



# The College Reporter

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## Harvard University sued for alleged discrimination against Asian-American applicants



Photo courtesy of seo.harvard.edu

**Harvard University is shown to have a consistent history of rating Asian-American applicants lower on personality traits, such as likeability and kindness.**

**BY GRACE LEWIS**

*Contributing Writer*

A non-profit organization entitled Students for Fair Admissions has filed suit against Harvard University. The claim is against the admission department for actively discriminating against Asian-Americans regarding their undergraduate applications. In studies by the plaintiff, evidence shows that the Asian-American applicants exceeded what was necessary to be admitted based on objective measures, such as grades, test scores, and extra curriculars (CNN).

However, Asian-Americans were consistently rated low in “personality traits” such as kindness, courage, and ambition—greatly decreasing the chances of their admittance into the school. This may seem just a coincidence, but the study showed that these personality ratings are consistently low, despite alumni interviewers giving applicants high marks in character (New York Times). Without these seemingly attractive character qualities, the acceptance

rate for Asian-Americans has been decreasing greatly, more so every year, for the past twenty years (The Washington Examiner). The study also found that if one applicant of a different race had applied with the same qualifications as one of the Asian-American candidate who had applied, the admittance rate for the different races would be as followed: 25% chance of being admitted if they were Asian, a 35% chance if they were Caucasian, a 75% chance if they were Latino, and a 95% chance if they were African American (The Washington Examiner).

Harvard University claims that it is “deeply committed” to a strongly “diverse” student body (Harvard Gazette). Despite this claim, in 2013, the University conducted an internal study of its admissions department and found a strong bias towards Asian-Americans. This investigation concluded that if academics were the only important part of being admitted, the student population would be 43.4% Asian, rather than the actual 19% (The Washington

Examiner). In order to have these numbers, the University would have to artificially cap the number of Asian-Americans they admit into the school in order to seemingly progress the admissions of “less eligible” applicants of other races. This “racial balancing” would keep minority populations in some sort of controlled manner by having this many people of one race and that many of another.

Controlled count of race is in violation of Section VI of the Civil Rights Act which does not allow discrimination based on “race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance” (CNN). Harvard University has received at least \$550.5 million in federal funds (Harvard University). Harvard is not the only university seemingly using this type of racial bias in its admissions process. Right next door, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been found to have similar statistics with racial discrimination as Harvard (Washington Examiner). The

non-profit filing the suit has also claimed that more than 100 other universities use the same kind of methods in their college admissions (Newsweek).

As this case moves closer towards court, more and more support has come out in favor of the university. Briefs have been filed and submitted in favor of Harvard’s admission style by groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Asian American Defense and Education Fund, along with over 500 social scientists. These groups and others say that the case is an attack on attempting to diversify and include every race in the process of higher education (Harvard Gazette). The case will begin trial in the next coming months; the university is in favor of starting the trial as soon as possible. However, the plaintiff is insistent on not wanting to start trial until after October 1st. (CNN).

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The Onion Dip:  
The College Reporter's satirical column

We are definitely not a hotel

BY THERESA FIUMEFREDDO

Satirical Columnist

When you're a first-year, one of the first questions you ask a fellow first-year is: "What house are you in?" If you get a response of "Brooks," you feel bad, if you get "Bonchek," "Ware," or "Weis," you have a sense of appreciation. But, the second a person responds "New, what about you?", your blood begins to boil so intensely with anger because you don't have the same extravagances. You choose to stick your nose up and most likely never talk to this person again.

There are so many misconceptions about New College House. Just because the building looks like a hotel doesn't mean the residents receive a daily spa treatment! The bathrooms have individual, large toilet/shower combinations, so it's nowhere near as luxurious as an actual spa. Also, the dorm rooms are so spacious that it's too easy to lose something; who wants that? Plus, having full access to an elevator is an awful idea because then you don't get nearly as much exercise.

People in New College House also aren't as snobby as people are led to believe. New residents love to visit other houses because of how quaint they are. Some HAs even tell their residents that they will force them to

visit other college houses! An anonymous HA is quoted threatening a student: "Behave better, or I will send you to the basement of Brooks." Little visits here and there are necessary for a cultural awakening.

Another major problem with New College House is all of the opportunities for free food. With "Milk and Cookie Monday's," "Bagel Breakfast Thursday's," and "Friday Night Movie Nights," residents almost never have to use meal swipes! Being constantly fed is such a nuisance because then students never feel unsatisfied; they deserve to feel just like every other first year.

A positive resident of Brooks, Jeremy Mauser, says the following about New College House: "If the residents are half as fancy as their common room, then I'm surprised that they're willing to grace our lives with their presence." It is such an honor to be able to lift the spirits of a first-year with a surprise!

New College House doesn't deserve all of the critique it receives. It's just as wonderful as every other house, and it's definitely not better. All of the houses are equal, and nothing separates New from the rest.

