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Diplomatic Congress organizes forum addressing discrimination on campus



photo by Emma Brown '17

Charley Hagist '18 moderated student discussion at the F&M Forum on Discrimination, hosted by the Diplomatic Congress last Thursday in Brooks.

BY INDIRA RAHMAN
Contributing Writer

Last Tuesday, the Diplomatic Congress (DipCon) hosted the F&M Forum on Discrimination, the second event in the F&M Forums Series, in the Brooks College House Great Room. Despite adverse weather conditions, 65 participants from the student body, faculty, and professional staff attended, including Margaret Hazlett, dean of the College; Marion Coleman, assistant dean for Multicultural Affairs; Maria Flores-Milles, Senior Associate

Dean of the College; and Keely Johnston, crime prevention officer for the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Margaret Babson '15 began the forum by presenting research regarding intolerance on campus and how students of various racial backgrounds experienced discrimination. According to the findings, black and Hispanic students felt least positive about F&M's racial climate, while white and Asian students felt considerably more

see **DISCRIMINATION**, page 2

Senate ratifies bill approving Keystone Pipeline, moves on to Obama for veto

BY STEVEN VIERA
News Editor

Last Thursday, the U.S. Senate voted 62-36 to approve construction of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline. The bill has already passed a vote in the House of Representatives and now moves on to President Barack Obama, who has vowed to veto it. If Obama vetoes the bill, two-thirds of Congress will be required to overturn him and sign the bill into law anyway.

According to the article "Senate

Approves Keystone XL Pipeline" published by U.S. News & World Report, the proposed pipeline would carry crude oil from the tar sands in Alberta, Canada, to Nebraska, where it would join existing pipelines that run to refineries and centers of distribution in Texas. Because Keystone XL would cross an international border, the estimated \$5.4 billion project requires federal approval.

see **PIPELINE**, page 2

New student applications break record for largest applicant pool in single year

BY SHIRA KIPNEES
Staff Writer

This year, F&M received the largest number of applications for admittance in a single year in the history of the College. 7,066 prospective students applied to the Class of 2019—a 28 percent increase from last year, and a 25 percent increase from the College's previous record for number of applications.

According to Dan Lugo, vice president for Admission and Financial Aid, this growth can be attributed to various factors, such as the work F&M does with regard to attracting prospective students, the expansion of outreach and recruiting skills in the past four years, and positive media attention garnered by the College, including an increase in F&M's national rankings.

"Part of that improved recruiting is that we are communicating with a vast number of increased inquiries—or, as they are more commonly known—high school seniors, juniors, and sophomores," Lugo said. "We currently have [For the Class of 2019] about 46,000 inquiries in our database. Three years ago, we only had 20,000, so we've more than doubled the number of high school seniors that we're communicating with annually. So, if you talk to more folks about the great qualities of a place, more people are attracted."

Lugo also noted that F&M has streamlined its application process through the Common Application: Questions from the red supplemental application were redistributed and embedded them within the main application, in keeping with new policies implemented by the Common Application, to make it appear shorter in the eyes of prospective students.

"I believe that that has had some effect in getting people to apply to F&M and not being turned off," he said.

The College currently operates on a holistic admission process, meaning that all applications are read twice

and go through a committee review process.

"While the increased number of applications means more work, it's a great problem to have," Lugo said. "But it's definitely taxing our staff resources and our time, but we're doing a good job and the team here has really stepped up. It'll be a challenge to pick the new class through all these applications."

Lugo explained his hope that the College can sustain this increase and level of success going into future admissions cycles.

"I believe that F&M will continue to see robust application numbers in the ballpark of what we're seeing this year," said Lugo. "Just to temper enthusiasm, it is highly unusual for Colleges to get a 28 percent increase in applications, so there might be a bit of a correction next year. However, I don't believe that it will be anything dramatic. We are in a new neighborhood of competitiveness."

Additionally, Lugo pointed out that application-readers have noticed a stronger quality of student in this year's applicant pool; that is to say, a typical student who may have been accepted to the College in the past may be on the cusp this year, or even rejected outright.

"This is what selective schools want," Lugo said. "They want their committee process to be tough. The tougher it gets, the better it is for the resulting output."

This is Lugo's fourth and final year at F&M, as he is leaving F&M to assume a position as vice president for College and Student Advancement at Colby College in Maine. This new office is a mixture of alumni relations, fundraising, and other details of advancement applied in a more creative way, merging experiential learning and post-graduate learning into the same division, Lugo explained.

Lugo has held the same role as

see **APPLICATIONS**, page 2

Inside this Issue...

Opinion & Editorial

"Obama's visit to India highlights political tensions"
page 3

Campus Life

Barnett speaks about Tibetan conflict
page 5

Arts & Entertainment

The Grand Budapest Hotel worthy of its nominations
page 6

Sports

Men's basketball secures win over Gettysburg
page 10

Riemann’s Crime Watch



Friday, Jan. 23, 12:26 a.m.—Officers from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) responded to a noise complaint at College Hill. The party was shut down.

Friday, Jan. 23, 1:16 a.m.—DPS responded to a report of an odor of marijuana in Buchanan Park.

Saturday, Jan. 24, 2:00 a.m.—DPS responded to a pulled fire alarm in College Row.

Saturday, Jan. 24, 11:20 p.m.—Two students were hit with paintballs while walking home. The incident is under investigation by Lancaster City Police.

Saturday, Jan. 24, 11:30 p.m.—Lancaster City Police responded to a noise complaint at College Hill. The party was shut down.

Saturday, Jan. 24, 11:50 p.m.—DPS responded to the odor of marijuana in College Row.

Sunday, Jan. 25, 1:30 a.m.—DPS responded to the report of an underage intoxicated student at 520 N Charlotte St. The student was transported to Lancaster Regional Medical Center (LRMC).

Sunday, Jan. 25, 2:00 a.m.—DPS responded to the report of an underage intoxicated student in Bonchek. The student was transported to LRMC.

Sunday, Jan. 25, 2:30 a.m.—A fire alarm was triggered at 603 Race Ave due to a person smoking.

Monday, Jan. 26, 10:00 a.m.—A student reported that another student broke into their Schnader room at night, broke his/her belongings and then urinated.

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 12:00 a.m.—DPS responded to a noise complaint at Weis.

Tuesday, Jan. 27—A student reported that the prior day someone broke into their car, parked on the 500 block of W. James St. After searching through the car the suspect took the change from the center console.

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 4:00 p.m.—A student reported that their phone was taken from the restaurants in the Steinman College Center.

Thursday, Jan 29, 2:00 a.m.—DPS responded to a report of public drunkenness by a student of legal age on the 700 block of College Ave. The student was transported to LRMC.

Riemann’s Advice

I am not entirely sure why this is a recurring problem, but, a wise piece of advice: if the room you are in does not contain a sink and a toilet it is most likely not a bathroom. All those rooms you vandalized last week — THOSE were bathrooms.

Officer Johnston’s Safety Tips

Public Safety is concerned about the safety of students walking outside in the cold weather during the week, and especially on the weekends. During the weekends, when students are more active in social activities, their ability to cope with the weather may be compromised. Therefore, if you see a student in some type of medical distress, call Public Safety immediately so they may get the care they deserve.



The College Reporter Corrections Policy

The College Reporter welcomes comments and suggestions, as well as information about substantive errors of fact that call for correction. Contact us via email at reporter@fandm.edu or at (717) 291-4095.

The College Reporter Story Idea Submission Policy

The College Reporter welcomes story ideas from the college community. If you have or your organization has an idea for a Reporter story, email it to us at reporter@fandm.edu with the subject heading “Campus Story Idea” by Monday at noon the week before publication. Story ideas will be accepted at the discretion of the Editorial Board.

