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FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE ONLINE STUDENT NEWSPAPER • MARCH 2014

Cheers! Dry Campus Policy Is Down the Hatch

By Alexa Toyas



The rumors spreading around campus that the old drinking policy will soon be phased out are true. Administration voted unanimously for a new alcohol policy that will allow students 21 and over to drink alcohol on campus.

The Campus Alcohol Policy prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages for those under the legal limit. Alcohol will not be served daily during food service hours.

The Vice President for Student Affairs, Tom Corti said, "I've worked on eight campuses. How many of those campuses were dry? One - this one. I think the policy is a reasonable one. I think it's consistent with the maturity of other SUNY campuses and treats our students as adults." FSC students are getting older, 62 percent of them are over 21.

In order to prevent excessive consumption, bulk containers larger than one gallon are prohibited in the residence halls. Alcohol can only be consumed at state licensed sites such as the CC Ballroom, the University Club in Knapp Hall, the Gallery in Hale Hall, and the

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The suites at the Marriott TownePlace Suites in Melville are fully furnished.

"I'm staying at the Marriott"

By Tasmy Gómez

Some Farmingdale students have the opportunity to live at the Marriott TownePlace Suites. Cozy rooms, flat screen televisions, and an indoor pool at your disposal; and there is a driver waiting to take you to class every day. This is the new 'residence life' experience for 16 international students living in the Marriott TownePlace Suites, located on Route 110.

The apartment-style living includes perks such as a full kitchen, access to the Marriott courtyard, indoor pool, spa, two gyms, daily complimentary breakfast, and weekly happy hours at no cost.

Students also receive a biweekly allowance for food expenses and are transported to and from the property everyday as well as

anywhere within a five mile radius from the Marriott.

Lina Cabrera, resident assistant at the hotel, describes the experience as life changing. "Even though living on campus is a rewarding experience and you get to know a lot of people, living at the hotel makes me feel more independent and gives me a better glimpse of the New York experience."

The initiative was championed by Dr. Lorraine Greenwald, dean of the international education and programs, and Brianna Navarro, international student advisor. The students selected in this pilot stage, beginning in spring 2014, were chosen based on a record free of infractions to the Student Code of Conduct and GPA above 3.0.

At the moment, the apartment-style living is only available for international students because, as Navarro explained, "The international student population has skyrocketed over the past year, so this program is a way to provide international student housing."

For Sai Kiran Yedubati, a senior in mechanical engineering technology, the best part of living in the apartment is getting to cook his own food. While George Varghese goes for the fitness aspect: "It's nice having facilities like a gym and a swimming pool at the place we are staying. This keeps us fit and healthy."

It seems that for everyone involved, the apartment-lifestyle is just as good as it gets for an international student.

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Black History Month Spawns Diversity Club

By Nina Ohakam

In honor of Black History month Farmingdale State College students and professors put together various showcases during the month of February. While Black or African American students make up about 11 percent of the population of FSC, according to Farmingdale.edu, there is a strong sense of pride and brotherhood among students and faculty of various races.

The commencement of events for Black History Month began Monday, February 17, with a showing of "The Butler" in the Little Theatre in Roosevelt Hall. The 2013 movie was based on the life of an African American man who served as a butler in the White House over 34 years. The movie follows the main character from the civil rights era all the way to the 2008 election of Barack Obama.

On Tuesday, February 18, The African American Diversity Club along with members of Unique Hype dance group and various other poets performed on the stage in the Little Theatre in Roosevelt Hall. The opening statements were made by Renee Adams, the founder of the Academic Student Achievement Program or (ASAP). Some performances that followed were prose and poetry readings including the 1969 Maya Angelou poem, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," presented by Evon Adams and Arielle Taberheau. Unique Hype closed the event with an energy filled dance.

Some of the attendees included Dr. Veronica Henry, executive assistant to the President of Farmingdale State College, Dr. W. Hubert Keen, along with Dr. Lynn Elfe, director of TRiO. "This is a wonderful thing happening at Farmingdale and I commend the Diversity Club," said Dr. Henry. "They gave such a



Students who participated in the celebration.

wonderful program on black history month. I think it also gives the students a voice, which I think is important in our setting, and it's a form of development for the students."

