



Issue 18

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2018

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## Veteran spotlight: John Martek

By: Sarah Rance

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y. - Veterans Day is for honoring and thanking the men and women who have dedicated themselves to and fought for their country. There are 85 student veterans on campus this semester. According to Robert Healy, the Director of Veteran Services here at Niagara University, the number of student veterans at NU has grown immensely.

"The veteran population has increased by 300 percent over the past eight years and continues to grow," said Healy. It is important to take the time to recognize these men and women.

John Martek is just one of the student veterans here at NU

"[Niagara] has really great support for veterans," said Martek. "I haven't had any issues with professors, they're really supportive, especially for guys like me. I'm married with three kids so I have so many other things going on in life and they're really good if I have to miss a day of class or anything like that."

Prior to attending NU, Martek retired from the U.S. Army as a Staff Sergeant after serving for almost 14 years.

"[The Army] was an easy fit for me," said Martek. "I didn't plan on staying in as long as I did, and then every time a re-enlistment came up I was like 'alright I'll stay in longer.' And then it just came to the point where I was in for a career."

Martek served as an infantryman in Iraq twice as well as Afghanistan twice.

"We are the ones who fight on the front-lines," said Martek. "We are the ones who do all the grunt work out there. We are always usually the ones getting into firefights or advancing on the enemy and trying to take them out or find them."



Courtesy of Sgt. Sean P. Casey

Martek had many opportunities to gain leadership and teamwork experience during his time in the Army. As a Staff Sergeant, he was in charge of many men.

"All of my soldiers came home every deployment," said Martek. "I'd say that's probably my proudest moment."

Along with these leadership and teamwork experiences, Martek was able to get travel experiences as well. Martek traveled to places including Alaska, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Martek is the secretary of the Student Veterans Organization here at NU. He is also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). In addition, he is a volunteer firefighter at Getzville Fire Company.

So, what does Veterans Day mean to John Martek?

"Veterans day to me is just a time to thank and honor all of the veterans that have served all the way back to World War II," said Martek. "I'd say it's just honoring everybody that came before me and everybody I have served with over the years and just tell them thank you or cooking someone dinner maybe."

## Interesting classes to take this spring

By: Hugh Brown

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y. - Spring semester is around the corner, and it's almost time to meet with advisors to make up spring schedules. Next semester, Niagara University is offering a number of courses not previously offered in the fall, and some only offered once every few years.

For English requirements, Dr. Daniel Pinti is offering an English 110 course on graphic novels. The course consists of reading and analyzing graphic novels and writing on them.

The course description states, "students write extensively in this course, arguing for their own interpretations, and applying critical theoretical approaches used by literary scholars. Assigned literary works are diverse and multicultural."

The Communication studies department has several new courses. Dr. Joseph Sirianni is teaching a course that watches and analyzes episodes of the Netflix show "Black Mirror." Sirianni is also teaching Film and Culture, a class that watches and writes on horror films.

Dr. Mark Barner will be taking a group to London for CMS360 UK. The class, Media in the UK, will study British film, television, and other forms of media through a trip in May. Email Barner for more information.

Students can also take an introductory foreign language course. Even if you already took a language in high school, it might be beneficial to try a new language to get experience with multiple languages.

NU offers Spanish, French, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Greek, Latin, Arabic, Tuscarora and American Sign Language.

Students who have completed Social Work 100 can take Death and Dying, a course about how people discuss and cope with death.

The course description says, "this course deals directly with the psychological, social, and behavioral dynamics inherent in confronting the issue of death and dying, from both the personal and professional perspectives. Aspects related to euthanasia, refusing life-sustaining medical treatment, factors influencing grief and bereavement among people from diverse populations, and hospice care are some of the topics explored."

These courses are just few of many that students should keep in mind in their upcoming advisement meetings.

## Diving into the dark arts

By: Liam Cuddy

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y. - Next semester's classes have officially been put online and registration starts soon. Every year students scramble to find that perfect class. A class that peaks their interest, that challenges them to think outside the box, that is different and really stands out. This particular class varies from major-to-major, but it's safe to assume that all Netflix lovers looking to take a dive into the darker side of things will be quite satisfied with Dr. Joseph Sirianni's "Black Mirror" course.

"Black Mirror" is a British anthology series turned Netflix original that speaks to the horrors and controversy surrounding the rise of technology, and proves to be a promising topic for a course.

"It's been awhile since a television show has generated so much discussion," said Sirianni. "We really have to stop and think about how the themes within its episodes are relevant to our own behavior --in 'Black Mirror's case, it's our technology use."

Topics range from the dangers of social media on social lives, to artificial intelligence, to surveillance and so much more.

"Black Mirror is known for having clever, dark twists nearing the end of each episode that leaves the viewer in a temporary existential crisis," said Sirianni. "The class is bound to bring up plenty of interesting discussion and debate."

"'Black Mirror' forces us to look at ourselves, how we use technology, and more importantly why we use technology," said Sirianni. "It provides a commentary on how we currently use technology and the potential pitfalls that come with using too much technology or making too many advances with technology. Some critics have pointed to 'The Waldo Moment' as a precursor for the 2016 presidential election. Shades of 'Nosedive' can be seen in Russia where people can stop at mall kiosks and buy fake social media likes."

Yet the entire series isn't completely about the downfall of all humanity. There are hidden gems within this masterpiece that do a great job at lighting up the dark. One of the gems is the episode "San Junipero."

"San Junipero is my favorite 'Black Mirror' episode," said Sirianni. "It's this beautifully crafted story about our choices in life - who we choose to love, how we choose to grieve and how we choose to live."

Those who have taken classes with Sirianni before know to expect things to get a little dark. They also know to expect a unique project nearing the end of the semester that forces people to think outside of the box.

"Students will propose their own ideas for 'Black Mirror' episodes," said Sirianni. "I hope students will be able to think critically about present and future forms of technology and about what technological themes could make up a classic 'Black Mirror' episode."

Course listings are currently live on MyNU and registration begins soon, so make sure to look out for courses that may interest you, and consider something new and exciting, perhaps even taking a dive into the dark side of things.

## Mental health: bridging the gap

By: Brittany Rosso and Ava Mrozik

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y. - In a world where core mental health issues are rising each and every day, it is crucial for the Niagara University community to consider beyond the basics of mental health awareness and investigate what can further be done. NU must not only address the basic ways to identify illness, but encourage assistance and first aid training across college campuses, especially our own.

A common issue in universities across the country has been recognized between faculty, students and counseling services when it comes to mental health. However, professors are often considered an important part of the first step in getting students on a path to assistance- they are the ones interacting with students on a daily basis. We must identify the growing gap and further consider how it affects life here at Niagara University. We must also consider how we can develop a connection between faculty and students - one that allows for better understanding of mental health warning signs, help methods and first aid treatment.

In an interview with Dr. Timothy Ireland, NU's Provost, he mentioned previous and recent efforts made by NU to better develop an understanding of mental health issues, warning signs and how to get students the specific help they need.