First-year Theresa Fiumefreddo is a satirical columnist. Her email is [tfiumefr@fandm.edu](mailto:tfiumefr@fandm.edu)

CRIME WATCH

Saturday, September 15, 12:00am - The Department of Public Safety (DPS) cited an intoxicated student at the 400 block of James St

Saturday, September 15, 10:41pm - DPS cited an intoxicated student at Williamson parking lot

Saturday, September 15, 11:38pm - DPS apprehended non-students attempting to steal a bike at 534 W James St

Saturday, September 15 - DPS received a report of a student's vehicle being stolen from College Hill parking lot

Sunday, September 16, 12:21am - DPS received a loud noise complaint on College Row

Sunday, September 16, 1:45am - DPS performed a wellbeing check on a student at W Frederick and N Mary

Sunday, September 16, 2:00am - DPS cited a student for marijuana possession on Ben Franklin

Sunday, September 16, 6:44pm - DPS received a report of a hit and run at 400 College Ave

Sunday, September 16, 8:30pm - DPS performed a wellbeing check on a student at Williamson parking lot

Sunday, September 16, 9:19pm - DPS performed a wellbeing check on a student at New College House

Monday, September 17, 5:19pm - DPS apprehended two non-students stealing a student's cell phone from Shadek Library

Monday, September 17, 11:39pm - DPS performed a wellbeing check on a student at W James

Monday, September 17 - DPS received a report of a sexual assault that occurred on September 1

Tuesday, September 18, 8:22am - DPS received a report of an employee PFA violation

Tuesday, September 18, 6:33pm - DPS responded to a trespassing violation at Armstrong Field

Wednesday, September 19, 3:30pm - DPS received a report from the dining services regarding criminal mischief

Thursday, September 20, 1:11am - DPS cited an intoxicated student at Ware College House

Thursday, September 20, 7:12pm - DPS responded to a trespassing violation at Armstrong Field

Full Staff Opinion

This Wednesday, F&M is putting on it's second annual Day of Dialogue. The day includes events, panels and speakers that will all encourage us to ask the question of in what ways do our individual identities interact to create the shared identity of being an F&M student. It is vital that all students attend Day of Dialogue. It is a day not only for intellectual growth but also for an increased understanding of major issues that affect us all. Below are a few examples of sessions being held throughout the day; we encourage you to visit [fandm.edu](http://fandm.edu) to view the full schedule.

**Beyond bumper stickers and safety pins: Becoming an effective ally** (LSP 138, 3:45PM - 4:45PM)  
*"How might allies work most effectively towards inclusivity and against injustice, without undermining the work of underrepresented groups? In this session, attendees will examine and discuss, through a series of small-group exercises, the definition of allyship..."*

**Boricua Lancaster: Our City is Increasingly Puerto Rican and Why This Fact Matters** (Stager 215, 11:30AM - 12:30PM)  
*"Puerto Ricans (Boricuas) make up over 30% of Lancaster's population. In this session, we challenge participants to re-envision the "face" of our city, especially as the Puerto Rican community increases in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. We hope to forge a bridge between F&M students, staff, and faculty and the Latino community in order to foster a shared sense of belonging..."*

**Diversity Portraits** (Roschel Lobby 2:30-3:30PM, 3:34-4:45PM)  
*"In a two-part participatory session, stop by, get your picture taken, and help create a mosaic mural that visualizes the many dimensions of diversity on campus!"*

**You Don't Really Have a Black Friend** (Black Cultural Center, 11:30am-12:30pm)  
*"In this session, we will dismantle the notion of "having a black friend" as a way to excuse oneself of implicit bias in thoughts and actions, and then examine what it means to actively aid that friend in the systematic and everyday hardships that come with being a person of color. Through small group discussions, we will reflect on the ways in which you can support your black friends and the black community here at F&M and at large."*

**Hyper-masculinity** (Stager 112, 2:30PM - 3:30PM)  
*"The main goal of this session is to educate both men and women about hypermasculinity and its effects on individuals. Hypermasculinity is the exaggeration of stereotypical male behavior such as aggression, physical strength, and sexuality. Hypermasculine behavior negatively affects not only women but also men. Hypermasculinity encourages violence and sex with multiple women usually with disregard to emotions..."*

Blurbs courtesy of [fandm.edu](http://fandm.edu).

Sincerely,  
TCR Editing Staff

Opinion & Editorial

Contributing Writer Commentary

First-year comments on importance of midterm elections in US

BY JEREMY MAUSER

Contributing Writer

Even if you don't care about politics, you've probably heard about the "importance of the upcoming midterm elections" and an imminent "blue wave." But what does that all mean? How does this affect us at F&M? And, most importantly, why should we care?

The midterms are elections that take place two years before or after every Presidential election. Currently, Republicans hold a slim majority over Democrats in the U.S. Senate. Their 51 seats over the Democrat's 47 seats and 2 independent seats give them more power in Congress, but this has the potential to change in November.

However, most Americans don't realize that the Democrats actually have the most to lose in this election season. According to Ballotpedia, Democrats are defending 25 seats while Republicans only have to defend 8—and 10 of these Democratic seats are in states that favored President Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton in the 2016 Election.

So what must happen for a "blue wave" to occur? The exact definition can vary depending on the year, but

a wave election typically involves the minority party making significant gains against the party of the President. So even though the details are debatable, it is safe to say that a blue wave will have occurred if Republicans lose 7 U.S. Senate seats and 48 U.S. House of Representatives seats.

