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Sexual misconduct forum convenes panel of administrators to discuss F&M policies

BY ERIN MOYER
Senior Editor

Last Tuesday, Sep. 22nd, the College hosted a Student Sexual Misconduct Forum in Stager Hall's Stahr Auditorium to discuss changes in F&M's sexual misconduct reporting and hearing process. Dan Porterfield, president of the College, convened the forum with opening remarks before giving the floor to a panel composed of Margaret Hazlett, dean of the College; Jan Masland, Title IX coordinator for the College; and Pierce Buller, general counsel for the College.

In his beginning statement, Porterfield stressed the work F&M needs to do as a community in addressing sexual misconduct on campus. Porterfield noted that, among the relatively small crowd in attendance, there were no first-years. He emphasized the need to broaden the discussion among different groups of students.

The forum then turned to the



photo by Buihan Wang '19

Following remarks by Dan Porterfield, president of the College, three administrators discussed F&M's policies on sexual misconduct with students.

panelists. Masland then began her portion of the panel by discussing the definition of sexual misconduct. She explained that F&M has opted to employ "sexual misconduct," as opposed to "sexual assault," because the term "sexual misconduct" can encompass a broader range of behavior.

Masland then outlined the sex-

ual misconduct reporting process. If a student comes to Masland wishing to file a complaint of sexual misconduct, that student has four options. The student may choose an advisor from a trained panel of administrators, who will help them write their complaint. Masland will meet with the respondent, and explain that they

are being charged. Both the complainant and the respondent will identify witnesses as part of an investigative process, and then the information will go to a hearing. The three-person hearing panel is composed of two trained administrators and, as part of a change in federal policy, an attorney. The respondent and the complainant then attend a hearing, and the three-person panel hears the evidence and recommends a sanction.

The second option available to complainants is the choice to file a complaint with the police. Masland explained that the Department of Public Safety works as go-between and support for those who prefer to work with the police. A student may also, if they do not wish to report an incident of sexual misconduct, speak with Masland, who will call the respondent into her office and issue an unofficial warning. The final

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Trigger warnings raise issues of academic freedom, sensitivity on college campuses

BY STEVEN VIERA
Senior Editor
with reporting by
JULIA CINQUEGRANI
Editor-in-Chief

College campuses have a long tradition of pushing boundaries and shaping the direction of American culture, both popular and academic. But on today's campuses, in contrast to those of the past, the debates are not on expanding the freedom of expression, but reigning it in.

For the past year and beyond, colleges across the nation have grappled with incorporating trigger warnings and other accommodations into their curricula, raising issues about the balance between academic freedom and student sensitivities.

The term "trigger warning" first

appeared in online communities as a way of giving notice to entrants that a website's content may invoke memories of sexual assault or trauma. Recently, however, these warnings have migrated from digital to real-world spaces, particularly college campuses. An article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, "[Students' Requests for Trigger Warnings Grow More Varied](#)," traces how these warnings and requests for them have become a growing trend of American academia on topics ranging from abuse, sexuality, abortion, war, and more.

The article noted that, on many campuses, professors and schools have responded to student concerns and removed material that

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Pope Francis makes first visit to Cuba, United States, praises families' strength

BY STEVEN VIERA
Senior Editor

Pope Francis concluded a nine-day tour of Cuba and the United States, his first visit to both countries, on Sunday, September 27. Throughout his trip, Francis spoke to masses of Catholics on the importance of the family and addressed world leaders, such as Cuba's Fidel Castro and Barack Obama, as well as making the first ever papal speech to a joint session of Congress.

In Cuba, which enjoyed its third papal visit within a 17-year period, Francis celebrated masses in the cities of Havana and Holguin, including at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Charity, which honors the island's patron saint.

"Our revolution comes about

through tenderness, through the joy which always becomes closeness and compassion," Francis said in his televised homily. According to [this article](#) in the *Wall Street Journal*, Francis' choice of words is ironic, as Cuba celebrates its 1959 Communist Revolution, so these remarks may have a deeper meaning aimed at encouraging greater freedom for Cubans.

Many on the island praise Francis for his role in reestablishing diplomatic ties between Cuba and the United States, according to [this article](#) in *USA Today*. This has earned the pope the respect of many Cubans, both Catholics and non-believers, including an unlikely figure in this communist country

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Crime Watch

At the time of printing, The College Reporter was unable to retrieve the crime logs for the previous week from the Department of Public Safety. We apologize for the inconvenience, and we will make every effort to publish that information as soon as possible. Thank you!

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.

Sexual Misconduct: Questions and Answers

Question #11: What can we do to change the rhetoric around sexual assault? So often we're using "she" for victims and "he" for perpetrators.

The College is concerned about creating a culture of inclusivity for all gender identities. This year, Margaret Hazlett, dean of the College, has identified this as a priority initiative. On Aug. 12, the Office of the Dean of the College (all departments with direct student services) held a Division Retreat from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The topic of the day was creating an inclusive and welcoming community for LGBTQA+ students at F&M. The speaker was Dr. Debra Bazarsky, director of the LGBT Center at Princeton University. After the retreat, Dr. Bazarsky met with smaller groups to answer questions and give advice specific to each area of the College. On September 22, F&M LGBTA, Weis College House, and the Dean of the College sponsored a "brown bag lunch" panel presentation by members of the LGBTA organization on campus. On November 1, a gender climate survey will be sent to all students (students: please participate!) and the results will be used to develop targeted and effective programming to improve the gender climate at F&M. Specific to the Title IX Office, the Committee on Sexual Misconduct and I will be reviewing all written materials for gender identity inclusive language and including training on gender identity inclusivity in trainings for the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) the Sexual Misconduct Panel, the Peer Health Educators of SHAC, and in all trainings for student groups.

Protest Tree to undergo trimming due to decay

By Steven Viera



photo courtesy of fandm.edu

F&M's Protest Tree, located just outside Distler House, is set to undergo maintenance starting next week. In response to aging and decay, a large portion of the tree must be removed.

Beginning the week of Sep. 28, the upper limbs of the tree will be cut off; the remaining eight-foot stump will then be strapped and bolted to the ground to keep it in place. An outside consultant, Bartlett Tree Experts, will undertake this task.

"We understand that this tree-- and what it represents-- means a lot to generations of people," said Mike Wetzel, associate vice president for Facilities Management and Campus Planning, in [this article](#) on F&M's news website.

Beginning in the 1960s, the tree became a space for students to post messages until it earned the name "The Protest Tree." Today, students continue to use the tree as a forum to voice their opinions.

