



# The College Reporter

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE

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## At least 50 people are allegedly involved in the college admissions bribery scandal

BY SARAH YE  
Staff Writer

Earlier in March, 50 defendants were charged with college admissions fraud, including famous actresses like Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin. The specific charges included conspiracy to commit wire fraud, racketeering, and mail fraud. 33 of the defendants were wealthy parents who allegedly bribed exam proctors, varsity coaches, and college administrators so their children could get into elite schools. The parents approached William Rick Singer, owner of The Key, a company that offered select college counseling to wealthy and elite families. Singer was charged with racketeering conspiracy, money laundering, tax conspiracy, and obstruction of justice. On March 12, Singer pled guilty to all counts. He's currently released on a \$500,000 unsecured bond.

Singer was also CEO of the Key Worldwide Foundation (KWF), a non-profit corporation that he used to launder the money he received from parents and disguise it as charitable activity. His clients would wire money into



Photo courtesy of The Mercury News

In light of the scandal, Olivia Jade (daughter of Lori Laughlin) has lost her partnership with Sephora and Tresemmé.

KWF accounts and write off their bribes as tax deductions. From 2011 to 2018, Singer accepted \$25 million in bribes to get the parents' children into top schools. Using the money, Singer would help the children cheat on standardized tests and scam athlete recruitment.

To boost their kids' scores, parents paid Singer between

\$15,000 to \$75,000 for each standardized test. Singer bribed SAT and ACT exam proctors, who would then allow someone else to take the test for the children or correct their answers. Mark Riddell was often the surrogate test taker, and he was able to get precise scores. He could either get near-perfect marks, or score within

a certain range to make the results more believable. Singer also recommended that parents have their children falsely claim learning disabilities to get extended time.

Furthermore, Singer also used the bribe money to pay off coaches and college administrators to classify his clients' children as recruited athletes. Some of the children didn't play the sports for which they had been "recruited," so Singer often made fake athletic profiles, which he sent to college coaches. For example, Loughlin and her husband, Mossimo Giannulli, paid \$500,000 for their two daughters to be "recruited" for the crew team, even though neither ever rowed competitively.

The public criticism has been great in the aftermath of the scandal. Many parents and students are outraged that the socioeconomic elite can pay their way into good schools, while the underprivileged struggle to get accepted. Many have been especially enraged at how disabled students will be negatively affected. Per Singer's suggestion, elite parents fabricated disabilities

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## Violence in a place of peace; 50 killed during New Zealand mosque attacks

BY MAX SANO  
Staff Writer

The New Zealand Mosque attacks shook the world when announced by local police on Sunday, March 17th. There were 50 deaths and 50 injured in these incidents. The attacks were carried out two days earlier by Australian national Brenton Tarrant, who was charged with murder. Two other suspects were apprehended in the immediate aftermath of the incidents, however it turned out that Tarrant was the lone conspirator. New Zealand officials confirmed that he was able to purchase his guns legally, a reflection of the nation's

relaxed gun laws. Not only did these heinous hate crimes reflect the rise of international, right-wing terrorism inspired by white nationalism, but also a damning report on what can happen in a nation that fails to regulate its guns and ammunitions industries.

Beginning at around 1:40 P.M., the attacks were carried out against two mosques--Linwood Masjid and Masjid al Noor mosque--in Christchurch. Officials believe that this was planned to happen on a Friday since mosques around the world are usually the busiest at this time. One of the most troubling aspects of this attack is who was targeted: Muslims that

are native to New Zealand, as well as immigrants (and in some cases refugees) from Malaysia, Pakistan, Turkey, Lebanon, India, Bangladesh, and numerous other nations. While only making up 1% of the national population, the presence of Islam in New Zealand has grown in recent years. Perhaps in response to this, as well as numerous other factors including a wavering international economy, there has been a growing rise in right-wing terrorism across the world over the last few years. Just last year, a Jewish temple in Pittsburgh was attacked by an American white nationalist, resulting in the deadliest attack on the Jewish

community in the United States.