The Democratic Party has history on its side, as the President's party traditionally performs poorly in the first midterm after his inauguration (just look at how the Senate turned red in 2010). But at the same time, the Democratic Party seems to do best when they're not comfortable—their post-Bush efforts served them well in 2008, but their confidence in electing the first female President made them lose an election with a surprising result.

And who will be representing each party in the most important elections? Pennsylvania is a battleground for many crucial seats, from the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, to State Governor, to over 200 State Senate/House of Representatives elections.

Incumbent Democratic Senator Bob Casey will be fighting for his third term against Republican Lou Barletta. Casey's priorities include protecting

small businesses and healthcare, while Barletta's focuses are for cutting taxes and eliminating sanctuary cities.

Governor Tom Wolf is another incumbent Democrat whose position is at risk. He will face Republican Scott Wagner on November 6, promising to continue improving education within the state while Wagner hopes to trim Pennsylvania's unemployment rate.

Both Casey and Wolf hold double-digit leads against their conservative competitors, according to Real Clear Politics, but the only poll that truly matters is the one that will take place on November 6.

On a smaller scale, a campaign that is taking the region by storm is that of Democrat Jess King. King is running a grass-roots campaign against Republican incumbent Lloyd Smucker for Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District, which includes Lancaster. The area is very red and Smucker's campaign has more money, but either candidate could win the race on Election Day.

So how can you learn more about the election? The easiest way is probably researching each candidate's views on their personal web sites, which you can find by googling the name. You can also search for news

stories about the candidates, and once the election itself gets closer, I recommend checking the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania's (PALWV) online voting guide, which lets you compare each candidate side-by-side.

And if you want to stay informed on important issues, I recommend two apps: Brigade, which focuses more on activism and fighting for change, and Countable, a nonpartisan app that explains current bills and controversial issues, as well as how your representatives are voting.

If it turns out that you are dissatisfied with what's going on in Washington, or even if you are content with the state of the country, the most effective thing you can do is vote; keep good politicians in office, and kick the bad ones out.

Because there's only so much that political tweets and verbal debates can do. November 6 is an important day, and the next two years will be determined by one thing: your vote. You have a voice that can shape the political atmosphere of the country, and this is your chance to use it.

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Kavanaugh's judgement: Supreme Court nominee needs to be held accountable for actions

BY GRACE LEWIS

Contributing Writer

In the wake of the #MeToo and Times Up initiatives, our world is slowly but surely becoming a place where sexual misconduct and assault are not allowed and are punishable. Celebrities and politicians have been exposed as more and more men and women have come forward revealing their experiences with sexual assault. Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh now finds himself under fire after a former classmate, by the name of Professor Christine Blasey Ford, accused him of attempted rape during a party in their high school days. Kavanaugh along with his nominator, President Trump, have denied the allegations. The Supreme Court nominee released a statement saying, "I categorically and unequivocally deny this allegation. I did not do this back in high school or at any time" (CNN).

Despite Kavanaugh's constant denials of his past actions, the accusation itself deems to be very credible. To add to the great detail of the accusation, Ford both passed a polygraph examination and mentioned the incident in a couples therapy session back in 2012 about how two boys at a party in high school held her down, covered her mouth

to prevent her from screaming, and groped her (The Washington Post).

The Republican Party is now trying to paint this accusation as a false attack at Kavanaugh's character as he is possibly about to be appointed to a lifetime position that could have a significant impact on the fate of our country. Kavanaugh's nomination is now in question, and Republicans are trying to continue the confirmation process with seemingly little pause due to the accusations. Democrats on the other hand are insisting that the hearing, which is supposed to take place this coming Monday, September 24th, be pushed back to allow time for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to look into Blasey Ford's claim (CNN).

The question remains, if Kavanaugh's nomination is still intact, do we want to have someone who was even accused of sexual assault given the power of a Supreme Court Justice? Do we want him to have the ability and power to repeal cases and precedents that, for example, discuss what should happen if a woman becomes pregnant after she is raped? After the past few years in seeing how different celebrities are treated after being accused of sexual misconduct and their practical banning from their industry, such as Harvey Weinstein and Kevin Spacey, shouldn't we hold the same

precedent for the people who help govern our country?

Sexual misconduct is something everyone has been affected by in our society whether they realize it or not. Progress is being made, as seen in the initiatives such as the ones mentioned in the beginning of this article. But if Kavanaugh's nomination goes through, we as a society would be taking several steps back. Having a Supreme Court Justice that has been accused of

sexual assault essentially says that his actions were okay and opens up the door for future problems in normalizing sexual assault. Our society must work together in continuing to eradicate the constant plague of sexual assault, and in doing that, we must hold those who are guilty accountable for their actions.

First-year Grace Lewis is a Contributing Writer. Her email is [glewis@fandm.edu](mailto:glewis@fandm.edu).



Photo courtesy of People Magazine

This week, Professor Christine Blasey Ford accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault from an incident in high school. This comes at a time where accountability for sexual harrassment has taken center stage.