Triggers: No formal requests for warnings have come before committee, Martin says

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may "trigger" memories of past trauma from their lesson plans. It went on to discuss a case from the University of Kentucky when, this summer, the school distributed a recommended book for incoming first-years--Picking Cotton--along with a placard on the first page that issued a trigger warning and told students they only had to read particular passages due to content relating to sexual assault.

Aside from the University of Kentucky, other institutes of higher education, like Oberlin College, have embraced trigger warnings and established formal college policy about them.

While many recognize trigger warnings as a necessary step to accommodate students with complex issues and traumas, many others--including college faculty--have decried trigger warnings as an unnecessary sheltering of students from foreign points of view, which is an integral part of the education process.

"We can't function if we have to warn everybody about every traumatic topic," said Philip N. Cohen, a professor of sociology at the University of Maryland at College Park, in the article in the Chronicle.

Even President Obama weighed in on the debate, siding with those who stand opposed to trigger warnings.

"I've heard some college campuses where they don't want to have a guest speaker who is too conservative or they don't want to read a book if it has language that is offensive to African-Americans or somehow sends a demeaning signal towards women," he said. "I don't agree that you, when you become students at colleges, have to be coddled and protected from different points of view... That's not the way we learn."

Other professors elaborated, saying they feel as though college administrations are too concerned with how students will feel about a lesson then how students will learn.

"Sensitivity has become a more important criterion than intellectual challenge [to the administration]," said Neil Gilbert, who teaches social policy at the University of California, Berkeley, according to the Chronicle. "If a number of students say you're insensitive, the administration dings you."

A related article in *The Atlantic*, "[The Coddling of the American Mind](#)," calls this phenomenon "vindictive protectiveness"--the need to defend students' emotional well-being at all costs and to scrub potentially sensitive lessons at the cost of an education.

While trigger warnings have become more and more prevalent on campuses across America, one place where they have not yet formally appeared is at F&M.

Here, we strongly support academic freedom, and we seek to hear and learn from the concerns of our students, but we also rely on our mission statement for essential guidance to all we do educationally.

Joel W. Martin
Provost and Dean of the Faculty

provost and dean of the faculty at F&M. "The committee articulates the goals of the F&M education and addresses major curricular policy issues."

Martin then elaborated on an issue relating to trigger warnings raised in the national discourse.

"To the Chronicle's question of balancing academic freedom and students' sensitivities, that's seems to assume a false binary; there are richer ways to describe the issue and they are needed because each College must define its own educational identity and objectives," he said. "Here, we strongly support academic freedom, and we seek to hear and learn from the concerns of our students, but we also rely on our mission statement for essential guidance to all we do educationally; that mission statement articulates the noble aims we pursue in the classroom and beyond."

Martin went on to quote a portion of F&M's mission statement: "To inspire in young people of high promise and diverse backgrounds a genuine and enduring love for learning, to teach them to read, write and think critically, to instill in them the capacity for both independent and collaborative action, and to educate them to explore and understand the natural, social and cultural worlds in which they live."

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Forum: Student audience asks questions to follow up on administrators' commentary

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option available to a complainant is to do nothing; as Masland explained, there is a two-year window for students to report cases of sexual misconduct before a statute of limitations takes effect.

Hazlett spoke next, and outlined the changes in sexual misconduct policy that have been implemented this year. One change, which Hazlett noted was brought on by a federal government mandate, allows attorneys to be present as a student's advisor in the hearing room. Another change to the hearing process of reported sexual

misconduct, Hazlett said, adds a college-selected legal expert to the team investigating a reported sexual assault. Furthermore, the three-person panel weighing in on sexual misconduct hearings will now include one college-selected legal expert, in addition to the two administrators who sit on the panel.

Buller followed up Hazlett's remarks by placing Title IX laws within a historical context. Though the 1972 law was previously thought of to provide for equally gendered athletic teams, Buller said, it has recently been

cited to apply to cases of sexual misconduct.

There were roughly 20 students in attendance at the forum. After the three speakers opened the forum up for a question and answer portion, the sparse number of students in attendance asked fairly difficult questions of the three panelists.

One student asked the panel about the change that allows respondents and complainants to bring lawyers into the hearing room as their advisors. She asked if the college has done anything to provide legal counsel to those

students who can't afford to hire it. The panel explained that complainants who choose to move forward with the hearing process are presented with a list of legal resources, some of which may do the work pro-bono. Masland also pointed out that, though now students may bring legal counsel into the room with them, complainants and respondents have always been able to hire attorneys for themselves.

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Visit: Francis makes first papal address to Congress, calls for helping fellow men

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where religious expression has been suppressed.

"If the pope continues... I will go back to praying and go back to church, and I'm not joking," said Raul Castro, Cuba's president, last May, according to [this article](#) from *Crux*.

On Tuesday, Francis arrived in the United States, enjoying a formal welcome at the White House from President Obama before proceeding to a mass where he elevated Junipero Serra, a Franciscan priest who founded California's first Catholic mission and converted Native Americans, to sainthood in the first canonization ceremony to occur on U.S. soil. However, as [this article](#) from *Newsweek* points out, not everyone is celebrating Serra: Native American groups believe Serra may have been responsible for enslaving and abusing natives while forcing them to become Catholics against



photo courtesy of religionnews.com

Pope Francis made his first visit to both Cuba and the United States last week, where he became the first ever pope to address a session of Congress.

their will.

On Thursday, Francis became the first pope in history to address a joint session of Congress, where he spoke on a number of issues facing the American people and the world. The pontiff--who, for one of the only times during his trip, spoke in English--called on Congress to in-

spire and uplift their fellow man.

Throughout his speech, Francis advocated for immigrants, religious liberty, the sanctity of life, traditional family values, environmental protections, an abolition of the death penalty, and a condemnation of the arms trade, giving lawmakers on either side of the

Waves of visitors inflame tensions between Hong Kong, mainland Chinese citizens

BY JINGHZI LI

Contributing Writer

with reporting by

STEVEN VIERA

Senior Editor

Rather than warning of a plague of insects, "Locusts" is how many citizens of Hong Kong describe people from mainland China. In recent years, the relationship between Hong Kong and the mainland has deteriorated owing to political tensions, a growth in the number of visas issued to mainlanders, and an increase in the number of so-called anchor-babies born in Hong Kong.

A British territory until 1997, Hong Kong today is a part of the People's Republic of China and designated as a Special Administrative Region (SAR), granting it several freedoms and privileges not enjoyed by other areas under Chinese jurisdiction. A key restriction, however, is on the extent of democracy allowed in Hong Kong: Beijing has imposed limits on exactly how far Hong Kong can democratize and plays a large role in determining which

candidates are allowed to run in local elections, which, in 2014, triggered mass protests known as the Umbrella Revolution.

