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Women's Tennis First Ever Skyline Finals

By Karla Rosa-Romero

The Farmingdale State Women's Tennis Team won over St. Joseph's under the night sky during their senior night home game, 5-3. This victory will take the Rams into the Skyline Championship final against Mount St. Mary.

The match played between FSC's Denise Liguori and St. Joseph's Katelyn Dorsey was unfinished after the Rams won their fifth match. The final match was won by senior FSC's Laura Earlie who scored 7-5 and 6-1 over Cristina Valente.



FSC fell to St. Joseph's in the third double's match

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America: The Next Four Years

By Alexa Sugrue

After three debates filled with fact checks, hundreds of million dollars spent, and a record setting amount of time spent talking about the state of Ohio, the 57th Presidential election is finally over. Democratic President Barack Obama prevailed with dominance after what was hyped to be a close battle for every last vote. Such a victory should be evidence that Americans are confident that the country is on track, but maybe not.

"The money spent [on both parties campaigns] could have been used towards other things like reducing taxes for American tax payers or putting it into funds for training Americans for jobs," said Jessica Zounek, a senior at FSC.

When President Obama took control, he walked into what was soon to be one of the biggest financial crises since the Great Depression. The mortgage-backed security crises had tremendous consequences for not only banks and the housing market, but also the confidence Americans had in the market. Stocks were down and the talk of a possible depression created negative spending shock.

Obama's first term had ups and downs as he tried to fix this. Some think Obama failed to keep promises he made and that America isn't where it needs to be. However, his polices had some bright spots. Just before the election,

on October 5, it was announce that the unemployment rate in September fell from 8.1 percent to 7.8 percent, the lowest since January 2009.

"First, I think that people really didn't like Romney and his policies. I also hope that people are smart enough to realize that the deficit and unemployment would have been even worse if Obama didn't take the actions that he did. I also think that it is easier to stay with the status quo (Obama) than to make a change. So people need a very compelling reason to make a change, and Romney wasn't a compelling reason," said Dr. Judith Levine, FSC psychology professor.

Anyone can expect to see Obama's Keynesian economic policies continued over the next four years. This includes a stronger fiscal policy, which includes more government spending; paid for by increased taxes to the wealthy and big corporations. In the past, the Keynesian economic theory helped America overcome major economic catastrophes such as The Great Depression.

"I am all for the wealthy to give a little more if it will benefit the country," said Danielle Berger, a freshman.

President Obama and Congress now have to tackle the much talked about fiscal cliff. It seems as if people feel optimistic that he can get the job done.

BACK-TO-BACK MOVIE NIGHT

By: Gina Fiorillo

Farmingdale State College held a drive-in movie night. It was a back to back movie showing of *The Cabin in the Woods* and then *Battleship*. It was the first drive-in movie event at the campus and ended with a successful turn out.

As the cars started to line up in the parking lot to drive onto the field behind student lot three, the movie screen began to rise from the ground. It was attached to a big blow up device similar to the bouncy house castles for children. The cars began to pull in one by one and were directed to the designated area on the lawn. Row after row slowly filled up. There were roughly 4-5 rows and about 40 or more cars.

Many people stayed in their vehicles and either tuned in to the radio station that was projected onto the screen or simply just opened the windows to hear the field come to life from the movie. Some moviegoers left their cars and brought blankets to sit on the lawn closer to the screen.

It was quite chilly that night and most people outside their cars were pretty bundled up. There was also free popcorn, soda, and water that was given out as each person pulled in and then organized on tables on the lawn so students could help themselves to more throughout the showings.

Eric Elenowitz, transfer student from NYIT, came with a few of his buddies to check out the event. "I used to just come to campus, go to class and go home. It's a commuter school and there didn't seem like there was ever anything going on for students," said Elenowitz.

Most commuter students are not aware that there are more activities and

events held on campus than they think. There are many clubs available to all students and every student pays a student activity fee that goes towards campus activities and events. Every club or upcoming event that is held on campus is advertised on flyers throughout the buildings on campus, but weekly, e-mails are sent to every student Farmingdale e-mail and lists all upcoming events and activities.