# Campus Life

## Nilanjana Dasgupta presents at Common Hour on female success in STEM

BY MAYA WORKOWSKI  
Contributing Writer

Nilanjana Dasgupta spoke to Franklin & Marshall College on Thursday, September 20th about the vital role mentors have on students entering a field, specifically STEM: a field that is dominated by white, cisgender men. Her guiding question was to examine the effect of STEM mentors on students and what causes the differences between the ratios between men and women who succeed in STEM fields. And instantly the audience is forced to grapple with the intersectionalities of sociology, politics, and science.

Her data show that in high school and middle school, boys and girls performed the same on standardized tests, but in college, women choose non-STEM majors. Why does this happen and why does it matter that women are not choosing STEM? It turns out that these are some of the fastest growing and highest-paying jobs, so breaking into these fields also helps women and minorities overcome some sociological and economic barriers. The choices that students make in what to study are largely a function of who they see already excelling in that field and are not necessarily as “free” as they might be thought to be.

Dasgupta continued to say that jobs in STEM act as “social vaccines” that provide immunity against social homogeneity in the

lab. The leaders that students see in their fields of interest impact their motivations to get there too and to be actively engaged. This is impactful for students who are of racial and gender minorities, which Dasgupta supported with her own data figures. The dream suddenly “seems plausible because they can follow the storyline... and there is connection, self-identification.” The success of professionals who the students can identify with undercuts the stigma around that demographic’s involvement because the evidence of prosperity is explicit.

Dasgupta’s research focused specifically on women in STEM but is generalizable to first-generation students and students of racial minorities. The research team has tested the social vaccine model in different ways, but here is one method they used:

A Calculus class with standardized variables (e.g. the same tests, the participants unaware of the true hypothesis, teachers did not know which student’s test they were grading) was broken into small sections

They measured attitudes towards math and english both explicitly and implicitly. (In this case, the attitudes are inferred. The students would classify the words as quickly as they could→ Dasgupta said, “if you love math, positive associations will help you perform a task because the task is consistent with your affinities. Negative associations interfere



Photos courtesy of umass.edu

Nilanja Dasgupta spoke on the effect of mentors to help the gender gap in STEM fields and how to encourage more women to choose this field in the future.

with math word matching task.”) Implicit liking of a subject depends on whether the female students have a male or female instructor. This was statistically significant for women, but results were unchanged for men.

The students were also asked to predict how well they thought they would do in the class, which is a proxy for confidence. In every of 15 sections, women out-performed men on tests, which suggests that “confidence is fragile, not ability.”

Implicit attitudes about engineering were also affected by whether a sample was instructed by women. Dasgupta’s research supported that “the more the students identified with the women, the more confident they felt, which in turn affected how likely they were to pursue engineering in college.”

Peers can also act as social vaccines: new students have worries about finding their place. As college students, we all know that the first year in an unfamiliar place is the hardest. Everything is changing rapidly, and you are expected to excel in all aspects of your life. If a students are undergoing social stress, that is likely to impact whether or not they choose to stay in a STEM-related field. In other words, we need to “insert interventions at times of transition. Timing matters.”

Because timing is so crucial for encouraging diversity in STEM, Dasgupta and her research team also wanted to find out if the gender of a 1st or 2nd year’s peer mentor matters in terms of self-identification and inspiration to continue in a STEM field. Through “explicit surveys”, Dasgupta found out that

if variables such as mentor performance level and availability for mentee were held constant, the variable that fluctuated was how close to their mentor a student felt, which dramatically affected women’s confidence and feeling of belonging in STEM. This feeling of belonging is critical for students to stay on an academic path.

For students without mentors, their confidence dropped sharply after a year, and so did their desire to pursue graduate school for engineering.

One year later after the mentorship had ended, these trends either remained constant or became accentuated and the women’s interest in engineering remained constant. Thus, peers also have the social vaccine affect.

So, how do we achieve gender diversity in STEM? The first thing is to find a professional with whom a student can identify. Secondly, it helps to have a peer mentor to be “open about experiences with” and to normalize experiences that might seem stressful for incoming students. The third aspect is to integrate different demographic groups in group work. If the students are clustered with a few others with whom they can identify, it will give them confidence to speak up.

Oftentimes in science classes it isn’t that male students are always right, it’s that they speak with confidence because they were socialized to do so. Confidence for marked demographics in class depends on whether students feel as though they belong.

First-year Maya Workowski is a Contributing Writer. Her email is mworkows@fandm.edu.

## Women writers visit Writers House, open discussion on book, *This is the Place*

BY CAROLINE MARTIN  
Contributing Writer

Last Thursday, September 20th, three award-winning female authors, Kelly McMasters, Hasanthika Sirisena, and Sonya Chung visited the Philadelphia Alumni Writers House here at Franklin & Marshall College. The hour-long chat discussed an anthology on which the three collaborated titled, *This Is The Place: Women Writing About Home*, as well as their own various independent projects.

The discussion started precisely at 7:30 pm, with students and Lancaster residents lounging in comfy chairs and couches inside the Writers House. The authors’ books were available for students to take for free. In the cozy, dim-lighted room, the conversation began.