Tensions run deeper than simply political fault lines. Hong Kongers are distinct from their mainland compatriots on multiple levels, as the city is a melting pot of races and cultures, and Hong Kong residents speak Cantonese as opposed to the primarily Mandarin-speaking mainland.

But these differences don't stop mainlanders from making the trip to Hong Kong, especially if there is money to be made. In the past 10 years, parallel trading--a practice in which mainlanders come to Hong Kong to buy cheap, tax-free goods, then carry them back to the mainland to sell at a profit--has increased exponentially. As noted by [this article](#) in the *South China Morning Post*, milk powder is a common target of parallel traders, although other consumer and household goods are desirable as well. And these traders are driving down the quantity of

these goods while driving up the price for Hong Kongers: In fact, according to the *South China Morning Post* article, the price of milk powder rose by 33 percent and was unavailable in 90 percent of stores in certain areas of Hong Kong in 2014 because of parallel trading activity.

Parallel trading is due, in part, to a proliferation of visas enabling travel between the mainland and Hong Kong. According to [this article](#) by the *BBC*, the number of annual travelers from the mainland to Hong Kong increased from 2.3 million in 1997 to 54 million in 2013. And many of these visas are multiple-entry, meaning that travelers can re-enter Hong Kong multiple times within a set time period without having to apply for a new visa or travel permit.

Yet another point of contention is the issue of anchor babies born in Hong Kong, a phenomenon that occurs when mainland Chinese women come to Hong Kong to give birth in order to

aisle talking points to embrace or criticize.

Surrounded by a host of Catholics who serve in government from both parties, including Joe Biden, vice president; John Boehner, speaker of the House; John Kerry, secretary of state; Nancy Pelosi, House Minority leader; and John C. Roberts, chief justice of the Supreme Court, Francis ended with a message that everyone could agree with: "God Bless America."

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, the pope traveled to New York City and Philadelphia, where he met with Catholic clergy, laypersons, and those in need, such as the homeless or the incarcerated. In Philadelphia, in a speech emceed by Mark Wahlberg and with music performed by Aretha Franklin, Francis spoke to thousands on the strength of the family.

"In families," he said, "there is always light."

secure the right to live in Hong Kong and raise their child. [This article](#) in Hong Kong's *The Standard* notes that 31,000 anchor babies were born in Hong Kong in 2012 alone.

While Chinese visitors to Hong Kong point out that it is not illegal to secure a visa, Hong Kongers complain that their home is being overrun by these "locusts," who place a great strain on their resources, infrastructure, and goods available in stores. To address the rising tensions, government officials have proposed stricter limitations and quotas on the number of visitors allowed-- although this may not heal all the damage.

According to [this article](#) from *CNN*, Hong Kongers display greater tension and resentment toward Chinese visitors, with displays of anger ranging from pejorative comments to massive, organized protests.

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Staff Writer Commentary

Jeb Bush's presidential campaign plummets

BY NICHOLAS RIEBEL

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Wow, what happened to Jeb Bush's presidential campaign? Do you remember? He was supposed to be the indomitable frontrunner for the GOP nomination, have more cash than his rivals, and he easily clinch the nomination. Who would have stood up to him? Senator Rand Paul? Too isolationist and eccentric. Marco Rubio? Too boring, and too much of a typical politician. Senator Ted Cruz? Too extreme and bombastic. The others? Largely anonymous has-beens or never-weres, including former Governor Mike Huckabee, the increasingly unpopular Governors Chris Christie, Scott Walker and Bobby Jindal. Perhaps the wealthy failed businesswoman Carly Fiorina could stop the Jebmentum, or perhaps the brilliant but incendiary neurosurgeon Ben Carson would claim the nomination?

Wait, Donald Trump's actually running this time? Surely he isn't serious. There's no chance Trump would be any more than an inconvenience to the inevitable Bush, right?

As it often is, conventional wisdom is being proven wrong before our eyes. If recent polls are to be believed, Jeb Bush is straggling behind Donald Trump, Ben Carson, and an alternating selection of others, including Carly Fiorina and Senators Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio (<http://fxn.ws/1PuuySM>). No liberal bias here: that poll is from Fox News.

Jeb Bush, as you may or may not know, is a former governor of the purple state of Florida, which recently has been key to both parties when they were fighting to win the White House. Passing aside questions about Bush's competence as governor there, it seems that he has made connections and is liked well enough, even if he (and Rubio) are currently losing

the state to Trump: (http://www.publicpolicypolling.com/pdf/2015/PPP_Release_FL_91515.pdf). How could this be, when his victory is supposed to be guaranteed?

The Republican Establishment, the pundits, and the American people need to believe that everything is normal with the Republican party if the party wants any chance of success in the general election. But the rise and fall of some of these candidates is as much the fault of the Republican electorate as it is the fault of the candidates themselves.

The Republican electorate is now dominated by the Tea Party; in fact, the Republican debates are the strongest evidence of this. Tea Party voters want a candidate who isn't in Washington, who is aggressive and will fight for his constituents, and, perhaps most importantly, is enraged at the injustices that Washington is responsible for or perpetuating. That's why Scott Walker and Rick Perry failed. Although they were devoutly conservative, and would aggressively go after their political enemies, they were just insufficiently furious at illegal immigration, the Muslims, and the liberals/socialists. This is why these political "outsiders" (Trump, Carson, and Fiorina) are doing so well: they have tapped into this rage. Fiorina notably directs her venom toward Hillary Clinton and Planned Parenthood; Carson attacks Muslims and socialists, and Trump points a finger towards liberals, ethnic and religious minority groups, and weaker Republicans.

Jeb Bush's problem is that he is a thinker, not a fighter. He doesn't do rage well. It's worth noting that in both Republican debates what probably earned him the most applause was when he inaccurately defended his brother. When he said that George W. Bush "kept us safe" while president, he received heavy applause.

It seems that many Americans right now want angry, non-politician politicians who are enraged with the system and want to change it. Although Senator Bernie Sanders is more subdued than the Republican candidates, this is a large part of why he is doing so well against Hillary Clinton, who is the definition of a political insider. Jeb Bush may have experience, money, and connections, he may have most of the Republican establishment backing him, but unless

he gets angry, moves further to the political right, denounces the system as it is, and performs well on TV, I predict he will continue to struggle. I suspect he will end up doing some of these things, but I think he has to do all of them to save his campaign from certain defeat. Currently, he is not leading or even tied in any recent opinion poll.

I would not be shocked to see him drop out before the Iowa primary election in February.