In response to these attacks, after one mass shooting in the nation's history, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said she would ban assault rifles in the nation. In light of these events, gun law advocates have pointed out that in the United States, there have been 39,773 gun deaths in 2017 due to nonexistent gun control laws at the local, regional and national levels. The U.S. lacks a national registry to keep track of all the guns and ammunitions one individual has in their possession at a given time. In addition,

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# Scandal: A class-action lawsuit has been filed against eight colleges on behalf of student who were rejected

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for their abled children to exploit SAT and ACT accommodations. Many disabled folks find it difficult to get proper accommodations in every environment, including testing. The College Board has strict guidelines for requesting disability accommodations. Depending on a student’s disability, they have to submit specific forms and have documentation. Public school students need a record of the accommodations they receive in their everyday classrooms. Other people are also arguing that the scandal proves America’s “meritocracy” is a myth. The students of the wealthy elite are accepted into top schools not because they’re intelligent, hardworking, and versatile, but because their parents paid their way in. Furthermore, the social and economic advantage of attending a prestigious academic institution is piled on top of the privilege these children already have; their parents are powerful figures in corporate America or Hollywood,

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## Mosque: New Zealand prime minister has banned the use of assault rifles after the attacks

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they argue that there are little to no background checks that test for criminal background, mental health issues, or drug abuse, allowing a large array of individuals who should not own guns to be able to do so. They point out that while the effectiveness of the National Rifle Association (NRA) is one reason for such lax regulations, there is also a historical gun culture in the United States

based around the belief in the right to bear arms, as outlined in the U.S. Constitution. In addition, many gun law advocates hope that the United States can learn from the leadership of New Zealand in gun control and establishing a fair system to purchase and maintain firearms responsibly.

First-year Max Sano is a Staff Writer. His email is msano@fandm.edu.

## Full Staff Opinion

Returning back from Spring Break can always be a rude awakening. After a week away from campus and away from school work, it can be hard to re adjust to the rigor of F&M. But, with only 6 weeks left of the semester it’s important to power through and stay motivated. One way to do so is finding things to look forward to. One of the most exciting events on campus each spring semester is spring arts. The College has just announced the lineup of acts for the event on April 13th. They are as follows: SPRING ARTS OFFICIAL LINEUP: HI-LO JACK: 2:00 PM, DJ SHAKE N BAKE: 3:00 PM, DRAKE BELL: 4:00 PM

Information courtesy of The College Entertainment Community.

So keep working hard, and get ready for a fun Spring Arts and a great rest of the Semester!



CRIME WATCH

Tuesday, March 12, 9:14pm - The Department of Public Safety (DPS) cited a student for a drug violation in Bonchek College House

Thursday, March 14, 7:28pm - DPS cited a student for a drug violation in Dietz

Tuesday, March 19, 7:13pm - DPS received a report of a missing student

Tuesday, March 19, 1:00pm - DPS received a report about a sexual assault that occurred on February 8

Tuesday, March 19, 2:21pm - DPS cited a student for underaged drinking at College Row

Tuesday, March 19, 4:35pm - DPS received a report of an assault that occurred on January 18

Wednesday, March 20, 12:04am - DPS responded to a report of burnt odor inside Schnader

Wednesday, March 20, 9:36pm - DPS responded to a loud noise complaint at College Row

Thursday, March 21, 10:09pm - DPS arrested a subject for prowling outside 546 West James



An Australian citizen in his late 20s has been charged with murder in connection with the attacks.

## The College Reporter

Transparency. Accuracy. Credibility.

### THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF

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# Opinion & Editorial

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## Staff Writer Commentary

## New Zealand aftermath: the capabilities of gun responsibility

BY GRACE LEWIS  
Staff Writer

72 hours. It is a weird amount of time. Enough to power read through a good book or watch a few seasons of your favorite shows, if you have the energy to stay up that long. It is also enough time for the country of New Zealand to ban assault rifles and high-capacity magazines after the terrorist attacks that occurred in Christchurch which claimed the lives of 50 people on March 15th, 2019. It only took 72 hours, an amount of time that we measure in hours compared to days, or even years. The gun laws in that country changed astoundingly fast, and that -- in my opinion -- is how it should be. When we are faced with these senseless tragedies, one of the most important aspects is how we react. New Zealand took the measures to prevent another massacre occurring again. By doing this New Zealand has set an example for the

