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Student art expo reveals Niagara's hidden talent



Bethany Zakrzewski with her work, "Name."

by Vince Schiano
Staff Writer

Laura J. Brownlie, NU applied fine arts major and PR intern at the Castellani Art Museum, hosted "Student Culture Expo," last Thursday. The exhibit invited all students on campus to showcase paintings, sculptures, photographs and more.

"My goal for this internship was to get students more involved at the museum," said Brownlie. "What better way to get students involved than by offering them a chance to show their work?"

The invitation was extended and students jumped at the opportunity. More than 30 different pieces of art were showcased throughout the night, while a steady crowd continually filled the room.

When receiving responses from student artists, Brownlie stated she was pleasantly surprised. "I'm happy that this is something students were so willing to take part in," Brownlie said.

Students such as Bethany Zakrzewski were excited upon the announcement there was going to be

an opportunity for student artwork to be displayed.

"When I first heard of this I thought, "This is perfect, absolutely perfect." Zakrzewski used both oil paints and 'micropens' in her collection of works that were on display. "This is such a good way for me to keep doing art because if I'm given a deadline for something, I know I'll actually complete it." Zakrzewski added.



Laura J. Brownlie

Susan Clements, coordinator of community relations at the CAM, showed nothing but joy at the turnout of both students and community. "I'm just so impressed with the number of students that are doing art on their own." Clements said.

After seeing the success of the expo, Clements mentioned a possibility of making this an annual event. "We're always looking for ways to make the museum more welcoming and engaging to students."

A confirmation has not been announced yet on whether this will be an annual event. More information can be found at www.castellaniartmuseum.org.

NUSGA president reflects on past year, encourages students to give back

Editorial by Christopher Zukas
Student Body President

Niagara University student body:

As we continue into part of December, we all know what is coming up: finals week! I hope that you all are able to find the balance between studying and relaxing in the coming weeks. As I mentioned in my previous message, it is my hope to make this writing a regular occurrence in The Niagara Index. In this final issue of the Niagara Index for 2011, I want focus on reflection and giving.

December is one of my favorite months. I look forward to all the celebrations revolving around the birth of Christ, the New Year, the first real snow, the end of the semester, visiting with friends and family and so much more. When looking at all that December brings, it is easy to see how quickly the calendar can fill up, leaving reflection and giving to become an afterthought sometimes.

Reflection is an important part of my life. Taking time to think about the year during the winter break has become tradition for me. Reflecting on significant events and challenges has allowed me to grow and mature personally and professionally. Many times, my goals for the following year come from my pitfalls of the year prior. It is rewarding to look back on the goals I have set as it helps give me a sense of accomplishment, direction and motivation in moving forward.

Serving as student body president is a very public role. My stances on topics, emails and even my tweets/status updates are at times scrutinized. Though this can be frustrating, I'm OK with it because at the end of the day I love what I do and that will not change. Because of this, I receive a lot of criticism and feedback - both good and bad. I look at this as an opportunity to be better for myself and for others. As the semester comes to a close, I look forward to having the

opportunity to reflect on all that life has brought this past year and I hope all of you will have the opportunity to do the same.

In years past, I have also set aside time to give back to a community that has given me so much. With my mother recently relocating to North Carolina, I will not be giving back in the same way I have in the past - and that's okay. This year I have decided to start a new tradition by giving back to my new community in Raleigh, N.C. Additionally, I will be

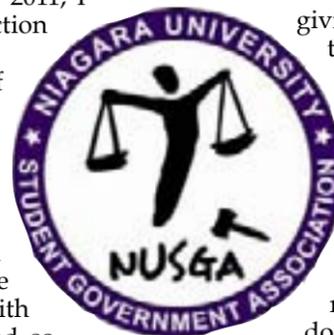
giving a monetary donation to Niagara University.

Having served as student body president the past two years, I have realized the importance of giving back to Niagara. I'm not writing to announce a large donation, but rather a small personal donation while highlighting the significance those types of donations mean to the university.