Discrimination: Forums Series aims to promote discourse among student body

continued from page 1

that there is underreporting with regard to Asian students.

The freestyle, student driven discussion that followed was moderated by Charley Hagist ’18, a member of DipCon and a representative of the College Entertainment Committee (CEC), which covered topics such as racial discrimination, gay rights, women’s rights, as well as the institutional disadvantages some students face when it comes to purchasing expensive course materials or gaining access to social networks, like fraternities or sororities, due to socioeconomic inequality.

Then, in a panel-style discussion, Linda Hasunuma, assistant professor of government, and Ashley Rondini, visiting assistant professor of sociology, fielded students’ questions about issues various minority groups face on campus.

Participants in the forum offered a number of steps to take at both the personal and institutional levels.

DipCon is currently dedicated to investigating institutional solutions, such as discussing the inclusion of diversity training and programming focused on diversity during First-Year Orientation; investigating curricula at other institutions that include classes on acceptance and diversity; partnering with other campus organizations to combat harmful discriminatory language and attitudes; and exploring new opportunities for LGBTQIA programs.

“Expressing care seemed to be the salient point of the forum,” said David Song ’16, a philosophy major from

South Korea. “So at the personal level, intentionally being friends with people from different backgrounds—even those who don’t see eye to eye with me on these issues—would be a good start. Regular interaction will open up the space for approaching these issues in a more conversational manner, rather than just talking past each other.”

The goal of all events in DipCon’s F&M Forums Series is to make use of the College Houses as a third space where students, faculty, and administrators can have their voices heard on important community issues—in this case, discrimination—in a constructive manner. The topics for discussion at the forums were chosen by a focus group of students themselves in a poll conducted by DipCon over Winter Break to determine the issues most pertinent to them.

“Of course, not everyone we want to engage [through these forums] will be in attendance,” said Mark T. Harmon-Vaught ’15, president of DipCon. “For this reason, it falls to the engaged students who do attend to continue the conversation in their daily lives, by engaging with their peers—we have the greatest potential to affect positive change by creating a ripple effect in this way.”

Spring 2015 will see four more events in the F&M Forums Series. The next forum will take place on Tuesday, February 17, and will discuss mental health, wellness, and academic stress.

First-year Indira Rahman is a contributing writer. Her email is irahman@fandm.edu.

Applications: Tremendous growth continues to strengthen applicant pool

continued from page 1

vice president for Admission and Financial Aid since arriving at F&M, and has also been a member of the senior team of Dan Porterfield, president of the College. The search for his replacement is just beginning.

“I’ve had the real pleasure of helping expand all of our means of recruiting students from all over the country and all over the world,” Lugo said. “I think that the College has had a really strong experience over these past four years and I am proud to be a part of it.”

Senior Shira Kipnees is a staff writer. Her email is skipnees@fandm.edu.

Pipeline: Keystone Bill faces criticism from liberals, support of conservatives

continued from page 1

The bill has been mired in controversy since its inception in 2008. According the article “Keystone XL project approved by US Congress” published by the BBC, Republicans and their supporters favor the bill due to its potential to create new jobs, while Democrats and environmentalists oppose it because it will likely lead to increased carbon emissions that contribute to global warming.

Opponents of the bill argue that the pipeline will create as few as 35 permanent jobs, according to the article “Senate Approves Keystone XL Pipeline,” while supporters point to a report by the State Department, which concluded that the pipeline would not be a

major detriment to the environment.

Nine Democratic senators voted in favor of the bill—John Hoeven, N.D.; Michael Bennet, CO; Bob Casey, PA; Joe Donnelly, IN; Heidi Heitkamp, N.D.; Joe Manchin, WV; Claire McCaskill, MO; Jon Tester, MT; Mark Warner, VA; and Tom Carper, DE, according to “Senate Approves Keystone XL Pipeline.”

The pipeline is estimated to carry over 800,000 barrels of oil on a daily basis, and would be constructed by U.S. TransCanada, an international company.

Junior Steven Viera is the Managing Editor. His email is sviera@fandm.edu.

Staff Writer Commentary

Obama’s visit to India highlights diplomatic tensions

BY ADITYA
RAMACHANDRAN
Staff Writer
aramacha@fandm.edu

The real importance of President Barack Obama’s recently concluded visit to India has been hidden below several layers of hyperbole. From the surprisingly warm chemistry between President Obama and Prime Minister Modi, to the touted greater potential economic engagements between the two giants, on the surface level it does seem that the short-term potential of the U.S- India relationship abounds with possibility. All that being said, beneath loud rhetoric about progress, the relationship remains as prone to disintegration as it ever has.

To put U.S- India ties in their appropriate context, it has to be said that their basic contours have been stable for the last decade and a half. Both nations celebrate commitment to democratic ideals, and are hard-fought--and hard-won--pluralist societies. That being said, both sides hold a strong sense of strategic independence that puts national self-interest above all.

It is this sense of autonomy that could potentially undermine their relationship: as the Indian state has historically refused, and continues to refuse, to act as a global lieutenant to the United States. For this very reason, this relation-



For What
It's Worth

ship can never be the special friendship shared by the United States and the Britain.

Despite all the talk about the White House’s pivot to India since Obama’s first term in office, New Delhi maintains inherently distinct interests from Washington. The propensity for the relationship to derail has been exhibited several times in recent years- most recently in December of 2013, where the two nations ended a chilly diplomatic standoff over the treatment of an Indian diplomat in New York, with the resignation of the American ambassador Nancy Powell.

Still, there was very much a mixed bag of significant takeaways from this visit. Under the Modi government’s purview, India will help to revive what is called the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, an entity considered dormant since 2008.

Both heads of state expressed their mutual strategic interests through an entity called the U.S- India Joint Strategic vision for the Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean region.

The references were to maritime security and freedom of navigation through the hotly contested South China Sea. It can be extrapolated that under its relatively new political strongman leader, India is finally taking steps to

becoming the democratic counterweight to China that the established Western powers have always wanted it to be.

Though the end of the nuclear deadlock between the two countries was also seen as a significant take-away of the visit, the US-India nuclear agreement is misunderstood. Described by the White House as an agreement which “resolves the US concerns on

both tracking and liability,” what this deal does is tweak Indian law which “makes sure that victims of a nuclear accident can get quick compensation, without having to prove the plant operator was negligent, and irrespective of who was at fault” for U.S corporations, which usually have governmental backing abroad.

This allows American corporations off the hook

in the light of a disaster. Considering that the Indian government never managed to try the Warren Anderson, the CEO of Union Carbide- an American corporation responsible for the worst industrial accident in history, in the Indian state of Bhopal- one has to consider could go wrong in the future. On a more tertiary note, India and the United

Continued online...

Full Staff Opinion

Seniors: Don't "do less"

Your final semester at F&M should be a time of achievement, not relaxation.

There are many seniors who go into their senior year and even their second semester with the opinion that they should slow down and “do less” with the rest of the their time at F&M. I think that this practice, theory, and ideology is one that does not maximize the rest of their time at this wonderful institution in the penultimate and ultimate periods of their college careers.

This may sound cliché, but we only have four years in our undergraduate education (at least on average at F&M). This means that after that, one won’t get to indulge in the academic setting, extra-curricular activities, or social scene of our vibrant campus. Though this may branch into the logic of FOMO (fear of missing out), there is a really important, critical point here. What reason is there to decelerate right before the end of our careers at F&M?