Another Farmingdale commuter, Marie DiLeonardo from Massapequa and transfer student from SUNY New Paltz attended the drive-in movie event. Just like Elenowitz, she was never involved on campus but was aware of certain events she discovered through her newsletter e-mails.

"Nothing ever seemed to catch my interest enough to actually attend anything, until I read about this drive-in movie," said DiLeonardo.

Not every event or activity held on campus is going to interest everyone, but sometimes it just takes one to make you look more closely at those e-mails and flyers.

"I've always wondered what it was like to experience a drive-in movie and there's always a first time for everything," said DiLeonardo, with a face full of popcorn.

The event had a great turn out and most people stayed for both movie showings. *The Cabin in the Woods* played at 7:30 p.m. and *Battleship* played at 9:30 p.m. with a short intermission in between for students to either leave or restock their popcorn and drinks. It is hoped that this drive-in movie event will end up becoming an annual event with more popular movie showings.



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Need a Facebook Intervention?

By Jaime Torlincasi

As we live in a more "tech-savvy" generation, our society has become addicted to its perks like drugs; with 'perks' referring to technology's convenience and speediness.

Technology has also brought the communities closer together with social networking sites, such as Facebook. This is why the expression technology makes the world a smaller place, is commonly used. Logging onto Facebook every spare moment has become a constant part of our lives without knowing exactly what is so addictive about it.

According to FSC's very own Dr. Angela Jones, "From a sociological perspective, there is no empirical data to buttress the argument that Facebook is addictive."

"Facebook usage can become habitual because it is an important mode of communication in our society, particularly amongst younger generations," said Dr. Jones. She explained how imperative it has become for young people to have a Facebook account, along with the rest of Facebook's 526 million daily users as of March 2012.

Sociology Professor Mary Kirby-Diaz acknowledges that she is well aware that students will never cut back completely on their social networking addictions. She hopes by completing a survey on her personal website, they will realize just how addicted they are and maybe try their best to cut back a little and replace their spare time with more face to face interactions.

On the other hand, Katie Newman, 22, a student, has deactivated her account numerous times and

describes using Facebook as creating a "stalking mentality" and a "constant need to know what is going on." For all non-Facebook users, Newman said, "If you don't have an account, don't feel weird! Once you put your life out there it can create drama and allow you to see things you would rather not see."

In Professor Jones's research on Facebook for her latest article, "Facebook and Family: Family Dynamics, Intergenerational Conflict, and Romantic Relationships," she says, "Individuals often reported stress and unhappiness because they felt they had no privacy on Facebook. It was this lack of privacy that caused problems."

The interesting part is that even Facebook users, such as Loryn Boscia, 22, a student at FSC, admits there is "absolutely no privacy. It is distracting and is used as a stalking device," Yet, she continues to use Facebook daily.

In a positive light, although Professor Kirby-Diaz does not have a Facebook account herself, she realizes that it can be "a useful way for people to connect with people who they cannot be close to" and "helpful to come in contact when there is no other way."

Dr. Jones cites five primary benefits of using Facebook among family members: "Participants reported that family members' relationships have become closer as a result of increased communication and interaction on Facebook," and "individuals have utilized Facebook to locate relatives they had never met and build new family relationships." Using social networking sites such as Facebook has diminished the privacy in the lives of its users and also transformed



Holiday Charity

By Shannon Carlin

The Horticulture Club had their annual poinsettia and wreath sale on Thursday, December 6. The poinsettias are ordered from Kurt Weiss Greenhouse Inc. and the wreaths are bought from Pennock Floral but the club will be decorating them.

The proceeds will go to the club and will be used for other club activities and trips. Margaret Fox-Jackson, the chair of the horticulture committee said, "The poinsettia and wreath sale not only helps the horticultural club financially, but is a great learning experience from a horticultural stand point and a business one as well."

The horticulture club is for any student that has an interest in planting, gardening, or the science of growing and caring for plants. "Our club does our part to help the community, most recently we did a pumpkin decorating project for Halloween with the children at the university's daycare," said Nicholas Giaquinto who is the president of the club. Giaquinto's role as president is to oversee every activity the club does such as the poinsettia and wreath sale for the holidays.

