



Photo: Vinnie Amesse

President Richard Guarasci and Trustee Michael Manzulli cutting the ribbon to officially open Foundation Hall.

## Ceremony celebrates Foundation Hall

By **EMILY OROZCO**  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Every new building deserves a grand opening.

Led by President Richard Guarasci, a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Foundation Hall was held on March 19, attended by members of the Board of Trustees, National Alumni Board, Richmond County Savings Corporation, TD Bank and other supporters. The ceremony

began with a short invocation and followed with a speech by Dr. Guarasci.

Dr. Guarasci noted the irony that in 1929 Main Hall was constructed during the Great Depression and today, in 2010, Foundation Hall was built during a recession.

He said Foundation Hall gives seniors an opportunity to get a taste of independent living. Foundation was built to complement the Expe-

Continued on Page 3

## Songfest brings students and administrators together

By **MARISSA DiBARTOLO**  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Excitement streamed from the stands as students anxiously awaited the 2010 Songfest activities to begin on Sat., March 27.

Alexa Marin, head of the Songfest committee, announced the royal court, who came out on stage looking their best. With the crowd going crazy with eagerness to hear Wagner's 2010 King and Queen, Marin along with Sloane Herrick began to announce the winners.

Bryan Bickford from the Nubian Student Union was named the second runner up, while Kristie Scherrer took the same title for Alpha Phi Omega. A.J. Banzon representing Tau Kappa Epsilon and Rebecca Boughton from Alpha Delta Pi were named the first runners up.

Finally, after much anticipation, Michael Hickie representing Theta Chi fraternity was named the Songfest King, followed by Jennifer Williams from Alpha Omicron Pi as Songfest Queen.

Staying true to her Disney princess inspired campaign, Williams expressed her excitement about winning by quoting Cinderella, saying, "Dreams really do come true!" When asked how she felt about her new tiara, she answered, "It was the most amazing



Photo: Brianna Samson

Seniors Jennifer Williams and Michael Hickie pose after being crowned Songfest Queen and King 2010.

feeling in the world winning Songfest Queen and finding out that I have the support of the wonderful people on this campus. I was completely shocked when it happened. There were so many great candi-

dates up for queen this semester that I really wasn't expecting anything." Michael Hickie expressed similar

Continued on Page 3

### inside

Fundraiser held to raise money for Parkinson's  
PAGE 3

Students express feelings about EYH trips  
PAGE 4

The Wagnerian highlights secretaries and administrative assistants for Administrative Professionals Day  
PAGE 5

President Guarasci rings Stock Exchange bell  
PAGE 6

Student reactions to Chartwells food  
PAGE 16

## New Orleans: Resilient, welcoming ... tragic

*Spring Break reports from two Wagnerian staff writers*

By **KELLIANN VOLSARIO**  
Managing Editor

**NEW ORLEANS, LA.** -- On the last evening of the 2010 Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trip to New Orleans, we boarded the St. Charles Avenue street car to head back to our hostel. It was about 3 a.m. and when the car began rolling, a man decided to play some tunes on his acoustic guitar. He started playing the "Banana Boat Song," first just the musical notes, then came the singing.

A few moments later, the entire street joined him one by one, eventually singing in unison. This diverse group of crooners included the old, young, drunk, tired, tourists, locals, white, black, and everything in between. As the old, rickety wooden trolley made its way down the street, I couldn't help but think of how incredibly resilient, heart warming, welcoming, beautiful, yet tragic this city is.

That last day began with a tour of



Photo: Brianna Samson

The ASB group with Ronald W. Lewis, center, at his museum, House of Dance and Feathers, which he re-opened, despite losing everything in Hurricane Katrina.

the Ninth Ward and the Lower Ninth Ward, where much of the damage from Hurricane Katrina was sustained, and can still, five years later be seen, felt, smelled, and heard. In

two cabs, we rode through the bumpy streets, looking at the vast destruction and overgrown grass, listening to nothing but the movement of the car. Many of us have seen the pictures

and videos of what the city of New Orleans experienced during Katrina, but there is absolutely nothing that

Continued on Page 6



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Photo: Sarah Sutliff

Students perform "Vagina Monologues" in Gatehouse Lounge.

## 159: That's how many times you'll hear the word 'Vagina'

By SUSANNA GOOCH  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

A production that is completely produced by a group of students is a spectacle in itself. Made completely by and for students, Completely Student Productions (CSP) has really come into its own this year. The forces working toward giving students a freedom to show their talent and creativity are not only talented and creative themselves but are just as active in the program as they are leaders.

President Sarah Sutliff, Vice President Matt Sydney, Treasurer Allison Hall, and Secretary Pat Flanagan make up the power squad behind these productions.

Last year, CSP introduced itself with the production of "The Rocky Horror Show" and the Playwright's Festival. This year there has been an even greater dedication to the students' wants. The year started with a dramatic stand with the production of "The Pillowman" co-directed by Sarah Sutliff and Prerna Bhatia.

Pat Flanagan was the next in line to share his work. A few weeks ago he achieved a dream when putting on "Roses in the Fall" which he wrote, directed and performed.

He had directed the musical in high school, and ever since he arrived at Wagner he started working on making it happen. After over a year of hard work, he was able to work with the Wagner Theatre faculty and CSP to get the space to perform in Stage One. Emily Mulholland stated after seeing the play, "It was quite innovative." With hard work, a little help from his friends, and a whole lot of potential, Flanagan was able to put on his production, totally student produced.

"The Vagina Monologues" was co-directed by Tiffany James and Kristin Petrella, the production was performed on March 21 and 22. It is an ensemble piece fueled by monologues of all different women all over the world confessing details about their "down there," "coochie-snorcher," and "beautiful shell."

These only being a few of the names that were shared to describe a woman's VAGINA (Repeated 159 times throughout). The strong cast of Wagner women couldn't have been a tighter ensemble.

Their acceptance of the maybe sometimes uncomfortable script and scenes allowed each individual to dive deep into their characters strengthening the overall package. This production was real, it was not made up of any political theatre, each girl got her role out of a purely artistic vision, nothing more or less. The diversity is written into the script but their passion was not. The passion was created by Wagner girl power, by 18 girls who love their vaginas and would shout it from a mountain top.

All proceeds from the show go toward Safe Horizon (a victim assistance agency) and towards the construction of a Safe House for the Women of Haiti--an initiative encouraged by the author of the Vagina Monologues, Eve Ensler.

While on the subject of passion, a group of extremely talented individuals put on a one night only production of "Jesus Christ Superstar." This was not in cohorts with CSP, but it was run by the passion of the students.

The amount of time it would normally take a cast to pull off what this cast did is incomparable to the short few weeks this cast did it in. With an insane amount of dedication and talent, this cast came together as a solid force. They stood for what theatre represents, what it can be, and what it will be. The audience shared an experience of intense, sweaty, loving, charismatic, and memorable measures.

Hats off to the co-direction of senior theatre performance majors Kevin Callaghan and Jason Garrison and the cast for not only a stellar representation of the script but for setting a standard that the future CSP shows will be able to meet.

Coming up next is the Student Playwright's Festival. So keep your eyes peeled for emails, flyers and Facebook groups that will be sent out very soon.



By Michael Pinto  
SGA President

## Message from the 'Oval' office

As usual the crowds packed the Spiro Sports Center for Wagner's biggest annual tradition, Songfest. A big congrats to the Songfest King and Queen, Michael Hickie and Jennifer Williams, as well as to TKE who placed first this year.

As most of you know by now, I was asked to participate in the Dance Team's Songfest exhibition performance. I was very honored by this, and just hoped that my feet lived up to my talk. (Most intimidating for me was being in the kick line, because Lord knows I would never to be able to kick as high as they did.)

