

Stressed about finals? Check out some cute animal friends that will help alleviate your suffering!

Lifestyles

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Student Body President Christos Pietris addresses students with a letter about future plans

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# The Circle

The Student Newspaper of Marist College



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Thursday, May 7, 2015

## ASU second annual "Color Run" another success

BY AMBER CASE

Editor-in-Chief

If you saw anyone covered from head to toe in blue this past Saturday, chances are that they were coming back from Autism Speaks U's second annual Color Run. As the 350 participants from Marist and the Poughkeepsie community crossed the finish line in this year's run, they were greeted with a cloud of blue powder, the official color of Autism Awareness Month.

Autism Speaks U is a program designed by the Autism Speaks organization that allows students to get involved in raising awareness for the disorder. The first school to adopt the program was Penn State in 2006.

The Marist chapter of ASU officially began holding meetings in spring 2014. Their first Color Run was held that same semester and was a huge success, raising \$21,000. The 2015 run was almost equally successful in terms of fundraising, earning \$18,200 for autism. In regards to how smoothly the event was executed, president

and founder of the Marist chapter, Kaity Meagher, said the second time around takes the cake.

"Tons of small things went wrong last year which we learned from and corrected this year," Meagher explained. "We also made sure our event was bigger and better by making changes such as adding more powder stations during the run, getting more powder and including tee-shirts for all runners

paid within the registration fee."

The planning of such a huge event takes a lot of time and effort. The color run's route began at the riverfront. Participants were coated in blue powder at the starting line, then ran up to Fontaine, past Lowell Thomas, up to Jazzman's Cafe and around the green area. Then the runners retraced their steps back down to the river for a total distance of about three miles. About halfway

through the race, there were volunteers by Jazzman's throwing blue powder at the runners passing by. Four more people awaited at the finish line for one final burst of color.

"It was my first color run and I had no idea what to expect," junior Kathleen O'Brien said. "It was a great experience and it was worth three days of being blue to support the cause."

The ASU board did not record a winner of the run or keep track of the placement of any participants. The purpose of the second installment of this run on the Marist campus was to promote awareness of autism, a developmental disorder that affects one in every 68 individuals worldwide.

"This is the time to educate, advocate and raise awareness for these individuals around us," Meagher said. Especially at the collegiate level, we need to be informed. We are the ones who are going to go out into the world and change it after we graduate, so to educate college students now about this cause is crucial."



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERNADETTE HOGAN

Sophomores Bernadette Hogan, Rosemarie Vigneron, Kinlin O'Brien and Kelly Bischoff support autism awareness by running in Marist's second annual run.

## Marist Poll takes on Washington D.C.

BY RYAN SLANEY

Staff Writer

On Saturday, April 25, the D.C. political and media elite rubbed elbows with sports and entertainment celebrities at the annual White House Correspondent's Dinner, an event affectionately referred to as "nerd prom."

President Obama exercised his self-effacing comedic chops and brought out Key and Peele's angry translator, Luther, in a crowd-pleasing set that even upstaged the night's actual comedian, SNL's Cecily Strong.

The standard complaints from commentators about the event arose once again this year with critics pointing to the dinner as representative of Washington's insular elitism. However, the dinner is generally more of a welcome injection of good humor into a city that is too often at odds with itself.

If you watched the event on television, you may have noted some familiar faces from campus in the star-studded crowd. Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion, Dr. Barbara L. Carvalho, Director of the Marist College Poll and other important Marist Poll professionals were in attendance along with our College President Dennis Murray.

Dr. Miringoff noted that, in addition to being a very fun night, the dinner was a great chance to reconnect with the many people who have had ties to the Marist Poll over the years. In its 37th year of existence, the Marist Poll has reached a level of great prominence due, in part, to its many fruitful partnerships over the years, and Marist's presence at this prestigious event underlines that progress.

Two nights earlier and just a block from Mr. Obama's front



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARISTPOLL.COM

With the 2016 election looming over our heads there are many issues and candidates to choose from. Who will be the next leader of the United States?

SEE "LAWN," PAGE 4



# Campus

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www.maristcircle.com

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## THIS WEEK

Thursday, 5/7

Marist College Department of Art & Digital Media Annual Student Exhibition  
5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Steel Plant Art Gallery

Friday 5/8

29th Silver Needle Runway & Awards  
2:00-9:00 p.m.  
Mid-Hudson Civic Center

Saturday 5/9

Departing Senior Ceremony  
12:00-4:00 p.m.  
Symphonic Room Kappa Kappa Psi

5/11-5/15

Final Exam Week  
Good Luck!



### Letter from the Editor

The end is near. I sit here at the LT 158 -10 computer writing my last Letter from the Editor. As all of you read this final paper of the year, please don't cry for my departure; it's hard enough without your tears. These past three years on The Circle staff have been great, but before I digress into my goodbyes, I will give you one last run down of The Circle.

Finals are upon us, but have no fear because your weekly salvation is here. So, pick up The Circle, sit down and relax a little.

As you look at the cover of our paper, News will have you moving with details of this past weekend's ASU color run and the Marist Poll's trip to Washington D.C. For all of you avid political fans, our former Student Body President Christos Pietris gives one final SGA update.

Hop over to Features and learn about Habitat for Humanity's spring break trip to Florida. Yes, they were enjoying the weather we have now back in March...be envious. On a different note, read about two girls who interned at a domestic violence help center.

In preparation for finals, Lifestyles discusses the benefits of dogs as a source of therapy. For those of you who are already in summer mode, you can learn about a summer break destination.

Over in Opinion, things are heating up with articles on gay marriage and Marist's alert emails. Should we be getting public service announcements regard-

ing national riots and unrest?

If Opinion gets a little too hot, cool down with A&E (although you might melt when you see McDreamy's picture). Patrick Dempsey's sudden death on "Grey's Anatomy" leaves fans heartbroken, but another student's piece on the White House Correspondents' Dinner might alleviate some of the pain.

Also in A&E, check out the spread on MCTV's fourth annual Foxapalooza featuring Marist's talented aspiring musicians.

Finally, over in Sports, read about the recaps of baseball and lacrosse.

Now that the business is over, let me say my goodbyes.

To Avery, good luck next semester with Capping!

To Mike, good luck with Sports and have fun in Florence!

To Bernadette, good luck abroad in Spain! You will have a wonderful time and I am insanely jealous of the food you will be eating. Also, you have an innate gift for writing headlines...they're just beautiful.

Lifestyles Shannon, it's been wonderful getting to know you this past semester! Good luck with everything and we will need more late-night conversations.

To Little John, I guess we will keep you as an editor even though you abandoned us.

Adriana, you are the resident feminist so keep it coming! I've so enjoyed our conversations and even though you are News editor, please continue to express your opinion...we all love hearing it!

To Shannon Bales, we are for-

ever in your debt for providing us with InDesign...I shudder at the thought of Quark. From Florence to now, there have been so many fantastic memories. Keep playing that jazz! Ti piace??

To Michelle, I think watching you lay on the floor when the network died helped keep me sane...we got through it! You were a wonderful editor-in-chief and it's been so much fun and stressful working together this year. I've learned so many things about you and I leave you salt packets and candle holders (I know how much you love them).