In 2015, several members of the NU community participated in hosting "Changing Our Minds: A Mental Health Summit" at the Castellani Art Museum. Some of these participants included Ireland, Dr. Tim Osberg, WGRZ-TV News Anchor and Reporter Maryalice Demler, retired Rochester Police Department Sergeant Eric Weaver, Father Jim Maher, Senator Robert Ortt and previous NU Counseling Services Director Dr. Monica Romeo. This event had over 200 attendees from NU and WNY communities, who had the opportunity

to learn about the signs of mental illness and ways to support someone in the helping system while fighting the stigma. Soon after, "Changing Our Minds" became available online to faculty. NU is working to ensure that "Changing Our Minds" online program is available to all students, faculty and staff.

NU is also currently working with Compeer, an organization that provides mental health first-aid training courses, reaching over 2,200 people across WNY. This eight-hour mental health first-aid course teaches how to recognize, respond and understand the signs of mental illness and substance abuse disorders. Compeer will be coming to NU to train several sectors on campus including residence life and student affairs.

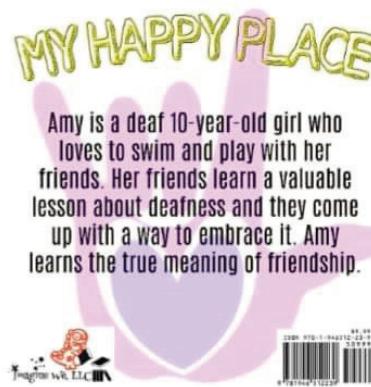
Ireland mentioned that one goal of NU in working with Compeer is to offer the training to all faculty and staff to encourage participation. Ireland also expressed great interest in working to implement it at the new-hire stage.

NU has three counselors and are currently in the hiring process with a fourth counselor to help provide as many available open slots and appointments for students to come and discuss their struggles.

Chris Sheffield, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, wants to make students aware that if they're not comfortable with using Counseling Services on campus, there are outside resources that they can be directed to as well. For the students who are not aware, the Counseling Services are located in the basement of Seton Hall. NU's Counseling Service department provides both options for appointments and open time slots, allowing for those who need to immediately address issues they are dealing with.

For more information on Counseling Services, all students are encouraged to visit the Counseling webpage at [www.niagara.edu/counseling](http://www.niagara.edu/counseling).

## There's a new signer in town



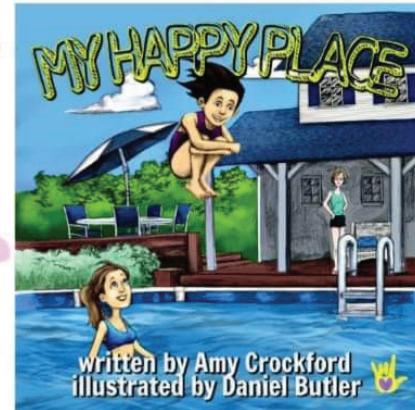
Courtesy of Amy Crockford

### By: Jade King

Niagara University, N.Y. - There is a new signer in town, and she goes by the name of Dr. Amy Crockford. Niagara University's new American Sign Language professor is more than qualified to take on this role by having over 30 years of experience with signing - since the age of three to be exact.

Crockford is a member of the Deaf community and able to provide a unique perspective for her students as she was born and raised deaf. She encourages students to ask questions about deafness and Deaf culture. She wears hearing aids, but American Sign Language has always been a very important part of her life and helps her to understand conversations, meetings and dialogues.

She graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with her bachelor's degree in professional/technical communication, and from University at Buffalo with her master's degree in education in student affairs administration. She has been teaching college-level American Sign Language for eight years and is currently teaching at three other colleges besides NU as an adjunct professor. Furthering her



qualifications, she is also a board member at Deaf Access Services, a non-profit organization that helps to organize interpreters for events and members of the community.

She was a stay-at-home mom with her two sons until they went off to school. When the opportunity to teach ASL to college students came along she took it. Sharing her passion for the language and culture of the Deaf community with students that are excited and willing to learn is a prospect she couldn't pass up.

Crockford is also a published children's author, with her book "My Happy Place".

"My first children's book was recently published last month in September in honor of Deaf Awareness Month," said Crockford. "The book is about a ten-year-old deaf girl who learns the true meaning of friendship. The story is inspired by true events that happened when I was a little girl."

Crockford is excited to be a member of the NU community and ASL department. She encourages students to come to the many ASL events on campus, introduce themselves and share the beauty of ASL with all those around them.

## An “unlawful” situation

### By: Alize Rosado

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y. - Niagara University has prided itself on having an outstanding law program with faculty and courses that have helped students get into Ivy League schools. Their program has even been lauded by schools such as University at Buffalo because of its uniqueness. However, recent changes within the law department has led to many students feeling frustrated and uncertain about their future.

Last semester Dr. Peter Baxter, head of the law department, was put on paid leave and since then the entire program has seemed to halt. Two days before classes started, students who were enrolled in classes previously taught by Baxter were informed via email that those courses would no longer be offered. This resulted in many students failing to part-time enrollment two days before classes started and struggling to find an alternate class.

With registration being right around the corner many of the pre-law students have noticed that courses that assist in completing the pre-law minor are not being offered. This has resulted in multiple students having to drop their pre-law minor right before graduation. This situation also affects sociology, criminal justice, business and hospitality students who have all been taking law courses throughout the years.

The main reasoning for these issues stems from the fact that Baxter is no longer teaching those classes.

"The law program is pretty much non-existent - he was the law program," said Makayla Kanavy, a senior pre-law minor.

Besides teaching the obvious required courses, Baxter went above and beyond to help students. He provided guidance for students with their respective career paths and wrote countless letters of recommendation.

"The relationship I needed for a letter of recommendation is gone," said Lauren Austin, a senior pre-law minor. "This is hindering my applications and I'm nervous it will affect my acceptance."

So what is exactly is NU doing to resolve these issues?

Dr. Michael Cassidy was hired to be the replacement advisor for the pre-law program. While Cassidy has been helping advise students he doesn't have that same insight and experience with the pre-law students that Baxter did.

"Students' main concerns are that we have advisors, but none of that matters if we don't have classes," said Morgan Palmer, co-president of the Pre-Law association. The Dean of the College and Arts Science, Dr. Peter Butera did meet with pre-law students to address any concerns they had in an open-forum setting.

"He's very open and receptive to students and their needs," said Palmer. Butera has said that he's been meeting with higher-ups to find a solution to this problem. These solutions are just temporary though, and NU students still feel as if they're in the dark with no answers.

## The art of healing



By: Alize Rosado

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y. - On Oct. 23, Castellani Art Museum showcased art exhibits created by sexual assault survivors. This event was put on by the Red Flag Campaign committee, with help from the YWCA and The Child Advocacy Center of Niagara.

The Red Flag Campaign is a national campaign that highlights the “red flags” of relationships, such as domestic violence and intimate partner violence across college campuses. Since people from age 18-24 are most at risk for sexual assault and partner violence this event is especially important at college campuses.

Dr. Jennifer Beebe and Dr. Dana Radatz are the two co-chairs for the Red Flag Campaign committee at Niagara University and their passions are deeply rooted in these issues. When asked how she became involved Dr. Radatz said,

“My advocacy came from feeling so disillusioned by thinking the world was a safe place for everyone and then realizing it wasn’t, and I needed to do something about that.”

The event had seven different art exhibits created by both children and adults as part of their healing process. These exhibits included art from “The Clothesline Project,” “Trees of

Energy” and “Silent Witness Project.”