For most of us, we see the Dance Team at the Pep Rally, and the football and basketball games we attend throughout the year. Yet, we don't know all about the hard hours and long practices they put to perfecting their routines.

A lot was made last year over whether the Dance Team would be able to compete in Songfest, since they are a nationally ranked team, and Songfest is supposed to be an amateur competition. But for better or for worse, they have performed the past two years during exhibition. And I do say for better because instead of getting all hyped-up and overworked on trying to place, they instead focused on coming together as a team and putting together the best performance they could.

Each year they fundraise the full amount to travel to Florida to compete with other dance teams from around the country for a national competition. And as I stated above,

this year they placed 10th in their category. However, little mention was made of this great accomplishment.

Now of course you will argue I'm only saying this because I was in their number, and if I hadn't performed with them I wouldn't be writing this. Well...you're right. I guess what I'm trying to get at is that many of us, myself included, do not realize all that they do and accomplish, and the little support and recognition they unfortunately out of it.

I'm very happy that I got to be part of their number because I got to see first-hand their passion and dedication not just for their own team, but for the teams they cheer on, and for the Wagner community as a whole. My hope in the coming years is that they receive more support and funding from the college so that they can grow and continue to do what they love doing, for a school they love doing it for.

What I will bring away from my senior year Songfest is that I got to perform with a group of girls who truly embody the definition of a "Spirit Team."

Finally, the time has come for my successor to be chosen (I'll pause for a moment while you all collect your thoughts and compose yourselves). But all kidding aside, you have two excellent choices for SGA President, Joanna Ciavarella and Sophie Tripp. They have run great campaigns, and I hope to see a big turnout for the elections! Think about it this way, the quicker you vote for one of them, the quicker I'll be out of here!

## Welcome to S.A.G.E., where it's OK to share

By ARIANNA  
SACCENTE  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The door opened and the smoke escaped in one immense cloud. The scent of marijuana filled the room and the empty beer cans lined the perimeter.

College was not all she thought it was going to be. She felt uncomfortable and uneasy, for the scent of drugs and the sight of belligerent students brought back haunting memories. She needed somewhere to go where she could express herself. She needed someone to talk to about how drugs and alcohol changed her life.

Drugs and alcohol are easily accessible in today's society. It affects the lives of the young, the old, the mother, the father, the son, the daughter. Drugs and alcohol can tear families apart, ruin relationships, and be the result of early goodbyes.

Students and Alcohol Group Exploration (S.A.G.E.) is a new student group on campus that meets every Monday night from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Coffeehouse to discuss drug and alcohol related issues.

Whether one finds themselves using drugs and alcohol to relieve stress, or has had drugs and alcohol affect their life in negative ways by another person, he or she can go to S.A.G.E. to get help and discuss problems.

This group is open to all students who feel the need to talk about issues regarding drugs and alcohol. If drinking or substance abuse has become a habit in your life, if worrying about one who partakes in substance abuse occupies your time, or if you feel the need to discuss and get feelings off your chest, check out Wagner's newest group on campus.

"Drop in, listen, contribute and explore" is what this group is all about.



Photo: Stephanie Buscema

Members of Alpha Phi Omega cook pancakes to raise money for Parkinson's.

## Students flip and serve at Pancakes for Parkinson's event

By **STEPHANIE BUSCEMA**  
Wagnerian Editor

Wagner hosted its second annual Pancakes for Parkinson's event headed by junior Jaclyn Toscano on March 20. Toscano wanted to find a way to help her sister Danielle a member of Team Fox for the NYC marathon in 2009.

Pancakes for Parkinson's was founded by a student from the University of Virginia named Mary McNaught in 2004 to help raise money for Parkinson's disease. After watching a video explaining the fundraiser, Toscano was inspired to bring Pancakes for Parkinson's to campus and help raise money for Team Fox.

Toscano expressed her feelings about the fundraiser, "My favorite part of the event is just seeing every-

one hang out, having a good time knowing we are all there to potentially make a difference in some one's life. I also love eating the pancakes too!"

She discussed the structure of how she organized the event last year. She states, "For last year's event, I had a handful of people help me plan the event, but this year, I was lucky enough to have my help spread out to different organizations. Every year, I am also very lucky to have my whole family help me as well. My sister, who will be starting at Wagner as a freshman in the fall, is excited to help me for next year. She is who I will be passing on the reigns too after I graduate next year."

Student groups such as the Student Nurses Association (SNA), the Student Government Association (SGA) and co-ed community service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega vol-

unteered their time to mix pancake batter and cook pancakes to sell to those donating to the cause. The French club offered even more assistance by supplying crepes for one hour during the event and selling them for one dollar each. A door prize donated by the family of senior Carolyn Susino, was raffled off and won by student Lauren Pettinato. Pancakes were sold for one dollar each.

Toscano's mother, faculty secretary, Donna Toscano assisted her daughter in the event. "I am very proud to assist my daughters in organizing Pancakes for Parkinson's at Wagner," says Toscano. "Because most people know of someone who is afflicted with this dreadful disease. The Wagner community is so generous in contributing to this wonderful cause. My sincere thanks to everyone!"

Continued from Page 1

elation over his Songfest King title. "It feels amazing to be named Songfest King, this was one of the best weekends I've ever had at Wagner," Hickie divulges. "I didn't campaign in the usual way, but I did a lot of word of mouth advertising. I was shocked to win because I didn't advertise as much as I probably should have," he explains.

Each group choreographed their performance around the theme "So you think you can..." The dance team took the stage first with an exhibition piece, "So you think you can spell." Their school girl costumes caught the students' attention early on, and their creative dance moves set the bar high for the other performers.

The sisters of Tau Kappa Sigma dressed in youthful costumes and based their routine on "so you think you can play," dancing and lip syncing to a wide variety of music.

The jungle motif of Kappa Sigma Alpha brought the crowd to their feet with "so you think you can walk on the wild side," including a tribute to the lion king and many shirtless brothers.

Alpha Delta Pi rocked the stage with big hair and high energy with their interpretation of "so you think you can be a rock star." The sisters combined dancing, gymnastics, stunting, and even crowd surfing into an impressive routine.

Theta Chi's comical performance of "so you think you can run New York" entertained the crowd with a chip-n-dales inspired act, and a Staten Island Ferry scene, complete with a mermaid and boat captain.

For first time performers Alpha Phi Omega, the values of their service fraternity were depicted in their routine of, "so you think you can make it happen," showing all dif-

ferent types of Wagner students, including athletes, nursing, theater, and business majors. Their routine ended in a crowd pleasing step routine that brought students to their feet.

The Nubian Student Union took the stage with "so you think you can go hard," showing off their hip hop dance moves and creativity.

The sisters of Alpha Sigma Alpha expressed their feminist side with "so you think you can be independent," and ended their performance with choreography from Beyonce's "Single Ladies" music video, exciting the crowd immensely.

Alpha Omicron Pi took the theme in an original direction, performing "so you think you can shop." Each song and dance focused on a different store in the mall and ended with a creative dream motif.

The fast act of the night was the highly anticipated performance by Assistant Dean Curtis Wright's tea, with the theme, "so you think you can dance." Assistant Dean Wright, along with Sabrina Slater, Dean Ruta Shah-Gordon, and Associate Dean Catharine McGlade used their belly-dancing skills to entertain students, as well as the judges at Songfest. Their performance lived up to all expectations.

Although each group brought something different to the table, one stood out above the rest. The brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon's performance of "so you think you can live the dream" earned them the title of Songfest Champions. The brothers used exciting props, fist pumps, and frequent fast costume changes. Their routine was neatly choreographed, and their hard work was apparent. The group's unique and exciting tricks, including one brother jumping clear over the heads of the four others, set them over the edge.