Full Staff Opinion

We want food

Editors bemoan changes to food choices in College Center, dearth of healthy options

Mankind can be cruel. The human condition is forever marked by conflict and contestation, by trials and tyrants. Each man must make their mark, and choose their destiny: Will you cozy up to The Man? Or will you fight the good fight and rage against the machine? Well, we of *The College Reporter* are standing up to be counted. It's time to be the change we wish to see in the world. We are saying enough is enough.

And we want the old College Center food court back.

Are we the only ones who feel this way? And if so, how on Earth is that possible? Are you eating at the same food court as we are? We're not entirely sure who specifically was behind the changes in the College Center food option, but we have some questions for you.

First, when we filled out those customer surveys last semester, was there a significant majority of students who demanded you replace our dearly departed Panini Junction with an ice cream stall?

Was there seriously such an overwhelming demand for even more sweets and junk food that you had no choice but to bow under the pressure?

Did people seriously tell you they wanted you to replace Vocelli's with some sort of bastardized, off-brand Quizno's?

Has it occurred to you that, now that students can't get the paninis and sandwiches their carboloaded-hearts crave here at the College Center, the lines at Zime have been overwhelmed?

Have you noticed that the ice cream stall always has a few bored workers standing around it when no one ever patronizes it? And Salsa Rico, the heavyweight of the College Center kitchen, is constantly understaffed?

And why has the salad bar been so fickle in and out of commission since this Spring? How difficult can it be to commit to keeping the only healthy option in this building open, especially when we feel like you maybe just have to put spinach in a bowl to do so?

These words may be harsh. But they are from our hearts. Our clogged, unhealthy hearts. The coward does it with a kiss, the brave man, with a fork. Oh, and speaking of forks: there should also be more than one silverware dispenser. Some of us can never find it, and we look like a fool.

Parks' Common Hour provides insight to discover yourself

BY STEFAN RADEVIC

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One would think it is difficult to captivate the attention of several hundred college students sitting in an auditorium, either bored out of their minds or worrying about whether or not they're going to get out of Common Hour in time to get to their next class. But it is difficult to not pay attention when explosive noises, which are used to symbolize moving forward in time, are coming from the mouth of novelist, screenwriter, and Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks. And how could they not listen, when Parks gave the audience one million suggestions on how to become a better person and lead a happy, successful life? This inspirational seminar, entitled "Repairing the World through Acts of Creation and Art," transcended all the noise and chatter thrown our way about what we should study, what field we should go into, and what job we should get in order to make money and be "happy." The advice Parks gave, if heeded and done right, could lead to attaining what

we all seek: health, wealth, love and happiness.

"Don't spend a lot of energy climbing the ladder of success just to get to the top and find out that you propped your ladder on the wrong wall," Parks said.

This particularly resonated with me. We emulate people we consider to be great and very quickly associate them as having some X factor that is responsible for their success. What we often forget to consider, however, is that these people became successful because they pursued a dream that was unique to them and their personality, no matter how crazy other people told them it was. They propped their ladder on the right wall and climbed to the top.

What if Michael Jordan had said, "I really love basketball, but my parents are telling me to major in this so I can get that job, have job security, get pay checks, and retire in peace?" Wouldn't the world be a different place if that had happened? If you look at every person that has been or will be successful, they all pursued that one thing they loved, they followed that small voice in their gut, as Parks explained it, and

allocated everything they had towards that passion.

Not only did they listen to their gut, they pursued their passion without fear of failure. Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team. He missed more than 9,000 shots in his career in the NBA, including 26 game-winning shots. The amount of failure he experienced is something that is almost incomprehensible. But his passion for the game, for following his dream and sticking to it, made him the legend he is today.

Too many times we think about what we can do to get a job and a paycheck as opposed to analyzing our interests and skill sets. Steve Harvey said that "the two most important days in a person's life are the day they're born and the day they find out why." The difference between successful people and what we deem "unsuccessful" people is that the successful ones were able to find their "why."

To illustrate her points, Parks discussed her struggles in English classes throughout high school. Even though she loved to write stories throughout her childhood and adolescent years, she mentioned failing almost every

school spelling test. When she went to her college advisor and told her she wanted to become an English major, the advisor didn't know whether to laugh or be concerned that this was what Parks actually wanted to do. In college, Parks took chemistry classes, and even though she was fairly talented in the sciences, she never felt the same spark as she did when studying English. So she decided to follow that little voice in her head and began taking writing courses. Once she did, she found that she had finally discovered her "why," and came to the conclusion that this was what she wanted to dedicate her life to. Parks' love for writing and playwriting, along with an immense amount of work and failure, eventually earned her the Pulitzer Prize.

So don't just listen to me—listen to Parks. Work to find out who you really are and what your passion is. Once you find that and find your spark, live by Parks' favorite quote: "this little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine." People may talk, haters may hate, but you keep listening to that little voice.

Kim Davis's religious beliefs cannot usurp equal rights in the issuance of marriage licenses

BY LAUREN WACHSPRESS

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County Clerk Kim Davis of Kentucky has been making headlines after defying federal orders and refusing to hand out marriage licenses to gay couples. Once the Supreme Court legalized gay marriage in June, Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear sent a letter telling all of Kentucky's county clerks that they must issue licenses to gay couples. Davis refused to follow this order. Davis and a group of clerks had asked the governor to accommodate their religious convictions, but he refused, telling them to issue the licenses or resign. She was found in contempt of court, and U.S. District Judge David Bunning ordered her to jail for five days. Four couples sued Davis, and she filed a counter-suit against Beshear claiming his order did not exempt religious clerks, which was a violation of

religious freedom. After being held in contempt of court, Davis was allowed to return to work. Then it was discovered she had been altering marriage licenses. The American Civil Liberties Union filed a new motion because Davis was technically violating her testimony in court that clearly stated she does not have "the discretion to create a different kind of license that would not require [her] authorization for it to be issued" (<http://bit.ly/1KDG7z>). She altered the licenses so that there was no mention of the county, along with other modifications, that have called the validity of these licenses into question. All of this was done in the name of faith.

The notion of religious freedom is a very complex issue. The religious tolerance argument obscures the essential principle of separation of church and state. Never mind that Davis herself is intolerant of other human beings

and their civil rights as citizens of the U.S., she wants to claim she is the victim. Her lawyers are from the Liberty Counsel, a firm notorious for opposing gay rights. Davis, with support from the Liberty Counsel, has become a self-proclaimed hero for the religious right, appearing on numerous television networks to affirm her stance.

On ABC's *Good Morning America* Tuesday morning, Davis claimed to have gay friends, but assured the public that she refused to issue licenses to them. This sounds like the classic I'm not racist because I have black friends excuse. Unfortunately, having gay friends cannot hide Davis' ignorance and blatant bigotry. She again reaffirmed her religious principles driving her actions: "I can't put my name on a license that doesn't represent what God ordained marriage to be" (<http://huff.to/1NJov9a>).