Many subscribe to the originally mentioned ideology because they want to indulge in social activities over other commitments their last semester. While this is certainly a worthwhile endeavor, unless one is going to over do it and provide no commitment to non-social activities, there is little reason to think that one as a senior or even an upperclassmen could make the necessary accommodations to prioritize a social life. At this point in our careers as F&M students, and as college students on a more general, one ought to be able to assume they can prioritize properly and be efficient in order to achieve whatever goals they may, especially something as transient as a movable social life.

Also inherent in the logic of decelerating before graduation is the assumption that many college experiences are unique to this age, or this place. Many activities, especially those of the social variety will still exist even after we graduate. After we graduate, the number of social activities, people to socialize with, and places to go and see only become greater in number and more diverse in type. While it is perspicuous that one may want to be more social their senior year, let’s not pretend that this is the end of one’s opportunities to have fun in their 20s or even later.

One of the most critical reasons why one shouldn’t slow down in the sunset of their undergraduate career at F&M is that one will never have as much influence or be as connected to the campus as one is right now. If one is going to leave a lasting impact on the F&M campus and Lancaster community, now is the time.

If anything, the final year and final semester in our time at F&M is the right time to put the pedal to the metal because we have so little time left here.



The College Reporter

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The College Reporter office is located on the second floor of the Steinman College Center. Address all correspondence to The College Reporter, F&M #27 P.O. Box 3003, Lancaster, PA 17604. Email: reporter@fandm.edu Business Email: reporterads@fandm.edu Phone: (717) 291-4095. Fax: (717) 291-3886. © 2011 The College Reporter. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

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Staff Writer Commentary

Studying abroad proved worthwhile decision

Homesickness, struggles eclipsed by beauty of journey

BY CAROLINE DORAN
Contributing Writer
cdoran@fandm.edu

It’s one of those experiences that lingers sweetly within you for the rest of your days. Moments and memories become rooted, with a sort of bitter enthrallment in a constant rotation. You are in ceaseless amazement at the things you’ve seen and done, felt and met, which all, at some point or another, felt beyond your capabilities- beyond your humanness. Being in London for four months was something that scared the life out of me. I remember sitting in Minella’s the Sunday before, overwhelmed, mentally picking at the pit in my stomach. I feared everything

would go wrong. I feared a loneliness beyond discomfort. I feared a reality scripted in Taken. I feared I had made the wrong choice. I remember my dad noticed my shivering persona that morning- himself too discomforted by the thought of his deaf daughter abroad. But he said to me: “This is good for you.” I hated him for advising me with words too simple for my own emotions at the time. Little did I know though; London was the best thing about to happen to me. I will not deny, in the slightest, my homesickness, or my constant need to be in communication with my parents; which was only worsened with a six-hour time difference. I will not deny

the frustrations of currency conversions or the expense of public transportation. And I will not deny my annoyance at the lack of (free) tap water (in some cities). But I will say all of those frustrations, and sickness for home and comfort allowed me one thing: finding a comfort in myself, and a personal growth undiscoverable elsewhere. Studying abroad is a bit like an unguided passage- one that teaches you to value the moment and proves the unyielding stability of time. Ultimately, that was my biggest struggle: time. I waited for it, I renounced it, I hoped for it, I prayed for more and less of it. I counted down seconds, minutes, hours, days, and weeks. I recorded

hopeless silence, and quiet moments with time. It took me a while to truly understand and believe in the power of time; to trust in time. I prayed for speedy weeks and fast-paced days. But in the end, there was no need to praise the steady lungs of time or whisper prayers seeking justification for quick days- I realized soon enough London was home. That’s the beauty of studying abroad: wherever you go, may that be Florence, or London, Morocco or Sydney- wherever you choose to be, it will become your home (second, at least). It becomes home enough that you aren’t scared of the discomfort that comes with being foreign or “alone.” For

me at least, I accommodated as best I could with what I had: new friends and an incredible city. I fell in love with not another human being, but a city; one so incredible, I hold it so near and dear to my heart now. Studying abroad is an experience too rich for words. There is no Shakespearean or Jane Eyre type metaphor to justify the beyond incredible experience of going abroad. There is no comparable understanding to that experience of traveling foreign grounds. It’s just a blessing unraveled by time. It’s a daunting journey with unremitted boundaries. It’s something that, given the chance, has to be taken.

Boehner, Netanyahu disrespect Obama

Scheduled visit shows contempt toward Commander-in-Chief

BY NICHOLAS RIEBEL
Staff Writer
nriebel@fandm.edu

Though I like to think that I am generally knowledgeable about geopolitics, this week’s column is about a thorny topic. Please bear with me. The United States and Israel could be said to share a close, special, even unique relationship (and for some background about that relationship, I recommend two articles on forbes.com: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/rickungar/2015/01/25/bibi-netanyahu-aka-the-republican-senator-from-israel-may-have-made-a-fatal-political-mistake/> and <http://www.forbes.com/sites/rickungar/2015/01/25/bibi-netanyahu-aka-the-republican-senator-from-israel-may-have-made-a-fatal-political-mistake/>). That said, it should be understood that the relationship of our president, Barack Obama, and Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has been rife with tension. Israel is fairly reliant on the United States from protection from serious threats, and is widely supported by both Congress and the American people. However, the provocative actions of Prime Minister Netanyahu have gradually worsened the American-Israel relationship. Netanyahu’s decisions are all the more surprising given the forces (such as AIPAC, the very influential and bipartisan American Israel Public Affairs Committee) that push our president to support Israel even as it ignores our advice on settlements in the West Bank around Jerusalem, amongst other things. You would think their leader would be at least somewhat respectful to his patron.

Yet, our Speaker of the House John Boehner and Prime Minister Netanyahu organized for the latter to speak at a joint meeting of Congress. The two men completely neglected to inform the White House or even ask permission at all, in what the White House seems to think is a major insult and diplomatic faux pas. You may not like our president, and I myself am not his strongest supporter for a variety of reasons, but you have to at the very least respect his office and position here in our nation. Boehner and Netanyahu, apparently, decided not to. The first Forbes article I’ve shared, written by the infamous Steve Forbes himself, praises Netanyahu as a modern-day Winston Churchill, fighting against our modern Nazi Germany equivalent, Iran, the world power hell-bent on world conquest. This casts our president as Neville Chamberlain, naively and foolishly hoping for peace in his time. My parents have told me to be very careful in pointedly insulting someone. That being said, Mr. Forbes is, to put it mildly, either an idiot or a liar. There is more to his article, which I will get to, but that is the main point of it. He is the naive one, holding a white-and-black, overly simplistic and (frankly) misconstrued view of the world: to him, weak and isolated Iran is somehow a threat to Western civilization, President Obama is cowering in fear of the mullahs, and only Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fearlessly leads the struggle to save his people. The truth is we could effortlessly topple the Iranian regime and end not only any nuclear weapons program, but any governmental activity of theirs at all. It would be somewhat

tougher than defeating Saddam Hussein’s Iraq, but it would not be difficult. Isn’t it much more likely that the President is trying to avoid war, not because he fears a war with Iran will destroy the United States, but because he is trying to avoid unnecessary bloodshed? If you doubt me, consider this: we have the most powerful military in the world, our military spending is beyond gigantic, and our military technology and hardware is arguably the best on Earth. Would Iran, which a few years ago struggled to put down its “Green Revolution” and has few allies that would come to its defense at the risk of going to war with the United States, really be making our president worry if it came to a military conflict? It should also be noted that throughout the article, Forbes never explains why the Obama opposes Netanyahu’s actions regarding Iran, only that he does. This makes it seem like he is condemning the president for reasonably wanting peace instead of a war in which no side would truly “win,” in which Iran would have its infrastructure destroyed and many of its people killed, and which would ensure that we would be responsible for occupying another Middle Eastern nation at our own expense. To put it simply, Forbes doesn’t know what he is talking about: he is merely fear-mongering, using crude propaganda to make us scream for war with Iran, which has shown repeatedly in the past that it is not pursuing nuclear weapon development. The other Forbes article is also worth reading. Rick Ungar shows how Netanyahu and Boehner made a deal in which they would both benefit: Netanyahu would use his speech to help