“The artwork on display is an opportunity for people to witness part of their healing process,” said Dr. Beebe. “That’s what I think is really powerful, it really highlights the different parts of it and it really tugs at the heart.”

Overall the event was a resounding success that brought NU students and the local community a little closer together.

“The event exemplified the strength of our community here at NU,” said Madison Ruffo, a student here at NU. “It is so powerful to be a part of a community - with members from all walks of life - that comes together with such support and solidarity for those who have been victims, survivors, and thrivers of domestic violence. No one should have to face domestic violence alone.”

“If it changes one person’s path, if it gives one person the information to help someone down the road, then to me that was worth everything.” Said Dr. Radatz.

If students are interested in getting involved they can volunteer or intern at any of the local agencies mentioned. NU students are also encouraged to participate at Take Back the Night, which will take place next semester.

## You can Stop the Bleed

By: Ava Mrozik

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y. - The national awareness campaign, Stop the Bleed, offers training for students, faculty or anyone interested. This training focuses on not only gunshot wounds, but any injury that involves external and profuse bleeding. The training will be held on Nov. 7 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

The training includes a presentation followed by a hands-on experience with a collection of first aid equipment to practice with. The training also includes specifics on what situations to use certain first aid equipment, and provides a chance to practice packing a fake wound. These possible situations can include but are not limited to car accidents, explosives and stabbings.

“So many people don’t realize that in our area, these things happen,” said Terri Mannarino, Niagara County Project Coordinator and a member of the Border Community SERVICE staff. She shared her position as well as her goal regarding this Stop the Bleed campaign. She explained the possibilities of people being trapped and unprepared in their homes from blizzards or the people who have to leave their homes due to hurricanes, tornadoes or other weather-related disasters.

“If more people are trained - just like people knowing what they need to have in their own homes for a couple days - that’s the piece that I do in my work, is that emergency for preparedness,” she explained.

The Stop the Bleed training is organized for adults; however, there are programs offered for children also. For instance, many Boy Scouts are provided with first aid programs. For about 10 years, there used to be a program located on the Niagara University campus which provided first aid training for young Scouts. The importance of training children is to teach them how their assistance can save their parents, their teachers, their grandparents or any other family members and even their own lives.

“Hopefully, you’ll never need this information, but it doesn’t hurt for everybody to have it,” Mannarino said.

Email Terri Mannarino ([tmannarino@niagara.edu](mailto:tmannarino@niagara.edu)) to sign up for the Stop the Bleed training held here at NU on Nov. 7.

Visit [bleedingcontrol.org](http://bleedingcontrol.org) for more information on preparedness and training.

## NUB curriculum changes and improvement

By: Katherine Snyder

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y. - Coming to college can be an exciting yet scary process. Meeting new people, doing new things and learning more advanced things about the world. Niagara University Beginnings is a class to help ease the transition into college. It is a required class for all incoming freshmen to take in the fall semester for an 8 week period, either one or two times a week. I met with Terri Vaughan, co-coordinator of NUB and chair of the theatre department, to discuss the new changes implemented to this year's new curriculum.

Many past students have not taken NUB seriously or thought it was a joke. The past curriculum has been implemented for years, until now when Vaughan realized that the curriculum needed some improvements to help the freshman understand NU's mission. One of the changes made to the curriculum this year was tying most of what they learned back to the Vincentian mission of NU. They have also changed the required reading to an article about poverty and how to decrease it. Another improvement was having the required group project due earlier on in the semester so the students can get to know each other sooner.

Bigger changes to the curriculum include removing the SALT financial literacy program and replacing it with a program for teaching students about plagiarism and how to avoid it when writing papers for their classes. "We hope this beefs up the academics for the students, so that they're more prepared for their future endeavors," Vaughan stated. The students in NUB, as well as all around campus, are required to do Title IX's program about sexual assault. A major reason for this program is that it focuses on the campus mission.

In addition, all the videos shown in NUB will be updated and recorded by the theatre department to be valid with current times, as the videos in the past curriculum are far outdated. The freshman also received new "NUB Swag" that included a new set of highlighters, water bottle and sunglasses.

We will continue to see many improvements over the next coming years to the NUB program to be more inclined to NU students and the Vincentian mission.

## Greek life: Are the stereotypes accurate?

By: Alize Rosado and Max Faery

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y. - When you think of a sorority or a fraternity, what's the image that pops into your head? For most people the image they see is the one portrayed in the media and entertainment. These negative stereotypes often include air-headed college students who only care about drinking, partying and, of course, hazing.

But are these stereotypes true? And what does this mean for campus culture at Niagara University?

Niagara University currently has one fraternity and two sororities on campus: Tau Kappa Epsilon, Phi Sigma Sigma and Alpha Sigma Alpha. All three of these organizations are nationally affiliated, which means there are hundreds of these chapters across the United States that are held to both university and national standards.

One of the biggest negative stereotypes is hazing, yet Phi Sig, ASA and TKE all have a zero-tolerance policy for hazing.

"It's heartbreaking to hear about all of the horrible events that happen to members of Greek life that perpetuate negative stereotypes," said Ally Simons, a member of Phi Sigma Sigma. "Hazing related deaths and injuries are true tragedies that should never occur, especially not from organizations meant to foster brother/sisterhood."

From an academic standpoint, all three of these organizations are held to certain academic standards and required to hold a minimum GPA to be eligible for membership. This isn't just at NU, but all chapters throughout the United States in an effort to build a more educated and well rounded character.

"In my personal experience, our sororities include some of the most intelligent students on campus," said Simons.

One of the biggest things Greek life stands for is its philanthropic causes. Greek organizations contribute over 10 million community service hours each year, which is more than any other volunteer network in the United States.

"On our campus, [ASA] is able to make a difference with our Adopt-a-Highway section, Girls on the Run race, Special Olympics basket-

ball tournament and many others," said Courtney Fell, president of Alpha Sigma Alpha.

Tau Kappa Epsilon raises money for St. Jude's every semester through their 24-hour, week-long fundraiser "Teke-in-a-box." TKE also volunteers time at The Holy Trinity Church in Niagara Falls, the Breast Cancer Walk and Polar Plunge, and recently fundraised for Hurricane Harvey relief.

"[TKE] gives me an opportunity to help those who are either less fortunate or stricken by disaster," said Bradley Merrill, a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon. "'Teke-in-a-box' is special to me because it always brings out the best in people, and reminds us of how good we have it and that we should do whatever we can to help other people."

Phi Sigma Sigma's national philanthropy is college and career readiness. They support the Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation and Kids in Need Foundation, which donates school supplies and materials to children facing extreme poverty. Phi Sig also gives back to the local community with events such as Relay for Life, Take Back the Night, Stigma Smash and more.

Alpha Sigma Alpha, Phi Sigma Sigma and Tau Kappa Epsilon are aware of the stereotypes surrounding Greek life, and they work hard to prove them wrong.

"Our ritual states: Life is not taking in only; it is giving out too. It is giving ourselves – freely – to other people, giving ourselves in comradeship, in understanding, in joy, in love," said Fell. "As members of [ASA], we try to uphold the words that our rituals read everyday."

"To me, being in a sorority means belonging to a nationwide network of encouraging, empowering women," said Simons. "It means being a part of something larger than myself and making a difference to your community and campus."