On Fox News, Davis explained that spending five days in jail to uphold the Lord's word was worth it, and she also said she is prepared to return to jail. She told Fox News' Megyn Kelly that millions of Christians object to "this whole same-sex marriage issue" and that their rights are worth something. Clearly, Davis is a little confused about how our government works and whose rights are really being infringed upon. It is unclear what type of backwards logic is driving her, whether she thinks homosexuality is an active choice or if she thinks gay people just should not be married, but her religious delusions have no place in the issuing of Kentucky marriage licenses. What is so wrong about gay love that personally affects the life of Kim Davis and other religious fanatics? By claiming divine authority, Davis is evading the true questions of equality and humanity at issue here.



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Campus Life

Suzan-Lori Parks speaks to students, offers a million suggestions for success



photo by Emma Brown '17

Suzan-Lori Parks, author, playwright, actor, musician, and Pulitzer Prize winner, spoke to F&M students about how following their passions will lead them to success.

BY IZZY SCHELLENGER
Staff Writer

In this week's Common Hour, Suzan-Lori Parks spoke about the importance of improving both the world and yourself through creativity and art. Parks is a highly acclaimed author, playwright, actor, and musician.

Parks is the first African American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Drama in 2002 for her Broadway show, "Topdog/Underdog." She was named one of *Time*'s top "100 Innovators for the Fresh New Wave," and she was the 2015 Mueller Fellowship recipient. Parks' Common Hour speech was performance based, and she walked up to stage with her guitar in hand.

Parks said the purpose of her

talk was to present the audience with a million suggestions on how to succeed through the form of speech, sound, and gestures.

In order to bring life to these suggestions, she structured her speech around a chronology of her life and career, intertwining side-bars into her lecture with pieces of advice.

She began her speech by describing the experience of winning the Pulitzer Prize and how humbling the moment was for her, for it made her question who she was before that moment and what path she was making for people to follow in her footsteps.

She emphasized that her accomplishments and countless awards did not come without a struggle, describing herself as

"blessed, but not without stress." The many suggestions that she gave in her lecture were centered around ideals of hard work, kindness, optimism, spirituality, and selflessness that she believed assisted her in becoming the accomplished woman she is today.

Her desire to be a writer started in the fourth grade, when she began to write her first novel after only having read three novels herself. In high school, she told her Advanced Placement English teacher that she wanted to be a writer, but was discouraged because her teacher told her she was a bad speller, and consequently could not be a proficient writer.

Her back-up plan was to become a scientist, which she soon realized was not a career path she would enjoy.

Because she had strayed from her desired path of becoming a writer, she temporarily forgot about her love of literature. It was not until she was forced to take an English class at Mount Holyoke College that she was reminded of her true passion.

"Entertain all your far-out ideas, [allow them to] flower in you life," Parks said.

By stifling these ideas, Parks said, people will be destined to travel down a path they will not truly enjoy.

Her second suggestion stemmed from her belief that sometimes a well-meaning and respected person will provide advice that does not go in accordance with what the recipient believes would be best for him. Instead of being tempted to agree, Parks recommended, learn how to graciously reject the advice.

Parks also stresses in the importance of learning how to listen to one's inner voice. Through the consideration of one's own interests and feelings, Parks believes people can create their own happiness and success.

According to Parks, once someone has embraced their interests,

they will be excited to wake up in the morning and recommit towards their goals because they enjoy their work. She reminded the audience that there is "no cruise control in real life," and that one must always work hard to accomplish their goals.

In 2006, Parks implemented a playwright project where she wrote 365 plays in 365 days, and this project was reproduced in over 700 theaters worldwide.

Another one of Parks' suggestions is to practice radical inclusion, where people learn to accept and include others who they might not have strong or positive feelings toward. Parks said that by stepping out of your comfort zone, you will be living an open-minded and enhanced life where you are accepting to new people, new ideas, and new experiences.

In college, Parks was accepted into a highly selective creative-writing class taught by American novelist James Baldwin. Because of Parks' theatricality in the class, Baldwin recommended that Parks should consider writing for the theater. While first skeptical of this idea because of the notorious reputation of the theater majors she knew, Parks ultimately took Baldwin's advice, and has never looked back.

Parks emphasized that we must present the best of ourselves to the rest of the world so that we set an exceptional example for anyone who strives to follow in our footsteps.

By working hard, being kind and confident, helping others, and listening to our own interests and desires, Parks believes that everyone can improve the world. She concluded with her one-millionth suggestion: "Enjoy the trip."

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CEC Hosts first annual Fall Fest event on Hartman Green

BY CHRISTA RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer

This past Saturday, September 26, students and community members gathered from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm to enjoy music, free food trucks, and fun at Franklin & Marshall's first annual Fall Fest. The event was co-sponsored by IFC, Panhel, CEC, and WFNM, and was completely free for all F&M students. It took place on Hartman Green and many mem-

bers of the F&M community came out to celebrate the arrival of fall.

The musical performances included four exciting bands, each with their own unique styles. The opening act was Steel City Sunrise, an alternative folk-rock band. This lively band from Bethlehem, PA consists of bassist James Copti, banjo player John Pehnke, ukulele player Jacob Newman, and guitarist Mikale D'Andrea. The band integrates

classical folk instruments, while at the same time including sounds based off of mainstream influences. In addition to some originals, this band played covers, performing a medley that included popular songs like "Shake it Off" by Taylor Swift and "Pumped Up Kicks" by Foster the People.

The second band to hit the stage was Flamingosis. The artist, Aaron Velasquez, is a Franklin & Marshall alumni from the class

of 2013. While here, he enjoyed participating in Arts House events and performing in our co-ed a cappella group, The Poor Richards.

Velasquez's style is electronic, with outstanding beatboxing, as well as elements of hip-hop, rap, and experimental pop. Flamingosis ventures to create music simi-

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F&M's improv comedy group, Rumspringas, have first show of the year



photo by Emma Brown '17

Rumspringas had their first show of the school year at the Other Room Theatre. Every show is completely spontaneous, often using the audience for inspiration.

BY ELLIE GAVIN
Campus Life Editor

Last Saturday, September 26, F&M's own improv-comedy group, The Rumspringas, had their first show of the academic year. The show was held at The Other Room Theatre at 8pm.

Since the Rumspringas are an improv group, all of their shows are completely unscripted and spontaneous, making for an exciting and unpredictable experience.

Sophomore Rumspringa Tess Flanagan, who has been a member of Rumspringa since her Freshman year, says that the on-the-spot performances can be nerve-racking, but in order to have a good show, it is important not to let the nerves get the best of you.