with his failing campaign for reelection, Boehner would relish this opportunity to embarrass and harass Obama further. They went out of their way to keep the White House in the dark until the speech was officially announced, solely to insult and attack the president of the United States. As Ungar notes, the fact that the Speaker of the House would so “embarrass” his President by “using the Israeli Prime Minister” is nothing short of shameful. Iran may well be working towards developing nuclear weapons. It does not appear to be the case, but I will concede that it is possible. But it sounds eerily similar to the case to attack Iraq to me. We have been warned for a long time that the Iranians are developing atomic bombs, no easy task, and difficult to keep it secret (see, for instance, how we know that Israel has nuclear weapons even though they officially deny it). And considering that President Obama has access to the best intelligence agencies in the world, it seems highly unlikely he would ignore this, and just hope for the best. Even Iran is developing nuclear weapons, wouldn’t it be better to convince them to give them up willingly, like we did with South Africa? I understand this article may not convince many people. But do not accuse me or our president of not supporting Israel: there is no chance he will allow Iran to destroy or harm Israel if there is anything he can do to help it. The cynical know this: this would destroy his legacy and party, at the very least. Despite Netanyahu’s best efforts, the United States and Israel will continue to be allies and friends, helping and protecting each other against terrorism and other security threats.

If Forbes wished to be accurate in his article, he would have recognized that Barack Obama is Barack Obama: the state senator who warned against unnecessary wars, like our war against Iraq to stop them from developing and using weapons of mass destruction against Israel, our allies, and ourselves. Iran is Iraq: suffering under an oppressive government, but more of a threat to its own people than to others, (although I acknowledge they do support terrorist groups which contribute to the suffering in the region, which they should immediately cease doing). And Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, rather than the new Winston Churchill, is Israel’s George W. Bush, who successfully used the Iraq War to get re-elected. War and the threat of war is always useful for securing one’s re-election, but one should pay the price if you are unable to have a war to guarantee your political future. Prime Minister Netanyahu, we understand very well the danger of saber-rattling, unpredictable, even rogue nations with nuclear weapons and the ability to use them against its enemies. We know you do as well. After all, you are the only nation in the region fitting this description. This is not an attack against your nation, Prime Minister, it is a criticism of you and your policies. All we ask is for a modicum of respect for our leader and for diplomacy, which is much preferable to a war which could escalate much like our adventure in Iraq did. Remember, Prime Minister: at the end of the day, our president, whom you seem to disrespect and hate so much, is still our Commander-in-Chief. You are not.

Campus Life

Common Hour with Robert Barnett explores Tibetan conflict



photo by Emma Brown '17

This week, Common Hour featured Robert Barnett, Director of the Modern Tibet Studies Program at Columbia University; he voiced concern about Tibetan conflict.

BY SAMANTHA GREENFIELD
Staff Writer

Robert Barnett, Director of Modern Tibet Studies Program at Columbia University, spoke at this past week's Common Hour about the conflict between the government of the People's Republic of

China and the Tibetans.

The Tibetan people, he explains, desire independence or autonomy for Tibet within China. The speaker provided a perspective look at the complexity of this conflict.

Barnett explains that we need

to figure out the kinds of questions to be asking in order to find a solution to this contention.

This Tibet issue has been going on for 60 years and has seen thousands of deaths.

Barnett explains the history of the conflict in that the first 30 years saw much more violence than the latter 30; however, a resolution is still not in sight.

The conflict began with Mao's control of communist China and the People's Liberation Army was sent into Tibet to take over. In the beginning of this conflict, however, Mao and the Dalai Lama were actually friends.

Tibet was left alone as long as it accepted that it was a part of China. But in 1959 there were uprisings in Tibet and the Dalai Lama was exiled to India, where he and his exiles still remain.

Chinese government from this point on has flooded money and modernization into Tibet to make it more Chinese. Barnett shows the influence of China through images of the ruins of monasteries and the growing Chinese architecture.

Barnett explores perspective first from the view of the West. Westerners see this conflict as one of Chinese oppression and Tibetan

resistance.

The images of resistance in our media depict Tibetans worshipping the Dalai Lama, an act that has been outlawed by the Chinese government.

Barnett then illuminates the skewed image from the Chinese perspective by showing the audience images from Chinese media.

The official newspapers of China show the Tibetan people as grateful to the Chinese. Unity, happiness, and success are portrayed.

The view from the inside is also skewed because Tibetan history is banned from being taught or even discussed. Tibetan culture is being eroded through a loss of history and religion; however, religious life does continue.

The Tibetan people still pursue their worship of the Dalai Lama despite its illegality.

Barnett does not explain a clear-cut solution to this conflict because there is no simple solution.

The answer to this complex conflict must continue to be explored.

Senior Samantha Greenfield is a staff writer. Her email is sgreenfield@fandm.edu.

Peter Rock talks craft at Philadelphia Alumni Writers House

BY BRIANNE SIMONE
Contributing Writer

Peter Rock, who was lucky enough to be born with a name already suited to an existence as a writer, visited F&M on the 29th of January.

Though I spent most of his Craft Talk staring at the back of his head, I was fortunate to have a picture of his face situated in my line of sight.

From what I saw in person, I can tell you he has close cropped, dark blond hair that shimmers with copper when shined on by a spotlight. The side of his face, which I did manage to catch a glimpse of, revealed pinkish skin spattered with the bumps and spots of oncoming age.

His picture showed him in dark blue flannel, a shy smile and tilt of his head saying almost as much about Peter Rock's humble personality as he himself said to us.

After his glowing introduction, he admitted to his audience that he felt it didn't truly capture him.

His career as a writer was not easy and, at times, it wasn't even fun. Rather, it was built on repeated humiliations and mistakes. Out of the twenty books he's written, he has published seven.

Sometime during his speech, it was revealed that he has a job

besides his writing that consists heavily of reading and speaking about writing.

This job affords him some time to himself, but he chooses to spend that time with his daughters more often than he spends it with his novels.

His inspirations, or at least the authors he mentioned to, are Flannery O'Connor, Alice Monroe, and the writer of Bluets. Alice Monroe creates histories for her characters, details that may never make it to the page.

Peter Rock wrote rules that his female character in his novel The Abandonment would have for herself and even did psychology tests for children in his character's voice so he could learn more about her.

He recommended a ton of research into whatever interested us, whatever confused us, and "if you have enough information yelling at the same frequency, you'll yell back. That's a story."

What I drew from this talk is that the life of a writer is not glamorous, especially if you happen to have a job and children.

It's something you do because you love to do it, even on days when you don't love to do it.

There are sacrifices that come with being a writer. And you can't



photo courtesy of gilmoreguidetobooks.com

Students gathered in the Philadelphia Alumni Writers House this past Thursday to hear author Peter Rock discuss his craft and advice on writing and publishing.

stop. You can't take a year off because you don't feel like it. If you do that, you'll lose it.

One of the last things he said before the talk ended was that we should fight for our story.

Be stubborn. Be proud. If we don't love our story, how can we expect others, too?