Finally, for Amber: we have been working together since our freshman year and it is so strange to think that I will not be spending hours panicking in the Mac Lab every Tuesday night with you. You and I are equally horrible at writing captions and titles (good thing we weren't alone in our struggles). From late night breakdowns to soothing the Macs and the hard drive to Leo trivia, it's been a wonderful adventure. You will be an amazing editor-in-chief next year, but my only request is that you keep Leo's spirit alive in the paper...although we are parted, our hearts will go on! Just remember to bop it!

To all my loyal Circle readers, keep doing what you are doing. Read and (possibly) write for us, but always remember to believe in the green light...that's what Leo would want.

-Katie O'Brien  
Managing Editor



## The Circle

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# A letter the from Student Body President

BY CHRISTOS PIETRIS

SGA Correspondent

Thank you again for this opportunity to update you on the recent activities of the Marist Student Government. I am grateful for your support and interest in this aspect of life at Marist College.

I want to address three areas: first, the membership of our government; second, an update on the nine key areas of concern that we have identified and prioritized; and third, our accomplishments and aspirations for the future government.

To begin with, we have recently undergone a transition from the past administration to the new one. The new Student Body President is a young man by the name of Timos Pietris. I can't say I know him very well, but I hear he is a great guy. We had our transition take place at Christos's where the event was a huge success. This year we returned to the initial goal of the event and made it more about clubs, I made my farewell address and the transition ceremony finished everything off. We were very pleased with the venue and would be happy to go there again.

The elections went rather well and were very competitive. We filled every class president position and had many candidates run as senators. This coming year will be especially interesting since a number of key roles in the Government were filled by graduating seniors. The new officers are young but filled with passion and energy to make a great difference on campus.

Second, as a government we have identified nine key areas in the past that we would like to address. The nine areas ranked by priority are:

**1. Transportation:** Airport shuttles have gained significant interest and we have determined that the success of the Spring Break Shuttles would be even better if in the future there was a shuttle to JFK and LaGuardia Airports—students have expressed strong interest in this.

**2. 21 and up programs:** Regular situations where students 21 and older can consume alcohol on campus in a safe and controlled environment. Many students have expressed interest in such an event and we are holding the event called, "The Last Happy Hour" where seniors will casually drink with their professors and enjoy a sophisticated beer tasting.

**3. Sustainability:** Bike racks and hydration stations encourage clubs not to cater with bottled water. More bike racks have been put in and students were very pleased. We also managed to have a Hydration

Station put in the gym. Student reception is great and we hope to put in a new one in Champ and the library because students have determined that it would be the best venues with the most frequent usage. We have been told that more of these will be put in place during the summer. We are still waiting on additional bike racks to go in front of the Student Center, Dyson, Donnelly and Lowell Thomas. Students have also expressed interest in an additional bike rack in Upper West.

**4. Athletics:** The sports court, potential expansion of the gym, replacement of old and broken equipment. We have received an update from buildings and grounds keeping that stated they have gotten approval of the sports court to be built during the summer recess.

**5. Dining Hall:** Students have been more pleased with the quality of food they are receiving from the dining hall.

**6. Safety and security:** Blue lights, lighting and traffic control. We have raised the issue of blue lights to security especially for the Gartland side of campus. Many students have expressed concern for the intersection in front of Hancock. They find it to be incredibly dangerous when students are walking from their classes and there are cars trying to move through in between them. Students have suggested we put some sort of light system or crosswalk light to indicate when students should be walking and when cars should have the right of way.

**7. Parking:** Will always be a problem at Marist. A solution would be to establish a shuttle system to different sections of the campus for students who may be injured or have health issues that prevent them from walking long distances. A separate shuttle can make up for the lack of parking by removing the students perceived necessity for having a car on campus. This separate shuttle could frequent nearby locations students may need to go to including the train station, supermarket and the mall. The cabs have been incredibly unreliable and a number of students have been left stranded and forced to miss their trains.

**8. Library hours and policies:** Better weekend hours and accessibility. We have determined that the students would like the library to open at least an hour earlier on the weekends. They would also like clarification as to why they do not just keep one floor lighted and have all the students who are there late at night stay on that floor to conserve energy.

**9. Student culture:** Taking a look at diversity in the broadest sense: racial diversity, sexual diversity, internationality among the students. After the diversity event that took place, it has been a topic of discussion. We have student government representation on a committee organized by Freddy Garcia, as a step in the right direction we can suggest to put up more multicultural artwork around the campus and especially the blank walls of the student center. Unique and interesting artwork from different countries can give students some exposure to cultures of the rest of the world.

In the next administration, we hope to implement "Supper with Student Government" where students can ask questions during dinner hours in the cafeteria. There are wider areas that have emerged that merit attention. We have determined that since many student vocalized their concerns with faculty and classes that we must take action to better our education process. Students are getting more and more disgruntled with the huge variances in their quality of professors. Students also feel that the evaluations need updating since they appear to be outdated. We had a meeting with Dr. Tom Wermuth and the Deans on the 26th of March to discuss and develop ways to implement all of our ideas and we have been informed that they agree with a number of our initiatives and that they would take steps to implement online course evaluations to replace the tedious paper process we have currently.

Finally I would like to end with some of our key accomplishments in this past administration:

1. Had a proposal to transition to Online Course Evaluations.

2. Helped revamp the Marist College Academic Integrity Policy.

3. We have also written and filmed some PSA videos to inform students of the changes being made. They will be released to all First-Year seminar students hopefully (if the policy changes are finalized) at the very start of next semester.

4. Also revamped the Faculty of the Year awards ceremony—changing the place, food and overall presentation of the event to show the respect and admiration that we have for professors.

5. We have just begun checking into creating more universal policies in the field of internships and career opportunities, internship bulletin boards in all of the academic buildings and internship advisors/coordinators for

all schools are being discussed.

6. In February of 2015, the Class of 2018 hosted P.S. I Love You Day, a day where everyone was asked to wear purple to stand up against bullying, depression and suicide.

7. Collected over 500 signatures in conjunction with Marist Take Back the Tap to have people pledge to lower the amount of plastic water bottles they use. We also had clubs pledge to use jugs of water at their events instead of individual water bottles.

8. We advocated putting in a filtration station in McCann and future ones in both the library and Champagnat.

9. We advocated for a mirror to be put in behind Leo to make that area safer for drivers.

10. We resurrected the 21 society and contingent on its success we would like to have monthly events take place throughout the school year in the future.

11. We started organizing study sessions for students per major throughout the week before finals week where students can ask questions and get help in preparation for finals.

12. We advocated for the building of the sports court on the upperclassmen side of campus to facilitate community that will begin in the summer.

13. We produced two incredibly successful public service announcements with the help of Marist College Television for Title Nine awareness and Binge Drinking.

14. We have finally made it possible to take on the role of Student Body President as an RA with some negotiation and accommodation.

15. This past month, on April 30th, we hosted the second annual "The Words They Call Me Event" which hopes to be a great success.

16. We fought to change the perception of student government amongst the students and help them realize that we advocate for them and that they should get more involved.