"Leading up to my first show I was so excited. Only when we started warming up backstage did

I get nervous and it really hit me," Flanagan said. "I was so judgmental of everything I did during the show that I psyched myself out in the long run. In improv, you can't be so nervous to the point that you are scared."

Although their shows are always unscripted and authentic, Flanagan says the group practices their improv techniques in rehearsal through improv games and prepare for shows by practicing doing long-form improv scenes.

"We practice the way we want to get inspiration, could be a monologue or an interview or a text, for long-form [scenes] and then just do long-form for the rest of rehearsal," she says. "Of course whatever we perform in rehearsal is never replicated when we actually perform."

On Saturday, the group relied



photo by Emma Brown '17

The Rumspringas, including sophomore Vice President KT Thomas and sophomore Kylie Logal, perform in a spontaneous skit in their first show on Saturday night.

on audience participation for their inspiration, asking the audience members to shout out any random words that came to mind. One audience member shouted "eyeballs," and one of the Rumspringa used that keyword as inspiration for an original, on the spot monologue. The other actors then used that monologue as a jumping-off point to launch into improvised skits.

In addition to practicing their improvisation skills, Flanagan says that it is important for the group to spend time in and out of rehearsal bonding and getting comfortable with each other.

"Group chemistry is so important! There needs to be an element of trust between improvisors or else we would be too scared to do the wacky things we do on stage with each other," Flanagan says.

Flanagan uses two words to

sum up the most important elements of improvisation: Yes, and, meaning that an actor must always go along with whatever seen their partner is creating and build upon it. "Rarely do you see an improver reject a scene because we are trained to agree with what is going on and then build on it."

Flanagan feels that this rule can apply to life off stage as well. "If you want to pursue improv but you are having difficulty, keep going and build on every opportunity that you have," she said. "Don't get discouraged when things don't seem to go the way you had planned. A scene never works out the way I planned, but that doesn't mean it was a bad scene."

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Students enjoy musical performances, free food trucks at Fall Fest

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lar to the styles of musicians like Flying Lotus, J Dilla, and Madlib.

Stolen Jars was the third band, which is an indie-folk band composed of members Cody Fitzgerald (guitar and vocals), Molly Grund (main vocalist), Connor McGuigan (guitar), Matt Marsico (drums), and Tristan Rodman (keyboard). First Year student Mitchell Winter commented on their music, saying, "I

think they've got a nice ambient sound." Their music is inspired by artists such as Sufjan Stevens, Elvis Costello, and Dirty Projectors.

The final act was a local dynamic rap duo from Lancaster County, Jbre x Dougie Kent. Still currently college students, they brought an inspiring young vibe to the crowd.

Their growth in fame is thanks to Youtube videos and Twitter, which allowed them to gain thousands of followers.

This relatively new hip-hop group just went on their first headliner tour, promoting their recent release, "Ars Nova" on Russet Records.

The numerous free food trucks were among the other main attractions of the event. Fall Fest featured food from many local restaurants, included Slovaki Boys, a local Lancaster eatery specializing in Gyro, Sven's cafe, serving Cuban sandwiches and buffalo chicken, Soul Burrito

serving vegetarian burritos, and Lancaster Brg Company, serving burgers with swiss cheese, mushrooms, and onions.

According to Chen, the many attractions of Fall Fest made the event worthwhile, saying that "they should totally have it every year, especially because of the free food!"

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Arts & Entertainment

Amy Poehler didn't win an Emmy, God declared dead Editor grapples with life, love, and mortality in post-Knope hellscape

Commentary
Emmys 2015

by Erin Moyer

Did you watch the Emmys last Sunday? No? Well, you didn't miss much. I mean, yes, perhaps Andy Samberg did a half-decent job as host, and sure, Viola Davis took home a well-deserved Best Actress Award—the first black woman to ever win in the Television Drama category, what's up with that, Emmys?—but I could not properly enjoy either. No, reader, I was too busy fuming (and flipping over to “Keeping Up with the Kardashians”). And why might that be, you ask? (Besides that Kanye West was making an appearance on the reality show, that is.) Because Amy Poehler, your goddess and mine, did not take home an Emmy for her role as Leslie Knope in “Parks and Recreation.”

I know what you're thinking: “well, doesn't that happen every year?” Yes, and that's the problem. Amy Poehler has been nominated for an Emmy every year for the past six years, and she has never taken home the gold. And why is this all of sudden such a big deal to me? First of all, I have had it with your questions. Second of all, this was the last time Poehler could win an Emmy for playing Leslie Knope. And they didn't let her do it, reader. The Emmys didn't choose to honor “Parks and Recreation,” or one of television's best ensemble casts in a generation, or seven years of Poehler turning in absolutely incredible work. They apparently did not deem Poehler, or “Parks and Recreation,” worthy of such regard. And as you may have already gleaned, I am still upset about it.

Reader, I am sorry I got short with you earlier. With your indulgence, I would like to spend the next 900 words dissecting precisely why I think Amy Poehler did not win, and precisely how terrible this will be for Western democracy.

Plenty of people have already written about Poehler's loss, and even more have passed around the immediately-GIFed moment when the cameras cut to our star as the Best Actress in a Television Comedy award is presented, only to reveal her cloaked in a hoodie and sunglasses, chomping on chewing gum. One article that went around quite a bit as well was a piece published by The Washington Post, in their “Style Blog,” for some reason. The article, aptly titled “Why Amy Poehler never really had a shot at winning an Emmy for ‘Parks and Recreation,’” attributed Poehler's loss to a general award show-eschewing of shows that are both network and low-rated.



photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Amy Poehler has been nominated for an Emmy six times for her role as Leslie Knope on *Parks and Recreation*, yet never won.

The author, Emily Yahr, said the show reached too small of a “niche” to warrant serious attention. (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/style-blog/wp/2015/09/21/why-amy-poehler-never-really-had-a-shot-at-winning-an-emma-for-parks-and-recreation/>). It would get a nomination from the Emmys to prove that they are groovy and know that it exists, but that will usually be it. Yahr also quoted Michael Schur, the mind behind both *The Office* and *Parks and Recreation*, who likened Poehler's loss to the equally-notorious-snubbing of Steve Carell in the days of “*The Office*.” As Schur told *Entertainment Weekly*, “it's a very similar thing...I think the world just thinks they've won.” In other words, because Amy Poehler and Steve Carell have clearly had conventional acting success and become beloved stars, mainstream America sort of perceives them as winners already.

All of the above are very valid points. I do not question the author of that article, nor do I want to dismiss Mike Schur's point. But both, in my mind, sort of dance around the real issue behind Poehler's snub. Here's some real talk for you: Amy Poehler missed out because the Emmy Awards hate women.