Love your story. Love what you do. Love who you are.

Fill your pages with that love and nothing you write will be boring.

Senior Brienne Simone is a Contributing writer. Her email is bsimone@fandm.edu.

Arts & Entertainment

Anderson’s newest film carefully balances absurdity, drama The Grand Budapest Hotel makes for a prime Oscar candidate, visually stuns

Movie Review *The Grand Budapest Hotel*

by Noah Sunshine

Oscar bait—it’s a designation for larger-than-life films (think 2012’s *Lincoln* or perhaps even this year’s *Imitation Game*) that draw from history’s finest or bleeding-edge technology to convince the Academy a film is truly wonderful—even if it ends up forgettable a year or two later. In this season of the Academy Awards, I’m pleased to see two films that defy that designation as they gun for Best Picture this February. I’ve already reviewed one, Alejandro González Iñárritu’s *Birdman*, but Wes Anderson’s *The Grand Budapest Hotel* might as well be its spiritual antithesis.

If you had seen the trailer before starting *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, you might think you were watching the wrong movie; Anderson film alum Jason Schwartzman’s cameo as a lazy concierge is a (pretty intentional) letdown. Only as the story unfolds through a film-length flashback does the whimsy and strained plausibility characteristic of the director begins its assault: pastels abound. The colors come straight out of a cake shop, from the pale and paler pink exterior of the eponymous hotel to the impossibly velvety uniforms of the hotel staff,



photo courtesy of www.commons.wikimedia.org
In 1993, Fiennes was nominated for an Academy Award and won the BAFTA Award for his role as Amon Goeth in *Schindler’s List*.

with clean lines that give the illusion of a cartoon or storybook. Action that is just as hare-brained only adds to the effect, though it will turn off those that aren’t fans of the outlandish.

Leaving the film there makes it sound like a prime choice for an outing with young children, but Ralph Fiennes, in an unparalleled performance as the deft and quirky M. Gustave, spits so much wit at a feverish pace that adults will have trouble keeping up with the subtle and not-so-subtle absurdity. I’m truly disappointed by his absence among Best Actor nominees, because his smart and unwavering delivery makes for an impressive character—if a bit less empathetic

than some. The character doesn’t leave much for the audience to access, only to watch and be amazed by. Fiennes is nothing like the broken and bemusing Keaton from *Birdman*, which may hurt the film’s Oscar campaign overall, but still places him above headliners like Bradley Cooper and his brutish soldier (Clint Eastwood’s *American Sniper*).

The Grand Budapest Hotel was an exciting surprise in a season of biopics (*The Imitation Game*, *The Theory of Everything*, *Selma*, and *Unbroken*, which missed the Best Picture nod altogether) that may have flown under the radar for most, but didn’t escape the adoring eyes of critics. It sits at a staggering 8.1/10 on IMDb, cracking

the top 250 movies of all time according to the site—that’s neck-and-neck with *Birdman*, *Boyhood*, and a few other Oscars favorites of the year. If Best Picture doesn’t work out, there are always 8 other nominations for it to fall back on.

If I had to pick a frontrunner for this year’s Academy Awards, I would be torn; my love for *The Grand Budapest Hotel* and *Birdman* are known, but hugely ambitious films such as Linklater’s *Boyhood* (actually following a boy through his childhood, in film) have that novelty that may get the better of the rest. That doesn’t change, though, that *The Grand Budapest Hotel* is a visually and thematically stunning entry on the ballot that’s worth the watch whether it wins or not. It is available on all major movie streaming services, as well as for free (with subscription) on HBO GO.

Senior Noah Sunshine is a contributing writer. His email is nsunshin@fandm.edu.

Review Rating:

B+

The Grand Budapest Hotel is a visual masterpiece, worthy of its nominations.

Ben’s Bands surprises with good food, new music, exciting atmosphere *Ben’s Underground* provides alternative to usual party scene with high quality music

Concert Commentary *Ben’s Bands*

by Livia Meneghin

It was a dark winter night. I woke up from my nap, prepping my body for the long hours to come. I’m not your typical “out on a Saturday night” kind of girl, but I had work to do.

I had received a new top from a friend that day, so I decided to plan my outfit around that. It was a charcoal gray tank, the longer, trendy kind I could feel comfortable not wearing pants with. By no pants, I mean Under Armor spandex leggings. Because let’s be real, it was probably 25 degrees outside, and I had to walk all the way to the Underground.

I spent five full minutes (I wish I was joking) deciding whether I should wear my black and floral Beyoncé snapback, or a pink five-panel Stussy hat. I had brushed my hair and let it hang long over my collarbones. Back and forth, I placed each hat on my head and looked in the mirror to see which one looked more hip.

This was what Ben’s Bands did to an introvert on a Saturday. Tired and yearning to find myself snuggled up in bed with hot chocolate and a Disney movie, I was instead going to a concert and wanted to put my best self out there.

The event was the first of a three-part series held in Ben’s Underground and co-sponsored by WFNM,



photo courtesy of Livia Meneghin '15
Ben’s Bands is a great alternative to the usual Saturday night party scene, with lots of fried food and pleasing music.

the F&M campus radio station; the CEC; and the Arts House. As a radio show host (tune in Fridays at 1pm to listen to YapYapRadio!) I signed up for the Ben’s Bands committee to get firsthand access to local and upcoming artists. And just in case I met any of the guest artists, I wanted to look like I had been organizing and reporting for concerts as long as I’ve been able to walk.

The opening act was Plainview, a quintet of musicians and friends from Drexel University in Philadelphia. Unable to hone into a genre, they are described on their Facebook Page, “Plainview, the Band,” as “Alt pop/folk punk (or whatever you want to call it is fine with us).”

The headliner was Flamingosis, also known as F&M alum Aaron Velasquez. A quick trip to his Sound-

Cloud will immediately give any listener a sense of his 70’s inspired vibe and experimental EDM beats. I spoke to Aaron briefly before his mic check, and he talked to me about how good it felt returning to his alma mater. “I couldn’t make it back for Homecoming, so it’s nice to be here. I’m excited.”

I, along with many upperclassmen, remember Aaron most for his beatboxing skills with the a cappella group, the Poor Richards. I knew he was already establishing himself as a real life electronic music producer, and months before I downloaded his first and self-titled album. I didn’t want Aaron to think I wasn’t aware of his work after graduating from F&M, and asked him if he’d mostly be playing from Flamingosis. He responded in his typical, chill manner

saying, “Yeah. I mean, I’ll be playing a little of everything.” He knew how dope the night was going to be, and my swagged-out outfit was giving me the confidence to start getting more and more excited myself.

The event was a huge success, and over 100 students enjoyed sick beats, dancing, mozzarella sticks, and milkshakes. I also acted as a photographer that night, trying to capture the smell of the chicken tenders, the bounce of the beats against the exposed pipes, and the smiles of the WFNM staff seeing everyone having a good time. Music blasted, slightly hurting my ears (in the best way) until after 1AM. Plainview handed out cool free stickers and then went upstairs to the dining hall to sit around, chat, get some fresh air, and eat some of that good food from the Ben’s bar. I also got a chance to speak to Aaron again. He loved the atmosphere, and told me he never experienced a crowd like us before.

That night walking home, the entire walkway was covered in black ice. I walked slowly on the snow, hugging myself to keep warm. The “Swagrid” tank top served better on the dance floor than outside, even under my winter coat.

The next event in the series will be February 20, featuring Medusa’s Disco, the Stonewall vessels and Mike Pays Heat. See you there!

Senior Livia Meneghan is a contributing writer. Her email is lmenegh@fandm.edu.