rest of the world, but they aren’t the first ones to do so. In 1996 in Australia, 35 people were killed in what is now known as the Port Arthur Massacre. After this occurred things radically changed; the entirety of Australia agreed to ban semi-automatic and automatic rifles and shotguns. The government created hurdles for people if they wanted to own a weapon, needing a “justifiable reason”, a thorough background check, and have to wait 28 days after purchase to finally get a hold of the weapon. This action massively reduced mass shootings as well as homicides and suicide (BBC). And while Australia is just one example, So the question is not if gun laws work, it’s the process of getting them enacted. In about a month, April 20th will mark the 20 year anniversary since the Columbine Massacre that occurred in 1999 in Colorado. The particular occurrence of Columbine shocked everyone and turned every-

thing upside down, 15 people were dead in a place that was supposed to be a safe space of learning and support. Things like the Columbine Massacre and school shootings with so many victims didn’t happen -- at least not often. The previous mass school shooting which claimed so many lives was at the University of Texas in 1966, which claimed the lives of 18 people. The time spread between these two events was huge, lulling the public into a false sense of security that these things don’t happen that often, so there was really no reason to worry. However, 110 mass shootings have occurred since Columbine (Mother Jones). The curve of mass shootings in our country’s history has been exponential. People are dying and our government isn’t doing anything about it, simply “thoughts and prayers” which in actuality will never accomplish anything. Gun laws work, and taking the steps to prevent tragedies as New Zealand,

Australia, and other countries have done stop gun violence from escalating. And while the issue of guns lies deeply within the United States’ history, the simple fact is that gun violence is rising, people are being killed, and there are things that can be done, it’s just stepping up and doing said things. The Federal Assault Weapons Ban that was enacted in 1994 by President Bill Clinton. During the time when the ban was in place, mass gun violence was down by 37% and the numbers of people dying fell 43% (The Washington Post). The ban expired in 2004 but it did provide sufficient evidence that getting rid of weapons works as saving lives. Too many people are dying, too many people are being hurt, too many people are losing their family and friends, the time for change isn’t just starting, it’s been here.

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## College admissions scandal reflects power wealth plays in acceptance

BY RUBY VAN DYK & ANNA GOOREVICH  
Editor-in-Chief & Opinions & Editorials Editor

A few weeks ago, federal officials charged dozens of powerful figures for participating in bribery schemes in order to earn their children guaranteed spots at top universities. Among those who were charged were famous figures like Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman, along with executives and wealthy business owners. The parents allegedly bribed a college coach to assist them in faking test scores and athletic recruit information. Some of the schools involved include University of Southern California, Stanford, Georgetown, and Yale. The aftermath of this scandal raises questions about the fairness of the college admissions process in general. What these parents did is blatantly illegal and has shocked the American news circuit over the past couple weeks. However, these actions are not uncommon. They are simply part of a larger pattern of how the wealthy are able to exploit the college admissions process for their advantage. Rather than focusing on the bribery and fraud that these specific celebrities and executives have committed on behalf of their children, what should be discussed instead is the plethora ways that many wealthy students have a foot up in the college admissions process that are completely legal. One way that many parents contribute to securing admission to prestigious schools is by making large donations to the school prior to their

students acceptance. Schools pay attention to the amount of funds that parents have contributed and can contribute in the future. Private colleges are businesses at the end of the day. They rely on fundraising. Parents who make significant contributions also oftentimes sit on boards for colleges, and are able to exert their influence and power in admissions decisions. Colleges want to keep their donors and board members happy. If that means admitting their child, then they will oftentimes do it. Another common advantage that wealthy and upper-middle class families can grant to their children is the use of tutors that can assist in ACT/ SAT prep, college application essays, or college counseling process. Especially in a college admissions process that places significant value on a standardized test score, where a few points can make a huge difference in a person’s qualifications to attend a university, those who can afford these tutoring services are at a significant advantage. Tests scores for the ACT and SAT are most of the time dependent on practice opportunities. If a student of a lower socioeconomic class is unable to pay or dedicate the time necessary for these services to practice or train for the tests, they are at an extreme disadvantage when compared to other students whose parents potentially pay thousands of dollars for individualized tutoring. The exploitation of the ACT/SAT’s extra time services, meant to accommodate students with documented disabilities or those without English proficiency, is another common ad-