Greek Life isn't perfect, but don't let the negative stereotypes overshadow the positive contributions Greek life makes.

"We're more than that," said Merrill. "Greek life is more than that." With community service, values and academic goals, Greek life continues to prove that they are more than just a stereotype.

## Finding healthy ways to reduce anxiety

**By: Maxwell Faery**

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y. - Anxiety is very common for most college students and sometimes there are countless stressors in one's life that causes them pain and worry.

Anxiety can be hard to avoid, especially if it's about something that you must do in order to succeed, such as schoolwork and or a job. It is important to address what is causing you anxiety and what you can do to stop it from controlling your life.

### WORK AND SCHOOL ANXIETY

If you have anxiety about homework, a project, or even something you have to do later in the day, it is important to be clean and organized. It is as simple and easy as it sounds. If you organize your work and plan what you need to do for the day with a planner, you will lower your stress. It's like working out, you won't do it unless you force yourself to start, and when you keep at it you will keep going and you will never have to worry about time not being on your side.

As a 19 year-old, I did not start writing in a planner regularly until this semester, and my anxiety dwindled when I wrote down my assignments, my stressors and everything I had to do that day. Once you cross everything off your to-do list it is extremely satisfying.

### PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP ANXIETY

If you have lost the life of a family member or friend, went through a break up, or your family is causing you great anxiety, there is no quick and easy way to calm yourself down. You are going to have bad days and it is important to remind yourself that the only thing that can fully heal this stress and pain is time. But in the meantime, it is important to identify who your support group is. This could be friends, family members, counselors or all of the above. It is important to talk to everyone in your support system, and consider the advice you think works for your situation. Take time to reflect on what happened before you do anything you regret.

Make a list of all the things you want to do with your life and all the great things to come. Writing down your problems in a poem or notebook can also help lower anxiety. It keeps you occupied and you can blow off steam. Think of all the things you want to work on to better yourself, and go do them. Personally, I've been going back to church and working out to relieve my stress, and I feel a lot better.

Also remember that there are a number of resources on campus to help you find healthy solutions to your stress and anxiety. Counseling services is located in basement of Seton Hall and the Academic Success Center is on the main floor of Seton as well.

## A look inside NUSGA's operations

**By: Katherine Snyder**

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y. - Niagara University's Student Government Association is an integral part of student's life on campus. Discussing and fighting for a change of campus life, different events as well as improvements to the campus as a whole. However, not many students really know how NUSGA runs and operates their government. I was able to sit down in one of their committee meetings, as well as their traditional legislative meeting on Sunday, Oct. 21, to really get a look inside as to what they do and how they go about it.

NUSGA holds several committee meetings throughout the week on Sundays and Wednesdays. I was able to attend one of the committee meetings, Outreach and Advancement, hosted by student body President Cheyenne Freely, student body Vice President Nicholas Graham and Cabinet Secretary Richelle Kloch, in which they discussed some of their future projects. One of their main concerns are the bathrooms in the dorm towers, Seton and O'Shea. They plan to talk with facilities as well as Dean of Students, Jason Jakubowski, to improve the bathrooms completely in both buildings, specifically the showers. They will present the issue that the tiling in O'Shea needs to be fully re-done for cleanliness standards, and an overall improvement to the life of O'Shea residents. They also plan to have a meeting with town hall in the near future to discuss what they're doing in regards to campus.

NUSGA wants to start doing programs to promote students to come into their office, as they want the office to feel welcoming. One of their primary goals is to make sure students know and understand what they do in regards to daily life for the communi-

ty. As always, all students are welcome to come in with any questions or regards to student life when any NUSGA representatives are present, even if they're relaxing during their off time. Also, all committee meetings, as well as their legislative meetings, are open to all students to attend as long as a member of NUSGA is contacted prior to give permission to sit in.

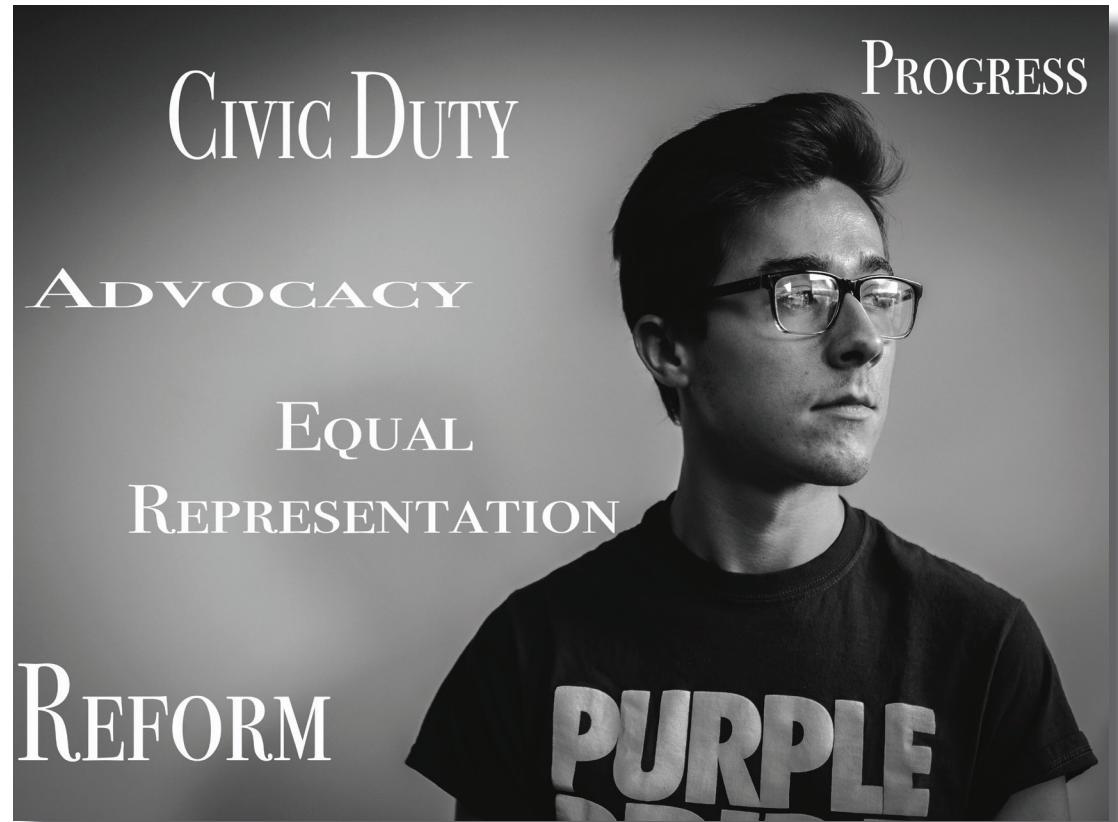
After the committee meeting, I got to sit in on a legislative meeting, that involves all delegations, including the new class of 2022 delegation at their meeting. It was very eye-opening to see how their meetings operate, as they work as a real government and discuss topics such as approving club budgets, future plans and events they have planned. There was also a special presentation given by Father Rooney, "Becoming a mentor," which touched on the core values NUSGA bases themselves on, being a leader and a mentor to others.

