offs,” Senior Johan Romero said. “But it’s a young team so they showed a lot of character by winning the last game especially at home, that’s really important. It was fun, the last game of the season.”

In the first half, the two teams traded possessions which didn’t lead to any goals from any team for the first 34 minutes. Romero aided the Peacock’s defense with two diving saves. With 11 minutes to go in the first half, a controversial call by a referee led to a goal by Saints player Alex Portela putting them ahead 1-0.

Just five minutes later, Saint Peter’s would bounce back. Junior Rafael Braga scored off of a corner kick from Junior Marcel Maddee to tie the game at 1-1. The first half ended without another goal from either team.

In the second half, the Peacocks and Saints went back and forth with several opportunities to score on both ends. With 20 minutes left in the game, Siena cranked up their defense against the Peacocks. Against the increased pressure and with 51 seconds left in the game, freshman Louis Mobbs scored the winning goal putting the Peacocks ahead 2-1. This was Mobbs’ second winning goal of the season.

“Winning the MAAC my

sophomore year, going to the NCAA tournament, playing with guys that are now playing pro in Europe and in Africa, like Noah Sadaoui playing pro in Israel,” said Romero when recounting highlights of the year.

With the loss of four seniors after this season, Richens has high hopes for his young team next season.

“We’re going to be good, you know the talent is there is just a case of molding everyone,” Richens said. “Everyone’s going to have a year of experience, there’s a lot of playing time, and there’s a lot of opportunities for every player. So with hard work and just one or two nuances they need to learn to play college soccer, we’re going to be very good.”

12SPORTS

Peacocks Downed By Pirates at First Home Game

BY FRANCISCO DE JESUS
Staff Writer

Despite a valiant display, Saint Peter's fell to Hampton University 59-64 at the Yanitelli Center on Tuesday, November 12. It was the first home game for the Peacocks, who were cheered on by dozens of people throughout the match.

"It just didn't drop today," said John Dunne, head coach for the men's basketball team. "But I think that as a new group, with eight new guys, we're still learning our chemistry. And we just got to keep working every day, and learn how to win these games."

The first half of the game was a back-and-forth battle between the two teams. Saint Peter's, fueled by the roaring home crowd, gained an early lead. But Hampton would come back, tying the game on several occasions.

It was then that forward Marvin Dominique (21) gave the team an empathic boost with a dunk at 2:21 left, giving St. Peter's the lead 31-24.

They would keep the pace in the second half, but opposing players Du'Vaughn Maxwell (20) and Deron Powers (11) turned the tides, gaining the lead 52-54 with five minutes left. Hampton would ultimately win after



TPW / © FRANCISCO DE JESUS

Marvin Dominique (21) goes for the 3-pointer, while Du'Vaughn Maxwell (20) attempts to block it.

a failed layup and 3-point shot by Saint Peter's in the game's final seconds.

Coach Dunne recognized several issues that led to the loss. Specifically, he noted the need to avoid the number of fouls (18 overall) made by the players, and stop the opposition from taking advantage in the form of easy shots.

"We're just going to have to learn to adjust the hand-chucking," Dunne said. "If you want to win close games, you got to keep opponents off the

foul line. Conversely, you have to make your own free throws, which we struggled on both counts today."

Saint Peter's is now 0-2 into the season, with their first loss occurring against LIU Brooklyn 87-80. Meanwhile, Hampton's win makes them 2-0, previously defeating William & Mary College 77-69 in their season opener.

Top scorers of the game were guard Chris Burke (13) with 13 points, Marvin Dominique with 12, and Jamel Fields and Desi

Washington (11) with nine each. Dominique, who had an impressive outing, noted that the team needs to pass the ball more to each other.

"We've been sharing the ball a lot in previous games, but this game it didn't happen," said Dominique. "So, we got to go back to sharing the ball with each other."

Saint Peter's next game will be on November 17 when they face Kent State University in Newark, N.J. The team is currently 2-0, having defeated Ohio

Northern and Temple University respectively,

While recognizing Kent's ability, Coach Dunne is not worrying on whether his team will either win or lose. Instead, he will focus on improving his team as best he can.

"We just have to worry about getting better every day," he said. "We can't worry about winning or losing right now. We got to worry about what it takes to win."



TPW / © NATALIE CASTILLO

Saint Peter's women's basketball team draw in a large crowd for their home opener vs. Brown.

Women's Basketball Team Lose Home Opener to Brown

BY NATALIE CASTILLO
Online Editor

Jersey City, N.J.- The Saint Peter's women's basketball team lost their home opener to Brown University on Saturday, 64-52.

The Yanitelli Center was filled with students, family members, and professors who cheered on the Saint Peter's women's basketball team for their first home game.

Saint Peter's came off to a great start when sophomore

Neechelle Ingram tipped off the jump ball. The Peacocks went to work and kept a lead on Brown until they tied 10-10 with 12:52 left in the first half.

Chants of "Defense! Defense!" came in the second half when the Peacocks went from a 23 point deficit to an 11 point deficit.

The game was cut short for Saint Peter's freshman, Marcia Senatus, who stands at 5'4" but still had five rebounds. A bad landing with 12:44 left in the second half put Senatus on the

sidelines and brought in reserve, Hala Mostafa.

Back-to-back jump shots from Saint Peter's Kaydine Bent and Aziza May and three-pointers from Mostafa just didn't cut it in the second half as Brown's guard, Sophie Bikosky reciprocated the action. Brown eventually kept the momentum going from their 61-46 lead to later defeat the Peacocks.

Saint Peter's starter, Antonia Smith (no.5) from the Bronx, New York scored in double figures with 15

points. Guard, Aziza May scored 17 points for the Peacocks and had seven rebounds and six assists. The Peacocks had a total of 40 rebounds as opposed to Brown's 25. Not only did Kaydine Bent (no.34) box out hard in the paint for nine rebounds, but she also scored in double figures with a total of 13 points. Reserve, Hala Mostafa also scored double figures for the Peacocks with 12 points and four rebounds.

Junior, Sophie Bikosky of Brown University scored

a career high of 23 points, giving the Bears an edge on Saint Peter's. Sophomore Jordin Alexander and senior Lauren Clarke both scored double figures for Brown. Free throws also contributed to the win as Alexander went 6-for-6 on the line.

Saint Peter's falls to 0-2 while Brown ties it up to 1-1 for the season.

The Peacocks welcome the Navy to the Yanitelli Center on November 19 at 7 p.m. for a non-conference game.