17. We chartered the Golf Club, United Nations Club and the Best Buddies Program.

18. We permanently established the position of Director of Safety and Security on the Student Government Executive Board.

Thank you again for your attention and your support.

# Marist Poll views interworkings of D.C.

## From page one

lawn, the Marist College Poll held its own political event at the historic Decatur House. Amidst the buzzing Washington atmosphere, Marist students and alumni gathered together on Thursday evening for an insightful and substantive panel discussion titled "The Message and the Messenger: The 2016 Race for the White House." Dr. Miringoff and Dr. Carvalho presided over the panel, which was comprised of some of the preeminent names in beltway journalism.

The journalists on the panel were Steve Thomma, Senior White House Correspondent and Government and Politics Editor for McClatchy Newspapers, Amy Walter, National Editor of The Cook Political Report, USA Today's Washington Bureau Chief Susan Page and Chuck Todd, NBC News Political Director, Moderator and Managing Editor of the venerable Sunday morning institution "Meet the Press."

Before the panel started their lively discussion, Dennis Murray offered a few words on the Marist Poll and the important role Marist College plays in the political process. Sit-

ting among scores of Marist alums who have gone on to do important work in our nation's capital, President Murray's words rang true and there was a definite sense of pride in the room over Marist's continuing tradition of political engagement.

After Dr. Miringoff warmly introduced the panel, Chuck Todd took a moment to acknowledge President Murray's legacy and wondered out loud who could possibly succeed him, before playfully suggesting Marist alum Bill O'Reilly. The panel then got right into discussing some of the key issues and storylines of the upcoming 2016 presidential race. Hillary Clinton, of course, was a name that loomed large in the panel discussion, especially since reports on the Clinton Foundation's allegedly dubious behavior dominated the headlines earlier that day. Clinton's long history in Washington, her relationship with the president and how she will define herself as a candidate of the future were some of the major points of emphasis for the panel.

On the Republican side, a major issue the panelists delved into was the sheer size of the playing field for the Republican primary and how that will be whittled down to

one candidate. Remarking on the logistical difficulties of holding a debate for so many candidates, Chuck Todd conjured a humorous image of the debates set up like game shows with rows of candidates buzzing in with their response.

The demographic shift of the country was another key issue raised by the panel for the 2016 race. The increasing number of Hispanic voters and non-white voters in general in the U.S. has major electoral implications, especially for a Republican party that has been unpopular with Hispanics due to a hard stance on immigration. An important sentiment among the panelists was that the Republicans will need to change their strategy from 2012, in which they fared rather poorly among minority voters.

The panel then opened up to questions from the audience, who were very engaged and asked questions that spurred even more spirited discussion from the panel.

At the end of the discussion, each panelist was asked which campaign was their favorite to work on, and what historical campaign they would have most liked to work on. Reagan as well as John and Bobby Kennedy were among the historical

candidates of choice, illustrating the enduring presence of those names in Washington. The common characteristics among each journalist's favorite candidate to work with were accessibility and affability.

Amy Walter offered an anecdote from her time covering Marco Rubio's current campaign in which Rubio shared with his staff his and his daughter's fascination with the color changing dress illusion that had gone viral. This anecdote, among others shared by the panel, showcased the importance of personal relationships in the world of politics. Dr. Miringoff noted afterwards that the event "highlighted what the mission of the Marist Poll is about."

The event brought together students, alumni, and journalists under the common goal of political engagement and the sharing of ideas. Underlying that crucial exchange of ideas are the personal relationships that are formed by a shared interest in the common good. Washington may look hopelessly insular and divided at times, but events like this show the intellectual passion and strong social bonds that characterize much of political life.

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For more information, contact James Morrow-Polio, Assistant Coordinator at [james.morrowpolio1@marist.edu](mailto:james.morrowpolio1@marist.edu).



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## Habitat for Humanity: A growing service presence on campus

BY ADRIANA BELMONTE

*Opinion Editor*

Since its inception in 2007, Marist's chapter of Habitat for Humanity has grown in numerous ways. Over the course of two semesters this year, the organization has seen nearly 300 different members attend meetings. The chapter's newfound success can be attributed to hardworking leaders including a Campus Chapter advisor and six dedicated officers. The President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary/Newburgh Liaison, Committee Chair/Dutchess Liaison and Public Relations Chair each handle specific responsibilities in order to ensure that the chapter is running smoothly.

The first meeting is usually when the officers see the greatest amount of people. For their Campus Chapter advisor Timothy Ondrey, that is usually his favorite memory each year.

"I haven't told them this before but there is usually a look of fear on their faces as 300 of their peers get seated and look to them as leaders," Ondrey said. "That fear soon disappears though as excitement and pride takes over while discussing all of the good they will be building as part of our Habitat family."

Many officers agree that members slowly become like a family towards one another, especially after attending builds and events together. Katie Gillick, the Public Relations Chair, said that the sense of family that she found is something that she hopes other members take out of Habitat for Humanity.

"If there is anything that I would hope people take away from their



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS MANOBIANCO

Members of Marist's Habitat for Humanity chapter pose for a photo in front of a Habitat build at the Collegiate Challenge event in Ovedo, Florida.

experience as part of Marist's chapter of Habitat for Humanity, it would be the same sense of welcome and friendship that I experienced," Gillick said. "We are a community and seek to spread that message to others."

The Collegiate Challenge is the big annual event where officers and members witness the bonds that are easily formed. Held each year during spring break, the Collegiate Challenge is a service trip where the club officers and a select group of members travel to a location picked out in advance that is in need of service. This service entails building a house, which can include landscaping, painting, cleaning and more. Club officers agree that this is their favorite part of Habitat for Humanity and that their best memories come from this trip. Current president Christine Venuti hardly

knew anyone when she attended her first Collegiate Challenge to Arkansas during her sophomore year.

"I was nervous but I instantly became friends with everyone on the trip," she said. "We became a family." She decided to run for president after attending the trip to New Mexico during her junior year. "It was just something that felt right," Venuti said.

For freshman Danny Chon, it was a similar story. He attended the most recent trip to Florida and did not know anybody going into it. After making many friends on the trip, he realized how happy he was to have the experience and went on to be elected the Dutchess Liaison/Committee Chair for the Fall 2015 semester.

"The Collegiate Challenge will always be something I can look back on as one of the best trips of

my life," Chon said. "This greatly influenced my decision to run for a board position—I wanted to give others a chance to experience the same amazing trip I had."

While current Dutchess Liaison and future Vice President Christina O'Neil agrees that the Collegiate Challenge is one of her favorite parts of Habitat, she also enjoys another aspect: speaking with the future homeowner that members are working with.

"I love hearing their stories while working them and learning more about them," O'Neil said. "One thing that Habitat does that I find very unique is the concept of sweat equity." Sweat equity means that every homeowner who is eligible for a Habitat home must put a certain number of hours of physical labor into building their home in return for a lower mortgage. "This allows homeowners to work on their home and build a respect and attachment to it, as well as allow us to work with them along the way," O'Neil added.