"There is a lot of energy, the kids are very inspired, and I think they've figured out new ways that they can let it go. We now have an African Heritage Diversity Club," said Dr. Elfe. The African American Diversity Club or AADC was founded the day before the event on February 18 and Evon Adams is the

wonderful program on black history month. I think it also gives the students a voice."

There is a lot of energy, the kids are very inspired," said Dr. Elfe. The African American Diversity Club or AADC was founded the day before the event on February 18 and Evon Adams is the acting president. Adams, a Grenadian born construction engineering management major, plans to use this organization to generate more energy on campus for African American heritage and African American studies.

This showcase brought out approximately 50 people. "I feel the turnout was successful because I feel the idea was to build up some kind of momentum for black history, or passion, or drive in this school for black history, and it was a success," said Evon Adams.

The end of Black History Month festivities took place February 25 in the Ballroom in the Student Center. A panel of prominent African American community activists, leaders, professors, legislators, and others came to speak to the student body. The discussion focused on individual passion and how to become inspired to increase positive community involvement in order to make a difference.

This event brought out the largest turnout of all three, approximately 65 students and faculty members, including the president of Farmingdale, Dr. W. Hubert Keen.

Several cultural dances and spoken word performances were an addition to this event. Michael Rigueur, PCM sophomore said, "I wanted to learn a little bit more about my history, this speaks to my heart."

Correction

An article in the February issue of the Rambler, Sonia Kershaw, who works as a Student Assistant was misquoted in a story about the Science, Technology Entry Program

Drinking continued from page 1

Loft Lounge in Roosevelt Hall for campus events. The office of the Vice President is responsible for carrying out the guidelines under which alcohol can be served. Only Aramark Food Service is licensed to serve alcohol at campus events.

Assistant Chief of Police Daniel Dougherty said, "If a policy is designed correctly, it's something that the police department wouldn't have a problem with." Since such a policy will be implemented, he would like his department to look at other schools' policies and learn from their mistakes.

Expressing his frustration with FSC's strict policies is student Naudy De Leon Taveras, 22 of the Dominican Republic. "When I'm with my family, I always drink with my dad, but when I'm at school, I can't drink alcohol quietly in my own room. I'm of age," said Taveras.

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Enrollment Soars

By Brittany Caiafa



Farmingdale State College's enrollment has been increasing over the last several years. It currently has the second largest undergraduate population on Long Island. During the fall 2013 semester there was an enrollment of 8,163 students compared to the 2011 enrollment of 7,633 and enrollment of 5,045 in 2000.

Applications have skyrocketed tremendously. There were 4,499 applicants in 2000 compared to 10,854 applicants in 2012. "Students want to go to a four-year school and be able to stay close to home," said Katie Newman, a senior at FSC.

Transfers accounted for an additional increase. In fall 2008 there were 626 compared to fall 2012 with 1,391.

The demographics of gender are relatively equal with 58 percent males and 42 percentage females. Of those percentages 63 percent are white, 11 percent are black or African American, 14 percent are Hispanic or Latino, 7 percent are Asian, 1 percent are American Indian or Alaskan native, 1 percent Native Hawaiian, 2 percent two or more races, 2 percent NRA and 1 percent unknown. All statistics are drawn from the Farmingdale website and is based on 2012 enrollment.

"Students want to go to a four year school and be able to stay close to home."

Farmingdale's increased enrollment is not by chance. There are a number of notable statistics that are capturing the attention of students, parents, and professors. Farmingdale has been ranked as one of the best baccalaureate colleges in the North in the "U.S News and World Report" 2013- 2014 rankings. Another great reason Farmingdale is so successful is seven of their programs have a 100 percent employment rate. Farmingdale also ranks among the top 150 public colleges in the nation

in earning power of graduates in 2012.