New D.C.-based music blog wows, finds unknown talent

Founder promotes local artists, advertises low prices, eclectic mixes

Music Blog Spotlight

All Things Go

by Caroline Dorey-Stein

If you aren't following D. C. -based music blog "All Things Go" on Spotify, Twitter, or any other site, you're doing it wrong. Formed by a group of four guys: Will Suter, Adrian Maseda, Stephen Vallimarescu and Zack Friendly back in 2010, ATG has expanded tremendously. They now have a record label called ATG Records, which mirroring Brightest Young Things, began promoting concerts and events in Gibson and U Street Music Hall in early 2012.

So what influenced ATG to create their label? Growing up, Suter states in an interview with The Washingtonian, "I think that traditional and that do-it-yourself work ethic have seeped into our subconscious and play a part in what we're doing now." The group grew up attending free concerts and listening to Dischord artists, and like Dischord, they were able to keep prices low for a while at a whopping \$5 with their first concert. Their goal to promote local D.C. artists by charging a minimal fee was challenging, however. With so much talent coming from other areas of the country, ATG Record's first seven-inch vinyl single "Alive" offered two minutes and 45 seconds of dance punk from



photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Will Suter (pictured above) is one of the four founders of All Things Go. They now manage thirty-four staff writers who publish content on their website, allthingsgomusic.com.

Miami artist Nicky Blitz who is also well known for the smoke show hit "Summer Sinner." Despite the first few acts not being from D.C. it was still enough to attract local musicians by holding events in the metro area.

"Vinyl isn't a big moneymaker... to some extent this is a labor of love," Maseda says. "We love the artists we put out, and if [the label] brings attention to All Things Go and all of the things we do, that can only help us grow."

And that "labor of love" has struck the blog extreme success. In September, The All Things Go Fall Classic was able to score semilo-cal major artists such as Baltimore synthpop Future Islands headlining the event. In addition were Sun Club and the D.C. groups U.S. Royalty

and Young Summer. Not to mention Tove Lo, HAERTS, and Panama Wedding. Prices may not have been \$5 but an extra \$40 doesn't seem like a bad deal at all.

Don't frequent the D.C. area? Check out allthingsgomusic.com for interviews with up and coming artists, playlists galore, funky remixes and great articles by exceptionally knowledgeable staff writers such as David Turner, D.C. resident, who hails from L.A.

I had the opportunity to speak with David and ask him what particularly distinguishes ATG from other music blogs: "Reading All Things Go is looking into a musical kaleidoscope that offers new, distinct artists all across the spectrum" he states. David has had the opportunity to interview Blake Mills, who co-founded Simon Dawes, which has since shortened its name to Dawes. His solo albums Break Mirrors and Heigh Ho have been successes. But the major reason you must follow the D.C. based blog is, as David points out, "its direct connection to artists and the editors' and writers' ability to find exciting acts before they've attained mainstream popularity."

So do yourself a favor and treat yourself to allthingsgomusic.com this week.

Senior Caroline Dorey-Stein is a staff writer. Her email is cdoreyst@fandm.edu.

Ne-Yo's new album features many well-known artists

Non-Fiction is yet another step forward in the artist's career

Album Review

Non-Fiction

Ne-Yo

by Julia Chirls

As an R&B singer, songwriter, record producer, dancer, and actor, Ne-Yo has graced the music industry with his distinct talent since 1998. On January 27, his sixth studio album, *Non-Fiction*, hit iTunes following the releases of three singles: "Money Can't Buy" (feat. Jeezy), "She Knows" (feat. Juicy J), and "Coming With You."

Ne-Yo's debut album, *In My Own Words*, released in 2006, was placed on the Billboard Hot 200 as #1. Since then, Ne-Yo has received over 50 nominations and awards, most notably 11 Grammy nominations and 3 Grammy awards. The awards include Best Contemporary R&B Album for *Because of You* in 2008 and two for and for *Miss Independent* in 2009: Best Male R&B Vocal Performance and Best R&B Song.

Aside from his own work, Ne-Yo's distinct vocals have been featured in a number of songs including Celine Dion's "Incredible" from her 2013 album *Loved Me Back to Life*. New Kids on the Block's 2008 album featured a duet with Ne-Yo in "Single" on their 2008 album *The Block*. Perhaps the most popular feature was in "Give Me Everything," for which he worked with Pitbull, Afrojack, and Nayer to write and produce the most popular track on Pitbull's sixth album *Planet Pit* and a song that would earn the number one spot on the US Bill-



photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Ne-Yo was nominated for Best Contemporary R&B Album and Best Album of the Year at the 2009 Grammy Awards. His work has appeared in the *Billboard* Hot 100 many times.

board Hot 100 and numerous international charts, including Netherlands' Dutch Top 40.

Music is not the only platform on which he appears. He also has starred as a Guest Mentor on one of television's music competitions, *The X Factor*, and as a Guest Star on teen drama television series, *90210*.

The second single and second track on the album, "She Knows," features a verse by Juicy J. Along with R&B,

the song has a twist of trap, a genre that originated in the 1990s, which features some drums, synthesizers, and a fast tempo. The song immediately placed fourth on the US Billboard Rhythmic Chart and tenth on the US Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs Chart. Among iTunes listeners, it is the favorite of the 10 songs on the track list.

The sixth song on *Non-Fiction*, "Time of Our Lives," is a collabora-

tion with Pitbull, which originally appeared on Pitbull's eighth studio album *Globalization*, released in November 2014. "Time of Our Lives," is to be featured as the theme song for the film *Home* starring Rihanna, Jennifer Lopez, and Steve Martin, scheduled to be released in March. Pitbull contributes his rap-like edge to Ne-Yo's bluesy sound to create a dance-pop song that is sure to contribute to the success of this film. "Time of Our Lives" currently sits 3rd on the US Billboard Rhythmic Chart and third on US Billboard Hot Rap Songs Chart.

The eighth song on Ne-Yo's newest album is the third single, "Coming With You," released January 23. The song is an easy listen with a prominent use of synthesizers, which adds to the smooth sound. It is not too fast and not too slow. In fact, it reminds me of his 2012 song "Let Me Love You" as he uses similar phrasing and tempo.

Non-Fiction is an enjoyable listen that will please listeners, and it will add to the incredible international following he has gained ever since he launched his career a decade ago. It is a positive way to ease into 2015.

Sophomore Julia Chirls is a staff writer. Her email is jchirls@fandm.edu.

Review Rating:

A-

Non-Fiction is a wonderful edition to Ne-Yo's already successful career.

Whiplash flows masterfully, fluid in timing, pace, character

Chazelle's skillfull direction creates dark, emotional, film piece

Movie Review

Whiplash

by Nick Farinola

Whiplash is a movie that genuinely surprised me. I can easily say that I have never seen anything like this, but it is one of my favorite movies because of the amount of emotional depth. Originally a short film, *Whiplash* received much attention and was eventually funded for a cinema release. This jazz drama opens with Andrew Neimann (Miles Teller), a first-year student at the number one music school in the country. Andrew is a timid, yet brilliant drummer that is committed to his work. He is repeatedly scouted by Fletcher (J.K. Simmons), a mysterious, yet well-known composer at the university.

Fletcher eventually takes Andrew under his wing, but Fletcher's teaching habits are slightly unorthodox. Multiple scenes that show Fletcher throwing chairs, slapping, and verbally abusing his students often surpass cruelty. Fletcher believes that through degrading his students, they will become one

of the "greats." Andrew is seen throughout the movie struggling to be the best, even if it means abandoning his girlfriend and his past self. Watching Andrew plummet into insanity over his music is very disturbing, and there are scenes in which he plays the drums until he bleeds.