The chapter's current goal is trying to reach out to even more students for next semester. They are working towards having members earn service points rather than club points towards the priority point system. While the chapter does not know what the outcome will be, they are confident that having the chapter recognized as a service organization will lead to even more involvement from the Marist community. Until then, Habitat for Humanity officers are perfectly content with making a difference around them with whatever help they can get.

## Interns at Domestic Violence Services share experiences

BY MALLIKA RAO

*Staff Writer*

For their final semester at Marist, Marianne Mazza and Ally Kontos interned at Domestic Violence Services of Dutchess County—a local support center for victims of domestic violence—and decided to bring their experiences to Marist by going around different dorms to spread the word about the facts and myths behind domestic violence and sexual assault on college campuses. This has been a hot-button topic in recent months, yet it is still an issue that is vastly underreported and, in some cases, highly exaggerated.

During a stop at an Upper Fulton dorm, Mazza and Kontos brought out "what would you do" scenarios that included a professor trying to

come on to his student and a secret admirer who frequently sends roses and strange notes to a student that he has only met once. The students who attended the lecture were then asked to provide their solutions to this particular problem. The conversation was refreshingly candid and lighthearted, but Mazza and Kontos want to do more to spread the word about domestic violence to college students.

"It's the elephant in the room," says Mazza. "Some people don't want to talk about it because they still feel its taboo." Kontos adds, "[Crazy] things happen around here and no one seems to know about it. It's important to raise awareness because it's happening all around us and if we educate then it's one less person

who will experience abuse because they will know what to look for."

Before her internship began, Kontos admits that her knowledge of the issue of domestic was limited to the Chris Brown and Ray Rice incidents that were widely publicized. However, "since interning [she and Marianne] have had the chance to get real-life experience with victims and hear stories about things they have lived through. After that we realized that domestic violence is prevalent in all walks of life no matter what age, race, gender or sexual preference."


Mazza and Kontos are not the only people who are spreading the word in the Marist community. Roberta Staples, the Director of Professional and Student Develop-

ment, has been a big advocate for this issue, and she recently spoke at the We (heart) Consent event on April 20. She described a gang rape that happened back in 1993, which is testament to the fact this issue has been going on for decades. It is only now that people are starting to shed light on it, and Kontos believes that it is all going to be for the better. "Everyone would like to think it doesn't happen on campus but of course it does. I think the way Marist handles it is done well," she says. "We are clearing up what is right and what is not [through these programs and various clubs at Marist] and that might make people realize what they went through was not love or welcomed."



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## The East Coast's overlooked summer spot

BY SOPHIA BRANA

Staff Writer

With finals week just around the corner, students across campus are looking forward to finishing that last final, taking off and not looking back until August. As the school year comes to a close, thoughts of sitting on a beach without a care in the world are what propel overworked and under-rested students through the most stressful week known to man. For obvious reasons, the beach is a popular summer destination for students and families alike; many of us even call the famed Jersey Shore home. It is impossible to go wrong with spending a week, a day or even just a few hours relaxing on the beach; however, there are so many places that get overlooked by people looking for a memorable vacation.

For most people, the state of Maine conjures up thoughts of snow and moose, not sun and relaxation. With average summer temperatures of 70-80° F, the state of Maine is not a typical summer vacation hotspot, but it is a great destination for people looking to try new things and experience some of the best nature has to offer.

From Marist, one can reach Maine

in approximately seven hours, making it an ideal road trip destination. Whether someone is looking for a relaxing vacation filled with shopping and sunbathing, or a more active adventure, there is something in Maine for everyone. Southern Maine is home to the East Coast's very own Portland, a town filled with shops, restaurants and history. Here, one can visit an array of art galleries, farmers markets, local restaurants and stores.

The one thing Maine is perhaps most famous for (other than its moose population) is its lobster. The coastal towns of Maine have been catching lobsters for centuries, and it is evident by the fact that nearly every restaurant in Maine offers lobster rolls, delicious creations of lobster and drawn butter on hot dog rolls. The trip to Maine is worth it, if only to experience the joy of eating lobster on the go.

Maine's beaches are the hidden gems of the East Coast (though they cannot compare to the Jersey Shore). Places like Crescent Beach and Wells offer a chance to relax in the sand and enjoy the Atlantic Ocean. The difference between the beaches of Maine and the beaches along the rest of the East Coast is that many of Maine's



Twin Lights State Park, Cape Elizabeth, Maine  
Photo courtesy of Sophia Brana

beaches are state parks. The coast of Maine offers many opportunities for kayaking, canoeing, swimming and an active lifestyle overall.

The largely untouched natural landscape of Maine is stunning and offers infinite opportunities for adventure. Whether it's hiking, biking, camping or enjoying a picnic, there is a park in Maine that is perfect for any occasion. Cape Elizabeth's Two Lights State Park is one state park that has something for everyone. This aptly named park is home to two lighthouses and

the remains of a World War II-era seacoast battery bunker. At Two Lights, one can hike the multiple trails, climb down the cliffs to the ocean, glimpse into the hundreds of tide pools along Maine's rocky coast and enjoy spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean and Casco Bay.

This summer, instead of immediately migrating south after finals week, consider heading north to experience some of the best culture, nature and lobster available on the East Coast.

## Puppies: Adorable & effective stress relievers

BY SHANNON DONOHUE

Lifestyles Editor

One of the most common complaints among students about campus life is the constant longing for a cuddle session with their pet at home. During high school, you could come home after a long day and your pet would seem to instant-

ly make your stresses melt away.

With the high-stress environment of a college campus, it would seem logical for schools to invest in "puppy therapy," especially during midterm and final exam periods. Academic pressures run highest at these times and these animals offer a quick and effective escape

from the never ending buildup of homework, presentations and tests.

A study mentioned in USA Today stated that interacting with animals can significantly lower the levels of cortisol (a stress hormone) in your brain. It also releases "happy hormones" called endorphins, thus relieving stress and refreshing your mood almost instantly.

In the last few years, many institutions all across the country have brought stress-relieving animals onto their campuses to help students cope with the stress of balancing schoolwork, sports, a social life and family matters. Harvard Medical School and Yale Law School both have puppy rental programs, where students can borrow trained therapy dogs for a certain amount of time at no cost to the student.

Other campuses, such as the University of Rhode Island and the University of California, have similar programs in which the schools rent trained animals from local shelters and let students play with them on the campus green for free during these stressful exam periods.

Indiana University recently enact-

ed their "Rent-a-Puppy" program in which the school partnered with a local animal shelter and allowed students to pay \$5 to rent a puppy for the day. If the students fell in love with the dog, as many of them did, they could then officially adopt the puppy from the local shelter. This benefited everyone involved with the program by providing stress relief for the students and providing a good home for the shelter dogs.

These puppy therapy sessions are extremely effective and Marist students would be elated if they were integrated into our school.

"I would be so thrilled, especially since a lot of people have pets at home they really miss towards the end of the semester. It would be so great to get my mind off of finals for a day or two," said sophomore Genevieve Hauck.

Finals week can be a stressful time, and Marist would greatly benefit from bringing therapy animals to campus. Either way, just keep in mind that after finals, you're one step closer to finally cuddling up with your pet at home again for the summer!