One Farmingdale student, Gina Wadsworth, said, "I can't wait to buy a poinsettia and wreath; they're great gift-ables for the holidays."



Bio-swale Project

By Jason Plevik



Spencer Bushy, 2nd year; Jeanette Leduchot; Beth Robbmaccarron.



Jenny Cappello-Ruggiero; Emily Tinalli, graduated and has BT in horticulture; Tim Hardy, 4th year,

Professor Michael Veracka and the ornamental horticulture students converted two ditches along the parking lot into rain gardens for \$5,000.

The ditches alongside the roadway have been a sore sight ever since the parking lot was redesigned two years ago. Thanks to Veracka, the ornamental horticulture students, and with the support of the FSC Instructional Support Associates, these valleys are being transformed into green, sustainable, rain gardens.

It is may be possible to renovate all 20 swales. "It is unclear at this time, but I hope so!" Veracka said.

The first two rain gardens were completed in October following the designs of the students. They were planted with native grasses and perennials from Glover perennials in Cutchogue and serve as models of sustainable landscaping practices.

The bio-swales will collect the rainwater runoff from the roadways

which will in turn feed the plants and prevent flooding.

Junior Vanessa Michel said "I'm glad to see that they're being green. Plus, it's nicer to look at than a big hole in the ground."

Workshops on building your own rain garden will be given in the spring semester.



DESIGN CLUB'S GOOD DEED

By Thomas Hatzinger

A visuals communications student is taking the lead in donations for relief funds to Hurricane Sandy.

Maybe not the most widely known club on campus, the Design Club is doing its job to help. The club has a donation open now to help the community. It's called the Hurricane Blanket and Jacket Relief Drive.

The donations are dedicated to giving blankets and jackets to the people along the south shore. The people who have been affected by Hurricane Sandy are in need.

Created by the Design Club President Mike Abbondandolo, students are trying to comfort their neighbors. Abbondandolo, 20, is a junior and a member of the Hicksville

Fire Department.

"One of the gentlemen I know, who taught my EMT class, is running a clothing drive for the East Meadow Fire Department," said Abbondandolo. "I talked to him and he told me that he needs jackets and blankets for the people down on the south shore. I said I'd start a drive at my school and have kids bring in the items. So I proposed the idea to my club and we started right away."

With over 20 plus items ready to be given to people in need, the Design Club is doing their good deed. They are eager willing to accept donations, even after the drive ended on November 30. This good deed shouldn't go unnoticed. The problem is that not enough people

know about the drive. Senior Jason Plevik, said, "I would definitely donate because I have so many jackets that I don't wear anymore," said Plevik. "I'm sure many people have spare jackets that they don't wear anymore."

Donations are still being accepted and can be dropped off in the lobby of Hale Hall.

Open Mic Night Packs a Crowd

By Katie Newman

Open Mic Night event was extremely successful in gaining the attention of students on campus. The number of students who attended the event was at an all time high.

The event was held in Knapp Hall; seven speakers came to a podium, introduced themselves to their audience, and read their pieces of writing aloud.

Although the room in which the event took place had the maximum number of tables and chairs, there was not enough seating for the people who showed up. In fact, the room became so crowded that 10 students positioned themselves by the doorway in order to hear the speakers perform.

"That was the biggest crowd we have ever had, and it was completely unexpected," said Dr. Margery Brown, who ran the event.

It was clear that the people who ran the event thought it would have a smaller turnout, because there wasn't even enough food.

Once the speakers began, the room went silent as each person came up to the front of the room,

re-introduced himself or herself, and read their work to their peers.

"This was something to present as my way of communicating with the audience, what it was like for me to grow up in a house with seven



children," said Gloria Ann Keyloun, the second speaker of the night, who wrote a narrative describing her family life and her relationship with her father.

The crowd seemed to be in tune with the speaker's writing, as they all clapped loudly after each speaker was finished.

"I thought the event was cool and I liked how everybody had a different story with different meanings behind them," said Giovanni Russo, 27, after the Open Mic Night ended.

The event was memorable and displayed students' creativity in their writing. Although there wasn't enough seating, that didn't stop students from attending.

"There were many speakers who caught my attention. I just wish they had more chairs," said Jaime Torlincasi, 20, as she laughed about having to sit on the floor throughout the event.