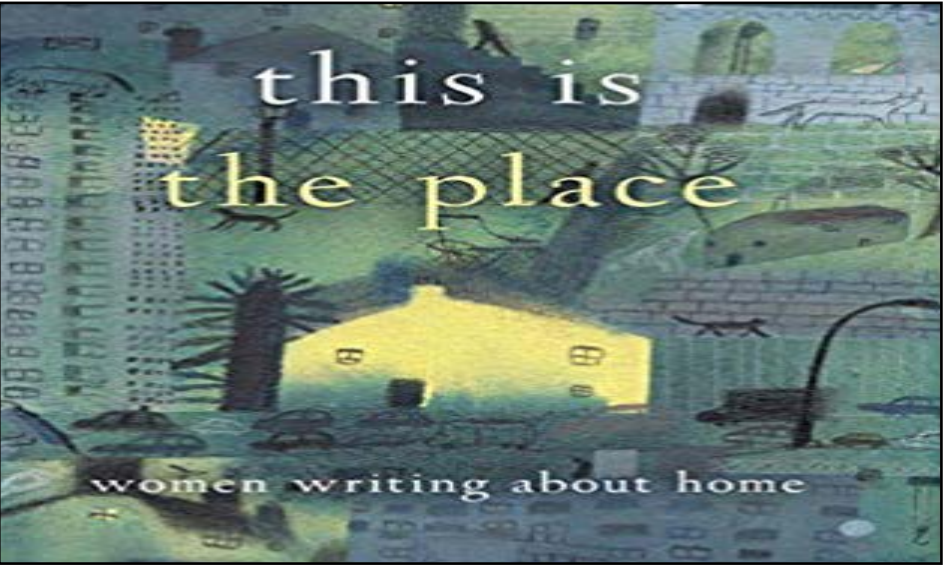
The event kicked off with the Associate Professor of Art History, Kostis Kourelis making a brief but impactful introduction. He remarked about how talented these women are and how he made it a clear point to include their writing into his current History of Architecture curriculum.

Kelly McMasters, a former visiting professor at Franklin & Marshall, spoke first. She talked about the history behind *This Is The Place: Women Writing About Home*, and how it was “born” here at F&M, as it was when she was a professor here that she came

across this idea. She described that the anthology was about various women describing their homes and specific stories about each one. They range from topics about diversity, feminism, poverty, and divorce.

McMasters read aloud a small portion of her essay titled, *The Leaving Season*. It is her personal essay that deals with her past relationship struggles and feeling out of place in her previous home. Her emotional story of viewing deer being brutally butchered, and her experience as a female surrounding by males in the South resonated with the crowd.

The next writer to take the stage was Sonya Chung. Chung, primarily a fiction writer, said that she had an intense yearning to join the anthology. She read part of her essay as well, titled *Size Matters*. Chung wrote about her tiny 450 square feet apartment in New York City that she shares with another person and two dogs. Despite the compactness of the living quarters, she described the apartment as her true home. Her essay in *This Is The Place: Women Writing About Home* deals with her traumatic childhood, and how her colossal childhood house allowed her plenty of room to isolate and to succumb to loneliness. Sonya Chung’s recent fiction novel was also brought up, titled *The Loved Ones*, which deals with a group of incredibly diverse people



Photos courtesy of amazon.com

Three female authors, Kelly McMasters, Hasanthika Sirisena, and Sonya Chung visited the Writers House to discuss their book, *This is the Place*.

ple in an unforgiving time, as well as the concept of a home.

Finally, the last to speak was Hasanthika Sirisena, who is currently a professor of creative nonfiction at Susquehanna University. Similar to Chung, she mainly writes fiction. Her essay in the anthology talks about her immigration as a little girl from Sri Lanka to North Carolina. A skilled speaker and writer, she mentioned her mother’s first time attending a Christian church as a Buddhist.

She also wrote about social issues that were occurring during that time in the 1980’s, including sexism, racism, and what it means to be a feminist. Chung constantly had the audience captivated with her intriguing stories and humor.

When the ladies finished their

talks, they graciously hung around and answered questions from the audience. These questions ranged all the way from their individual writing processes to events directly referenced in their essays. McMasters, Chung, and Sirisena dazzled the crowd with beautiful storytelling and personal stories that tugged at heartstrings.

The next Writers House event is scheduled on October 3rd from 7:30 to 8:30. It features Kory Stamper, a lexicographer who worked for Merriam-Webster for approximately twenty years. Stamper will be discussing her book *Word by Word: The Secret Life of Dictionaries*, which was recently published in 2017.

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## Upcoming Day of Dialogue to promote meaningful conversations on campus

BY ABBY DOTTERER  
Contributing Writer

The “Day of Dialogue” on Wednesday is an all-day event which will strive to “continue to create and elicit community members to engage, not only in meaningful conversations towards increased inclusivity and equity on campus, but also in initiatives and activities to effect that change we want,” says Day of Dialogue Committee Co-Chairs, Professor Alexis Castor and Professor Jorge Mena-Ali.

In order to accomplish this goal, also “to recognize our diversity, our commonalities, and our relationships with one another,” according to the College’s website, there are several workshops being hosted on topics including “Gender and Identity Across Languages and Cultures,” “Guns in America,” and “Let’s Talk About Title IX.”

A major part of the Day is the Keynote Speaker. This Day of Dialogue’s is Nilaja Sun Gordon ‘96 who is an “actress and playwright who has used her singular talent to express her humanity, to bring people together, and to raise aware-

ness of critical social issues,” says the College’s webpage on the Day. Gordon is the author of an Obie Award-Winning, one woman performance titled “No Child...” which ran off-Broadway from 2006 to 2007. This performance addresses issues challenged daily within the New York City Public School System including violence and race.