Sure, it's easy to look at the expenses of the past four years and say, "I gave them over \$100,000; I'm not giving another dime!" Yes, that's true. However, much of what I have had the honor of experiencing the past four years is a result of small donations like mine. Alumni and friends of NU have given to Niagara for years, and that has helped attract thousands of students, kept our tuition from skyrocketing, and adds value to our institution and degrees after we leave and are applying for grad school and/or jobs.

Giving is tremendously important to Niagara and there would be no better satisfaction than running into a future alum 20 years down the road and hearing how Niagara was an even stronger institution for them than it was for us. That would be the ultimate gift. With that said, I ask all of you to consider giving. It doesn't matter if it's \$5 or \$5,000. Giving is giving and every dollar can help.

Thank you for taking time to read this and I want to wish you all a happy and safe holiday season. God bless.



Strikes and sweaters: NUSGA 2013 delegation hosts ugly sweater bowl

by Vince Schiano
Staff Writer

Full of holiday spirit, the Class of 2013 sponsored an ugly sweater Christmas party at Frontier Lanes in Lewiston. More than 50 students took part in unlimited bowling and munching on pizza and wings for three hours while contending for the ugliest sweater, and also for the highest score in a single game.

"We put a lot of work into this event," said Sara Kates, Class of 2013 vice president. "It seems as if everyone is having fun, which makes us feel great."

The Class of 2013 faced a challenge as its originally planned event that was to be held at the Hard Rock Café in Niagara Falls, Ontario, was cancelled due to NU's new directive, which discourages alcohol-related events.

"We had to overcome an obstacle, but in the end it worked out and we're happy to see that we have had a successful turnout." Kates said.

The award for the ugliest sweaters of the night went to Josh Miller for an interesting combination of a turtle-neck and Christmas vest, and to Tracy Schmitt, who carried a Christmas vest with a long-sleeved white shirt. The highest scoring bowler of the night was senior Matthew Cook.



From left: Mary Smith, Jeannine Alsous, James Lioi, Anthony Cabassa, Allison Clark.

News

NU Theatre gets physical

by Kristina Foderaro
Senior Writer

Niagara University Theatre will produce "The Boy Who Could Sing Pictures" as its last production of the semester, from Dec. 8-18.

Directed by adjunct professors of physical theater Terry Judd and Robin Patterson, "The Boy Who Sing Pictures" is based on the children's book by Seymour Leichman.

The story is about how a child-like king rules his domain. A young boy, Ben, played by Mackenzie Gildemeyer, has an ability to make pictures appear in the sky when he sings. He uses this talent to demonstrate to the king all the hardships he is causing his subjects. The two antagonists, Pomp and Circumstance, are jealous of this talent and influence the king to imprison the child.

According to senior theater major Mary Boatman, who plays Meliasande, the production's theme is two-fold. "Ben has a message like Spider-Man's: with great power comes great responsibility, Boatman says. On the other hand, "the king's message is that you shouldn't always let others influence decisions that are yours."

This production is unique for a Niagara University production because it relies heavily on aspects of physical theater, such as mask work, puppeteering, and body movements. Richard Cole, who plays Pomp, Al Capitano, and Bellecanto, was able to build upon his physical theater skills by practicing his mask skills along with his body movements. Along with building his physical theater techniques, Cole was also able to practice characterization.

"I learned how to change character quickly during a production," Cole

says.

"This play is one we actors can truly 'play' on stage," says Boatman. "We get to portray characters and wear costumes that most actors never will. It's a once-in-a-lifetime kind of experience."

Cole and Boatman agree that "The Boy Who Could Sing Pictures" is a unique opportunity for Niagara students to take advantage of. "It provides them (students) with a production that revolves around physical theater and this is not often the case in NU productions," Cole says. "It is also a good show for children all the way up to adults."

The cast includes Patrick J. Tighe as Zoomac; Boatman; Gildemeyer; Cole; Dan Urtz as Lightfoot; Annise Celano and Leanne Troutman as the Lute Sisters; Fabio H. Del Carlo; Kathleen Denecke; Gregory Gansworth; Billy Leonard; Kendyl Litwiller; and Stephanie Wattie as puppeteers.