Therapy dogs are specially trained to help you through any stressful situation.

Photo courtesy of keystonehumanservices.org

## Voices unheard: How my school handles tragedy

BY BRYANNA RENEE

Circle Contributor

Every time there is a tragedy, we get an email from our college's president. They are much appreciated because they bring attention to horrific events happening globally that we may not be aware of.

On April 27, 2015, an email was sent out about the tragic events that happened in Nepal. Thousands of people died in the powerful earthquake and its aftershocks. Many of the Nepalese people are suffering due to the lack of resources. Personally, my heart goes out to the people that are suffering there and I pray for relief.

Also on April 27, 2015, Baltimore was literally in flames. Freddie Gray, 25, died after injuries sustained while in police custody and no member of law enforcement was accounting for what happened for him. At the time, there had been no charges against the officers involved in his death. On the day of his funeral, Baltimore exploded in an uprising, as well as with peaceful protests not captured by the thrill-seeking media. Before the protests, violent and peaceful, no one even knew his name.

We were able to express condolences over the massacre in Paris involving Charlie Hebdo and the earthquake in Nepal. We were even able to address the brutal as-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

After Ferguson and the recent Baltimore riots, no email was sent out by Marist.

sassination of two police officers in Brooklyn. So, if we can talk about these disasters, natural and man-made, why can't we talk about race or police brutality? These incidences are happening so close to Poughkeepsie that we are almost able to reach out and touch them. Will it take a publicized act of police brutality or racism in Poughkeepsie or in the Marist community for us, as an institution, to actually address that it is happening?

We never talked about Ferguson. We never talked about Staten Island. We never talked about Baltimore — because we never talk about anything! Ever. Not anything that happens here. I'm not condoning violence or rioting. I am in no way saying that the aforementioned tragedies aren't

relevant or valid — there are very stark differences between natural disasters and instances of police brutality or gun violence. What I am saying is that my hurt and concern is valid too. The omission or exclusion of the events that happen on American soil, especially those concerning the issues of racism and police brutality, is offensive.

As a student of color at this institution, there have been countless times where I felt invisible or that I did not matter. When I see events like this being excluded or omitted from the "Marist conversation," it reinforces the idea that people like me do not matter here. Let's clarify that this is not the experience for every student of color. However, at a college that dictates in its mission statement that it is

dedicated to providing "a sense of community," there are many students that feel as though they have no place in the Marist family.

Students from Marist are going home to upheaval that their school will not take the time to discuss or recognize. Students from this institution live in or near Ferguson, Baltimore and Staten Island and do not know how to properly assess their own feelings about the different events that have happened this past school year. Students, attending classes here just like you and me, have a growing disdain for law enforcement and do not feel safe no matter how they conduct themselves. Many people, especially students of color, feel like they are a part of a system that is not built for them.

Address it. Let's talk about it. Here, at this very college, I have met some of the most brilliant minds on the planet. I have met innovators, deep thinkers and future activists. With that in mind, let's not only talk about it; let's start developing solutions because we have the capacity to do so. We have the resources to start trying to create valuable conversations and relationships with one another, law enforcement and civilians alike, so that this stops happening. We can start in our own communities and branch outward to start moving forward.

## The fight for equality rages on to the Supreme Court

BY MALLIKA RAO

Staff Writer

Traditionally, marriage laws have been said to be a law of the state and not the land. There has been the debate on whether this fact applies to the issue of same-sex marriage as well. This debate is being held in the highest court in the land right now, with the Supreme Court Justices unsurprisingly divided on whether to make same-sex marriages a federal right in this country. 36 states have already legalized same-sex marriage, but the case stems from same-sex marriage bans that occurred in Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan and Tennessee.

While the fight regarding homosexuals and their right to marry has been a persistent topic in contemporary America for several years now, there are some states that are more traditional in their ways that have never seemed likely to cooperate in this fight. That being said, millions of homosexual couples across the country

are fighting for their right to marry in the other 14 states that do not allow them to do so and now the higher powers need to step in. Still, it does not look like the states that are typically viewed as "red" will take any of the arguments presented in the Court seriously.

During the trial, the stubbornly traditional ways of the red states came to light, as an outburst ensued courtesy of a man standing in the back of the gallery of the Court who touted his faith vociferously. He proclaimed that supporters of same-sex marriage will burn in hell before being dragged out by guards kicking and screaming.

Justice Antonin Scalia—a longtime opponent of same-sex marriage who was hired under President Reagan—called the heckler's remarks "refreshing." His fellow right wing-oriented justices made reference to everything from hunter-gatherers to Ancient Greeks to describe the long held belief that marriage is between a man and a woman. "This definition has been with us for millennia," said Justice Anthony Kennedy. "It's

very difficult for the court to say, oh, well, we — we know better."

Justice Kennedy was seen as the most crucial vote in this case, as his vote determined the outcome of the 2013 Defense of Marriage Act case. He has also been the deciding vote in past cases surrounding same-sex couples, taking a rather progressive stance on this issue as a conservative. However, his rambling during this particular trial is worrisome to those who believed the Reagan appointee would step out of his party's lines and side with those in favor of same-sex marriage once more.

During the trial, a lawyer defending the states that enacted bans concurred with the right wings of the Supreme Court, saying that the right to marry should not be given to couples who cannot procreate. The justices who typically lean left countered, with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg posing the question that if marriage was designed for procreation, then why can 70-year-olds get married in this country when homosexual couples cannot?

Ginsburg brought up an excellent point, as did Justice Elena Kagan, who called our country a "constitutional democracy." Politicians on the right have held on to every word of both the Bible and the U.S. Constitution for too long now, and a reevaluation of our religious and political foundation as a nation is long overdue. Whether any one of the more conservative individuals in the Supreme Court and elsewhere will finally go along with this reevaluation is anybody's guess. The issue of same-sex marriage is our generation's Civil Rights struggle, and this poses to be a contentious fight. No matter what the verdict is, it will be met with immense opposition from either side. It could even potentially be overturned if it falls in favor with same-sex couples. What can be agreed upon is that the verdict will probably be the most historic Supreme Court decision made this century.



## Stud Patrick Dempsey has left Grey's Anatomy

BY MALLIKA RAO

Staff Writer

Loyal "Grey's Anatomy" fans have stuck with the show for ten years now, and were witnesses to one of television's most shocking deaths. Dr. Derek Shepherd (aka Dr. McDreamy) was tragically killed off the show in a car accident, and fans including myself have been inconsolable ever since.

The character was the show's resident sex symbol and actor Patrick Dempsey experienced a career revival as a result. Up until that point, he was best known as a lovable nerd in the '80s teen classic "Can't Buy Me Love." This generation was able to see him in a totally different light as the surgeon who definitely mastered his bedside manner. Now sadly we are left with reruns on Netflix to get our McDreamy fix.