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## Ribbon cutting ceremony for opening of residence hall

Continued from Page 1

rential Learning program. The goal of the building was to support the seniors in their ventures during the vital time of that specific year. In doing so, Dr. Guarasci hopes it continues to encourage Wagner's plan which is to give students a "rich and deep long lasting education." Following Dr. Guarasci, Dean of Campus Life, Ruta Shah Gordon spoke, commenting on how Foundation Hall will hopefully be seen as a learning community and not necessarily a dormitory. Student Government Association (SGA), President Michael Pinto spoke about what Foundation means to the students. After making some

comedic jokes about the delayed timing of Foundation's construction, he expressed much gratitude to those that supported the building.

Continuously, the 40 minute ceremony carried on with words from Michael Manzulli. Manzulli is an alumnae of Wagner College and was a large contributor to Foundation Hall. Manzulli stated that he was, "glad the board supported his recommendations." He spoke about what a great place Wagner is as far as contributing to Staten Island. The ceremony continued with the cutting of the hunter green ribbon done by Manzulli. The event concluded with all attendees being welcomed inside for a catered event in the Manzulli Board Room followed by tours of the facility.



# EYH trips continue to educate and inspire students

## London



Photo: Stephanie Buscema

Junior Jenn Inzetta stated, "We saw everything from the fast paced city life of London to the small town charm of the English countryside in Bath, Stratford Upon Avon, and Haworth. I saw plays, visited museums, walked down the same streets as some of my favorite authors, and I even managed to fit in a little shopping. But my favorite part? That would be the scenes."



## Peru



Photo: Dr. Mapy Chavez

Senior, Emily Mihalick stated, "Besides all the amazing sites, weather, and food I was completely touched by the children that we worked with at the school for autistic children. We were only there for four days, but I will never forget how it felt to work with them and know that you are making such a difference."

Reporting by Carolyn Susino

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# How do you feel about Gavin DeGraw coming to Wagnerstock?



"We are excited, but when we look at other schools we see a different caliber of performer. It would be nice to have a more universal act... maybe something like Journey!"

~ **Anna Demenkoff and TJ Murphy**

"I've heard of him, but the fact that he is coming is not too exciting to me."

~ **Brianna Samson**



"It's cool because we finally have a big name act as opposed to last year when our songfest was mostly amateur student performers. This will give Wagner some good publicity!"

~ **Trevor Sideris**



"The fact that Gavin DeGraw is coming is really exciting. He is a great musician, and one of the biggest names we have had at Wagner recently."

~ **Kelly Reilly**



"I'm so happy about it! He is one of my favorite artists and I love his lyrics."

~ **Emily Rogers**



**Interviews and photos by Kristen Haggerty**



Photo courtesy of Donna Toscano

Faculty secretary, Donna Toscano.

## Day of honor for secretaries and administrative assistants

By Wagner College Feature Writing Class, JR366

When thinking about college life, one usually imagines picturesque brick buildings, bright-eyed students, seasoned professors, and the respected deans who run the entire campus and its operations. Behind the scenes, however, there is a plethora of professional individuals who are responsible for making affairs run smoothly.

In honor of this year's Administrative Professionals Day, formerly Secretary's Day on April 21, the *Wagnerian* took a closer look at Wagner College's staff of twenty nine secretaries and administrative assistants in order to give them a chance to experience the campus spotlight, and tell us about what they do and how they relate to the upcoming corporate holiday.

"I have the best bosses ever," stated the Administrative Assistant to the Deans, Maddy Sliger, "Secretary's Day is important and is only big if you have an appreciative boss."

The endless list of duties that secretaries undertake include answering the telephone, typing inquiries, composing mailing lists, managing appointments, communicating with other departments, and keeping their own department organized and running smoothly. Maybe the most impressive of these tasks however, is their daily dealings with the most important part of any college campus, the students.

Upon entering any office on Wagner's campus, a student is first greeted by the secretary. The secretaries become a student's go-to person, on whom they rely for assistance. Secretaries often offer advice to students and direct them to where they need to be or answer their questions about Wagner policies.

Ann Giarratano has been the secretary for Wagner College's academic and career development office for the past 15 years. She stated, "The biggest reward from my job is something I receive everyday, interacting with the students and feeling like I have helped them."

According to the Department of Labor, a secretary performs more clerical tasks, such as typing, filing, copying, dictation or scheduling, with no authority to make decisions. They perform tasks under supervision and are often paid less for the amount of work they do. An Administrative Assistant has more independence and can make decisions in the workplace. They often help solve conflicts which may arise and focus on long term projects.

For all their hard work and dedication, how do these secretaries and administrative assistants get honored every year? Sometimes it is something as generous as getting taken out to lunch or receiving a gift and sometimes it is something as small as receiving a thoughtful note or card from a supervisor.

"Simple things in life are better than the big hoop-lah; the simple things are much more meaningful to me," said Letty Romero, administrative assistant for the office of residential education, on receiving recognition for her day-to-day work as a secretary.

However, some bosses do not always remember Secretary's Day along with some secretaries and administrative assistants themselves. When asked if they knew when the day was, some secretaries responded that if you put a calendar in front of them they would not be able to tell you when Secretary's Day was. However, for those who remember, the acts of appreciation for these sometimes unrecognized faculty members leave a lasting impression.

Faculty Secretary Donna Toscano stated, "Professor Oglio never forgets Secretary's Day. She wrote me a card that moved me. She is very grateful and appreciative and always writes the most impacting words that bring you to tears."

By *Christie Acquazzino, Nancy Aravecce, Stephanie Buscema, Kevin Daly, Jesse Hagen, Ashraf Hasham, Caroline LaTone, Marti Malley, and Kelliann Kolsarvio*



# Students explore and learn about New Orleans while volunteering at homeless shelter and soup kitchen

By RACHEL ZAYDAK  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS, LA. -- A group of 17 students, graduate assistant, Jill Sullivan, Civic Engagement Coordinator, Katie Mishler, and Assistant Dean of Campus Life, Curtis Wright and myself made our way to LaGuardia Airport and flew to the deep south of New Orleans, LA. Here, we spent the next four days participating in Alternative Spring Break. The motivation for the trip is one of giving back to the community by performing service work.

We took the streetcar to the Ozanam Inn, a homeless shelter for males, soup kitchen, and transitional living center during the weekdays. Here, most of the employees are living pay check-to pay check and residing in the permanent living quarters of the shelter. This charitable association was extremely organized and at times, with the large number of us, there was not much to do. Still, the employees led us to work sorting clothes, organizing food pantries, and helping with other housekeeping tasks.

However, the most exciting work presented itself at meal times. During meals, the Inn's cafeteria becomes a chattering sea of hungry people. To accommodate for the sudden outburst of activity, us Wagner students divided into groups, some dishing out the food onto trays and distributing them, some wondering about the tables refilling

glasses and pitchers, and others armed with wash clothes, cleaning up after spills and crumbs. Despite our differing duties, we all (including the males) adorned 'fashionable' hairnets, and plastic aprons and gloves.

The more difficult part of the work, in my opinion, came after the meal-serving frenzy. As an aspect of our service work, and getting to know New Orleans, we were expected to engage in conversation with the employees and the homeless. I was nervous, feeling intimidated by these guests I thought I had nothing in common with. I was afraid they may resent me, and that they have and are still going through things that I, as a privileged college student, cannot even fathom. I felt as though in their eyes I was just a silly and naive girl.

I chatted with several gentlemen, discussing everyday topics such as religion, Darwin, and football teams. It was astonishing how comfortable and at ease they made me feel! They did not express resentment but instead warmth and gratitude and they were quite eager to talk. It was an enlightening experience to sit down with these people, whom I thought I had nothing in common with, and create connections.