NUSGA has some very exciting projects coming up, which include fixing crosswalks and potholes on campus, as well as possibly making the entire road between Gallagher Center and Bisgrove Hall/ACAD Complex an outside student hub. Parliamentarian Zach Recckio met with Christopher Sheffield to discuss these projects as well as complete their one year plan that was initiated at the beginning of the Fall 2017 semester, which included installing the fire pit outside of Dunleavy hall.

Overall from what I had observed, NUSGA is a prominent part of campus life, operate as a professional government and most importantly care about the life of students. They are willing and determined young people who will make Niagara a great place for their fellow classmates and faculty.

# I VOTE FOR...•••

Photography / editing by Nina Grenga  
Interviewed by Madison Ruffo



Nick Waskow



Alize Rosado

Kira Zappy



CONSTITUTIONAL  
RIGHT

OPINIONS  
MATTER

EDUCATION  
VOICE  
JUSTICE



Zach Recckio



Liam Neaverth

Madison Ruffo



## Another Hollywood couple splits up

By: Alison Chodak

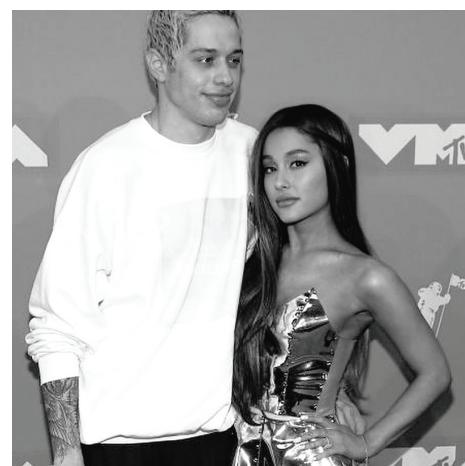
NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y.- Romance is dead. The world is shaking right now because recently Ariana Grande and Pete Davidson called off their engagement.

Davidson and Grande met in 2014 however, they were both dating different people. Grande was dating Mac Miller, who recently passed away, and Davidson was dating Cazzie David. They both ended their relationships in May 2018 and a few weeks later Ariana Grande and Pete Davidson started dating. Many people were surprised on how fast they started dating but were even more shocked when he proposed to her in June and she said yes! Now it's October and they called off their engagement. No one really knows why.

There have been signs that their relationship has been shaky. Rumor has it, Pete Davidson has gotten death threats over their romance. "I got a death threat. Someone wanted to shoot me in the face because she's so hot. Do you know how insane that is?... I'm like 'What did I do?'" Death threats are petrifying and this could be one cause of their breakup. However, it wasn't just him showing signs of their breakup.

She was tweeting very emotional tweets. It hasn't been easy for Ariana Grande because her ex-boyfriend/good friend Mac Miller had just overdosed last month. She tweeted a couple of weeks ago saying, "can i pls just have one okay day. just one. pls." She was clearly having a rough time. Was it because of fans harassing her saying she was the cause of Mac Millers death? Or was it because her and Pete Davidson were fighting about something? Fans were concerned and they sent her love and support.

The couple are both having a difficult time speaking out about their breakup, they are covering tattoos and memories of each other. They still love each other and hope for one day to make amends.



[instagram.com/arianagrande](https://www.instagram.com/arianagrande)

## Ye equals MC ... squared?



Youtube screenshot

By: Zackary Kephart

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y. - 2018 has featured some unusual music videos. While some, like Childish Gambino's "This Is America," addressed deep-rooted conflicts in the United States, others such as the collaboration by Kanye West and Lil Pump titled "I Love It" have been well ... harder to decipher.

After a full month, it's still hard to tell exactly what West had in mind with a music video where he and Lil Pump dress in blocky outfits and follow comedian Adele Givens around. The song itself really doesn't come to life without the video - another trend in 2018. Still, West's fingerprints are all over this. He's trolling all of us. The question is whether or not it's intentional, and that's something even West himself may not be able to answer.

"I Love It" also harkens back to the late '90s and early 2000s when artists such as Ludacris featured well ... ludicrous videos for songs such as his own, "Get Back." The central theme of that video was intimidation and aggressive posturing wrapped in a light-hearted, humorous frame.

In the wake of the #MeToo movement this year, it would be nice to watch "I Love It" and view it as the opposite of that aforementioned video. West and Lil Pump spit out some disgusting bars, sure, but they're not in control. They're walking around in ridiculous, blocky suits trying to intimidate the much larger Givens (who is literally twice their size in the video) and getting nowhere. They're answering to Givens, not the other way around. They don't get it.

Even West's decision to wear a chain bearing the name of his late mother around his neck could be a nice gesture toward treating women equally, yet it's hard to tell with him. West admitted in an interview that having daughters hasn't changed his views on women, and considering this song was first presented at a certain awards show, this analysis just feels wasted. Again, it would be nice to watch this video and think otherwise, but there's a difference between what it would be nice to do and what can actually be done.

West may look like Spongebob Squarepants in "I Love It," but it's hard to tell if he's ready for anything.

## A hidden jewel: The Book Corner

By: Francesca Gugino

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. - More than a decade ago reading was revolutionized with the introduction of the Kindle, followed by the Nook and several other e-readers. The way people purchased books and read books began to change as online downloads became increasingly popular and more easily accessible. But within the past few years there has seemed to be a shift, at the hands of millennials, toward used books and other print forms of literature.

The used book market produces not only a unique social atmosphere, but is an eco-friendly investment. Used books, according to the 22-34 year old demographic that is increasingly supporting the used book market, are intended to be read and passed along from person to person and generation to generation.

As reading has become more popular, the "hipster" trend has focused on the importance of affordable print literature with rich character. The aesthetic of reading and purchasing books plays a large factor into the movement toward used books stores and cafes that sell used books. From old opera houses to small corner stores, the repurposing of buildings to create used book stores is alive and well, serving and promoting the importance of literature as an art form and supporting millennial environment concerns.

One of these hidden jewels is located on Main Street in Niagara Falls, about a five minute drive from campus. The Book Corner is a used book store that is full of literature, rich history, antiques and provides the idealized scene. Located directly next to Rapids Theater, The Book Corner has three full floors of new and used literature, as it is "the largest independent bookstore in Western New York" (The Book Corner History). This local novelty was founded in 1927 and since then has moved and expanded to its current space of 10,000 square feet. It is not only a place for reading and purchasing books, but there is a wide selection of antiques and a vinyl collection that is continuously growing.

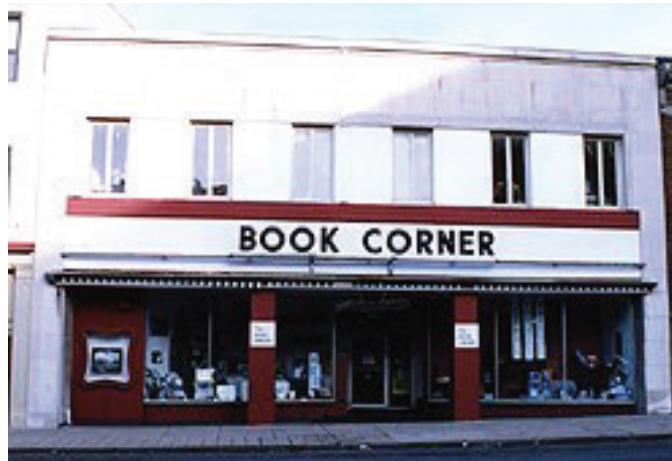


photo source: [www.fallsbookcorner.com](http://www.fallsbookcorner.com)

The Book Corner also hosts several events during the years. On Oct. 13, the shop held its annual Slipstream poetry reading. Slipstream is a renowned literary journal, which is full of incredible poetry. Several poets read at the event, including a local poet who will be reading at Niagara University on November 7 at 7 p.m. at the CAM. The event was free, snacks and drinks were provided and the atmosphere was welcoming and open. The Book Corner also hosts signings by authors. The most recent signing was Oct. 20, in which S.E. Kenneth Cosentino discussed his newest work "Secret Teachings of the Hidden Masters."