Oh my gosh, of course they don't. I'm messing with you. But in all seriousness, I think that Poehler lost the award year after year, not because the Television Academy is literally a hateful organization, but because they never took “*Parks and Recreation*” seriously. I don't think they ever really recognized what a special, once-in-a-lifetime show this was. I think this show was too much fun to ever really garner serious consideration for a serious award.

I think these people watched the first season of “*Parks*,” tops, and were too quick to cheer when the manic “crazy lady” tumbled into the pit. Aren't you people supposed to watch these shows, season after season? Perhaps this, as with Steve Carell's equally-snubbed turn as Michael Scott, was a show that always seemed too silly to have truly good actors, and truly good writing, behind every last one of those absurd talking-heads.

But here's the crucial thing the Emmys missed: for me, this award, and who gets it, goes beyond the actual actress. Honestly, every single actress in this category more than earned the award in spades. They were all terrific, and besides, they all do very different things. This award

deserved to go, not arbitrarily to the “best” actress in dissimilar roles, but to the actress who portrayed an unbelievably significant character for the last time. All of the actresses are great, but one character deserved this more than the rest. My big point here is that The Television Academy erroneously missed their very last chance to single out Leslie Knope.

Obviously, Amy Poehler's phenomenal work in rendering Leslie deserved to be awarded, don't get me wrong. And Julia Louis-Dreyfus, the actual winner of the award, is a national treasure as well. But listen, we have very many national treasures. The Emmys had a whole auditorium full of national treasures. What we do not have, what we will never have, is another Leslie Knope. The Emmys missed how meaningful of a character Leslie truly was. This is the brilliant character-creation who gave us *Galentine's Day* and *Ann Perkins-style compliments*, who proved that manic hard work and generosity pay off, who showed me how to speak my mind and value the living hell out of my friends. This is the endlessly-quotable character who brought new glory to small-town government and breakfast food.

If you aren't going to honor Amy Poehler, I'll get over it. (Someday.) But at least honor Leslie, for God's sake. Choose to honor the character who stood for feminism and female friendship, for a productive government and the value of hard work, who injected so much good will and good, intentioned, political writing into an otherwise mindless, often unkind network TV line-up. Choose to honor the fact that an empowered woman like Leslie Knope could even exist, to tremendous success and warm reception, on network TV. Choose to honor all that Leslie and “*Parks and Recreation*” worked for for seven years.

It is truly this that hurts for me the most: Amy Poehler will work and move on with her life, and probably win very many more things. But Leslie Knope, a character who deserves all the praise in the world, just missed her last chance at this honor. I would never contend, if we're playing this game of “whose character counts more?” that a show about a lady Vice President does not deserve some love. But perhaps “*Parks and Recreation*,” and a woman who spent seven years turning in amazing work on one singularly amazing character, deserved it a bit more.

And as far the whole ‘state of Western democracy thing’ goes, I am convinced it will collapse.

Erin Moyer is the Senior Editor. Her email is emoyer1@fandm.edu.

Short Term 12 is filled with powerful performances, heart Indie film slips under moviegoers' radar, but not the critics' gaze

Flashback Movie Review
Short Term 12

by Shaquille Galvan

2013 was the year *Gravity* stunned many with its amazing visuals, *Twelve Years a Slave* won Best Picture at the Oscars, *Frozen* unforgivingly brainwashed seven-year-olds everywhere, and *Short Term 12* slipped under the general audience's radar.

Short Term 12 is an emotionally-charged, low budget drama that deals with adults and children coming to terms with their ugly past and learning how to love and be loved again. It is Destin Daniel Cretton's sophomore film, but his inexperience doesn't show at all.

The film primarily follows Grace as the supervisor of Short Term 12, a facility that houses under privileged youth in a safe and supporting environment. Grace is a truly compassionate character that is willing to go great lengths to support these kids in whatever way she feels necessary throughout the film.

She and several of the other faculty members seem to innately understand the emotional turmoil these kids are going through because they are also products of the foster care system.

This dynamic can be seen through most of the film's story lines, but it is taken to its extreme in the development of Grace and Jayden's relationship. Jayden is a recent addition to Short Term 12 who is reluctant to get close to any of the other children because she doesn't believe she will be in there for long and anxiously awaits for her fathers to pick her up. After various intimate interactions between Jayden and Grace, it becomes clear that they both have an eerily similar past that they are both working on