The following morning of each service day, us students along with Jill, Katie, and Assistant Dean Wright gathered at breakfast to talk about our experiences. The dialogue unearthed tragic stories some of the other students were told by the men

at the shelter. However, the most striking element of the conversation was everyone's amazement at the homeless men's optimistic attitudes. Even though these men have faced hardships that most of us cannot relate to, they still possessed refreshing and positive dispositions. While I thought I was performing volunteer work for them, they actually did me a great service—it was a reality check, making me reconsider all the things I take for granted or allow to upset me.

In addition to the warmth we experienced at the shelter, the tendency towards kindness and community seemed to prevail in most New Orleanians. I was greeted by most everyone I passed in the street. Also, one of the days, a group of students and I found ourselves lost, attempting to find a Mississippi River ferry station in our spare time. A homeless man, asking passerby's to drop money in his bucket voluntarily gave us extensive directions, as well as abandoning his post to walk us part way to the nearest station.

Additionally, late the last night while another group of students and I rode from downtown back to our hostel in a street car, one of the other passengers began playing his guitar and singing. As if we were in a scene extracted from a movie, one-by-one people began joining him in song until the whole street car, including myself, was shamelessly smiling, laughing and singing together.



Photo: Kelliann Volsario

Some houses still have marks made during searches for Katrina survivors and victims.



Photo: Kelliann Volsario

A section of the levee system in the Lower Ninth Ward, surrounded by flooded areas and remnants of homes.

## Guarasci rings bell at Stock Exchange

By BLAIRE MASSARONI  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Hands clap, smiles broaden, and cameras flash as President Guarasci, surrounded by a small crowd of donors and friends, sounds the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on Tuesday, March 23.

The ringing of the bell signifies not only the completion of another day at our country's financial center, but also the completion of a great accomplishment for Wagner College. "Putting Wagner First: The Campaign for Wagner College" is a fundraising campaign that has raised \$50 million, a record for fundraising initiatives at Wagner College.

For over two and a half years, alumni and other donors have invested significant amounts of money into the campaign, aimed at enhancing the college experience for Wagner's students and staff.

A gala event was held in October 2007 in the Great Hall at New York City's Ellis Island to kick off the campaign. Ellis Island seemed an appropriate place for the event because it symbolizes the struggles the parents and grandparents of many alumni faced on their journey into

America, as stated by Dr. Guarasci to the Staten Island Advance.

Similarly, the commemorative ringing of the closing bell at the NYSE seemed appropriate as Wall Street symbolizes the American Dream. Expecting to meet their goal by this August, the ringing of the bell was a celebration of the great achievement of "parents, alumni and other generous private donors."

Quoted in the Staten Island Advance, Dr. Guarasci, speaking on the fundraising campaign, stated, "The future of this gem of a college is in our hands. We can take comfort in our achievements and rest on our laurels... or we can find the resources to leverage these accomplishments... and further shape this very special college to better serve the students who choose to study here, the faculty who come here to teach, and our alumni..."

So, what do these new funds and ambitions mean for Wagner College? Myra Garcia, Wagner's vice president for institutional advancement, commented that the money is intended to enhance facilities, expand staff, and increase the amount of student scholarship opportunities. These intentions are bound to bring a series of long anticipated expectations to the surface of the Wagner College student body.

## Continued from Page 1

can prepare someone for viewing the damage up close.

There are people who still live in this area, but it is clear that progress has been excruciatingly slow. As we drove further into the Ninth Ward, I kept thinking, where did all these people go? What happened to all of their belongings? Not the couches, chairs or lamps, but the family pictures, the homemade crafts, and the little details that used to make that deteriorating house, a home.

The first stop was the House of Dance and Feathers owned and directed by Ronald W. Lewis. The yard smelled like fresh cut grass in the summer. Lewis led us up the makeshift wooden ramp as he began to tell us his story. He began his collection before Katrina, but everything he had was lost.

Yet, this doesn't appear to have hindered this man's spirit in the slightest. His small, but colorful and insightful museum is a cultural education center filled with costume items from Mardi Gras, small figurines of jazz singers, signs, masks, photographs, and front pages from area newspapers, which reported the latest news in the days after Katrina. He was eager to explain to us what the items were, and it seemed to make his day that we visited and he was even more excited to take a group picture with all of us.

We continued on to the next stop of the day, which was what used to be

part of the levee. We got out of the car and walked up a grassy hill up to a rusted red wall of metal, surrounded by a pile of rocks. This is what remains of that part of levee. On the other side is a swampy, flooded area, where houses and trees once stood. Stumps and branches of trees can still be seen jutting up through the water, but evidence of housing is impossible to see.

Standing on the wooden landing, we turned around and saw ruins of foundations and the overgrown grass and weeds taking over the piles of bricks, as if it was slowly covering up the evidence that anyone ever lived there.

Next, our tour guide took us through the area where Brad Pitt's organization, Make It Right is still in the process of building environmentally sound and hurricane safe houses. Some houses are already in use. Habitat for Humanity's Musician's Village was also filled with colorfully lined streets of newly built homes. I spotted a group of people working on a house in the distance. This, combined with the ongoing construction by Make It Right is tangible evidence that the rebuilding of this lively, culturally rich city is still going on and can still use substantial support.

In the Lower Ninth Ward, the occasional house is seen in disrepair. Mostly, though, what remains is little more than the staircase leading up to the missing front door, and some piles of bricks that used to serve as a foundation for someone's home.

As we went over the bridge at the end of our tour, we rose over another part of the levee, which looks spackled, and appears hardly larger than a retaining wall on a highway. We inquired of the driver, why organizations like Brad Pitt's can't help rebuild the levee system of the city, but he explained that it is under the care of the federal government.

Our tour guide then said something that stuck with me. He explained that if private organizations like Habitat and Make It Right were allowed to fix the levee, "it would have been fixed a long time ago."

This is a man, who saw the water rise up to the roofs of houses and showed us where people camped out on the bridge, swam away from their homes, with no where to go. I couldn't help but notice the frustration in his voice, to see the city he so loves and obviously cares greatly about, still being ignored, with its people still suffering.

A reality check is the only way I can think of to describe visiting New Orleans. Just blocks away from the tourist attractions, we spent the day with kind-hearted men sitting down for the only meal they would have that day and saw the destroyed homes that remain five years after Hurricane Katrina.

Despite this dividing line that exists, the city of New Orleans is filled with appreciative, joyful, and good-natured people who love life and have genuine pride in their city.

## New Orleans experience

# SO YOU THINK YOU CAN...



Photo: Rob DeLuca



Photo: Brianna Samson



Photo: Lexi Cate



Photo: Alyssa Kennedy



Photo: Leanne Surace



Photo: Leanne Surace



Photo: Leanne Surace





# Nation and World

... a bi-weekly review of major national and worldwide news



Photo: Getty Images

President Obama signs the Health Care Reform Bill into law on March 23.

## Landmark health care legislation becomes law

By **NIDHI KHANNA**  
Nation and World Editor

Protests, epithets, name-calling, and fighting could be seen and heard outside the Capitol while Congress voted on the Health Care Reform Bill on March 21.

Since the leadership of the nation's 26th president Theodore Roosevelt, a portion of Americans urged for health care reform.

After months of heated disputes amongst Democrats and Republicans, President Obama officially signed the Health Care Reform Bill into law on March 23.

During the presidency of Lynden B. Johnson, the government passed health care legislations dealing with Medicare and Medicaid.

Medicare provides health insurance for Americans that are over the age of 65, and Medicaid allows individuals of lower incomes to receive coverage.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was approved for the final time by members of Congress on March 25, which is about 50 years since the last major changes in the health care system was implemented by the government.

CBS News reported that the total cost of the bill will be approximately \$940 billion over the next decade, and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that the bill will also decrease the deficit by \$143 billion in the next ten years.

In approximately 20 years, the CBO reports that the bill will reduce the deficit by nearly \$1.2 trillion.

Within six months after the passage of the bill, insurance companies

will not be allowed to deny health insurance to any children with pre-existing conditions.