Other workshops throughout the day include “Beyond Bumper Stickers and Safety Pins: Be(com)ing an Effective Ally” which will examine and discuss “definition of allyship, the limitations to the social justice work that allies can effectively do, the common pitfalls that allies may fall into in their attempts to effectively work towards social justice and inclusivity, and the various proposed practices to effect appropriate allyship,” according to the session’s description. This session will take place at 3:45 P.M. in LSP 138.

Another session titled “Representing Race on Stage” invites and provokes participants to engage critically with the ethics and stakes of race representation in theatrical spaces. The session will be at 2:30 P.M. in Stager 215.

As co-chairs, Castor and Mena-Ali “coordinated the various aspects of planning such a significant event. Clearly, this work involves including people from different constituencies of the College, with students, faculty and staff all contributing their expertise, perspective and time working towards this common goal. From finding suitable spaces, to recruiting volunteers for facilitated discussions, to working with session organizers to generate a wide range of topics, the committee’s dedication is what made this endeavor work.”

The first Day of Dialogue was planned in 1991, “when students and faculty were concerned about race relations on campus and called for campus-wide discussion,” says the two co-chairs. “Similar concerns about diversity in race, socio-economic class, and gender circulated on campus in 2014-5, and, once again, students, faculty, and administrators thought this massive community attention to challenges in our community would be valuable. Again, faculty voted to suspend classes one Wednesday in the Fall and it was held in October 2016.

The response was largely positive and faculty voted to hold a [Day of Dialogue] every two years.”

Mena-Ali’s experience with the 2016 Day of Dialogue can be described as this: “it was tangible evidence that F&M truly is a special place, an institution that is willing to spend time and effort to constantly assess the issues that affects us and to find ways to improve over time, an institution that truly embodies inclusive excellence as part of our core values.”

For recommendations on which sessions to attend, co-chairs Castor and Mena-Ali say, “This is a tough one—we have such an amazing array of sessions scheduled for the day than choosing one or a few in particular would be impossible. What [we] suggest in choosing potential sessions is to focus on topics that you may not be very familiar with, or that may push you a little bit outside of your comfort zone; that is where meaningful learning often takes place.”

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The College Reporter was formed in 1964, as a successor to The Student Weekly, which was formed in 1915 by the union of The F&M Weekly, founded 1891, and The College Student, founded 1881. The crest of The College Reporter was designed in 2004 by Kim Cortes '05.

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# Arts & Leisure

## Actresses Anna Kendrick, Blake Lively shine in new drama-thriller *A Simple Favor*

BY AMANDA LEONARD  
*Contributing Writer*

During the one hour and fifty-nine minute run-time of this movie, *all* of my wigs flew. *A Simple Favor* stars Anna Kendrick as Stephanie, a hands-on and enthusiastic single mom who runs a “mommy blog.” She meets Emily (Blake Lively) at her first-grade son Miles’ school. The two quickly become best friends, and just a few weeks later she puts all of that enthusiasm into uncovering the truth behind Emily’s sudden disappearance. Emily asks Stephanie to do “a simple favor” by watching her son Nicky... and she never returns. Stephanie then has to deal with becoming a quasi “second-mom” to Nicky, the law enforcement questioning Emily’s seemingly nice husband Sean and discovering that she didn’t know nearly as much about Emily as she thought she did. One of the things most appreciated about this film was that the plot seamlessly blends genres together. Its subject matter lends itself to being a drama/thriller, but at

other times you’ll be dying laughing or gritting your teeth and covering your eyes. It’s exciting, funny, dramatic, shocking, cringey and thought-provoking all at the same time. And let me tell you, there are some *major* twists and turns that will come out of nowhere, shake everything up and snatch all of the audience members’ wigs. Additionally, the dynamic between Lively and Kendrick’s characters stands out from the very beginning of the film. The two women seem to be an extremely unlikely pair at first, with Stephanie being a single stay-at-home mom and Emily having a high-power career and rebellious nature. Watching their relationship go from a semi-awkward playdate encounter between two school parents into a full-fledged power duo in just the first twenty minutes is a real treat. Each actress pulls off her respective character’s personalities and quirks extremely well, all while interacting with each other in a way that feels organic and relatable. Their initial conversations really illustrate what it feels



Photo courtesy ofcinemnews.be.  
*A Simple Favor* stars Anna Kendrick and Blake Lively.

like to get to know someone with whom you’ll end up being really close. Without spoiling the film for those who have yet to see it, there is an instance when Stephanie discloses something pretty scandalous about her past that in turn debunks her perfect-mom image and allows her and Emily to relate to each other even more. The film also has a stylish, edgy quality that’s almost *The Devil Wears Prada*-esque, which gives it a really contemporary and fresh feel. What both Stephanie and Emily wear throughout the film does

wonders for their characterizations and effectively highlights the contrast between both characters’ styles and personalities. The added aspect of Stephanie’s updates about the case on her blog adds to this feel and brings up the question of what is “too much” when it comes to sharing online. It’s also very visually pleasing and definitely does not miss the mark on lighting, cinematography or set design. In fact, I think I’m going to be dreaming about living in Emily’s amazing ultramodern house with a GIANT kitchen, floor to ceiling windows and a woods-y backyard until the end of time. While I found the dialogue to be a bit cliché at times, and the parts that were supposed to evoke emotion didn’t always make the mark for me, this is overall a really fun movie with an exciting plot and great acting that captured my attention the entire time. Do yourself a “favor” and go see it in theaters!