With the success of the event and the huge crowd, it is apparent that next time they will need to accommodate all the people who attend.

MADD

By Jessica Fischer

A parent's worst nightmare occurred in 1982, when the Strow family received the news that their daughter was killed in a drunken driving accident. With the tragic loss came one positive outcome. The Strow family founded Mothers against Drunk Drivers (MADD), one of the largest non-profit organizations in the United States.

M A D D is a support group for people who have lost loved ones or were injured due to a drunk driver. The organization also offers information to those who have received



DWI's and walked away unharmed. Victoria Genova, who recently attended a MADD meeting, said, "Sadly, I don't think that MADD is the most effective approach to prevent drunk driving."

Farmingdale State College (FSC) has teamed up with MADD to educate teens. Farmingdale may be the only college that has a MADD garden. The Garden of Awareness was created on campus and bears the names of 300 people killed or injured by a drunk driver.

People who have lived through a crash caused by a drunk driver are still greatly affected, often afraid to drive at certain times of the day. Over 6,000 teens are killed yearly due to alcohol. Michael Murphy, a Farmingdale student said, "They put themselves and others in danger when they get behind the wheel"

Murphy, who is of age, and is aware of the legal limit, has never driven drunk. We cannot blame all drunk driving accidents on teenagers, but statistics prove that kids well educated about alcohol wait until they are older to start drinking. MADD's success is measured in the lives they save.

Lives are lost because of someone's choice and actions. Drunken driving deaths are preventable. Genova said, "I can name five people off the top of my head who have received DWI's before the age of 21". Alyssa Stevenson, recently been charged with a DWI, has

strong beliefs about those who drink and drive.

Although it was only one time Stevenson said, "It was one of the biggest mistakes of my life. There is nothing I can do about it now except learn from it." Not only does a DWI cost a large sum of money in court and legal fees, but one's daily lifestyle is now changed.

Stevenson, who was only 20 when she received her DWI, lost her job and the freedom of being able to drive anywhere.

MADD's monument was built in 2003. The wall is broken which signifies a crash by a drunk driver. The two statues are of a young man and a woman and is entitled Sculpture of Hope.

Together they are rebuilding the wall with blank bricks which are people who are living with hope that there will not be any more victims of drunk driving. The bricks on the floor are victims from eight states and Japan. In the first week of every December Farmingdale State College hosts a candle lighting ceremony.

People come to light a candle in remembrance of someone whom they lost to a drunken driver. MADD meets once a month for victim support group. At recent meetings mothers shared stories and discussed how just one drunk driver has changed their life dramatically.

The stories are heartbreaking. The meeting is an information discussion group for victims, their families, and friends. "After hearing from guest speakers, I haven't and will never drink and drive again. You just don't know if it would have the same effect on everyone," said Genova.

The Best Eats Around

By Mark Lanzer



Farmingdale State College is home to so many different clubs, activities and events. But sometimes, most of us get the urge to find something to do off campus.

Lucky for you, there's a plethora of cool places to eat that are nearby. There are also numerous events sponsored by different campus clubs that also happen off campus.

With mainly bars and restaurants, Farmingdale's Main Street has a genuine small town charm. If you're looking to go a little further away from campus for your nightlife fix, the village of Huntington also has a charming Main Street with plenty of places to eat.

Professional Communications major Karla Rosa suggests The Black Lantern sushi bar and hookah lounge on Huntington's Wall Street. "I love the Black Lantern. They have everything there, from hookah and house music and the sushi too."

If you're in Huntington, also be sure to check out Little Vincent's Pizza at the corner of Main Street and New York Avenue and grab a slice of cold cheese pizza. You can't go wrong!

Sometimes, you just need a cold one. If you are a Farmingdale student of legal drinking age, then the odds are it's likely that you have been to Changing Times ale house after class.

With a location right across campus, another location in nearby East Northport, and a third location opening in Bay Shore, Changing Times is one of the best places to have a great time. If you also include its numerous events and specials, Changing Times always offers a good time after class gets out.

Each and every one of these places is a all great idea for weekend activities or just a good time.

Let's face the facts. While we are here to get our education and advance ourselves, we all need a break from the grind to have some fun. And you don't have to go far to have fun.