The bill entails that insurance companies cannot refuse to provide coverage to any Americans starting in 2014.

Additionally, 32 million uninsured Americans will be able to gain access to health insurance, and 16 million more individuals will receive Medicaid.

Health care plans cannot be mandated to pay for abortions, and children can opt to stay under their parents' insurance plans until they reach the age of 26.

The policy includes that illegal immigrants cannot buy health insurance and will be denied from obtaining Medicaid.

In four years, all Americans will be required to purchase health care coverage, and those Americans that do not buy insurance must face a \$695 annual penalty.

Republicans argued that the new bill would increase the debt for future generations.

In addition, many Republicans believe that the bill was unconstitutional because state residents may be required by the federal government to purchase insurance.

Bill McCollum (R-FL), the attorney general for the state of Florida stated, "The federal measure violates the U.S. Constitution and infringes on each state's sovereignty."

After Obama signed the bill into law, the Senate made final revisions to the bill.

The new bill entitled the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 includes the final changes of the health care bill and includes reforms in education.

The government claims that col-

lege students will face fewer difficulties when trying to pay back their student loans.

The government also aims to provide more funding for Pell Grants.

The president signed the bill into law in Alexandria, Virginia on March 30.

Despite the Democrats recent victory, many Republicans hope that Americans opposed to the bill will vote against the majority party in the November elections.

According to a poll completed by the Washington Post, 46 percent of Americans are in favor of the new bill and 50 percent of Americans are opposed to the new bill.

Democrats worry about their future political prospects as Americans head to the polls in the fall.

Many Republicans disagreed with Obama's overhaul of health care reform, and voiced that the government should pay more attention on improving the unemployment rate, which has been up to nearly ten percent across the country.

In some states, the unemployment rate exceeds the national percentage, and The Bureau of Labor Statistics concluded that the unemployment rates increased in 27 states in February.

John Harwood of the New York Times reported that the lack of job creation will hurt Democrats in November, and Democratic pollster Mark Mellman stated, the majority party will be able to "avoid disaster" in November due to the passage of the bill.

Democrats will be able to boast about enacting health care legislations, and Republicans will continue to focus on the declining unemployment rates.

How do Wagner students feel about the recent approval of the Health Care Reform Bill?

The Wagnerian wants to know, that's why we're...

### Just Asking

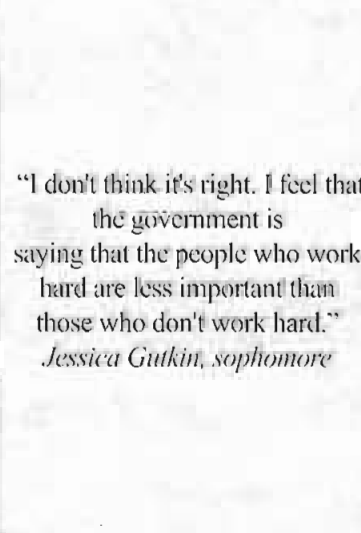
"I hate politics, and I believe that the system (the government) is so messed up. I don't think there are any measures that will work in favor of Americans."

*Shane Courtney, junior*



"I think the Health Care Reform Bill is a pretty good idea. I think it's advantageous to people like me who are now covered under their parent's insurance until the age of 26. Our country was built on the notion that people should work together to make real changes, and I am not happy with the way people were fighting about the health care issue. I wish people would come together for progress rather than divide amongst themselves as either right or left."

*Kevin Callaghan, senior*



"I don't think it's right. I feel that the government is saying that the people who work hard are less important than those who don't work hard."

*Jessica Gutkin, sophomore*



"Ideally, I think the Health Care Reform Bill is a good idea because people who need insurance will be able to receive it. However, I think it is a problem because this is just one more thing people need to pay for. I am waiting to see how everything plays out."

*Alison Tusick, freshman*





*This month in history***April**

Bringing both good and bad, the month of April has been a historic one for national and world news

**April 2, 1792** - Congress established the first U.S. Mint at Philadelphia.

**April 3, 1944** - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 8 to 1 that African Americans can not be barred from voting in the Texas Democratic primaries. The Court stated that discrimination against blacks violates the 15th Amendment and that political parties are not private associations.

**April 3, 1995** - Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman to preside over the Court, sitting in for Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist who was out of town.

**April 4, 1949** - Twelve nations signed the treaty creating NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The nations united for common military defense against the threat of Soviet expansion in Western Europe.

**April 6, 1896** - After a break of 1500 years, the first Olympics of the modern era was held in Athens, Greece.

**April 10, 1847** - Publisher Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911) was born in Budapest, Hungary. He came to America in 1864 and fought briefly in the Civil War for the Union. He then began a remarkable career in journalism and publishing. His newspapers included the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the New York World. He also endowed the journalism school at Columbia University and established a fund for the Pulitzer Prizes, awarded annually for excellence in journalism.

**April 11, 1970** - Apollo 13 was launched from Cape Kennedy at 2:13 p.m. Fifty six hours into the flight an oxygen tank exploded in the service module. Astronaut John L. Swigert saw a warning light that accompanied the bang and said, "Houston, we've had a problem here." Swigert, James A. Lovell and Fred W. Haise then transferred into the lunar module, using it as a "lifeboat" and began a perilous return trip to Earth, splashing down safely on April 17.

**April 12, 1945** - President Franklin D. Roosevelt died suddenly at Warm Springs, Georgia. He had been President since March 4, 1933, elected to four consecutive terms and had guided America out of the Great Depression and through World War II.

**April 12, 1981** - The first space shuttle flight occurred with the launching of Columbia with astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen aboard. Columbia spent 54 hours in space, making 36 orbits, then landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

**April 14, 1828** - The first dictionary of American English was published by Noah Webster as the American Dictionary of the English Language.

**April 15, 1912** - In the icy waters off Newfoundland, the luxury liner Titanic with 2,224 persons on board sank at 2:27 a.m. after striking an iceberg just before midnight. Over 1,500 persons drowned while 700 were rescued by the liner Carpathia which arrived about two hours after Titanic went down.

**April 18, 1775** - The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere and William Dawes occurred as the two men rode out of Boston about 10 p.m. to warn patriots at Lexington and Concord of the approaching British.

**April 24, 1915** - In Asia Minor during World War I, the first modern-era genocide began with the deportation of Armenian leaders from Constantinople and subsequent massacre by Young Turks. In May, deportations of all Armenians and mass murder by Turks began, resulting in the complete elimination of the Armenians from the Ottoman Empire and all of the historic Armenian homelands. Estimates vary from 800,000 to over 2,000,000 Armenians murdered.

**April 26, 1994** - Multiracial elections were held for the first time in the history of South Africa. With approximately 18 million blacks voting, Nelson Mandela was elected president and F.W. de Klerk vice president.

**April 28, 1945** - Twenty three years of Fascist rule in Italy abruptly ended as Italian partisans shot Benito Mussolini. Other leaders of the Fascist Party and friends of Mussolini were also killed along with his mistress, Clara Petacci. The bodies were then hung upside down and pelted with stones by jeering crowds in Milan.

**April 30, 1967** - Boxer Muhammad Ali was stripped of his world heavy-weight boxing championship after refusing to be inducted into the American military. He had claimed religious exemption.

Information gathered from [www.historyplace.com](http://www.historyplace.com)



Photo: Associated Press

A Google user places memorial flowers near the company's headquarters in China.

## News briefings of top stories from around the world: Haiti and China

By **NIDHI KHANNA**  
Nation and World Editor

### Haitian students fear for a bleak future

In January, an earthquake shattered the nation of Haiti.

As Haitians try to rebuild their country, many individuals fear that the future does not bring promise.

The earthquake crumbled three prominent Haitian universities in Port-au-Prince, leaving chairs as the only remains left standing in the classrooms after the disaster.