Reportedly, the actor voluntarily left amidst a divorce from his wife of almost twenty years. The long hours on the set took a toll on his marriage and he reportedly decided to spend more time with his three children. Still, he had signed a deal to go to Season 12 with ABC and creator Shonda Rhimes ("Grey's" is

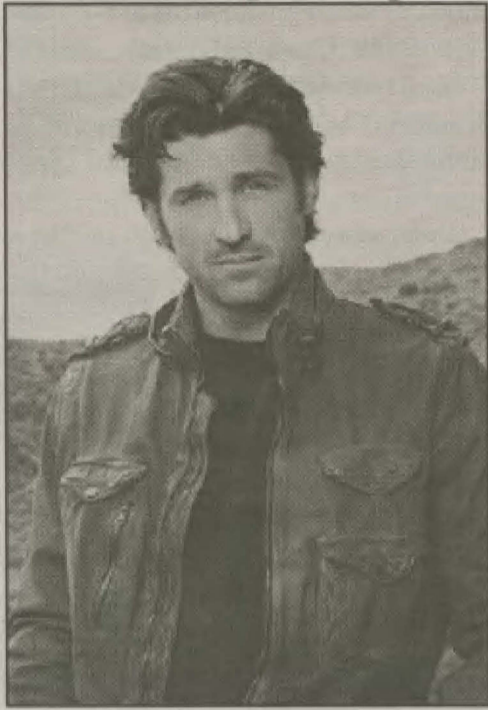


PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

currently in Season 11), and many are saying that there was tension between him and Rhimes who is also behind hits "Scandal" and "How to Get Away with Murder."

Dempsey confirmed to Entertainment Weekly (EW) that long hours took a toll on his relationship with his children, saying "you never know your schedule, so your kid asks you what are you doing on Monday, and you go, 'I don't know. I don't know my schedule.' So doing

that for 11 years, that's challenging."

Signs have been pointing to a possible demise for the character for a while. This year, Dr. Shepherd was a more infrequent presence on the show, as his character left longtime wife Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo) temporarily for a job in Washington, D.C. He resurfaced after facing temptation to cheat on his wife from an underling on the job in D.C. and trying to save his marriage. Dempsey himself posted a photo on Instagram on a Seattle ferry, where the show takes place (although it is filmed in Los Angeles), which was possibly another red herring.

Dempsey is also an avid race car driver, and during his hiatus from "Grey's" he was racing in Brazil. He even owns his own racing league, and told EW that even when racing around the world, people know his name and the experience of being on a hit TV show has been "humbling." Now Dempsey reportedly plans to commit to racing full-time, and is even looking into producing.

Still, for Dempsey, "Grey's Anatomy" was a career godsend. The washed-up '80s teen idol was bouncing from audition to audition, living on a steady diet of sitcom

guest spots. The only bright spot in this long-term slump seemed to be a role as Reese Witherspoon's love interest in "Sweet Home Alabama."

He was poised to become yet another pop culture relic of the '80s when fellow former "Brat Pack-er" Rob Lowe turned down a role that could have potentially revived his career as well, in favor of a sitcom that was soon cancelled. Dempsey then became television's hottest doctor since a certain Hollywood hunk by the name of George Clooney first donned scrubs back in 1994 for the long-running "ER." A film career soon followed with roles in Hollywood hits "Enchanted," "Freedom Writers," "Valentine's Day" and "Transformers: Dark of the Moon."

So where does "Grey's Anatomy" go from here? The show still remains wildly popular, even in an era of cable and Netflix. In fact, eight million viewers are tuning in through Netflix reruns alone. Ratings for this past week's episode (the funeral episode) were considerably down from last week. Is it time for the long-running primetime drama to end for good? It would be difficult to say, since the show is still incredibly relevant.

## Cecily Strong shines at Correspondents' Dinner

BY ADRIANA BELMONTE

Opinion Editor

The 2015 White House Correspondents' Dinner was hosted by Cecily Strong, a Saturday Night Live alum. This was her first time ever hosting the event and only the fifth time that a woman has ever hosted the dinner. While there were a few jokes that fell flat, Strong's performance overall generated many laughs and took many jabs at several audience members. One of her most raved about quips was directed at the politicians in the audience, specifically those who are anti-abortion.

"Since I'm only a comedian, I'm not going to try and tell you politicians how to do politics," Strong said. "That would be like you guys telling me what to do with my body. I mean, can you even imagine? Crazy."

Strong admitted to having to change some of her approach after hearing President Obama's opening speech, which she said was "great" in an interview with "Meet the Press" host Chuck Todd. In fact, many critics felt she was overshadowed by the Commander-in-Chief's strong performance. Nonetheless,

Strong seized her opportunity to take some shots at Obama. One of her best lines, which had him even laughing, was: "Your hair is so white now, it can talk back to the police." However, showing that she would not shy away from going further, Strong added: "Many say she's [Elizabeth Warren] too idealistic and her proposed policies are too liberal. But look at President Obama! People thought the same thing about him and he didn't end up doing any of that stuff."

Like a true comedian, though, most of her jokes were directed towards the conservative group of

people featured in the media. "Fox News is losing some viewers, and may they rest in peace," she said acknowledging the notably older age group of Fox News viewers. "That channel is all hot blonde ladies and old dudes. Every show on Fox News looks like a party scene in Weekend at Bernie's."

Perhaps her best line of the night called out journalists that focus on Hillary Clinton in a sexist manner. "Alright guys, this next part is a repeat after me, so I need your help here," she said, raising her hand. "I solemnly swear not to talk about Hillary's appearance because that

is not journalism." She received a roaring applause from the audience in response and rightfully so.

Strong also addressed the issue growing in the country between blacks and police officers. "Let's give it up for the Secret Service..." she said. "I don't want to be too hard on those guys, you know, cause they're the only law enforcement agency in the country that will get in trouble if a black man gets shot." While some in the audience thought she went too far, it was a great opportunity for Strong to take a stand on a huge issue in the country and use a grand stage to do so. Even though she did use humor to mask the gravity of the growing situation, her point was made and many people noticed.

While those who are more sensitive to jokes such as these might have taken offense, Strong showed that it is not only male comedians who can steal the spotlight. She also proved that hosting the White House Correspondents' Dinner is not only a wonderful opportunity to show off her comedic talent but also a chance to use her status to bring to light what is going on around our country, whether it be in politics, certain cities or the media.