vantage that wealthier students use to improve their scores. Since the ACT and SAT are both tests with significant time constraints, any bit of extra time is extremely influential on one’s scores. From both writers’ personal experience, parents of students who did not have legitimate disabilities were able to get doctors to provide documentation for extra time on these tests. Especially in a time where almost any student can make claims for the need for extra time due to test anxiety or ADD/ADHD symptoms, the only factor necessary to gain those valuable minutes is financial abilities. The use of tutors and extra-time not only reveal the undeniable advantages that wealthier families have, but they also expose the flawed college admissions process. Since most colleges place high value on those test scores as a means of deciding who gets admitted to the colleges, it is concerning that wealthy families can essentially pay their way to higher scores, all while disadvantaging poorer students. Students who attend private schools often times gain an advantage from the heightened amount of resources they have access to. Private school college counselors are trained specifically to help students get into prestigious schools in ways that many public school counselors are not. Often times private schools are smaller, which results in more individualized attention in the classroom as well as the college application process. Many private high schools or preparatory academies have prestigious reputations that also aid students in their quest for college success. If you graduated from

a prestigious private high school, the amount of access you had to college prep resources was most likely significantly different than someone who attended a large public school in the inner city. Many private colleges and universities prioritize admitting the children of alumni when reading applications. Whether or not someone’s mom or dad attended the institution can sway the chance of a student’s acceptance. This is again connected to fundraising and donations. Colleges need to ensure that their alumni are satisfied and willing to donate. These are all ways in which wealthy students have a significant advantage in the college admissions process. This college admissions scandal is a small piece of larger story about education in the United States. Wealth reigns supreme in assisting students in attending prestigious institutions because the system is built for them. Students who don’t have the same resources, yet have the potential to be exceptional students, are left competing not against the intellectual capabilities of wealthier students, but simply their dollars.

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# Campus Life

## F&M community gives feedback to BPC on budget concerns at Now Hour

BY CHRISTA RODRIGUEZ  
*Campus Life Editor*

This past Thursday’s Now Hour differed from the usual format for Common Hour, as it was framed as a conversation between speakers and the F&M Community. This Common Hour, “Academic Excellence with Financial Stability” was closed to the wider community, as its focus was on the college’s current budget situation and answering questions from concerned students, faculty, and professional staff. The way the chairs were arranged reflected this, creating a more curved semi-circle rather than the usual rows.

President Barbara Altmann and Vice President for Finance and Administration Paul Mutone each spoke briefly to update the audience on our budget priorities and options to address the current deficit. As Altmann said, the “main focus today is going to be hearing from you.” To this end, there were index cards provided in the back to allow attendees to write down their questions if they did not want to ask at the microphones. Now Hour is one of several events and forums that were held at the college to address the budget.

Altmann emphasized in her portion of the talk how our “significant budget shortfall...does not negate the fact that we’re doing other things really well.” With that in mind, we want to avoid reducing the quality of students and faculty at F&M, as ours are among the best in the country, including our very favorable ratio of students to professors (9:1)

Altmann also stressed avoiding a feast-famine pattern where we go back and forth between budget deficit and surplus each year. The college wants to work toward financial stability. F&M has been short-term planning for too long, and must instead think long-term.

According to Altmann, in terms of decisions about the budget, “nothing is written in stone,” which is why feedback from the F&M community is so valuable to the Budget Priorities Committee (BPC). They are working within the realities of our campus to make the difficult decisions this round, as F&M has not tended to the deficit in this fashion in recent years.

F&M wants to make sure that salaries are at least on par with the market. Additionally, they plan to keep expected raises for faculty and professional staff in next year’s budget and beyond. For this first round, the BPC plans on decreasing the number of employee jobs only through attrition, by not hiring for all open positions and not filling the jobs of all people who leave. Although the college will not have involuntary layoffs this year, Altmann cautioned that she “cannot promise that we won’t do any next year.” Furthermore, F&M will not be offering an early retirement plan at this time.

Altmann proclaimed it is her job as president “to ensure the financial health of the college.” Along with keeping our academic integrity, “that’s what a president does,” she said. She also stressed the importance of rising “to this challenge as a community,” which



Photos courtesy of fandm.edu.