Cerebral Palsy Inspirational Story

By Jessica Fischer

One of the academic programs offered at Farmingdale State College is the BS degree in nursing. A couple times a year the nurses meet for conferences or meetings. Students meet in Gleeson Hall with a guest speaker. A recent guest speaker came from South Hampton Nursing Home to tell her story.

Veronica McSherry, born June 4, 1947, was tiny and fragile at birth, but her parents thought nothing of it. Veronica grew like a normal child but failed many developmental milestones. She was finally diagnosed with cerebral palsy. By age 6 she had a permanent room at the Cerebral Palsy Center in Roosevelt, Long Island.

Lisa Wannermeyer, a nursing student, doesn't think that people with disabilities are given a fair chance in life. Sometimes parents don't realize "people are different," said Wannermeyer. McSherry's parents had given up hope, it seemed.

Living at the center gave McSherry a better chance for a life her parents weren't able to give her. The family spent the holidays at the nursing home

because it felt more like home. One thing in particular stood out, and many people seemed shocked. McSherry said that she was aware of what was going on like most patients, but some nurses forget that. Outraged Wannermeyer thought those nurses should lose their jobs.

After a few more years, McSherry had a few more surgeries which only made her condition worse. As she

"I think being handicapped can be a disadvantage if one does not believe in one's capabilities. As for Veronica, she believed in herself."

grew she had many goals - one was completing college.

Jerman Reyes a business student here who saw the presentation said, "I think being handicapped can be a disadvantage if one does not believe in one's capabilities. As for Veronica, she believed in herself."

Attending Nassau Community College in 1979, she earned her

associate's degree. Because of her disability she had other people help her with notes and her tests were given orally.

This showed her determination to complete her goals and accomplish anything she set her mind to. McSherry began to paint and even wrote a book. Her book entitled "In Spite Of" is an autobiography about her life and challenges. With such disabilities in her hands, her artwork was very impressive.

A few years after completing her degree she moved into an assistant living facility after she learned everything she needed to be on her own. As time passed some of conditions got worse, her spine began to curve and her lungs began to diminish. It was now apparent living in a nursing home was the best option.

"She was an inspiration not only the nursing staff but to many others as well; Veronica's presentation was interesting, comical and touching," Reyes said.

C.A.B

By Matt Spataro

Farmingdale's Student Activities Board, also known as Farmingdale's CAB, is a service on campus for the sole purpose of hosting events that get students together for a good time. At least once a month CAB hosts some sort of event on campus to give students, whether commuters or residential students, a good time. This past week CAB hosted their first ever 70's Roller Rink Party.

"The purpose was just to have fun," said CAB member John Dirscherl. The 70's Roller Rink Party thrown by Farmingdale's CAB seemed to be a success.

With music blasting and the lights dimmed just right, the party attracted many Farmingdale students. This event sparked an interest in many students who were hoping for a good time as well. Whether they were skating around the rink or dancing to the music, the Roller Rink Party seemed to fulfill CAB's purpose of bringing students together.

"This is to bring students together to make new friends and have a good time," said CAB secretary Mandy Vecchio. Fortunately for CAB, and the students it did.

The event was one of many given over the course of the school year by CAB. "We try at least once or twice a month to have an event," said Vecchio. "We used to do a lot of small events like community outreach."

Although CAB is a student service, it sometimes takes an outside company or two to help with the event. Because some students may not have had their own set of skates, CAB contacted Spintacular Entertainment to rent enough skates for any student who did not have their own; therefore prompting students to come no matter whether it was their first time skating or if they had been skating for years.

With CAB hosting events every month, one might wonder how they can keep coming up with new ideas and

events such as the Roller Rink Party. Many ideas are created by the members of CAB, but when there's not much creative juice flowing, there's always the internet.

"We were browsing websites of vendors and companies that put on events for colleges," said CAB treasurer Ashley Lemmon.

No matter how CAB comes up with events, they always seem to keep in mind the happiness of the students and the relationship among students as well.

As much as each event is designed to give Farmingdale students something to do, it is designed to bring them together; and the Roller Rink Party was no exception. It was not hard to see that with students skating, dancing, and just hanging out, Farmingdale's CAB achieved their goal once again.