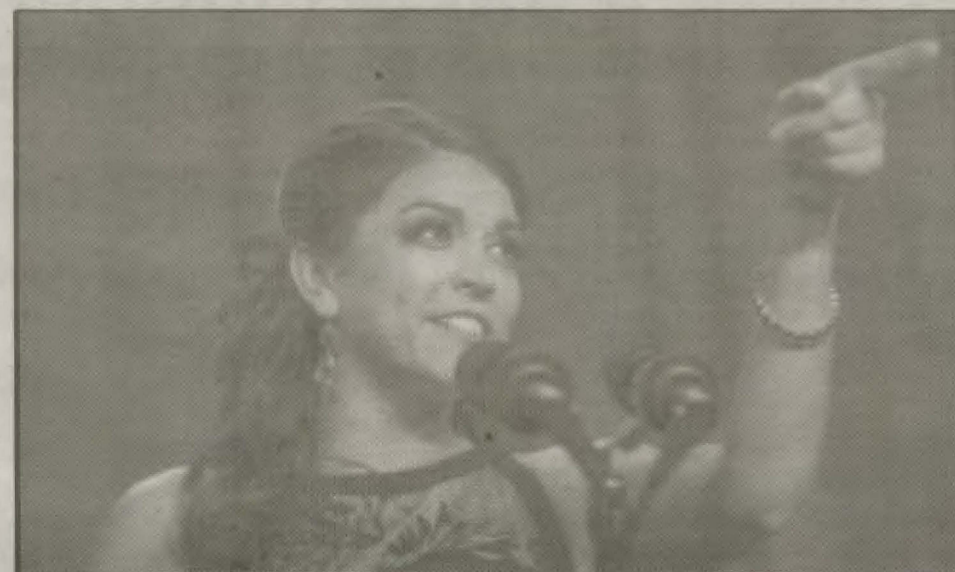


PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW YORK TIMES

## MCTV's Foxapalooza rocks the campus green

BY KATIE O'BRIEN  
*Managing Editor*

On Sunday, May 3, Marist Beach was interrupted by the addition of stage, and, instead of the sounds of Rotunda construction, music filled the air. Occupying that stage were the participants of the fourth annual Foxapalooza sponsored by MCTV. The event, which began five years ago, provides an opportunity for Marist's aspiring musicians to showcase their talent.

Back in 2012, juniors David Akin and Zach Dexter noticed an absence of musical outlets on campus for students. In response, the two hosted a test run of Foxapalooza with about six to seven performances held outside where the new music building now stands.

The next year, though, Akin and Dexter adopted the concert as their Communications Capping project. As the heads of MCTV, the two started the show Artist Spotlight which featured a different Marist musician each episode. Lasting for about 35 to 40 minutes, the musician performed a few songs and

was interviewed. Participation on the show also meant automatically being entered into the first annual Foxapalooza.

Held on the riverfront, the 2013 Foxapalooza had 25 applicants and 15 were chosen to perform. Seniors were given 45 minutes while underclassmen performed for about 15.

"When we started, we wanted it to be a way for senior performers to say goodbye to Marist," said Akin, who now works in the Media Center. "Zach and I wanted this as a gift for the campus and I think it's held that value every year."

This year, MCTV seniors Kristen Faubion and Peter Romano organized the event. Starting in April, the two began spreading the word about the concert searching for Marist talent. Through their shows "Marist Stripped" and "Marist Unplugged" as well as talking to clubs and organizations on campus, Faubion and Romano found nine performers for the all-day event lasting from noon until 5p.m.

Ranging across all grade levels, performers took the stage for 30 minute sets. Performers included

Maria Gironas ('15), Frank Talamo ('15), Ryan Clark ('17), Nate Brusa ('15), Katie Gillick ('16), Margaret Bruetsch ('16), Raquel Medina ('17), Liana Babich ('17) and the band Last Great Hero.

Clubs were also invited to participate in the festivities through activi-

ty booths. MCTV provided Rita's Italian Ice, Red Ink offered face painting and The Circle quizzed people on pop culture.



PHOTO BY DAVID AKIN

"It gives MCTV people a chance to learn and gain experience in many different areas of production," Faubion said. "There is a lot of planning that goes into it, but in the end, it's

just a way a great way to hang out." MCTV's president of next year Andrew Auger is pleased with the results of this year's show but is looking forward to next year as well. "I'd like for us to diversify the acts that we have at Foxapalooza," Auger said. "I feel like we have an abundance of acoustic acts, which is great, but I'd like to expand to acts that may not even be specifically music! The thing I love about Foxapalooza is just how much of an expression it is of the talent in the Marist community, whether it be the performers or the people covering the event."

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR FALL 2015  
SEMESTER ABROAD  
STUDENTS!

**MARIST**  
INTERNATIONAL  
PROGRAMS

## Foxapalooza puts the spotlight on Marist musicians

BY Katie O'Brien  
Managing Editor

### Maria Gironas ('15)

Opening the show, Gironas entertained the crowd with both originals and covers. Her cover of Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling in Love With You" was dedicated to her time here at Marist. As for originals, Gironas' "So Long Gone From Now" was written during her Taylor Swift phase about a boy whom she and her best friend both wanted, but whom the best friend won.

The song "65 Roses" is about those with cystic fibrosis. This past summer, I toured for seven weeks in California with the Cystic Foundations's Great Strides Walk benefitting disease research.



PHOTO BY DAVID AKIN

### Frank Talamo ('15)

Talamo began his musical career his sophomore year of high school when he and his friends started a band. Unfortunately, as they each went to different schools, the band disbanded, but Talamo continued to sing and play guitar. His first solo performance was freshman year at Marist's open mic night.

Talamo was first inspired to play after watching an anthology on The Beatles in middle school and wanting to be George Harrison.

At Foxapalooza, Talamo played mainly covers including a Bruce Springsteen song in honor of their shared hometown.



PHOTO BY NATE BRUSA



PHOTO BY DAVID AKIN

### Ryan Clark ('17)

Clark has been singing and playing guitar for nine years. His first live performance was at a small coffee house in Albany, NY. Influenced by musicians such as John Mayer and the Dave Matthews Band, Clark has been writing songs since he started. He performed one original at the event and the rest were covers.

"I chose "Slide" by The Goo Goo Dolls to kick off my set because they came to campus and performed," Clark said. "And I am a big fan."



PHOTO BY DAVID AKIN

### Nate Brusa ('15)

Brusa picked up a guitar in eighth grade and began singing in high school as the lead in he and his friends' punk rock band. Their first performance was at a sweet 16 party.

"We messed up our first song, "Sunshine of Your Love," so badly that we stopped playing halfway through, Brusa admitted."

At Foxapalooza, though, Brusa was flawless performing mainly originals about past relationships.

### Katie Gillick ('16)

Gillick began playing guitar when she was 7-year-old, but only within the past year has she begun to perform.

Her original songs are born out of her poetry which she has been writing for years. Her first live performance was this past December with the band Emish at Marist where she debuted "Seeing Inside A Soul" with a full band backup.

At Foxapalooza, Gillick performed the song again along with other originals including "Mary's Song" dedicated to her aunt who passed away.

"When I hit a lower point this semester, I thought of her and all of the advice she would have given me," Gillick said. "This song is for her."



PHOTO BY DAVID AKIN

### Margaret Bruetsch ('16)

At the age of 10, Bruetsch learned two songs on guitar: "Magic Man" and parts of "Here Comes the Sun." At 15, though, she took to the stage for her high school's talent show performing all oldies except for Taylor Swift's "You Belong With Me."

"That's how I get my set list," Bruetsch said. "I do oldies and modern songs to appeal to different people."

After performing Train's "Drops of Jupiter," though, Bruetsch played all original songs. Her song "Leave" is about needing someone badly, but the person not being there. In contrast, "The World" describes her grandparents' love story which she describes as greater than "The Notebook."



PHOTO BY DAVID AKIN



PHOTO BY DAVID AKIN

### Raquel Medina ('17)

Medina began banging on the piano keys when she was four years old, strumming the guitar when she was 16 and took to the stage for the first time this past weekend. Medina played multiple originals including "Butterfly" which she wrote in eighth grade.

Her original, "Simple Song," was written after transferring to Marist last semester.