Common Hour last Thursday was closed to the wider community to give the opportunity to students, faculty, and professional staff to address the college’s budget situation.

is the only way this will work. Addressing our deficit will either “divide a community or bring it together.” Altmann strives to make this situation have the latter outcome by making the tough decisions together. The deficit, to Altmann, is a “reality we have to embrace,” while recognizing that we cannot protect everything.

She mentioned that our deficit is something F&M needs to attend to immediately, although it has not been identified as unusual for our kind of institution, nor is it a crisis. The goal is to work “toward financial stability...with transparency.” To do this, we will build reserves we did not have before, especially through the Now to Next Campaign, the first campaign in twenty years to build endowment at F&M.

Paul Mutone spoke more specifically about the numbers and our options to reduce the deficit. The \$8 million deficit that had previously been projected is now closer to \$9 million, as we had to add more to the budget to address professional staff salary as well as money towards health insurance costs.

The current plans will get the deficit down to around \$2.7 million. To address the rest, Mutone gave three options, each with different numbers primarily looking at retirement and health insurance, affecting premium and co-insurance percentages, as well as prescription prices and spousal surcharges. As he explained, our benefits are considerably more

generous than the average in schools like ours.

Mutone noted that the exact figures he stated for each option will be available soon on a chart to allow the F&M community to look and provide feedback. Like Altmann, Mutone emphasized the need to reach financial equilibrium, as F&M is still under-endowed for what we want to do and compared with schools we want to compete with. Avoiding layoffs at this time thus means looking at these other options. As F&M’s headcount for staff is above the median, we cannot afford to be there much longer, which is why layoffs may be necessary in the future.

The final round of discussion on the options will be undertaken by the BPC, which is why they want as much feedback as possible. While Altmann and Mutone did not get to all of the written and oral questions from the audience, they will find ways to respond to recurring themes that came up in the rest of the index cards filled out at Now Hour. BPC will alert Altmann and Mutone regarding any additional comments made on an online suggestion box. Faculty, professional staff, and students can send input via this suggestion box. The link to this was sent in an email by Kate Plass, Associate Professor of Chemistry and chair of the BPC.

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# Arts & Leisure

## Staff writer gives background on drag in light of F&M drag show on March 22

BY ABIGAIL DOTTERER  
*Staff Writer*

While people in 2019 mostly know about drag from RuPaul’s Drag Race, drag itself has a long history of its own. But what is drag, or what even is a drag queen? According to an informal Google definition, it is “when a man who dresses up in women’s clothes, typically for the purposes of entertainment.” However, Joe E. Jeffreys, a drag historian and videographer who teaches at New York University, defines it as: “drag is anytime that someone is putting on clothing that is considered to be not appropriate to them,” as said in a TIME article earlier this month.

Over the years, there has been debate about who is allowed to enjoy drag and who isn’t. While drag is often associated with the LGBTQ community, anyone can enjoy this form of entertainment. “Drag is everybody’s art form,” says Jeffreys. Drag as an art form can be seen to stem from Greek and eventually Shakespearean theater, where men portrayed female characters in various performances. Since then, it has



Photo courtesy of amazon.com.

RuPaul’s Drag Race is a television show that has popularized Drag to the public.

elevated to becoming a lifestyle and a culture. For some drag performers, it stops being a show and starts being themselves. Work and personal lives can meet in the middle when it comes to drag. For others, it is separate, as an other occupation would and could be.

According to Jeffreys in the TIME piece, drag is not only aesthetically pleasing be a platform

for informative comedy. “The drag queen serves this kind of shaman role, this kind of court-fool role [in which] they are allowed to say and do things that the culture perhaps needs to look at.” This can be seen with RuPaul winner Bianca Del Rio, who has had several comedy shows and movies including Hurricane Bianca.

## Thriller film starring Isabelle Huppert and Chloe Grace Moretz hits theaters

BY DANIELLE RICE  
*Layout Assistant*

New to theaters, *Greta* is a psychological thriller that came out in theaters March 1. Chloë Grace Moretz stars as Frances, a young woman whose innocent return of a purse she found on the New York City subway leads to her forming a relationship with Greta (Isabelle Huppert), a kind older woman, or so she seems. When Frances finds rows of identical purses labeled with girls’ names and phone numbers, she does what any normal person would do - she leaves and cuts off all communication. But Greta doesn’t take ‘no’ for an answer, calling her and her roommate, Erika, constantly and even showing up at the restaurant where she works. Greta soon becomes angry with Frances for her cold attempts at pushing her away, and things escalate from there.