"The Boy Who Could Sing Pictures" opens at 7 p.m. on Dec. 8 and at 7:30 p.m. on the 9, 10, 16 and 17. There are 2 p.m. showings on Dec. 10, 11, 17 and 18. Niagara University theater productions are free for NU students with valid IDs.



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'Job Well Dunleavy'

by Olivia Bittetti
Wed Editor

Are you familiar with that rewarding sigh of relief that accompanies handing in a paper or project? Do you ever find yourself in those rare occasions when you are particularly proud of a piece and secretly wish it be seen/read/heard by more than just two people (yourself and you professor?)

NU English Professor Marybeth Sullivan, alongside her husband and fellow colleague, Joseph Nicoletti, collaboratively created the "Job Well Dunleavy," which debuted last fall. Job Well Dunleavy provides the perfect atmosphere and conclusion to the fall semester for students of all majors to showcase a particular piece of work that he or she is proud of.

Boasting nearly 46 participants and 100 people in the audience – mostly friends and a few family members – Sullivan described the vast variety of work that was contributed at last year's event.

"We saw everything from short stories, poetry, photobooks, photography, videos, documentaries, musical acts and interpretive dances," Sullivan said.

The student-generated event has only one guideline: Do what you want in five minutes or less.

"It is important that people have a real audience for their work. The work they do shouldn't be something that lives and dies in a class," said Sullivan. "If people are creating a project that is important to them, they should share it with others."

Senior communications major Sam Goodwin participated in the event last year as a student enrolled in Sullivan's creative nonfiction course. Goodwin presented a video he created about the embellishment and false representation that is often portrayed in films about

college parties.

Based on his positive experience, Goodwin encourages anyone to participate in Job Well Dunleavy.

"I feel like often times students don't realize how strong their work/talents might be. This gives them a chance to really get it out there to an audience," Goodwin said.

He also jokingly recommended that people make an effort to meet Sullivan because "she makes stellar enchiladas." Although a Mexican feast will not be provided, there will be a plethora of fresh fruit and vegetables to snack on throughout the event that are intended to provide some much needed relief from mundane college-life meals.

This year's Job Well Dunleavy will be held on Friday, Dec. 9, from 7 to 9 p.m. in Dunleavy 127. All interested students who have yet to obtain a time-slot are encouraged to drop by around 6:30 p.m. to sign-up for his or her opportunity to present an original piece.

"It is great for people to have a way to share their work with others. It is nice for us to see the kind of work NU students are creating," said Sullivan. "This event gives us a sense of what people in each major are doing. It can also be a way to see what classes are doing that you may be interested in taking in the future."

Job Well Dunleavy provides friends and family the opportunity to see what students have been busy dedicating their time toward. Participants and audience members are welcome to come and go as they please, while grabbing snacks on their way in or out.

For more information on Job Well Dunleavy and the opportunity to participate in the event, contact Sullivan at msullivan@niagara.edu or sign up Dec. 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the event for a chance to share your work with an audience.



Find NU's fall sports schedules
online at purpleagles.com

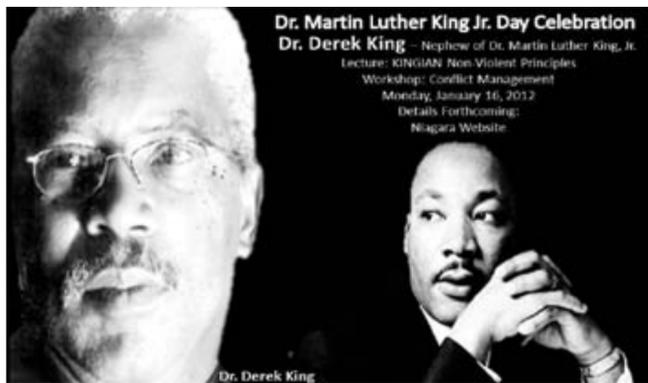


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Bleeding red, white and blue

Commentary by Tyler Russell
Staff Writer

It's been 12 years. Over a decade and not a single playoff game for the Buffalo Bills. Now this is not to bash the Bills, or their loyal fanbase, but rather to provide an outlet for Bills fans alike to relate and reflect upon.