"Farmingdale is building a better reputation," said Alexandra Capone a junior at FSC. The results of Farmingdale's analysis of their students' opinions agree. "Our surveys indicate the top three reasons for students coming to the college are the academic programs, the value in terms of attaining employment after, relative to our tuition and location," said President Keen.

The school offers a variety of programs. Farmingdale has 29 baccalaureate degrees and eight associate degrees. It is the only public college in New York State offering the aeronautical science/professional pilot bachelor's degree with 23 Piper and Cessna aircrafts. At Farmingdale there are four schools: the School of Business, the School of Health and Sciences, the School of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Engineering Technology.

Farmingdale now offers 77 online classes making it convenient for some of students. Classes are available from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., offering a variety of opportunities for students to learn.

With its increased enrollment, Farmingdale has been able to take on new projects and renovations throughout the campus. The new student center has been a huge success. Students are enjoying the new addition to the campus. The athletic center is currently under renovation as well and is close to completion just in time for the spring sports. Last, the School of Business building is on its way to completion later this year.

There are many opportunities for Farmingdale to continue to grow. "Although we get about 15 percent of our students from outside Long Island, we have not exerted great effort to recruit them," said President Keen. "This remains a source of future enrollment."

If Farmingdale aggressively recruits students outside of Long Island, it will be a college to be reckoned with. No longer will it be the small local school of yesteryear.

Night Classes for Night Owls

By Rebecca Strickland

Last semester, Farmingdale changed the times of its classes. Night classes used to extend from 6 p.m. to 9:05 p.m. However, when the times changed night classes extended from 5:55 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Taylor Wolchuck, a senior on campus, said, "Night classes are great because they are only once a week but getting out passed 8 p.m. is too late. I take night classes so I can work full-time and if I am getting out late I'm losing sleep, and it makes it harder to wake up in the morning."

Walter Sosnowski, a professor for the department of visual communications, said, "In my evening classes my students seem to want to be there more than my 8 a.m. students, where they come in late and are taking the class simply because it's required for their degree."

So the new 7:20-10 p.m. class maybe great for students who work full-time. However, the 10 p.m. end time might be too late. Students might be less likely to pay attention, and professors may be tired by that hour of the night after being on their feet all day.

Kelly Sutherland, a professional communications major, said, that "I would not mind a night class if it weren't so late. The later the class, the more likely I am going to miss a few or not do as well."

Even though students have the opportunity to make their own class schedules, most classes are only offered once a semester and only at night, so this doesn't give students the chance to choose to take classes during the day or at night.



Know What to Wear to the Next Job Fair

By Joy Yasinowski



The Farmingdale State College Career Center presented the “Dress for Success Fashion Show” in the Campus Center Ballroom for some stylish ideas. Cheryl Stratigos, career counselor and this event’s coordinator, said she, “will provide the opening comments at the start of the show, focusing on how best to

prepare for the job fair and will announce the models.”

Five women and three men will be modeling in the show and presenting about 16 looks. Clothes will be provided by Lord & Taylor. Cheryl looked for a retailer “in the area that offers reasonably priced clothing and one

which students might consider when selecting professional outfits for interviews and a job fair.”

Maria, one of the models, was involved in last year’s show and said she came back for more because the show “helps [her] prepare for present and future career plans.”

Unlike the runways of New York Fashion Week, the models participating in this show have a say in what they will be strutting down the runway in. The models met Cheryl at Lord & Taylor at the Walt Whitman Mall about a week before the show to pick their Job Fair attire.

When Danielle, another model in the show, chose her two outfits, she kept her mother in mind. Danielle said her “mom taught [her] to look her best and never settle for less.” In other words, keep it classy - a tip everyone should keep in mind when dressing for an interview or job fair.

For more information and tips on picking out the perfect professional outfit, head over to Farmingdale’s website and click on the Career Development Center link for a “Dress for Success” brochure.

Meeting Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams

By Tameka Boyajian

Farmingdale Student met Nobel Laureate, Jody Williams. There was an interactive discussion and a book signing of her memoir, “My Name is Jody Williams: A Vermont Girl’s Winding Path to the Nobel Peace Prize” at the Cinema Arts Centre of Huntington on February 10, 2014.