Stepping into the movie theater, I didn’t have high expectations for this movie. I thought the plot sounded a little contrived and unrealistic. I mean, how many purse-planting female serial killers are there? However, I didn’t



Photo courtesy of hollywoodreporter.com.

Isabelle Huppert and Chloe Grace Moretz star in the new psychological thriller *Greta*.

find that to be the case. Both characters, Greta and Frances, were fleshed out with backstories that made their actions seem realistic. For example, it is revealed that Frances recently lost her mother, and that explains why she was so quick to trust Greta and why she wanted to form a friendship with her. Something I appreciated

was that Frances was a generally smart protagonist and usually did the right thing in the situations she was in.

There were some moments in the movie that completely shocked me - there were puzzle pieces that I didn’t put together until later on in the plot. In some scenes it was difficult to distinguish reality, al-

While the spotlight has typically been on drag queens, something notable is that, “Drag kings have always been out there, they just don’t get as much attention,” according to Jeffreys.

Also, while drag has become more normalized due to RuPaul, it is not the golden age of the form, Jeffreys says. “RuPaul has done wonderful things for drag. He has managed to get a generally non-drag-consuming public to understand drag as an art form, which is no small feat...If it was a true golden age of drag, at least in my estimation, I would see mass audiences flocking to the drag shows at my local bars.”

Bringing this art form to campus, SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Alliance), co-sponsored with the Alice Drum Women’s Center and IMPACT, hosted a drag show on March 22nd with both professional and student performers. By doing this, members of the F&M community are able to access and continue to share the art form.

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Photos courtesy of fandm.edu.

President Barbara Altmann and Vice President for Finance and Administration Paul Mutone gave a brief update on the current deficit before taking questions and comments.

lowing the viewer to be just as confused as the characters.

The acting was also very good. It was a beautifully disturbing portrayal by Isabelle Huppert; she could be innocent one minute, and horrifying the next. Chloë Grace Moretz played a strong, yet vulnerable Frances.

Although Greta had her reasons - albeit in her psychotic mind - for preying on girls, which was her desire to replace her daughter, it still didn’t seem like a natural progression to being a cold-blooded killer. Despite this, the film had many unnerving scenes and was overall very creepy and entertaining.

Even though there were aspects of the film that were unrealistic, the plot drew me in with its sympathetic, interesting characters, its generally realistic scenarios, and its fast-paced, mysterious plot. The takeaway of the movie was that if you see an expensive purse abandoned on the subway, bring it to the Lost-and-Found - don’t take it back to its owner!

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F&M Women's Tennis dominate against first Centennial Conference competitor. Read more below...



photo courtesy of godiplomats.com

Gabby Goodwin recaps major upsets in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Read more below...

# Franklin & Marshall Sports

## F&M Women's Tennis defeats Ursinus 6-3, first win in conference play

BY JAMIE BELFER

Layout Assistant

After three tough losses to Mary Washington, Salisbury, and Millsaps College to start off their spring season, Franklin & Marshall Women's Tennis rallied together to win their next three games. They dominated against Ithaca (7-2) and won an intense battle against Ohio Wesleyan (6-3). After defeating Ursinus (6-3), the Diplomats earned a 3-3 record overall. The Diplomats faced off against Ursinus on March 21 at Ursinus College compete against their first Centennial Conference opponent. Going into the match, the Ursinus Bears were 4-4.

First singles and one of the senior leaders for the Diplomats, Allison Wolters, defeated her competitor, Caitlyn Sorelle, 6-2, 6-2. Wolters has been in the first singles position since her sophomore year. She has played consistently strong for the Diplomats and is looking to finish off her career on a high note. After losing three close matches against Mary Washington, Salisbury, and Millsaps College to start the 2019 season, Wolters rebounded and has decisively beaten her following three singles opponents.