The Buffalo Bills and the city they represent have become synonymous with mediocrity. Buffalo, along with other cities comprising the "Rust Belt," have little national recognition outside of our immediate region. Therefore, it takes on a sense of mistaken identity. It is not uncommon to hear the words "snowfall" and "unfriendly weather" when listening to outsiders attempt to describe Buffalo. Likewise, words such as "respect" and "pride" have become past tense in illustrating the recent history of the Bills.

I can speak for more than myself in saying that the Bills define the City of Buffalo, and in turn, the citizens that comprise it share a strong emotional bond to their team. Inhabitants of larger cities, which house other professional sports organizations, do not collectively share such a connection to their team.

In Buffalo, things are simply different.

From the time you are born to the time you die, you bleed red, white, and blue. You are a Bills fan and, as Tim Russert so eloquently put it, "It's who we are. It's what Buffalo is."

Despite the last decade of ineptitude and the heartbreaking losses, which seemingly occur every weekend, it's the Bills whom we continually go back to.

It's about taking punches in the gut and continuing to move forward, because that's what fandom is and that is what Buffalo was built upon. How much disappointment and despair can you take and keep cheering your

team on? Because one day you know that your time will come, and when it does, all the heartbreak will pay off. You should expect nothing less from a city of predominantly blue collar workers who take losses personally and carry with them the pride embodied in a helmet logo.

It's not easy; it's just the way it is. Believe me when I say that I have sat there with the rest of us and watched countless promising seasons go up in smoke. Like all others of "Bills Nation," I have stared blankly at my television screen stopped cold at how the Bills can raise losing to such an art form. I have played the numbers game in early November and tried to convince myself that the playoffs could be a possibility, knowing all the while the great degree of my mere illusion.

However, it's what being a Bills fan equates to and it's what Buffalonians are all about.

Now some have argued that the Bills organization resides under a dark cloud, one which seems to be concretely placed. With four straight Super Bowl losses in the early 1990s and an ongoing playoff drought, you could certainly make that the case. What used to be a dignified and opponent-feared force has imploded into a ridiculed and hapless cluster of old men and castoffs. The prominent Bills of the past seem to be a distant memory, much like the former "City of Light."

With that being said, the people, the place and the team still exist. Although our time is not now, and that figurative cloud sits idle above us, eventually our time will come and the people of Buffalo will not miss. What once was can be again.

They say hope springs eternal, and as long as Buffalo still has its team, hope will always remain.

NU Campus Style Pick!

Forever 21, American Eagle and Aritzia.

--When you are in a rush for class, what does your "go to" outfit consist of?

Jeans, a cute hoodie with Uggs, and a scarf (if it's cold). I love scarves!

--If you had to choose to wear one pair of your shoes for the rest of your life, what ones would you pick and why?

My moccasins. . . I love them, they are so comfortable and they go with pretty much anything.

--Who is your favorite fashion icon and why? My favorite fashion icon right now is Lauren Conrad. . . I love her style. She is classy and she makes her outfits look so cute!

--If you were to raid one of your teammates closets, who would you pick and why?

I'd probably raid Abby Raplanski's closet. . . I tend to compliment her outfits a lot. I think she has nice style and wears similar clothes to me. (So if you see Abby give her a shout out too!)

The most interesting part of Dal Colle's outfits are her accessories. She said it herself: she loves scarves. She also added a black oval ring and a Fossil watch that gives a little sparkle to any casual outfit. Although she wasn't wearing her go to moccasins, she chose her knee-high flat boots that even out her whole outfit.

If you are interested in a great watch like Danielle's, and are on a tight budget, check out Kohl's. A store with great discounts and carries the brand Relic. It offers simple designs that won't break your bank. You may want to add it to your Christmas list.

Check out NU Campus Style Pick next time. It could feature you or your best friend.

SLAM 'Philanthropy Day'



At the philanthropy day table, Clara Kuntz and Cassie Pericak.

by Matt Riley
Senior Writer

The group Students Leaving a Mark has been around for quite some time, but without creating much impact on students at Niagara.