In 1997 Williams was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for banning landmines internationally. She shared details of her journey as she’s traveled to numerous countries in her fight to ban landmines. She expressed her concern for others and her passion for change.

Williams spoke about war, the abuse towards women, and killer robots. She also explained why she has a problem with landmines; it’s not hard to understand that they kill people. She explained that during war landmines are installed and after the war, ends soldiers go home but the landmines are still buried in the ground. These landmines are in over 90 countries around the world. These mines can kill a man’s great-great-grandchild.

“I am not angry; I feel a serious, righteous behavior to change the world’s view of landmines,” said Williams. “The United States did not want to get rid of the use of landmines. They refused to sign the peace treaty that 161



Junior Tameka Boyajian, meets Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams

other nations have signed.

The audience ranged from young to older, and they were excited to have had such an intimate conversation with Williams. “I was pleasantly surprised that it wasn’t like a beauty pageant, - I-wish-for-world-peace - kind of a talk,” said Professor Bill Steedle, of the Visual Communications Department at FSC. “It was from somebody who has been in the middle of conflict and has been attacked herself. She’s not afraid of anybody.”

“To find out what your passion is and then line up behind that. There is no stopping any of us, I mean look at her,” said Kathleen Casserly, alcohol and other drug Counselor at FSC.

It was clear that Williams is a woman with very thick skin and that she is comfortable with her past. Williams expressed passion for change and showed her ability to be vulnerable all in one night.

So Long Snow

By Christine Calvacca

Commuting is something every student has to take into consideration when choosing which college to attend. A commuter student verses a dorm student face completely different situations when it comes to the commute in the bad weather.

Laura Maneri, 20-year-old sophomore, is enrolled in the professional communications program. She dorns on the campus because of how tough the commute would be. She explained how convenient it is for her to attend class when the weather is not so great.

“I can just roll out of bed and mosey my way to class,” said Maneri. If she had to commute from her house everyday, the bad weather would make it impossible to get to class.

Stephen Bonczyk is also a sophomore at the college, except he does not dorm on campus. Although it has been a particularly rough winter this year, Bonczyk has managed to avoid any disturbances due to inclement weather because classes have been canceled.

However, Bonczyk did acknowledge the fact that he is only 20 minutes away and he



drives a Dodge Ram pickup. He would not attempt the commute in the midst of one of the storms we have experienced this year.

“My truck can make it through some pretty crazy storms, but I would not risk my life to attend a two hour class,” said Bonczyk.

Dan Daugherty, the assistant chief of police on campus said that the roads on campus are very good compared to the roads outside of campus, so they have not had an increase of accidents due to this weather. They are experiencing the usual parking lot

accidents here and there. “The purpose of the college president canceling classes is when he thinks it will be hazardous on and off of campus for commuters,” said Daugherty.

Commuting in severe winter weather presents many dangers to students, who often times have not been driving for very long. Depending on the type of car they drive, it could affect one person much more than another. Spring is a welcome to many.

Adventures of the Ski and Snowboard Club

By Thomas De La Cruz Waga

Currently there are a plethora of clubs and other activities which students can enjoy. One of the is Ski and Snowboard Club, which was founded by Mike Garite, Chris Guagliano, Alfred Lizza, and President Peter Saenz.

The Ski and Snowboard club provides fun and friendship-building. Exercises for students

to draw on for the rest of their lives through both ski and snowboarding activities.

Their most recent trip was on December 14, to Windham Mountain, located in upstate New York, approximately a three-hour bus ride. Twenty-six members went on this trip. It had snowed two days prior to the trip, which

made for prime skiing and snowboarding conditions for all of the club members.

“We shredded the pow and got some banger footage.” “That’s just an example of snowboarding lingo, which can be viewed as quite odd by people who do not partake of skiing or snowboarding,” said Garite

Deidre Kelly, a nursing student, came on her first trip with the Ski and Snowboard Club this past Friday, “It was exciting but nerve wracking at some points because I haven’t skied in over two years,” said Kelly. She had only been a member for about a week prior to the first trip, and all she had to do to come on the trip was simply sign some waivers.