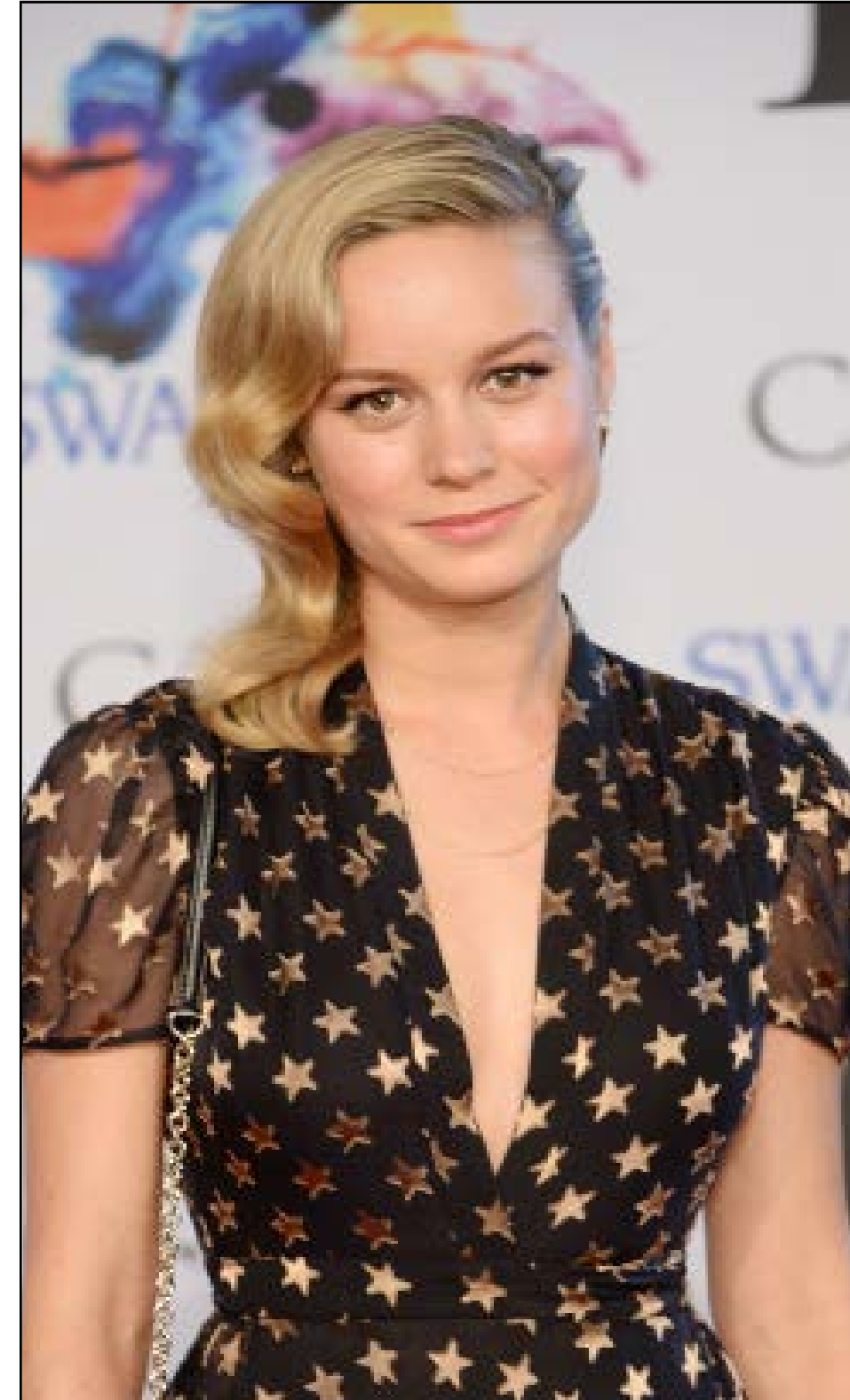


photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Brie Larson starred as Grace in *Short Term 12*, for which she won eight awards from various film festivals and societies.

overcoming.

In addition to Grace and Jayden, the film is filled with several other complex and interesting characters. There is Marcuse, a fish enthusiast, who is about to turn

18 and enter the outside world. Mason is Grace's boyfriend and soon to be the father of her baby. Nate is a new member of the faculty who is learning about a reality he is not too familiar with. And

finally, there is Sammy, a troubled kid, who you can reliably count on trying to escape the facility.

The film is emotionally gripping. Once it gets going, it becomes difficult to stop watching. There are several tear-jerking moments that are neither cheesy nor shoehorned into fitting. The emotions seem entirely organic.

Most of the film is shot with a hand-held camera, a trope that could have easily gotten nauseating. Cretton's uses the hand held camera, though, gives the film a realistic feel without delving into documentary territory. The technique enhances the film's emotions and raises the stakes.

The acting is, for the most part, great. Two actors that stand out in particular are Kaitlyn Dever as Jayden and Keith Stanfield as Marcus. Both of these actors played the nuances of their character well, and they bring their all in scenes that demand it. Keith's performance in *Short Term 12* actually launched his career landing him roles in several other films, most notably Snoop Dogg in *Straight Outta Compton*.

Overall, *Short Term 12* might be small in scale, but it is definitely big in heart. With Destin Daniel Cretton's sensibilities in character and story, I would be interested in seeing what he is working on next. If you haven't seen *Short Term 12*, I recommend you seek it out.

Shaquille Galvan is a contributing writer. His email is sgalvan@fandm.edu.

Review Rating:

A-

Short Term 12 may be small in scale, but it is definitely big in heart.

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The Major League Baseball regular season is concluding and the playoffs are near. Read more....



photo courtesy of adweek.com

Franklin & Marshall Sports

Major League Baseball heats up as postseason approaches

BY JOSEPH YAMULLA
Sports Editor

It's the end of September, so naturally most buzz in the sports world is focused on the start of the NFL season. However, despite the cooling fall air, the most dramatic part of the Major League Baseball season is just about to heat up. There is a little more than a week left of the regular season, and the magic

numbers for many teams to clinch playoff berths are dwindling. Plenty of fans still have a lot to cheer about, and even more are taking this time to look back and reflect upon why and how their team came up short this season.

The teams that we already know will be playing in the postseason are the Toronto Blue Jays, Kansas City Royals, St. Louis Cardinals,

Pittsburgh Pirates, and the Chicago Cubs. Toronto has not been to the playoffs since 1993. That's a tough stretch for die-hard Jay fans, yet many stayed devoted to their team through the longest playoff drought in the history of professional sports in North America. The Rogers Centre has been packed night in and night out as the big-time moves to bring in star

players like Josh Donaldson and David Price have definitely translated into on-field success. Toronto currently has the wild card spot, and could clinch the division as early as next week when they play the Baltimore Orioles.

The Mets have had a similar stretch as the Blue Jays over the past few decades. Their playoff success has been minimal, and they have not won a world series since 1986. But now, the bright lights of New York are shining on Citi Field and not Yankee Stadium. Matt Harvey, Jacob deGrom, and Noah Syndergaard make up one of the best pitching staffs in baseball. Also, their new high powered offense with mid season acquisition Yoenis Céspedes make the Mets a true presence in the National League. They will be a tough team to beat in a five or seven game series.

Then there is the National League Central, which is certainly the best division in baseball. The division is sending three teams (Cardinals, Pirates, Cubs) out of the total five National League spots. The Cardinals, Pirates, and Cubbies, in that order, also flirt the three best records in the National League. It seems unlikely that either team will catch the Cardinals to win the division, so it looks like it will be a wild-card matchup between Pittsburgh and Chicago. This likely game is highly anticipated by all baseball fans, and has fans of the Cubs and Pirates getting nervous. However, it will absolutely be exciting to see how NL Central looks at the conclusion of the regular season next week.

Finally, we have the "what if" teams. The Washington Nationals went into this season with high hopes, as they were one of the favorites to go deep in the playoffs and win a World Series. The Los Angeles Angels, Seattle Mariners, and the Detroit Tigers also boasted impressive rosters and odds in February and March, but now seem to be preparing family vacations this October.

Postseason baseball is just about underway. Baseball is an interesting game where preseason predictions are not always accurate. Instead, sometimes all a team needs is a little momentum and magic. The momentum is still building after hundreds of games this summer, and the magic has just begun.



photo courtesy of rantsports.com

The playoff-bound Chicago Cubs celebrate after a win. Joe Maddon takes his new look Cubbies to the playoffs and seeks to end an historic World-Series drought. If the Cubs could get back to Wrigley for a playoff series, Chicago will certainly be ready to cheer.



photo courtesy of latinpost.com

Andrew McCutchen is leading the Pittsburgh Pirates to a third straight postseason. It seems likely that they will match up against the Chicago Cubs in the Wild Card game on Wednesday, Oct. 7th. The Cardinals seem poised to win the NL Central.

Sophomore Joseph Yamulla is the Sports Editor. His email is jyamulla@fandm.edu