One of SLAM's four committee members, senior Cassie Pericak, said, "It's been around for years, but no one has really done anything with it and this is the year we're finally taking it back and trying to re-vamp it."

Graduate student Clara Kuntz, senior Jessica Poulton and junior Jennifer Haun, Pericak make up the committee, which is overseen by Michele Smith-Link, who is the development officer of the Office of Annual Giving.

The group's goal is "to educate students on the importance of philanthropy and giving back to Niagara with their time, talents and treasures," Kuntz said.

"It's basically to get students to make a gift to the Niagara fund, which helps support student scholarships, buildings on campus, faculty, and overall improve Niagara while they're still students. That way when they're alumni, they're more than likely to give again and to make bigger gifts," Pericak said.

Pericak explained the Niagara Fund. The "Niagara Fund is just a general fund for scholarships, financial aid. I believe 99 percent of the students that

go here receive some sort of financial aid," she said.

SLAM participated in National Philanthropy Day on Nov. 15, giving out candy and asking students to donate their spare change. Students who donated were entered in a raffle for a bobble-head, which was won by Rebecca Bailey. The group raised \$8.35 in spare change.

"SLAM will have a table during Relaxation Day, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.," Kuntz said. Pericak added that they will give free candy and relaxation tips, while asking people to donate spare change.

The group will also hold another "Philanthropy Day" in the spring, "where students can sign thank-you cards for our alumni that have supported Niagara," Kuntz said.

The group is also accepting donations at anytime, and trying to get the senior class to make a collective gift. "We're not asking for \$50 or even \$25 but like a \$5 gift," Pericak said.

SLAM can be contacted for donations or involvement on Facebook at www.facebook.com/slam.niagara; by email at slamstudentsleavingamark@gmail.com, on their website, Niagara.edu/student-challenge; or by mail at the Office of Annual Giving, P.O. Box 2008, Niagara University.

"We don't post that often, we're not going to blow up your newsfeed," Pericak assured students.



Daniella Dal Colle

**6th Annual
Niagara University
Student Ball**

Winter Wonderland

THIS SATURDAY 12/10

*Kiernan Center
Tickets ONLY \$5*

*Ticket price includes a horse and carriage ride,
dinner, dancing and a favor*

*Appetizers 5:30pm - 7:00pm
Horse and Carriage Rides 5:30pm - 9:30pm
Dinner 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Dancing 8:00pm - 10:30pm
Semi-Formal Dress*

**Purchase Tickets in
Campus Activities**

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Third time's a charm for NU women's volleyball

by Vince Schiano
Staff Writer

The Niagara University Women's Volleyball team excelled in the MAAC Tournament, bringing NU home another championship for the third year in a row. The team, under the instruction of head coach Susan Clements and assistant coach Kara Hellman, defeated the No. 2 seed, Fairfield, in a four set match.

One honor from the tournament includes the impressive Most Outstanding Player award given to junior Kari Honomichl. Honomichl, originally from Ida, Mich., joined the team in the fall of 2009 - the season that began the MAAC winning streak.

"We went in with a mission, worked hard, stuck with the gameplans and came out on top of the MAAC," Honomichl said. "We have set the bar even higher for next season," she added.

Outside of the tournament, the Purple Eagles boast a team of record-holding individuals. Sophomore right side Ellen Senf continues to hold her position as the MAAC Rookie of the Year, while the current senior class holds the position of being the winningest class in Purple

Eagles volleyball history.

The team lost to the University of Northern Iowa on Dec. 3 but they remains hopeful for next season.

"We plan on winning MAACs again and advancing in the NCAA tournament next year," Honomichl stated.



Volleyball players Sam Morgan and Hannah Hendrick. (Photo credit: www.purpleeagles.com)

KIERNAN KORNERS

The semester is coming to an end quickly! Feeling stressed about exams or papers? Take a break from the stress and sign up for one of our aerobics classes. It's the perfect way to get your mind off of school and get some physical exercise. Stop in this week and pick up one of our aerobics schedules before the semester is over!