The Faculty of Applied Linguistics University was widely known for its excellence in the study of the Creole language and culture.

500 students were enrolled in the Linguistics University, and nearly 250 students are reported missing to this day.

Student John Raymond Silvestre spoke to CNN reporter David McKenzie about his own whereabouts during the time of the earthquake.

Silvestre stated, "I cried out. I cried out 'help me save the students.' I stepped out for a moment to pick up a book when the earthquake hit and the four-story building collapsed like a house of cards."

Many students are eager to resume classes, but feel uneasy about their educational future.

Thousands of students are still unaccounted for, and many educators are saddened that a generation of bright scholars has been lost.

Rogeda Doree Doreil, a professor at the Linguistics University stated, "We need to make the students feel alive again because they represent the future of Haiti, they have to work to have courage to build again this new Haiti."

Students spent hours studying and believe that their hard work has been wasted because they are unable to return to the classroom.

Despite some students' willingness to learn, Doreil noted, "The universities are in ruins and many students are too afraid to even step inside a building."

### Google closes doors in China

China has approximately 400 million Internet users, and that number continues to grow.

Recently, the Internet search engine Google, decided to pull its website in China.

Due to censorship and repeated threats from hackers, the company announced in late March that it would not allow Chinese Internet users to gain access to the search engine.

Google founder Sergey Brin spoke to New York Times reporters Miguel Helft and David Barboza about the recent shut down of the company's operations in East Asia.

Brin stated that even though Google will not provide Chinese web browsers with Internet service, the

company will continue to conduct research, and will have a sales team working at the Google headquarters in China.

The company was unwilling to work with Chinese authorities after facing attacks and threats from government censors and hackers.

In January, it was reported that several hackers were able to decipher Google's source code, and gained access to the Gmail accounts of human rights activists in China.

In the United States, Xiao Qiang is working on the China Internet Project at the University of California, Berkeley.

She expressed her disappointment with Chinese officials attempt to censor web content from its citizens.

"The Internet was seen as a catalyst for China being more integrated into the world. The fact that Google cannot exist in China clearly indicates that China's path as a rising power is going in a direction different from what the world expected and what many Chinese were hoping for," Qiang stated.

In China, Google had a difficult time competing with the Chinese Internet search engine Baidu, and many American companies have failed at growing their businesses in China.

Yahoo, eBay, and Amazon all made unsuccessful attempts to provide Internet service to the Chinese, and the government's strict regulations drew all these companies away from the largest nation in East Asia.

Would you like to see your name in the Nation and World section? Send us a story about any national or international story that you think is interesting! Please send your submissions to [wagnerian@wagner.edu](mailto:wagnerian@wagner.edu).

# IN OUR OPINION...

(where you'll find columns, editorials, letters to the editor, and more.)

SEVEN CLASSES, THREE JOBS, ONE COLUMN

## Confessions of a stress addict



By CHARISSE WILLIS  
Opinion Editor

I have to register to take the GRE by the end of May and all of my applications for graduate school are due in December. I have to complete internship applications by April 15th and the paperwork for the internship that I already have is due today. I woke up at 4 a.m. this morning to finish a power point presentation for an 8:30 a.m. class and this column was due yesterday.

Bottom line: I have a lot of deadlines. In fact, I cannot think of one week where I do not have something due. Not a day goes by where I do not think about projects to be completed, columns to be written, poems to be edited, or simply homework to be done. I complain, like most other students I know. I complain daily, hourly, but in reality I love it. I love the rush I have when I realize I have five things due in one day, or the anxiety that I experience when I know that I have an hour to complete an assignment. I love racing against the clock, defying the idea that things require time and planning. There is no greater satisfaction than accomplishing a seemingly impossible list of tasks in an absurdly short amount of time.

I love when I get A's on papers that I wrote in four hours the night before. One of my fondest college memories is the day I went out to lunch with a friend, arrived at Wagner an hour later than I planned and had 30 minutes to write the last paragraphs of a paper, type the bibliography, print everything and walk it to Parker Hall. Not only did I get an A on that paper, but it is one of the best papers I have ever written and it is all the more special because it was this close to not being

finished.

I thought that studying abroad would help me to slow down, to adopt the "Oh these are nice roses, I should stop and smell them" method. I was wrong. If anything, it has made me long for more work to do. I still have classes and columns to write and things to edit, but it is not enough. I do not have meetings to attend and enough things to edit. I do not have community service hours to complete or work hours to fit around class hours. I went from seven classes, three jobs and eight extra-curricular activities to four classes, no jobs, and four hours of community service a week.

What I am trying to say is that I am an addict. I need stress like peanut butter needs jelly. I am going insane here with the lack of impossibilities. And yes, I could insert a great paragraph about the ills of society and how it has trained me to be this way, but why make it someone else's fault. I like the feeling of anxiety, the strain of too many classes and not enough time, and the constant need to worry about whether or not I have finally taken on too much.

So, I am not going to advise you to slow down and take time to appreciate things. In fact, today I am going to tell you just the opposite. I want you to feel like I do. I want you to just say yes. Go out there and do as much as you can. Overcrowd your schedule and experience the joy of stress. Do it today and then please tell me all about it. Feed my habit. Write in and let me know all about the hundreds of things that you have to do this month and how unlikely it is that you will finish them. In fact, I will sweeten the pot. Send in stories about times when you have had a amount of things to complete in a amount of hours and how you managed to do it.

The best three stories will be printed in the Opinions section in the next issue of the Wagnerian.

And if you are worried about being an enabler, well you are right. You will be enabling me to continue in what I can only assume is a very unhealthy addiction, but do not worry about it; I have already admitted that I have a problem so I am on my way to recovery.

## Literary interpretation gone wrong

By JENN INZETTA  
Interim Opinion Editor

Right now, in my ILC "Art and Literature in Turn of the Century, Paris, Vienna, and Barcelona" we are reading Marcel Proust. And while at first I was intrigued by his verbose writing and underlying meanings, halfway through the first chapter of the first volume of his first novel, I had to stop and ask myself: what exactly was he talking about? After that, reading Proust became far less enjoyable, even less so in class the next day, when we tried to connect Proust's life to his character's life, in order to determine why Proust made the choices he did.

The meaning behind literary works has been argued over time and time again. From *Harry Potter* to *Hamlet*, every teacher, every professor, every student, and every literary critic will have a different opinion about what exactly J.K. Rowling, and Shakespeare alike are trying to say. But which opinion is right? How do we distinguish literary insight from random ramblings?

And who exactly determines which analyst got it right? Is it Spark Notes? (For some that is all the clarity they really need.) A professor? (If you manage to stay awake in class long enough to understand what they are saying...) Those same people who determine what "canon" is? (Maybe that would be more convincing if they could make up their mind about genres and categorizing first.) Or is it personal choice?

The last is what I have always gone with. As a unique individual, each reader approaches a text with certain experiences, ideas, perceptions, and emotions. And it is these eccentricities that allow a professor with a PhD to look at *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* and see a cast of characters made up entirely of religious symbols while a child can read the very same book and see nothing more than a fantasy world within a wardrobe.

Still, we have to wonder; which approach is correct? What does the author want us to see? Which symbols were intended and which were pure luck?

Recently, for the very same ILC class, I analyzed one of Baudelaire's

poems in prose. I commented that the lack of traditional structure in Baudelaire's poem represented his rebellion. By breaking away from traditional poetic form, Baudelaire was breaking away from the structure that France was trying to impose upon him. It certainly sounded good, and with the correct citations I was able to make my point, but was that really Baudelaire's intention? Because even for me it seems like a bit of a stretch.