*First-year Amanda Leonard is a contributing writer. Her email is aleonard1@fandm.edu.*

## Lifetime series *You* premieres in September, deviating slightly from original book

BY DANIELLE RICE  
*Contributing Writer*

On Sunday, September 9, the new series *You* premiered on Lifetime. The show is directly based on the best-selling 2014 novel of the same name by Caroline Kepnes. There will be 10 episodes in the first season, and it’s already confirmed for a second season. The episodes will be available on Netflix sometime in the near future. *Gossip Girl*’s Penn Badgley stars as the main character, Joe Goldberg. Elizabeth Lail plays his love interest, Beck, and Shay Mitchell from *Pretty Little Liars* plays her best friend, Peach. John Stamos, best known for his roles in *General Hospital* and *Full House*, appears later on in the series as Dr. Nicky. This psychological thriller is told from the point of view of a New York City bookstore worker, Joe Goldberg. One day, his world is rocked when Beck, an aspiring writer in graduate school, walks into his bookstore. This is only the beginning of an intense, long-term obsession with her. Joe stalks her on social media and as well as in person, eventually cajoling her into a seemingly innocuous relationship. Joe grows more and more dangerous as he becomes determined to obliterate any obstacle keeping him from Beck, even if those

obstacles are those closest to her. Having read the novel, I was apprehensive about how certain things would be portrayed in the show, and I wasn’t sure what level of quality to expect since Lifetime has not done a show quite like this one. The episode opens in Mooney’s bookstore which is depicted just like I imagined, at the pivotal moment when Joe first spots Beck. Even from this very first scene, I knew this show would exceed my expectations. I was most astonished by the artistic cinematography – everything from shots of the New York City skyline, to unique lighting, to inventive camera angles. The acting was also nothing less than what you would expect from this crew of actors. Penn Badgley fit the character of Joe perfectly and was especially convincing as he played the role with the perfect duality of creepiness and charm. Elizabeth Lail did an exceptional portrayal of Beck, a complex character who is alluring and innocent but also privileged and conscious of her bad decisions at times. Almost every set was exactly what I had pictured reading the book. The eerie tone of the book translated well onto screen, and I found it to be an even more nail-biting experience than reading the book. There were several intense scenes that made it impossible to look away - one

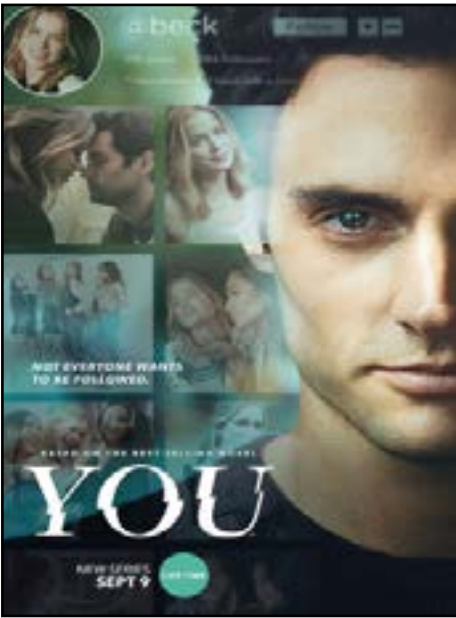


Photo courtesy of imdb.com.  
Lifetime series *You* stars Penn Badgley and Elizabeth Lail.

of which is when a character falls onto the subway tracks, and the episode ended with a huge cliffhanger. Anyone who has read the book will be pleased to hear that the series follows the book very closely, but not without a few changes, of course. Aside from slight dialogue changes, the main difference is the addition of several completely new characters including Beck’s graduate school professor and a family that lives next door to Joe with a villainous father figure and a boy who Joe takes under his wing. Throughout the novel, the reader grapples with their feelings toward Joe. There are so many instances where he thinks something relat-

able or comical about society, and readers can’t help but find themselves laughing with him, yet he does so many awful things. I felt that this ambivalence was only amplified in the show, especially with the addition of Joe’s relationship with the boy living next door. Speaking of Joe’s commentary on society, something that was carried over very well from the book was Joe’s sarcastic voice throughout the episode conveyed through a voice over. His thoughts are entertaining throughout the narrative but are also vital in moving the plot along. To all the crime, horror, psychological thriller and even romance buffs out there, if you haven’t read the book and have the time, I would recommend reading it before seeing the show. Although the series follows the novel closely, it can’t include all the chilling details and witty commentary in only ten episodes. And the book is a great, intense read. Without reading the book, however, you will still get sucked in by the plot, acting and cinematography. I predict this will continue to be an exhilarating series and will blow up once it hits Netflix. Tune in at 10pm on Sunday nights to watch this unparalleled new series.