For more information on events, visit The Book Corner's website and Facebook page.

Hours: Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Thursdays until 7 p.m.

1801 Main Street

P.O. Box 66

Niagara Falls, NY 14305

(716) 285-2928 (716) 694-8242

Fax (716) 285-1580

Email: [info@fallsbookcorner.com](mailto:info@fallsbookcorner.com)

## Dare to watch "Daredevil" season 3?

By: David Wojtkowski

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. - On Friday, Oct. 19, Netflix released season three of Marvel's "Daredevil." Charlie Cox reprises his role as the Matt Murdock/Daredevil, a blind ninja vigilante who goes and beats people up with his bare hands. Based on the Marvel comics superhero and set in the Marvel cinematic universe, it is quite a different offering than the bright and joke quipping world of "The Avengers."

Following the events of Marvel's superhero team-up show "The Defenders," Matt Murdock is a broken man. Having lost his faith in God and isolated himself from his friends he sulks around in a basement. Murdock finds new purpose and dons his mask once again when his arch nemesis Wilson Fisk/Kingpin (Vincent D'Onofrio) is released from prison and back to his old evil shenanigans. Joining the fray this season are two FBI agents, Rahul Nadeem (Jay Ali) and Benjamin Pointdexter/Bullseye (Wilson Bethel). Nadeem is an upstanding agent devoted to justice while Pointdexter is a mentally unstable one-man killing machine. Spoiler alert; one of them goes bad. Also returning are Murdock's friends Foggy Nelson (Elden Henson) and Karen Page (Deborah Ann Woll) who investigate the dark web of corruption that Fisk has weaved in an attempt to take him down in the courtroom. Murdock, on the other hand, goes around and tries to solve his problems the way he knows best; by punching them in the face.

"Daredevil" has been acclaimed in seasons past for its action scenes, and its third season should be no different. It takes a while to pick up because at first Murdock is still pretty hurt from having a building fall on him in "The Defenders." Despite this, when it gets going it's bloody and brutal, with well-choreographed punches and bone shattering sound effects. There's even an entire prison riot done in a single camera shot, which is quite a refreshing change from action movies plagued with a shaky camera that switches to a different camera shot every half second.

While certainly not for the faint of heart, Marvel's "Daredevil" serves up a satisfying third season that is not something to turn a blind eye to.

## Miss Monte answers

Hello ladies and gentlemen, I am Miss Monte and I am open to answering a few of your questions at [missmonte345@gmail.com](mailto:missmonte345@gmail.com).

### 1.) What's a fun cultural diversity class to take?

Some classes students can take are American Sign Language and any language classes. Taking a language other than English shows you can grow as a person and looks really good on job applications. Learning ASL for example, is an important skill to have, especially since Niagara University is growing and catering to people who have disabilities like being deaf. I have not met any deaf students at my time at Niagara University however, we should accommodate to those who are deaf and get a more diverse community. I believe sign language is so important to learn. I plan on taking an ASL class because my sister's boyfriend's family is deaf. I learned a few signs through them, however there is more I would like to learn and am glad Niagara University offers sign language classes. A few more classes to list off are Africana/Black Studies, Fine Arts, Liberal Arts, and Woman Studies. Email your counselor or professors to see if you are interested in taking any of these classes next semester!

### 2.) My friend has a crush on a guy that is in her class and I like him too. He told me the other day he likes me but, she really likes this guy. How do I tell her without hurting her feelings?

I hate to break it to you but, you're probably going to hurt her feelings

if she really likes the guy. I would sit down and tell her in a nice way and make sure she's okay with it. If you really care about her, you'd make sure her feelings matter. If she is over dramatic and never wants to talk to you, then date him. However, if she seems a bit awkward about it ... bring him around for the three of you to hang out one time and see how it goes. Yes, your friends matter because they will be there for you if the guy breaks up with you. It is also your life and you have to know what is best. The one thing you don't want to do is lie to her and say there is nothing going on between you two. That would be a bad situation. Do what you think is right, but don't lie!

### 3.) My friend is complaining about a friend behind his back. I actually really like this friend. How do I tell him to stop complaining about my friend without hurting his feelings?

This is a tough one but you have to be completely honest. Honesty is the most important thing in friendship and any relationship. You have to tell him how you feel. At the end of the conversation, maybe say, you should get to know him more and the three of you can hangout all together. If he doesn't want to get to know him more try hanging out with them separately but let the one friend know to not complain about him anymore. Friendships can be hard but just be truthful.

I'll be back soon to answer more questions! Miss Monte out.

## The Dumpster: Issue 2

By, Liam Cuddy

(To read Issue 1, visit [www.niagarawire.com](http://www.niagarawire.com))

"What's gotten into you?" Mr. Walsh asked holding his wife's arm as she regained her balance.

"Tom... Tom it was... it was incredible."

He glanced over to his son who was still jumping up and down with excitement, he then directed his gaze towards the time machine which sat still, steaming in their backyard. He escorted her inside and sat her down by the kitchen table. "Rebecca, what are you doing? You're feeding into his delusions. It's not helping our case."

She shook her head. "Tom, I'm not feeding into anything. It's real. The thing works, it's-- it's--"

He rolled his eyes and began to pace about the kitchen. "I don't have time for any of this. He needs to get involved in something like basketball or hockey. None of this hocus pocus space-man stuff!"

She stood up, clearly agitated. "Tom I saw it! I saw everything. In a blip of a second I was looking across the old schoolyard at a girl who was climbing the jungle-gym behind the slide! I saw her, and I knew right away I was looking at myself. Before I could even move I was looking down on a hospital bed, watching this older woman trace the crayon drawings on her birthday cards! It said happy 98th grandma, and I knew, I just knew it was real. I could see my beginning and my end, the good, the bad. I could feel the energy pulsing through my--"

"Enough!" he yelled, throwing his hat down. "I was never allowed to do any of this stuff as a boy! I would have been run out of town! I'm calling Rick. He's gonna come down here and haul that literal piece of garbage back to the junkyard where it belongs."

She stood up and pointed a finger at him as he lifted the phone from the wall. "Don't you dare. Go try it for yourself! You'll see what I mean!"

He looked at her as if she were crazy right before dialing the number into the phone. "This is for his own good Rebecca."

She nodded with disgust. "Have it your way." with one quick gesture she spun around and raced out the door towards Robby and the dumpster.

"Mom! Did you see it? I made sure to--"

"We need to go Robby. We need to go right now, come on." she said, swinging open the hatch on the side of the dumpster.

"But what about--"

"Hurry!" she demanded.

He crawled into the dumpster with her and began to hurriedly twist and jab at a series of glowing knobs and buttons. She took over and set the dial to 1979.