Want to know my new literary interpretation? (Too bad. I'm telling you anyway.) Readers should read to read, to enjoy what they are reading. Short stories, prose, poetry? These things were written to be read, some for enjoyment, some to make a point, and others to confuse us beyond all belief. But no matter what, they were written to be read. So stop analyzing! Stop breaking apart *The Awakening* and start focusing on the beautiful prose, and while you are at it, stop looking for any meaning at all in *The Twilight Saga!*

My interpretation is that literary works were meant to be enjoyed, and I intend to do just that.

## Big problem with Wagnerstock's 'big name'

By NANCY ARAVECZ  
Entertainment Assistant

Upon hearing that this year's Wagnerstock "big name" is going to be Gavin DeGraw, several thoughts and emotions passed through my mind: shock, anger, confusion, disappointment, exasperation, the works. The dominant sentiment though, was incredulity, wrapped up in the simplest of questions: why?

The answer is that it's the administration's job to choose an artist that will have a broad appeal to the students at Wagner. After all we are paying for the performance. Given the "student safety" debacle last year that ironically got us stuck with the debauchorous dance group Breaksk8, this "big name" must be someone we can trust not only to give us an enjoyable and memorable performance, but will also avoid placing students in "danger" (i.e., the act must have a clean background check). The problem here is that though such artists are plentiful, especially in New York City, the administration seems to be a bunch of stiffs in suits who are completely out of touch with what the student body would actually want to see.

I don't know about those of you reading this, if anyone is actually reading this, but I've never met anyone who has bought tickets to go see Gavin DeGraw in concert; hell, I don't even know anyone who even likes Gavin DeGraw. I mean, the dude's musical legacy will be the

theme song to a cheesy prime time soap opera and a song titled "I Fell in Love with a Girl." How profound.

The fact of the matter is, choosing a generic, pop, has-been act like DeGraw as a performer is not only a cop out on the part of the administration; it's a mistake. The demographic that actually does enjoy his music is relegated to mindless teenage females and mini-van driving mothers who think they're cool because they listen to Z100. I don't doubt that there are a handful of girls that might actually be looking forward to seeing DeGraw at Wagnerstock, but by choosing such a safe and hapless performer, I think the administration has managed to alienate a huge percentage of the student population. I mean, let's be serious, what dude, straight or otherwise, actually jams out to Gavin DeGraw on his iPod? What girl with half a brain, or even an ounce of good taste, actually falls for his sentimental schtick?

The worst part about all this is that I'm sure it's costing a pretty penny, when there are several groups that might actually be appreciated by the student body available for far cheaper. Recently, it was brought to my attention that last year, Girl Talk was recommended as a performer to administrators by a student, after he already agreed to do the show, for considerably less money than the budget allows. You read that right—Girl Talk!

Obviously, the suggestion was poo-pooed, most likely because

administrators had never heard of him. Who has greater mass appeal than the most celebrated mash-up DJ in America? What could have been more fun than dancing around while Girl Talk drops beats on you and all of your closest friends? The answer to that question is certainly not a Gavin DeGraw concert. (Although it might be a night out at Bottomley's watching that girl from Public Speaking flash Breaksk8 for a T-shirt.)

Underwhelming as DeGraw's performance will most certainly be, I'm sure most students will attend just for the hell of it. As for me, I won't be actively boycotting the show, but if I do make it out to Spiro on April 17 I'll probably be toting some rotten tomatoes just in case.

As for the administrators, hopefully next year they will take the time to hear us out, and be more open for suggestions. Even better, maybe the students will get the final decision for the "big name" next year. If you're reading this, administrators, might I suggest ignoring the celebrity factor and booking two or more smaller acts? A truly dynamic and entertaining Wagnerstock might encompass several acts, say a pop band like Bodega Girls or Cut Copy, a rapper like J. Cole or b.o.b., and a rock outfit like Happy Birthday. Why not please everyone instead of just a few? Why not actually listen to what the students want, rather than blindly going forward with a costly has-been with a few top 40 hits?

Something to say?  
Write a letter to the *Wagnerian*  
and see your words here!

wagneria@wagner.edu



## Subway meditation

By ALLISON SMECK  
Wagnerian Contributor

Today, like so many days before, I used mass transit to navigate my way through Manhattan. Hard to believe that almost a year and a half ago, the subway map meant nothing to me, and I had to ask for directions to get myself anywhere successfully.

New York City really is hectic and miraculous, and every time I step off of the Staten Island ferry onto Manhattan turf, I am re-reminded of why I love New York City so much. Not a ferry trip goes by when the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island do not steal my breath away, as though it were the first time.

But today, I noticed something rather alarming. On my fifteen minute ride to 34th street, not one person, not a single person in my subway car, was without an ipod or comparable Mp3 device, myself included. I pulled out my headphones and listened to the silence inside the train, swiftly drowned out by the sound of my express train echoing through a station and continuing down a tunnel.

I became so acutely aware of the silence and absence of human contact that I was all too eager to get off of the train at Penn Station and hurry up the stairs to rejoin the sounds of taxis honking, hot-dog cart men shouting at each other, and busy New Yorkers chatting hurriedly on their cell phones.

I ran my errands and then boarded the subway yet again, but this time, I kept my iPod in my purse. I noted only four other people on my packed subway car that were not wearing earphones and/or bluetooth headsets.

There was the same absence of conversation that I had experienced before, made more awkward this time by the distinct presence of other headphone-less people sitting near me.

They weren't reading books or newspapers and, as we were underground, they were not talking on cellphones. They were sitting and staring each other, and all of the other "iPod passengers," blankly in the face.

This shook me out of mydiscomfort and got me to thinking.

First of all, are people really so scary to one another that it is better to sit blankly and mutely staring into space than to make polite conversation? And secondly, and even more troubling, are our thoughts and worries too much for us to face? Has the world finally gotten to be so big and so scary that we are frightened to have alone time to ruminate on our thoughts, struggles, desires, and questions?

The more I thought about it, the more it occurred to me that this anti-social trend is one that plagues us above ground as well as below on the subway. Hot-dog cart men, business people with their cellphone calls, and even all of us "youngsters" with our texting and Facebook-ing, and other forms of instant-gratification communication are being silently, but very intentionally robbed of something that older, less technologically aware generations valued, and even craved.

Alone time, time just for us, is now silently feared, if not dreaded. When we find ourselves alone, what is the first thing we do? For some, it may be re-reading text messages. Others might fall into the immediate solace of Facebook.

Still others may be too consumed with e-mails pouring into their blackberries to even notice that they are alone at all, and then of course the iPhone has now presented an even more popular distraction from "aleness"... "apps." As soon as you run out of things to do and would otherwise be faced with some self-reflection time, thankfully now, "There's an app for that."

My tone may appear to be "anti-technology," and of course, that is not my intent. But today, my subway experience made me stop to consider why I am the way I am.

Is it that I am running from what's deep inside of my heart? Is it that being alone and taking time to think about nothing but yourself is "uncool" nowadays?

Or is it that we as a society have forgotten about the renewing power of spending quality time to think about, write about, reflect on, and sometimes even talk to ourselves.

Personally, at least for today, I think it's all the above.



## Parking policy predicaments

By ANTHONY NASTI  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

On March 22, I had returned to the Wagner College campus after a spending the weekend home. I had a heavy bag of laundry, and on top of that it was raining heavily. I pulled up to the front gate and kindly asked a Public Safety officer for a pass to park my car outside the campus so I didn't have to lug my stuff back and forth in the rain. He responded coldly and arrogantly, "No, you're not allowed anymore."

After cursing under my breath for a few quiet seconds, I admitted defeat and pulled into the lot. I lugged my laundry bag over my shoulder, stuffed my iPod, computer charger, glasses case, and cell phone in my pockets, balanced my computer in one hand, and lugged my 10 pound bag of laundry over my shoulder, all because I didn't want to make two

trips back to my car. Barely able to walk, I looked pretty damned ridiculous walking around the campus looking like Quasimodo. My back was in pain and I was already feeling like I was catching a cold. Then, as I was walking past the Union, stumbling around from the massive amount of weight I had been carrying on me, my MacBook came crashing down to the ground. Now, I was pissed. You mean to tell me that Public Safety could not have come up with a better solution to the residential parking issue than to make all students suffer by not being able to comfortably transition back into their dorm rooms because a few students couldn't obey the rule?