Whiplash has been nominated for five Academy Awards, including best picture and best supporting actor for Simmons. The acting in this film was truly beautifully done. Teller plays Andrew so passionately, and Simmons delivers a torturously emotional performance. The movie was written, filmed, and edited in ten weeks, and is the lowest budget film to ever be nominated for best picture. The drum sequences are phenomenal and most of them were actually played and recorded by Miles Teller himself. The way these actors dive deep into their roles is amazing and definitely deserves recognition.

Teller has played the drums since he was fifteen, so most of the scenes involved him playing until his hands actually bled on the drum set. In one particularly emotional

scene, Andrew attacks Fletcher on stage in front of a crowd for their recital. When J.K. Simmons and Miles Teller filmed this scene, Simmons broke a couple ribs when Teller tackled him down. During many of the drum sequences, Fletcher forces his drummers to play for hours until they got the part perfectly. Andrew and his classmates are constantly shown with bloody hands as Fletcher screams the worst obscenities in their ears. The determination is relentless and it is fully tangible as a viewer.

The film moved as quickly as the drum beats that Andrew plays. Many scenes were hard to watch because of the abusive, racist, homophobic, and cruel things that Fletcher says to his students to motivate them. I found myself disagreeing with Fletcher's motivational techniques, but it made for a great film that deserves best picture over any other film nominated because of its fluidity, great acting, and emotional scenes that left me awestruck by the time the credits rolled.

Whiplash is Chazelle's sophomore attempt at filmmaking and

some of the scenes in the film related closely to his and Teller's lives. In one scene, Andrew rushes to pick up his music and drives quickly through the streets to make it to the recital before Fletcher hands his part to someone else. Andrew is seen texting and frantic as he drives, until a truck sideswipes him, flipping his car over. When he was younger, Teller was in a devastating car crash, resulting in the scars on his face. Chazelle was in a car accident halfway through filming this movie as well. Everything is fast and fluid throughout this movie and it works so well that I was breathless by the conclusion on the film.

First-year Nick Farinola is a staff writer. His email is nfarinol@fandm.edu.

Review Rating:

A-

Whiplash is a well-paced, thought-provoking drama that is sure to leave a lasting impression.

Project Almanac flawed, but intriguing

Narrative captivates, surprises viewer

Movie Review

Project Almanac

by Brianne Simone

Meet the cast of *Project Almanac*: David Raskin, the MIT hopeful, his sister, Chris, and his friends Adam and Quinn. The entire cast is meant to be in their late-teens, though the oldest actor is actually in his early thirties and the youngest is twenty-two. These days what really matters is whether or not the actors can pass for the age they're trying to play and while they may not quite hit the mark physically, they convey the emotions and anxieties very well.

Project Almanac begins when David is making his application video with his friends and decides to send the video into MIT even after his project quite literally bursts into flames. Not being able to recognize a disaster when he sees one is important enough to David's character that it becomes the driving force of the plot about halfway through the film. David gets accepted to MIT with the extrapolation that he pay \$45,000 a semester, a price he can't afford. To solve the problem, his mother decides to sell the house and in his desperate attempt to find a way to come up with the money that doesn't involve selling the house he grew up in, David stumbles across his late father's time machine.

Then again, some might think it a little odd that the MIT applicant agrees to skip straight from testing on inanimate objects to testing on himself, his friends, his love interest, and his sister.

The kids get the time machine working and quickly decide they should use it to make their lives better. This means they take petty revenge on bullies, cheat on the lottery, and do crazy stunts that make them Twitter and Facebook famous. Then one of them breaks the only rule they have: Don't

travel alone.

The dialogue sounds natural. It's the gestures, however, that do the most to make you believe that it really is a bunch of teens interacting on the screen. David especially is prone to playing with his watch, rubbing his face, and bouncing his leg when he's nervous or excited. Out of the entire cast, he gets the chance to show the most range. Unfortunately, this also means the rest of the cast doesn't get as much of a chance to develop.

There really isn't a soundtrack per say to the movie (with the exception of a brief cameo appearance by Imagine Dragons and a few other popular bands). Most of the time, you can hear a sound like static or some sort of mechanical pulse and it can get a little distracting at times, especially since the unfocused camera moves often, leaving the audience feeling dizzy and disoriented. Shaky movement in a found footage film is a trademark of the genre but I didn't remember feeling quite so uncomfortable.

Whether or not you like the end is up to the individual person. Personally, I felt a mixture of shock, anger, and irritation. Despite its flaws, the effects and cinematography are excellent. If more time had been spent on building all of its characters and less on building the time machine, *Project Almanac* could have been a very good movie.

Senior Brianne Simone is a contributing writer. Her email is bsimone@fandm.edu.

Review Rating:

B-

Project Almanac has strong visual effects, but poor character development.

• New Releases •

Week of Monday, February 2

Music

Tuesday, Feb. 3



Bob Dylan
Shadows in the Night



Diana Krall
Wallflower



John Carpenter
Lost Themes



Butch Walker
Afraid of Ghosts

Movies

Friday, Feb. 6



Jupiter Ascending



Seventh Son



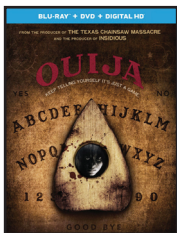
The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water



One Small Hitch

Blu-Ray

Tuesday, Feb. 3



Ouija



John Wick



Dear White People



Dracula Untold

Field hockey earns champion title for shutouts per game



photo courtesy of godiplomats.com

Field hockey set a record this fall for the highest shutout record, with shutouts in 57% of their contests. With their sixth winning season in a row, this is yet another accomplishment for Coach Mariano and the players.

BY SOPHIE AFDHAL
Sports Editor

It seems the stunning success of the F&M women's field hockey team this year has not come to end, even with the close of their season.

This fall the women made it to the Centennial Conference Championship and then received a bid and competed in the NCAA tournament, securing the first tournament win since 2011.

Last week, the NCAA conference announced that F&M was the statistical champion for shutouts per game.

In 57 percent of their contests, the Lady Dips held their oppo-

nents unable to score and achieved the best shutout average in the nation.

This average broke a record as they tallied 12 in 21 games as shutouts.

This would not be possible without the dedicated play of goalkeeper Allie Morey '15, who was delighted by the news of the award.

"This accomplishment isn't just about one person," said Morey, "Of course it reflects the hard work of the defense but also of the entire team. We were relentless this season and always played our hardest, leaving it all on the field."

Morey's credit of the whole team's performance is due in part to the team camaraderie and her positive experience.

"This fall was the greatest season I've ever had and it wasn't because of the win or shutouts, but because of my teammates and coaches," said Morey, "The team was energetic, cohesive, and hard-working. It's sad to think that I'll never play another game with these women but no one can take away the bonds and friendships we have."

The importance of player and team relationships tends to be an important hallmark in campus athletics and the field hockey team

appears to be no exception.

Leadership of coaches helps to cultivate this dynamic and because of Coach Mariano, Morey remains confident in the future of the team and their performance.

"Moving forward, I think the team will continue to do well and thrive under the guidance of Coaches Mariano, Hamilton, and Howard," said Morey, "They know the game so well and they know how to push and inspire their players. I am extremely excited to watch the current first year goalie, Ashley, play. She is an amazing teammate, friend, and woman and I know she'll do very well next year."

The team has a great deal of momentum to keep them going into next year as they reflect on one of their most successful seasons in history.

This was their sixth winning season in a row and their third consecutive Centennial Conference Championship game.