Strong Season for Men's Basketball

By Randy Stephens

Thanks to the Division III "Top 25" voting panel, Farmingdale State remains one of the best kept secrets in men's basketball. It's anyone's guess how the Rams have stayed under the radar entering this season, but they ought to be excited. This is the time of year when every college kid outside of the Skyline Conference sneers, "Who is Farmingdale?" and four quarters later they're sorry they asked.

Throughout head coach Erik Smiles' tenure, the Rams have become a legitimate contender to both conference and non-conference opponents. In those eight seasons, the Rams have qualified for three NCAA tournaments, and have never once suffered a losing record.

One Farmingdale student, Herman Reyes, indicated that Farmingdale's dominance for nearly a decade is testing the composure of rival fans. "Last year some people in the stands got a little crazy when Old Westbury lost--they wanted to fight us," Reyes recalled. Coach Smiles and his staff were fundamental in bringing this winning culture to Farmingdale State College; each year they have assembled a roster of highly talented, disciplined athletes from top to bottom.

This season continues that pattern, and leading the way is AJ Matthews. The 7'1 senior forward, whose school records can be counted on two hands, has stunned his opponents with an

unbelievable combination of size and athleticism. Matthews' ability to excel in all facets of the game has made him a match-up nightmare for opposing coaches.

"This year, the biggest challenge for me will be handling double and triple-teams," said Matthews. "I have to help my teammates get the ball



Senior Forward AJ Matthews

without turning it over as much as I did last year." While the fans love to see him throw down an alley-oop, or stuff an opponent's shot, he still plays fundamentally sound basketball. Don't be surprised when you see Matthews making his free throws and sinking shots outside the paint.

Still, Matthews' talents should not overshadow the contributions of his teammates. He is surrounded by a carefully selected supporting cast whose abilities complement each other. According to Coach Smiles, a key component of this roster is sophomore guard Ryan Davis.

"Davis is a major piece of our offense," Smiles said. "He is a tremendous play maker, potentially the best in the region." Davis led the Rams in assists last season while impressing his coaches with his ability to handle and distribute the ball. This year, he'll have a new weapon in his arsenal, sophomore guard Justin Bailey.

With the departure of seniors Josh Smith and Dyshaun Flourney, Bailey inherited the responsibility of scoring from long range. Coach Smiles voiced his confidence in Bailey, explaining what sets him apart from his predecessors. "It's his job now," affirmed Coach Smiles. "Justin's a pure shooter, one of the best three-point shooters the program has ever had."

It is clear that Coach Smiles knows how good this team is, but he stressed the importance of staying focused. "What's important is just to get better in each part of the game, one day at a time. No team is great right away," said Coach Smiles. This may be true, but with a career record of 162-64, and eight Coach of the Year titles under his belt, perhaps greatness is not far out of reach.

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Michael Merker also attended the game with his wife to support their daughter, St. Joseph's Lindsey Merker, who scored their only third-doubles victory. She won over FSC's Vanessa Josma, 8-3.

"She's been playing since eighth grade," said Michael Merker. "We try to attend the local games."

Richard Hume, Controller for Farmingdale State, was among the approximately 30 people who came to support the teams.

Hume, who used to coach for the

tennis team after tennis was revived five years ago, enjoys watching the matches as he has played tennis since he was 23-years-old. "Tennis is a sport for a lifetime as opposed to body contact sports," he said. "We should win tonight and get into the finals on Saturday," Hume.

Hume's optimism is shared by Michael Harrington, Director of Athletics. Harrington recognizes Mount Saint Mary is a good team, but he still believes the Rams have a chance to get to the NCCA.

Not all the attendees were

Farmingdale State students. Patricia Martinez, an Amityville Memorial High school graduate, attended the game with a friend. "It's a quiet game, [but] you get really into it once you start to get the hang of it," she said.

For the first time in school history the Farmingdale State women's tennis team reached the Skyline Conference Finals held at top-seeded Mount Saint Mary College. The second-seeded Rams earned a 5-3 win over St. Joe's in the semifinals but fell 5-0 in the championship match at Mount Saint Mary.