F&M's second senior leader,

Gavriel Rubenstein, lost a close match in her second singles competition against Maddie Russell, 7-5, 7-5. This season, Rubenstein has stepped up into a bigger role on the team in the second singles position as she had previously played in the third singles position in the 2017-2018 season. Although Rubenstein lost a tight battle, the dynamic duo of Wolters and Rubenstein defeated their competitors in the first doubles competition against Sorelle and Brenna Trkula.

In the third, fourth, and fifth singles competition, all three Diplomat players defeated their opponents. In the third singles position, senior Emma Wu dominated her opponent Trkula 6-1, 6-1. In the fourth singles match, first-year Lauren Wang remained in control throughout the match and defeated her opponent, 6-1, 6-3. However, Wu and Wang lost a hard-fought battle in the second doubles competition 8-6 against Russell and Freedman for the Bears. In the fifth singles competition, sophomore Alex D'Angelo defeated Madisen Harvey in a close 8-6 match. Wu, Wang, and D'Angelo have all won their last three matches against their singles competitors.

In the sixth singles position, the Diplomats' Marissa Witmer lost to Cara Freedman 8-3. However, the tag team of D'Angelo and Witmer played well together and defeated Jessica Leach and Harvey in their third doubles competition. After their win against Ursinus, the Diplomats are 1-0 in the conference. The Diplomats hope to continue their strong performance win streak in their up-

coming matches.

Franklin & Marshall Women's Tennis will play their second conference matchup against Haverford (0-4) on Saturday, March 30 at 12:00pm at Franklin & Marshall College.

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Photo courtesy of godiplomats.com.

F&M Women's Tennis defeats Ursinus 6-3. In the first singles competition, Allison Wolters played a solid match to defeat her competitor 6-2, 6-2.

## First round of NCAA tournament filled with bracket-breaking upsets

BY GABBY GOODWIN

Editor-in-Chief

Spring has sprung and March Madness has begun! Four days ago marked the start of the NCAA tournament and, since then upsets and, unfortunately, imperfect brackets, have been plentiful.

This past Friday, Liberty (No. 12) captured its first NCAA tournament win in school history with a 80-76 win over Mississippi State (No. 5). Liberty, down with 7 minutes to play, pulled within one before Lovell Cabbil Jr. drilled a three-pointer with less than two minutes left to take the lead. The Bulldogs unfortunately couldn't answer, failing to take advantage on the next two crucial possessions, while Liberty made free throws.

Liberty's Caleb Homesley had a game-high 30 points and Mississippi State's Quindary Weatherspoon countered with 27 points. The Flames faceoff against Virginia Tech in the second round.

Ohio State (No. 11) topped Iowa State (No. 6) 62-59, behind 21 points and 12 rebounds from Kaleb Wesson. The Buckeyes

had a bit of a scare when Virginia transfer Marial Shayok, who had a game-high 23 points, took a one-point lead with 3:40 left in the game.

However, Ohio State scored the next five points and never gave back their lead. With seconds left and down three, Nick Weiler-Babb had an open three-point shot for Iowa State to tie the game, but it bounced off the rim wide as he tried to garner a foul on his follow-through.

UC Irvine has pulled off the largest upset of the tournament thus far and earned their first tournament win in program history by knocking off Kansas State in San Jose. UC Irvine's Max Hazzard and Evon Leonard led the Anteaters with 19 points each, while Kamau Stakes had 18 points for the Wildcats.

UC Irvine's roster includes the sons of Doc Rivers and Caron Butler. The Anteaters have won 17 consecutive games and improved to 10-0 this season decided by 6 points or less.

Kansas State was playing without forward Dean Wade after a

foot injury. Wade, who averaged 12.9 points and a team-high 6.2 rebounds per game, also missed last season's NCAA tournament with a broken foot; however, the Wildcats still managed to advance to the Elite Eight ([thewashingtonpost.com](http://thewashingtonpost.com)).

Games to look out for this up-

coming Thursday and Friday include Sweet 16 games between LSU and Michigan State and Florida State and Gonzaga.

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Photo courtesy of si.com.

Liberty University (No. 12) upsets Mississippi State (No. 5). With two minutes left in the game, Lovell Cabbil Jr. makes a three-pointer to put Liberty up by one point.