The women also captured their first NCAA tournament win since 2011 this year.

While Morey anticipates strong success for the future of the team, the college should take note of the impressive series of accolades that the field hockey team has already garnered.

Field hockey has established themselves as one of the college's strongest athletic programs and we eagerly wait to see where next fall's season takes them.

Senior Sophie Afdhal is the Sports Editor. Her email is safdhal@fandm.edu.

March: Emergence of alternate contenders provides intrigue



photos courtesy of sportsonearth.com

The Duke Blue Devils are angling for a win this season but it is the emergence of the Virginia Cavaliers, who have won 19 straight games, that is truly exciting.

continued from page 10

season will prove detrimental to the team come March and puts their national title hopes in a more precarious situation than many previously anticipated.

The Duke Blue Devils came into this season with equally as much hype and looked to be the only team capable of challenging Kentucky.

Boasting the number one recruiting class in the country, including number one recruit Jahliil Okafor, Coach K, who was pushing towards his thousandth career win (which he achieved a week ago Sunday), and the Blue Devils seemed prime for a title run. The Blue Devils came out swinging this season, winning impressively in many tough games in-

cluding Michigan State, Connecticut, and a very impressive road win against then number two ranked Wisconsin. The Blue Devils rolled into conference play undefeated and looked like the team everyone expected them to be. However, they suffered two hiccups in a row including two double-digit losses to unranked foes North Carolina State and Miami. They then rebounded with a big win on the road against Louisville, but their invincible reputation had already been severely harmed. People now wonder which is the real Duke team: the one who went on the road to beat Wisconsin or the team who lost to two unranked opponents in a row. It will be an interesting thing to watch as we head towards the tournament.

The emergence of other contenders has made this season even more interesting. The Virginia Cavaliers (19-0) have come out of the blocks firing on all cylinders and have won 19 straight games to start the season. Their defense is regarded

as the best in the country and has really separated the team from the pack. This tough defense has made the Cavaliers a dark horse to win the national championship game and many believe they are on their way to doing so. However, with tough tests coming up with the likes of Duke, North Carolina, and Louisville, it will be interesting to see whether Virginia is a contender or pretender come March.

With Kentucky, Duke, and Virginia leading the pack as far as national title favorites go, many others could enter the picture. Teams such as Gonzaga, Wisconsin, Arizona, and Notre Dame all are alive and well and seem very capable of making a run themselves. With all these contenders and so much basketball yet to be played, there is only one question left: Can March Madness get here soon enough?

First-year Joseph Giordano is a Contributing Writer. His email is jgiordano1@fandm.edu.

It's never too early to speculate about March Madness and this year is likely to be a toss up. See page 10.


photo courtesy of gstatic.com

Franklin & Marshall women's field hockey team continues excellence by setting shutout record. Read on... page 9

Franklin & Marshall Sports

Basketball secures important Gettysburg Conference win

BY BEN FINKELSTEIN
Contributing Writer

The F&M men's basketball team overcame recent losses to Dickinson College and McDaniel College to defeat Centennial Conference Rivals Gettysburg College 70-48 this past Saturday. The result boosts the Diplomats' record to 16-2 overall (9-2 Conference) while the Bullets dropped to 11-7 overall, 7-4 in the Conference.

Conference teams placed the Diplomats under fire after two consecutive losses, both coming in Centennial Conference action, but quickly rebounded with a two game win streak with victories against Haverford and Gettysburg. The turnaround puts F&M evenly matched in second place with Dickinson in the Centennial Conference (both teams at 9-2) while Johns Hopkins remains top at 10-1. All three teams also happen to share the same overall record of 16-2, shedding light on the potential the Diplomats possess as Conference Championship contenders.

Not once in the entirety of the game did the Diplomats lose the lead, remaining in the lead long after a 6-0 drive to start the game led by team captain and Morgan Lee '15 who shot fifty percent from the floor and held the game-high 20 points. The Diplomats remained in charge throughout the entirety of the first half, storming ahead later with an exceptional performance



photo courtesy of godiplomats.com
The basketball team gained ground this week in conference competition by defeating Gettysburg after a series of unfortunate losses against Dickinson and McDaniel.

from Hunter Eggers '17. Eggers came off the bench midway through the first half to deliver 8 points from 4-7 shooting. The sophomore guard also provided some defensive prowess with two steals and a block.

Lee delivered the standout offensive performance for F&M as team and Conference scoring leader Brandon Federici '18 was held to only 13 points thanks to the stubborn Gettysburg defense. Adding an additional 3 offensive rebounds and a couple of assists, Lee was a presence

in the paint, finding success often as he drove to the basket time and time again. The Bullets had no answer for Lee, who averages 15.4 points a game and stands fifth in scoring in the Centennial Conference. Cedric Mouné '15 continued his fine run of defensive form as he snagged a career-high 17 rebounds, raising his average to just over 10 rebounds per game. Mouné also added an additional 9 points to the Diplomats scoresheet.

Brandon Federici, who has drawn local and even national attention

thanks to his impressive scoring ability, was unfortunate to see Gettysburg defense close down on the three-point line, suppressing his knack for the three ball. Federici shot only 2 for -5?? from behind the arch, but still made his offensive presence known as he scored second-most of any Diplomat that night, raising his overall tally to a resounding 354 points on the season (another Conference-leading statistic). Federici continues to lead the Centennial Conference scoring leaderboard, averaging 19.7 points a game, a number larger than that of any player of any class from any school in the Conference. Additionally, Federici sits at 29th in the nation for scoring: an indescribable feat for a freshman to achieve.

"We're very confident now, coming off of a few unfortunate losses its huge to grab a win like this. All we can do is take it game by game and get the results that we need," said Federici, when asked about the significance of the win,

The Diplomats return to action at home this Wednesday, February 4th at 8 PM.

They will face off against Johns Hopkins where the Dips will look to gain some ground in the Conference.

Ben Finkelstein is a Contributing Writer. His email is bfinkels@fandm.edu.

College basketball March Madness speculation begins



photos courtesy of espn.go.com
Popular opinion supported University of Kentucky and Duke University as forerunners for the National Championships but there are several strong new contenders.

BY JOSEPH GIORDANO
Contributing Writer

Before the start of this year's college basketball season, when asked,

any basketball analyst would have predicted the same teams for the National Championship: Kentucky and Duke.

It was a forgone conclusion that these two college heavyweights would clash on April 6 inside Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis for the title and that the rest of the season should just skip ahead to this highly anticipated matchup. However, after three months of play, this perfect matchup may not be as much a foregone conclusion as it was considered to be before the season began. Troubles with these two teams combined with many other wildcard contenders making their way into mix provided college basketball an exciting race towards March.

The Kentucky team came into the season with an incredible amount of hype. Their platoon system, in which they rotate sets of five players in and out the game, would go on to create problems for any team in the country and the Wildcats would surely be on their way towards a national title. This strong

combination of talented freshmen and upperclassmen were branded as the one of the greatest college basketball teams ever without even playing a game. While Kentucky, currently (19-0), is still unblemished, many problems arose from this young and talented squad. First, there was a devastating injury to star forward Alex Poythress, who Kentucky lost for the season, which really hurt Kentucky's outstanding depth and weakened their frontcourt. Next, there were two very close calls to lesser teams such as Ole Miss, whom they beat in overtime, and Texas A&M, whom they beat in double overtime. Some suggest that while Kentucky is still winning Southeastern conference games the lack of depth in the SEC presents many problems for the undefeated Wildcats. Many believe the lack of a true test in the regular

see MARCH, page 9