He looked up at her with concern as his hand hovered over the large blue button. She rubbed his shoulder with care and gave him an understanding nod. "Trust me, Robby... we're gonna fix this."

With that, he slammed his hand down on the button, and they were gone in an instant.

## Carrie Underwood's Cry Pretty is an uneven listen

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y. - Carrie Underwood's label switch from Sony Music Nashville to Capitol Records Nashville was a crucial and mysterious move. As the country music industry continues to succumb to ongoing misogynistic problems, Underwood is one of few female artists to continue pushing against those boundaries.

On that note, while the effort for "Cry Pretty" is appreciated, unfortunately it's a bit scattershot as a whole, with certain elements working extremely well while also failing in other parts.

The production on this album is one such example. On one hand, Underwood excels with her traditional brand of pop-country ballads with "Love Wins" and the title track, but elsewhere, the string of songs starting with "Backsliding" and ending with "Drinking Alone" try to go for something soulful and end up feeling cold. "Low" relies on bombastic production tactics rather than natural soul, making everything feel overcooked.

Lyrically, the album takes on running themes of loneliness, fragility and darker subjects in general that most mainstream country artists are afraid to approach. The title track is still a brilliant example of the frustrations of traditional gender rules that women are expected to adhere to, with the transition from a ballad to a rocker midway through feeling natural as the frustration continues to grow. "Ghosts On The Stereo" is another excellent cut that shows music heals when nothing else can.

Of course, while this is lyrically a strong album, Underwood does manage to generalize or miss the mark at times. "Love Wins" focuses more on an end goal of peace and love rather than the road map to get there, all of which is delivered with cliché-ridden lyrical content.

On the other hand, "The Bullet" has features a unique perspective on mass shootings by focusing on the future impact of victims' families rather than the immediate aftermath. It manages to look at both sides of the issue rather effectively. After this is another candidate for one of her best songs with "Spinning Bottles," a stark piano ballad that focuses on the effects of alcoholism in a relationship.

While "Cry Pretty" is not Underwood's best effort, her best assets continue to shine in certain areas.

## Modernity has failed us

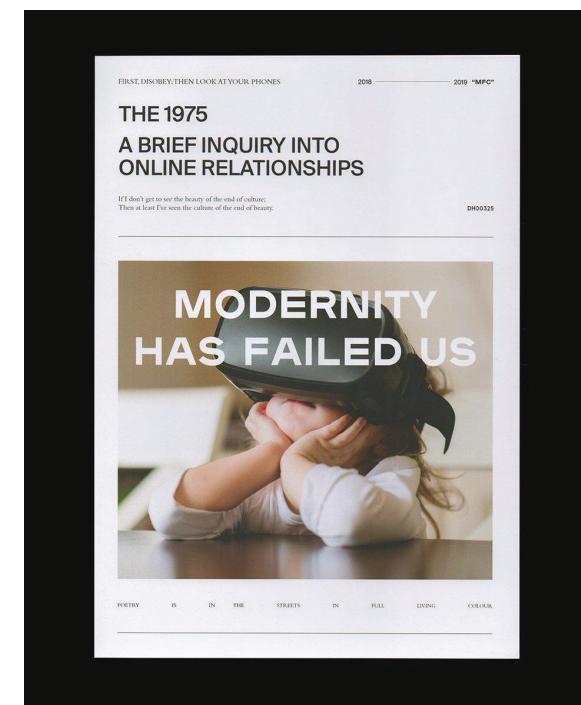
By: Brittany Rosso

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y.

- Socially-shocking truths of society are here for us all to see, and conveniently, they are all aligned with a lyrical portrayal and mash-up of clips from the horror story we are living in 2018. Yeah, the one you may have been a bit blind-sided to, until now that is. The 1975 has done it again. Manchester's indie, alternative, pop band never fails to get people talking, and most importantly, always brings the truth of society to the table. The 1975, composed of 4 band members; Matthew Healy, Ross Macdonald, Adam Hann and George Daniel, are doing things a bit differently this time around, shocking fans and getting widespread reaction and discussion formulating across the globe.

"Love It If We Made It," a track from one of two new upcoming albums, "A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships," debuted on July 19, 2018, with lyrics referencing and hitting hard into topics including social and political issues, war, drugs, religion, environmental problems, immigration and even the passing of American Singer and rap artist, Lil Peep. The song was written by Healy, and the music video was directed by Adam Powell with lighting and conceptual design by Tobias Rylander.

Recently, on Monday, Oct. 15, the 1975 released the "Love It If We Made It" music video- a production constructed by pieces of our own society, literally. The music video featured clips of both today's reality and our past. The video represents the issues and problems at the forefront of today's society, while repeating the lyrics throughout, "modernity has failed us."



[instagram.com/the1975](https://www.instagram.com/the1975)

The production features the phone recorded footage of Eric Garner, a 43-year old African American man who was choked to death in the streets by a NYPD police officer in 2018. It features a clip of Harvey Weinstein, "whose reported sexual abuse sparked the #MeToo movement" (via the1975source on Instagram). It includes a clip of Brent Kavanaugh, the Supreme Court Justice who was appointed on October 6, following an FBI investigation into allegations of sexual assault. It features a photo of Donald Trump, with the lyrics "I moved on her like a b\*\*\*\*," a direct quote from the president of the United States. Quoting Trump again, the lyrics later follow to a photo of Kanye West as they sing, "Thank you Kanye! Very Cool!" This video includes recent events, but also includes parts of our past, adding a clip from the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers as the lyrics state, "a war has been incited."

While some mention that this video and its brutal honesty makes them uncomfortable, we must remember, we are living as a part of those uncomfortable truths every day. I feel that the 1975 did a great job at exposing social and political problems in this powerful production, as they always do. They make social points and bold statements, using their music as an outlet to express what needs to be said. This production has taken things to a new level for the 1975- something everyone should see.

## Men's and Women's Basketball Season Previews

By: Max Liebel

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y. - There are certain sports you can feel coming as the seasons change. As fall sports teams are getting ready for postseason play, the leaves are falling, winter coats are coming out across campus and there is buzz around the Gallagher Center. It's that time of year everyone, basketball is back at Niagara.

The Men's Basketball team is coming off of their best season since 2012. The Purple Eagles went 19-14 with a 13-5 conference record led by the likes of Matt Scott and Kahlil Dukes. However, this was not enough to take the Purple Eagles deep in the MAAC tournament as they lost to Fairfield in the first round. When asked about the team's previous success, Head Coach Chris Casey talked about the long term benefits.

"I think the biggest thing we were able to do was have carry over," Casey said. "It's important to develop guys. In order to develop them you need them for sometime and we had that with guys like Matt Scott, Kahlil Dukes and guys that will be returning like Marvin Prochet."

With Dukes and Scott now both playing professionally overseas, there is big shoes to fill on the men's team. Returning players like Dominic Robb, Marvin Prochet and Chris Barton are the marquee players coming into this season. Coach Casey talked about Robb, Prochet, Barton, and more.

"You look at guys like Marvin Prochet, who didn't get enough (MAAC) votes, he will use that as jet fuel and I expect him to be an all league player this year," Casey said. "Our front court guys with Dom Robb and Greg King gave us great minutes and other guys like Chris Barton have been a main stay for us for some years. Then you add in guys like James Towns, who had some big games for us off the bench last year. So really were leaning on those guys heavily as well as some good young talent we have coming in this year."