The president of the Ski and Snowboard Club, Peter Saenz, had injured his knee on a previous snowboard trip he had taken, so he was inclined to take it easy on this trip. “Everyone was cranking the gnar,” said Saenz.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Farmingdale Ski and Snowboard Club, simply join the Facebook page (Farmingdale Ski and Snowboard Club).



Ski and Snowboard club members enjoy Windham Mountain.

Heroin Raises Concern

By Brittney Bihn

The recent death of Oscar-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman triggered the investigation of the growing use of the gateway drug, heroin. Hoffman was found dead with a needle in his arm, on the bathroom floor of his Manhattan apartment on Sunday, February 2.

In his apartment were found two bags of what police say contained heroin. By Monday, the NYPD began the search for Hoffman's supplier. Granted, this isn't the first incident concerning heroin in the state of New York.

The New York Drug Enforcement Task Force recently busted a heroin mill located in the Bronx. This heroin mill has been delivering more than half a million heroin glassines all over the streets of New York.

With the city so close to the Farmingdale area, students are left to wonder if it is surrounding them on the Farmingdale campus.

"I personally have only seen it once or twice on campus," said Farmingdale student, Cassie Christian. "I have found needles around campus before."

Christian is also an employee at CVS and her knowledge of this issue comes from what she sees during work. "I have worked in a couple of towns in CVS stores, so I have seen it in my town of Wantagh, but I have seen it in Farmingdale. Needles get bought in pharmacies like CVS." They have been used

and found in the store, "I've found them in our toy aisle."

This is a concern for Farmingdale College due to the amount of heroin sightings in towns surrounding the campus. "I have never seen any use of heroin around campus, but I do know Massapequa is big with it," said student Justina Ciancio. Considering that many of Farmingdale's commuters come from Massapequa, this is an issue our students may face.

Kathleen Casserly, alcohol and other addictions counselor at Farmingdale College's Health and Wellness Center, said, "It is epidemic in Nassau and Suffolk counties. I have had students with a problem with heroin approach me for counseling."

"Sharing needles can lead to HIV and/or hepatitis C, bad teeth, inflammation of the gums, constipation, cold sweats, weakening of the immune system, impotence in men, loss of memory and intellectual skills, loss of appetite, and insomnia."

In 2012, 110 people on Long Island died from a heroin overdose, 83 were from Suffolk County and 27 from Nassau.

The unfortunate growth of heroin users is dangerous for our society. "Drugs changing behavior becomes the norm - and can lead to crime and damage to relationships, finances and overall health," said Casserly

With the need to crack down on the suppliers and user of heroin on Long Island, it is crucial to be aware of your surroundings. Regarding how to distinguish a user, Casserly said, "Dilated pupils are a giveaway and users will seem drowsy."



Pizza lounging on the couch which, he ate with his favorite toy by his side.

Pet Stress

By Michael Saunders

Having a pet can be stressful, especially when you have a full schedule and a full or part-time job. Things can get hectic. I myself have a 5-month-old pit bull mastiff mix named Pizza. Yes, his name is Pizza. It's a reference to a comic. Yes I read comics, I'm a bit of a nerd like that.

Anyway, Pizza can be a handful. He is currently destroying my couch, and just the other day ate two full Domino large cheese pizzas. Yes, Pizza ate pizza. I myself only got two slices. The stress of having my little dog made me wonder if anyone else at Farmingdale was going through a similar situation.

Student, Elijah Fitzgerald, like me, has a pit bull. His, however, is a pure bred pit. His is a 4-month-old so we're both going through similar problems. Fitzgerald works at a bank, working about four days a week, eight hours a shift. He is also a communications major and attends school two days a week. His pit bull, a female named Clover, one time kept him up all night crying and barking. Fitzgerald was up until 5 a.m. pleading with the dog to be quiet. There was another time where Clover stole his cheeseburger and ate it right in front of him.