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F&M Volleyball team sweeps Dickinson in match on Thursday evening. Read more below...



Sports Editor Gabby Goodwin offers insight into the MLB postseason matchups. Read more below...

# Franklin & Marshall Sports

## F&M Volleyball notches 3-0 clean sweep against Dickinson Red Devils

BY JAMIE BELFER  
*Contributing Writer*

Franklin & Marshall volleyball has been on a storm, winning 6 of the last 7 games. This past Thursday, the Diplomats played their second conference game against the Dickinson Red Devils. The beginning of the first set was controlled by Dickinson. The Red Devils started off the game with a service ace to take a 0-1 lead. While the Diplomats battled back to get ahead 3-1, a flurry of Dickinson kills put the Red Devils up 4-8. This 4-point deficit was the largest Diplomat deficit in the first set. The Diplomats were able to keep within two to three points of the Red Devils, allowing them to tie the game up at 15-15 after a fantastic kill by senior Barbara Kapustin. Franklin & Marshall never looked back as they scored 9 consecutive points to secure a 24-16 lead. While the Red Devils were able to follow up with a 3-0 run to make the score 24-19, the Diplomats were able to cap off their first set victory 25-19 with a nice block from Kapustin. Franklin & Marshall began the second set with a kill by sophomore Amy

Mullen to go ahead 1-0. Both teams battled as there were 5 quick lead changes in the beginning of the second set. After the Diplomats tied the set up 4-4, they began to pull away with the help of 2 service aces from Mullen and one service ace from freshman Allison Franke. The Diplomats played with a steady lead throughout most of the second set as they were able to stay 3-4 points ahead of the Red Devils. The Diplomats were able to go up 21-15 (their largest lead of the second set) with the help of junior Grace Polisano and sophomore Grace Maggiore, both with 2 kills a-piece. F&M continued to dominate the second set as Maggiore solidified their victory with a service ace for a final score of 25-19. The Diplomats played from behind for the majority of the third set. They were able to fight back from a 9-15 deficit (their largest deficit of the set) and eventually tie the game up at 18-18 with a service ace from Polisano. The Diplomats were able to continue to stay within 1 to 2 points of the Red Devils, yet they struggled to get ahead. Their first lead of the set came after a kill from Franke, putting them

ahead 25-24. The Red Devils re-tied the game at 25-25; however, the Diplomats were able to win the set (27-25) with 2 final kills from sophomore Casey Morrow. This third win secured a 3-0 sweep for the Diplomats. Maggiore led the team with 10 kills and 23 assists. Franke had 7 kills. Sophomore Carly Ostrowski had 10 digs, while sophomore Delaney Hahn and freshman Carlita Bozzo both had 9. After defeating the Dickinson Red



Photo courtesy of godiplomats.com.  
In a conference game against Dickinson this past Thursday evening, F&M Volleyball swept the Red Devils in all three of their matches in a home game at Mayser.

## MLB postseason, a closer look at the divisions, Wild Cards, tiebreakers

BY GABBY GOODWIN  
*Sports Editor*

This past Thursday night, the Red Sox clinched their third consecutive American League East title with a victory over the Yankees at Yankee Stadium. The A’s moved to 1½ games behind New York in the AL Wild Card race, while the A’s also picked up a half-game in the AL West, now 3½ behind Houston. In the National League, the Braves extended their lead over Philadelphia to 6½ games in the NL East, winning the series opener; however the two clubs still have 6 games left in the series. The Red Sox currently sit in front of the AL West leaders, the Houston Astros; however, in the event that the Astros catch up to Boston, the season series would determine home field in a potential postseason matchup. The Astros won the season series 4-3. If the Yankees and A’s tie for the two AL Wild Card spots, home field in the Wild Card Game would go to the winner of the season series; however, with each club having won 3 games, the tiebreaker would go to the team with the better intradivision record. At the moment, the Yankees hold a lead over the A’s 37-29 vs. 35-35. If the Rays were to tie the A’s for the second Wild Card spot

in the AL, then they would host a tiebreaker game because they won the series over the A’s 5-2. In the AL West, if Cleveland and Houston split the series, the Astros would still hose game 1 of the ALDS because they took the season series 4-3. If the Astros were to tie Oakland atop the AL West, the Astros would host a one-game tiebreaker by taking the season series 12-7.

In the NL East, a tie for division champ would call for a tiebreaker game, and the Braves currently have the edge on the Phillies for home field advantage. Atlanta leads the season series 8-5, but the two teams still have 6 games remaining against each other. In the event of a tie for the best record in the NL East, the higher seed would be determined by intradivision record. Atlanta

(44-23) currently leads Chicago (37-32). Some key series remaining include Boston vs. the NYY September 28-30 at Boston, the Rays vs. NYY September 24-27, and the Braves at Philadelphia September 28-30 (mlb.com). Junior Gabby Goodwin is the Sports Editor. Her email is ggoodwin@fandm.edu.



Photo courtesy of unionleader.com.  
This past Thursday night, the Red Sox claimed their third consecutive AL East title victory with an 11-6 win over the New York Yankees. In the Wild Card race, the A’s moved to 1 1/2 games behind the Yankees. In the National League, games are still finishing up.