FALL SEMESTER BUILDING HOURS

DAYS	TIMES
Monday-Thursday	7 a.m.- 10 p.m.
Friday	7 a.m.- 9 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday	9 p.m.-9 p.m.

Intramurals at NU

The 2011 intramural and recreation season is wrapping up. Thank you to all that participated in our fun and exciting programs throughout the semester. We have lot of great programs scheduled for the spring semester so make sure you stop by the Kiernan Center and check out all that we have to offer. Below is a preview of the program schedule for the spring semester.

INTRAMURAL LEAGUES	Sign Up Opens	Sign Up Deadline	Team Rep. Meeting
Floor Hockey	1/16	1/25 @ 10 pm	1/26 @ 4 pm
Co-Ed Indoor Soccer*	1/16	1/25 @ 10 pm	1/27 @ 4 pm
Co-Ed Indoor Basketball**	1/16	2/1 @ 10 pm	2/2 @ 4 pm
3 on 3 Basketball- No Appearance Fee	1/30	2/15 @ 10 pm	2/16 @ 4 pm
Open Indoor Soccer**	1/30	2/22 @ 10 pm	2/23 @ 4 pm

INTRAMURAL TOURNAMENTS	Sign Up Opens	Sign Up Deadline	Team Rep. Meeting
1 on 1 Basketball	Drop-In Event	Drop-In Event	Friday, 1/27 @ 4 pm
Wallyball	1/16	1/30 @ 10 pm	Wednesday, 2/29 @ 6 pm
Wiffle Ball	1/16	2/2 @ 10 pm	Sunday, 2/5 @ 2 pm
Sports Trivia Night	1/30	2/15 @ 10 pm	Friday, 2/17 @ 8 pm
Dodgeball	2/13	2/27 @ 10 pm	Wednesday, 2/29 @ 4 pm

Another exciting night of paintball at the Kiernan Center

On Friday, November 18th the Kiernan Center hosted a late night paintball tournament in the Kiernan Center front gym. Over 150 students came out to take part in the 3 on 3 tournament. 40 games were played throughout the night to determine who the best paintball team on campus was. Games were best of 3 matches and in order to qualify to win the teams had to win all 3 games. The team that won all 3 games in the shortest amount of time would become the champion. The team that came out victorious consisted of Chris Dugan, Joe Feldman and Sarah Augustini. Congratulations to the fall 2011 paintball champions!

Late Night open skate before finals!

There will be a late night open skate held in Dwyer Arena on Wednesday, December 16th from 10pm-1am. Take a break for all of your studying and stop over to Dwyer for free skating and free pizza and drinks.

Add the Kiernan Center as a friend on Facebook!

The Kiernan Center now has a Facebook page so add us to get all of the latest updates on programs and activities that will be taking place throughout the remainder of the semester.

Club Sport Round-Up

The Women's Club Hockey team currently stands undefeated with a 7-0-1 record. The team's last win was a win over St. Lawrence by a score of 5-4. Laura Anderson had the game winning goal that was assisted by Megan Murphy. The Men's Club Hockey team defeated the University of Rochester 10-4 before the Thanksgiving recess to advance to 7-0 in league play. Senior Ian Hurtubise, in first start of the year in net, earned the victory. Niagara outshot the U of R 50 to 20 in the game. Rookie Greg Cartwright continued his torrid pace along with fellow first year player Charlie Chamberlain. The two have combined for 11 points in the past two weekends of play.

Fitness Equipment News -Two New Espresso Bikes at Kiernan

If you looking to change up your workout routine or try something new, try the new Espresso Bikes at the Kiernan Center. The bike engages the rider's mind and makes exercise efficient, fun and exciting. The Espresso bike will reinforce the rider's fitness success. Riders receive real-time feedback on their performance on the bike. They can also review their progress and achievements anytime on a PC or iPhone, constantly reinforcing their enthusiasm. The Espresso bike also connects riders to their friends, fellow riders and keeps a history of your workouts. The Espresso bike can be found in the front fitness center.

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