"Everyone is very similar here at Marist," Medina said, "and this song is about not caring what people think of you, but just being yourself."

### Liana Babich ('17)

Babich took the Foxapalooza stage with her voice and her ukulele. She started taking voice lessons in high school and taught herself the ukulele in 2011.

At Foxapalooza, Babich played a curated trilogy "One Day" of Train's "Marry Me," Colbie Caillat's "Yesterday" and Sanctus Real's "Lead Me."

"Call me a hopeless romantic, but that is indeed what I am," Babich said. "I call my curated trilogy "One Day" because the three songs that are mixed in it are songs that I feel all talk about love finding us in its own time. Love is not something that can be rushed or forced."

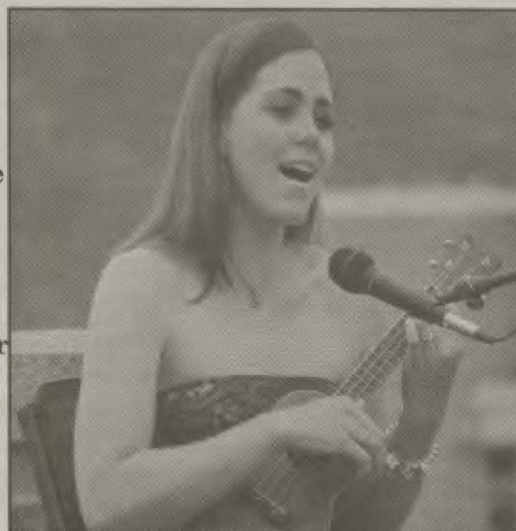


PHOTO BY DAVID AKIN

## #19 Men's LAX wins MAAC title at Tenney

BY J.T. MARRERO  
Circle Contributor

The Marist Men's Lacrosse team experienced quite a thrill this past weekend. The team hosted the MAAC (Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference) lacrosse tournament following a stellar regular season. Although they were the 1-seed they still had a lot to prove.

On Thursday, April 30, Marist blew past Monmouth University winning 11-6 and never really felt any kind of pressure from the visiting Jersey team. Marist top players, Joe Radin and JD Recor, made sure to show up during this big game. Between the two prominent scores they netted four and three goals respectively. They single-handedly beat Monmouth.

However, it is a team game and a stellar save by goalie Dave Scarcello swung the momentum completely in the Red Foxes favor. An open shot from point blank range was saved and then nonchalantly cleared by Scarcello. Monmouth realized after this save that it just would not be their day.

Yet Marist had another challenge to look forward to after the final whistle on Thursday night.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIST ATHLETICS

Quinnipiac would be their opponent for the championship. Saturday, May 2 could have been quite possibly the best sports day of the year. There were enough distractions on the Marist campus alone to have made the team unprepared for the huge game against the Bobcats from Hamden, C.T.

The weather was scorching. The only breeze that could have been felt throughout all of Tenney Stadium was from the whip of the lacrosse sticks as the two teams shot on net. Marist has won only one championship prior to the 2015 campaign and have never hosted a NCAA game, but if they were to win a second and get a chance to host a play-in game,

it was not going to be easy at all.

Marist dominated the first quarter with the score being 8-1. Yet Quinnipiac would claw their way back ferociously and at halftime the score read 11-8 in favor of the Red Foxes. Every fan in attendance was sweating, ironically not from the heat. Marist would be outscored 6-4 by Quinnipiac, but that would be no matter at all. The team in white and red jerseys would be crowned champs when the last whistle blew; the final score, 16-14.

As the every player flung their equipment into the air in celebration and stormed the field, it showed the beauty of the game. The triumph of victory and the ag-

ony of defeat, questions about the NCAA tournament loomed shortly after the game. Yet there was one certainty: as the weather gets hotter, so does Marist Lacrosse.

### Men's Lacrosse Notes

- By the time The Circle went to print, Marist hosted their first NCAA Tournament game at Tenney Stadium against the Bryant University Bulldogs.
- This marks the first time Marist has ever held any NCAA Tournament game in any sport.
- The winner of the game goes on to play top-ranked, but second-seeded Syracuse at the Carrier Dome Sunday May, 10 at 7:30 PM.
- The Game will be broadcast on ESPNU.

## Ballfoxes drop 3 to Canisius as playoffs loom

BY BEN HAYES  
Staff Writer

With just two series left in the 2015 regular season, the Ballfoxes are turning their attention towards the MAAC baseball tournament.

Currently, Marist sits at sixth in the MAAC baseball standings, which would be just good enough to qualify for the playoffs as the last seed. This weekend, Marist takes on seventh-place Fairfield at McCann Field. This matchup is all too familiar for the Red Foxes, as the Stags were the team that eliminated Marist from playoff contention last season in a heartbreaking series in Poughkeepsie. This year, Marist looks to return the favor.

After the series with Fairfield is completed, the Red Foxes will head south to New Jersey to finish off the regular season with a three-game series against the Peacocks of St. Peter's. Luckily for Marist, St. Peter's is currently in last place in the MAAC and should provide Marist with an easy sweep.

A sweep might be necessary since Fairfield, Iona and Niagara all sit just one game back of the Red Foxes. However, Marist's magic number is now down to five, so if the Ballfoxes are able to finish the season with a 5-1 record, then

they are guaranteed a playoff spot.

Reaching the fifth seed is still possible for Marist, but it is very unlikely that the Red Foxes will receive anything better than the sixth seed. If Marist is able to hold on, then they will most likely face off against Canisius in the first round of the tournament. This is not an ideal for Marist, as the Golden Griffins swept the Red Foxes this past weekend.

However, there were definitely some positives to take away from the series. In the first game, senior right-handed pitcher, Chris Napolitano continued his season of dominance by stifling the dynamic Canisius offense to just one run throughout the first seven innings. Marist led the Golden Griffins until the bottom of the eighth, when Canisius was able to tie the game 2-2 with a RBI single off of sophomore right-handed pitcher Tyler Dearden. Dearden remained in the game for the ninth inning and let up a two-run walk-off home run.

Although certainly a disappointing ending for the Red Foxes, Marist proved that they can compete with Canisius. This would be a tremendous win for the Red Foxes, as the Ballfoxes have not claimed the MAAC since 2009. Despite being predicted to have a down year due

to being a very young team, Marist baseball looks to have a spark and should be able to contend yet again.

The Red Foxes next game will start at noon this Saturday against the Fairfield Stags at McCann Field.

### MAAC Standings

	MAAC	OVERALL
1. Rider	11-4	23-18
2. Quinnipiac	14-7	24-21
3. Canisius	12-6	24-25
4. Siena	9-6	16-24
5. Monmouth	10-8	18-20
6. Marist	8-10	14-23
7. Fairfield	7-11	14-28
8. Iona	7-11	15-31
9. Niagara	7-11	11-26
10. Manhattan	8-13	15-30
11. Saint Peter's	6-12	9-30

### Stat Leaders

AVG: Laurino .367

RBI: Laurino 33

HR: Laurino 4

OBS: Laurino .457

ERA: Napolitano 3.02

WINS: Napolitano 4-2

Strike-outs: Davis 56