Barbara Konis, a biology major, works part-time at a Pathmark, recently got a kitten. While not as much work, she was still a handful. Recently she discovered that her tub water was running when she came home and didn't understand why. It turns out the cat saw her use it and figured out how to use it herself for a mid-day drink.

Mark Williams, a psychology major who interns at his old middle school at Hempstead, has a puppy as well. It's a 9-month-old chocolate lab named Cookie. They got the name from the fact that one day when they got her, she managed to get herself into a box of Shortbread Girl Scout cookies.

They all, including me, agreed on the same thing. While our pets drive us crazy, we love them just the same. So while it may not be easy, it is worthwhile.

New LGBT Class Begins

By Jake Brandel

History is being made, because for the first time at Farmingdale State College, the Sociology Department is now offering Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Studies. The class examines some political issues, as well as social concepts and theories that go along with the LGBT reality. The class also helps to show students how to evaluate gender identity and human sexuality from a cultural, social, and historical developments. Along with Introduction to Women's Studies, which started last fall, the two classes can be taken to get into the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Minor, which Sociology and Anthropology Chairperson, Dr. Evan Cooper said, "Farmingdale may be a little late on having the course, but it is a good idea."

This class is taught by Professor Bethany Coston, who is now working on her doctorate at Stony Brook University.

On the first day of classes, students are asked to sign a contract. "The contract is a way to ensure the students that they are in a safe space," said Professor Coston. In this contract, students are also ensured that there will be confidentiality and no judgments, including self-judgments, and honesty. No

one is forced to speak, but also everyone must show respect and listen to others.

"I enjoy the class, very comfortable that no one is judged for their opinion," said student, Brian Sullivan.



Introduction to LGBT Studies Students

Student Caitlin Dunham said, "Yes. As an LGBT-identifying individual, I feel very comfortable participating in class not only to share my opinions on the material or ask questions regarding it, but also to share my own personal experiences with micro aggressions LGBT people face on a daily basis and other discrimination at large."

"I love the class!" said student, Cassie Christian. "It is so refreshing to see the campus has a course on LGBT studies and the problems surrounding the community."

"It's a bit early to say for sure, but for now I am seeing a change in the students, understanding of society and the LGBT lifestyle," said Professor Coston.

"I feel like this class, combined with the fact that the campus is starting a GSA (Gay Straight Alliance), will allow for more LGBT

students to feel comfortable. I think it will allow for the school to look a lot more open and accepting for everyone," said Christian.

"I recommend this class, this is a more interesting class at Farmingdale, and this is moving Farmingdale in a positive direction," said Brian Sullivan.

New York Cosmos Executive Gives Back to Students

By Colin Davis



Eric Stover, Chief Operating Officer of Cosmos

Erik Stover, Chief Operating Officer of the professional men's soccer team, the New York Cosmos, came to Farmingdale as a guest speaker on behalf of the Sport Management Club. Stover had a strong message for Farmingdale students, and there were members of the Sport Management Club who were involved with the event.

President PJ Waszkiewicz went to the event and was very impressed. "He's a big encouragement for students, and it makes us realize the opportunities we have here," said Waszkiewicz. "This provides students with a confidence boost and offers networking and internship opportunities."

Sarbjit Singh has been alongside the club for three years. Singh has a great relationship with the New York Cosmos and has used the club in an example in one of his classes. It is a beneficial relationship because it is local, and a great contact for Farmingdale. This relationship helped bring Stover to Farmingdale as a speaker.

"Erik is a great choice because of his current position at the Cosmos, and his past work

experiences at the New York Red Bulls," said Singh. "When you see someone working in the sports industry at your school, it provides motivation."

Stover was happy to come speak at Farmingdale and share his thoughts with students. "My first goal with the presentation was to give back. I got my start in this business as an unpaid intern and I promised myself that if I ever made it I would take the time to share my experiences," said Stover.

Stover provided insight into the sports industry; particularly focusing on his past experiences and his current position as Chief Operating Officer of the New York Cosmos.

The Sport Management Club has been working hard and planning for future trips and events. This club continues to create relationships with the best in the sports business.