All in all, it sounds like it should be another exciting season for Purple Eagles fans who have plenty to be optimistic about when the Men's team steps on the court. Their first regular season game is on Nov. 12 when Big 4 rival St. Bonaventure comes to the Gallagher Center to play the Purple Eagles at 7 P.M.

The Women's Basketball team is coming off of a rough season in which they went 13-18 but still managed to post a 9-9 conference record. After a second round exit of the MAAC tournament, it was back to the drawing board for the Purple Eagles. However, there is good reason to be excited for the Women's team. The team has a group of young talent that showed promise from a year ago. Junior guard Jai Moore was named to the third team All-MAAC Preseason poll.

Like last year's team, there is only two seniors on this year's team. This leaves younger players like Moore to take a heavier roll come the opening tip-off. Returning seniors Kharysma Bryant and Adila Gathers bring the experience to this team as they go into their fourth year playing for NU. Anticipation is growing around this team as we wait for the first action of the season. Just like the Men's team, the women's team plays its first regular season game at home vs. St. Bonaventure. Their game is on Nov. 6 at 7 P.M.

Players and coaches from the Women's Basketball team were unavailable for comment.

**Cover pictures from purpleeagles.com**

## Father Maher elected to the NCAA Board of Governors

By: Alex Bock

Father James J. Maher already had an impressive array of accomplishments before he came to Niagara, but since then he has continued to build his legacy, all while having a strong influence on those around.

However, one of his biggest accomplishments to date came earlier this fall. On Sept. 27th, Father Maher was named to the NCAA Board of Governors. He is now one of just 16 voting ballot members.

"I'm really excited to be a part of it and learn how diverse each level is," Fr. Maher said.

Fr. Maher already has a lot of experience working with the NCAA. He was elected to the NCAA Board of Directors in August of 2016, and has always had a passion for enhancing the college experience for athletes.

"I've been on the Division 1 board for 2 1/2 years," Fr. Maher explained. "I first had the opportunity as a campus minister at St. John's University. I learned that if you want to build relationships with student-athletes, you need to go out to them. It's about building bridges between campus ministries and student-athletes."

It's safe to say that Fr. Maher is a man with a lot of ambition, with a passion for everyone around him. From his years working with a wide range of student-athletes from all different backgrounds, he emphasizes the hard work that student-athletes put in on a daily basis both in the classroom, and in competition.

"There's great learning that students have in their competition," Fr. Maher stated. "Having that experience has helped me to have that knowledge."



[news.niagara.edu](http://news.niagara.edu)

The passion that Fr. Maher has for student-athletes will certainly continue as he transitions into his new role. Members of the Board of Governors must ensure that all levels of the NCAA continue to adhere to the basic rules and regulations of the NCAA. Fr. Maher has his goals in mind for what he wishes to accomplish in his new position.

"Continue to focus on reforms in the NCAA," Fr. Maher elaborated. "To be able to support student-athletes with time management and wellness, and make their accomplishments known to the public."

While this latest achievement for Fr. Maher is a rewarding honor for himself, he's also positive that his election to the Board of Governors will be a boost for the NU community as well.

"Hopefully it elevates Niagara," Fr. Maher stated. "It's a wonderful opportunity to be among people from schools like Kentucky, Georgia and Big East schools. It creates a nice national perk."

# Purple Eagles to watch

By: Franklin Heinzmann

## Caroline Leitch – Women's Volleyball

Leitch has been a force to be reckoned with on the court this season. The outside hitter is sixth in the MAAC in kills (257), and seventh in kills per set (2.89) and total points (289.0). Leitch leads the Purple Eagles in all three of those categories. Leitch is on pace to set career high for hitting percentage (.240), and has already eclipsed her previous career high for digs (123) and total blocks (46). Leitch and the Purple Eagles have two road games left to prepare for the MAAC Championship.

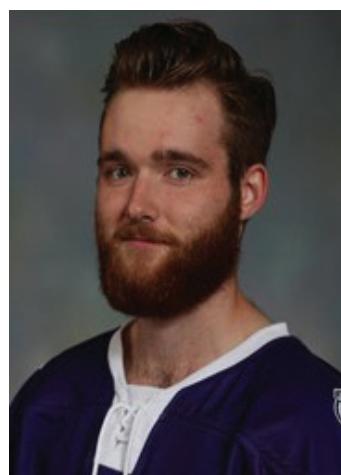


## Hayley Tasselmyer – Women's Swimming and Diving

Tasselmyer has been a key contributor to the Women's Swimming and Diving team. Tasselmyer was a part of the relay team that finished second in the 200 medley relay and second in the 400 medley relay in their Oct. 20 tri-meet against Siena and Binghamton. She was part of the relay team that set the school record for the 200 free relay in last season's MAAC Championship. The Women's and Swimming and Diving teams host the University of Waterloo for a meet on Nov. 10 at 11 A.M. in the Kiernan Center.

## Brian Wilson – Hockey

The Purple Eagles goaltender is blossoming in his second season as a Purple Eagle. Wilson currently leads Atlantic Hockey in save percentage (.942) and has the lowest Goals Against Average (1.76) amongst all goalies who have played in at least three games. The highlight of Wilson's season thus far is his 39 save shutout on Oct. 25, which helped the Purple Eagles defeat Air Force by a score of 5-0. Wilson and the Purple Eagles host Holy Cross at Dwyer Arena on Nov. 9 and Nov. 10, both games start at 7 P.M.



Statistics as of Oct. 28, 2018

Pictures from [purpleeagles.com](http://purpleeagles.com)

## Student-Athlete Profile: Darrel Harxhi



By: Nastassja Posso

[purpleeagles.com](http://purpleeagles.com)

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N.Y.- Darrel Harxhi has started off his first pre-season as a Purple Eagle off on the right foot. Harxhi won the Flight I singles title at the Purdue Fall Invitational on Oct. 7.

"It was a crazy atmosphere," he said. "We were up against some tough competition at a big school, and it really served as an eye-opener and a good opportunity to get on the right mindset for this season." Harxhi said.

Harxhi is a sophomore transfer student from St. Bonaventure. Harxhi transferred to NU primarily because he knew the coach pretty well and it was closer to home. He also likes that unlike his time at St. Bonaventure, at Niagara the men's tennis team is very close-knit like a family.

"At Niagara, I reached out to the coach and he accepted me with open arms and said he wanted me on the team." Harxhi said.

Harxhi began playing tennis at the age of eight when his mother put him in a tennis class.

"My mom is a big tennis fan," Harxhi said. "So one summer she decided to put me in a class and I wasn't very good at first, but thanks to her I kept pushing and actually ended up playing pretty well."

He mentions that it is still too soon to set season goals in stone as he has not been a Purple Eagle for very long, but he would definitely like a winning record and more wins than losses.

"I see this time as the most important part of the season because when you're not playing, it's easy to get side tract and lose the big picture," he said. "But like what they say, 'it's what you do in the dark that puts you in the light,' I think now is the time to stay focused and consistent." Harxhi said.

Harxhi and the rest of the team continue to prepare for their next match in January against Binghamton.



# Sports

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## MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



## SEASON PREVIEWS

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