Greeklife Recruits Bone Marrow Donors

By Olivia Stephens



Members of Sigma Delta Tau, Phi Iota Alpha, and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Greek life on campus, Phi Iota Alpha, Tau Kappa Epsilon, and Sigma Delta Tau collaborated this month to seek out donors on behalf of the Icla da Silva foundation in honor of Icla, a 13-year-old girl, who lost her battle to leukemia.

The Foundation recruits potential bone marrow donors to sign up for the Be The Match registry, which keeps a database of

donors to match with recipients in need of bone marrow transplants.

Lourys Acosta, president of Phi Iota Alpha said, "This is really a great cause with absolutely zero risk. All we do is take five minutes to sign the sheet and we can save a life."

For more information on becoming a bone marrow donor, visit the Icla da Silva foundation's website at <http://www.icla.org>.



Senior Donald Lawes, #12, center

RAMS Fall to Knights in Skyline Semi-Finals

By Brian Schult

The three-seeded Farmingdale State Rams fell to the Mount Saint Mary Knights 95-75. The loss ended the Rams' chance at a third straight appearance in the Skyline Championship.

After a convincing win in the conference quarterfinals against St. Joseph's, the Rams had high hopes of getting back to the championship game. Unfortunately for the Rams, the Knights opened the game on a 20-2 run and never looked back.

The Rams did their best to battle back in the second half, pulling within nine points. However, the Rams bench was out-scored 34-14 in the game, which proved to be too much for the Rams to come back.

The Knights would go down to top seed Purchase College two days later, sending them to the Division III Men's Basketball Championship Tournament.

It was the Rams second straight year losing in the playoffs after winning the Skyline Championship in the 2011-12 season.

In his first season, coach Brendan Twomey

did a nice job posting an 18-9 record and winning a playoff game. However, it will be a tough task replacing the five seniors who will not return next season, one of whom is the Skyline Conference Defensive Player of the year, center Donald Lawes.

"I just try and block everything," said Lawes, who seems to block everything in his path. He led the nation in all NCAA divisions, averaging 4.5 blocks per game. Certainly he is the biggest hole to fill on the team, Lawes is held in the highest regard by coach Twomey.

"I've been around Division III basketball about 15 years, and he's the best shot-blocker I've seen as a player or coach," said Twomey.

Losing a player like Lawes will be tough for the Rams, but don't count them out just yet. Coach Twomey is entering his second season with the Rams, and will be recruiting his own players for the first time.

The 2014-15 Rams will certainly be different from years past, but maybe that's what the Rams need to be more competitive in the future.

Women's Team Gets to Semi-finals

By Thomas Hatzinger

The FSC Women's basketball team has been nearly perfect in conference competition this year. They won the Skyline Division with a 13-1 record. The team has an overall record of 16-8, but their conference play has been nothing less than dominant.

The team didn't begin successfully dominant. After their first five games they were 1-4. Their defensive effort wasn't there, as they were giving up an average of 75 points per game. "After their starting five, they're a young team," said Sandy Holmes, mother of freshman Sade Holmes. "These girls needed to learn how to play good defense at the college level."

They did just that. With a fast-paced offense and now only allowing 58 points per game, the Rams have been nearly unbeatable over the past few weeks. The Rams lead by a powerful scoring duo that average 36 points per game together.

Junior Camille Romero leads the team at 19.7 ppg. Senior Nicky Young is second on the team averaging 16.2 ppg. The team as a whole has a high powered offense, averaging over 73 points per game in conference play. "Our offense starts from the defensive end," said Romero. "The more aggressive we are on defense, the more stops we get, which gets our offense rolling."

With an experienced starting lineup comprised of all juniors and seniors, the Rams have a ton of youth and potential off the bench. Freshman Sade Holmes is one of only two freshmen to play in every game this season.

"Playing with more experienced players taught me to be more aggressive on the court and to keep fighting through my mistakes," said Holmes.

The Rams season came to an end with a loss in the Skyline playoffs to Mount Saint Vincent in the semifinals with a 76-59.



Junior Camille Romero, #24, guard.