When we were allowed to drive down to move back in, we simply gave them our phone numbers and were given a good 45 minutes to move back in. Obviously, some kids didn't always obey the rules, but that is no reason to inconvenience the

students as a whole. To jump to such a rash decision in such a short period of time is simply inconceivable and unfair. They could have imposed penalty fines or took note of something other than the students' phone numbers. How about their license plate numbers or something they could use to find out which students had not returned their vehicles to the lot? Most students aren't going to answer their phones unless it's either a parent or a friend.

Never mind the fact that I'm angry about damaging a \$1,300 computer due to such a stupid policy change—my computer still works, but it's still aggravating that it has such noticeable aesthetic damage — but taking into account the weather and other factors that make these tasks so difficult, what do the people in charge have to say? Are we supposed to suck up such an inconvenience, or should we try to make a change?



Aerial view of the Texas-Mexican border.

## Immigration problems

By TYLER SELING  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Immigration is one of the largest problems that has faced the United States in the past 50 years. People have taken sides on the matter, both for legal and illegal immigration.

In 2007, Senate Republicans managed to block a reform bill to America's policy on immigration. However, with the majority, Democratic members of the House have filed for a new reform bill. There are several problems that ensue when you discuss illegal immigration reform.

First, illegal immigrants are here without proper, or in many cases, any documentation stating their citizenship and national status. Without documentation, these immigrants maintain the ability to take advantage of U.S. privileges without the costs. Their children go to our public schools, they use our infrastructural achievements, and they even occupy available American jobs, in an economic era where every job is precious. Worst of all, they take

advantage of all these privileges and do not pay taxes!

Many people argue that illegal immigrants take the jobs that most Americans do not want. In response to this I ask: How many high school kids would be willing to bus tables and wash dishes, work on landscaping crews, or work any other labor intensive job to earn a couple of bucks to save for college? How many college kids come home for the summer looking to make some money? These are typical jobs that are frequently employed by American teens to start saving for college or paying for their first cars. By allowing illegal immigrants to take these jobs, children become more reliant on their parents, rather than developing a sense of adult autonomy.

Additionally, illegal immigration poses a security threat to the United States. The more people that are here illegally, the harder it is to track possible terror threats. If it is possible for a harmless illegal immigrant to get fake documents to work, it is just as easy for an illegal terrorist to obtain similar documentation. Without proper documentation, our

nation becomes more susceptible to attacks.

Many people endorse amnesty for an offense, and want to legalize and offer citizenship to the 11 million plus illegal aliens within our border. Legalizing such immigrants would make them eligible to be taxed, and it would also create an enormous employment issue over the terms of minimum wage. Many businesses rely on illegal immigrants to accept low wages under the table to minimize costs.

The current system in place is the most suited policy available and an extensive reform would cost taxpayers heavily. Any attempt to loosen the policy will most probably lead to a stricter anti-emigration policy from Mexico, as this process is creating a rapid loss in tax base. This lack of concern could create conflicting relations with a strong American ally and trading partner.

Still, Americans can agree on one thing: illegal immigration is a problem. From the southern border states to the northern reaches, our nation is feeling the effect..

# Arts & Entertainment



## TV renewals and cancellations

By **PAIGE HERLIHY**  
Entertainment Editor

This renewal season, the TV gods are smiling down on some of our favorite 90's teen TV stars.

"How I Met Your Mother's" Alyson Hannigan ("Buffy the Vampire Slayer") and Neil Patrick Harris ("Doogie Howser M.D.") are among the lucky. The show has been renewed for a sixth season.

Joshua Jackson ("Dawson's Creek") will appear in the third season of "Fringe" and the pink Power Ranger herself, Amy Jo Johnson, is starring in the third season of "Flashpoint" alongside fellow "Felicity" co-star Scott Foley.



Also in the 90's star ranks is "Bones" David Boreanaz (former star of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and the spin-off "Angel") who will appear in the sixth and seventh seasons of the Fox drama. Former "Rosanne" star Johnny Galecki will also take on a fourth season of the geek-tastic CBS comedy "The Big Bang Theory."

Along with "The Big Bang The-

ory," geek is making a comeback in "Glee" (renewed for a full 22 episode second season), "Greek" (for a fourth season) and "Smallville", which the CW has renewed for an unprecedented tenth season. Let's all hope for the tights and cape to finally make an appearance on the lovely Tom Welling.

As for our favorite medical dramas, "Grey's Anatomy," "Mercy," "Trauma" and "Private Practice", the word is not out yet but it looks good for "Grey's" and "Practice." "Trauma," which was for all intents and purposes, cancelled earlier this season and came back in light of the canceling of "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno," may be getting yet another second chance as NBC finds itself with several slots to fill. Also on the bubble are "Heroes," "Parenthood," "Accidentally On Purpose" and "House".

Crime dramas, "Law and Order" and "NCIS: Los Angeles" have also been renewed.

NBC comedies "Community," "The Office," "Parks and Recreation," and "30 Rock" have all been renewed for their Thursday lineup.

The CW has kept the faith on "Vampire Diaries," "Gossip Girl," "90210," "Supernatural," and "America's Next Top Model."

A bittersweet victory, NBC has ordered a fifth and final season of "Friday Night Lights." The fourth season of the show has yet to run on NBC but has completed its run on Direct TV. Direct will also air season five before NBC.

ABC will air sophomore seasons of new comedies "Cougar Town," "The Middle" and "Modern Family."

Fox's animated comedies,

"American Dad," "Family Guy," "The Cleveland Show" and "The Simpsons" will unsurprisingly come back to the network for full seasons while the network has for once and for all cancelled 24.

Fortunately, for MTV, and unfortunately for the brain cells of the American population, "Jersey Shore" will have a second season, strangely set in Miami, for which the cast will receive \$10,000 per episode.

HBO has renewed "Big Love" for a fifth season, "Hung," for a second season, "Entourage," for a seventh season, "In Treatment," for a third season and "True Blood," for a fourth season.

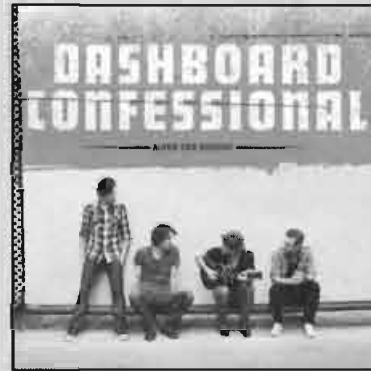
FX's "Sons of Anarchy" is also safe, while "Rescue Me" will get a sixth and final season.



On the unlucky side, Fox's "Til' Death" has been cancelled after four seasons. ABC's "Hank," "Scrubs," "Eastwick," "Better Off Ted" and "Ugly Betty" have their final days and "Lost," which has been advertising their final moments all season, will not be making any last minute changes.

Also among the cancelled are CBS's "Three Rivers" and "As The World Turns" (after 54 seasons), Fox's "Dollhouse" and MTV's "The Hills."

## Listen Up!



*Alter The Ending* - Dashboard Confessional (Interscope)

*Alter the Ending*, the sixth album from Dashboard Confessional, is one of their best in recent years. The deluxe edition of the album comes with a second disc showcasing acoustic versions of every song on the original album, a great addition for a band whose music is so well known for its acoustic purity. The

band's sound has matured over the years, marked by their uncharacteristic 2007 album *Shade of Poison Trees* in which the band had moved from angsty, personal songs to tunes about other people's lives and problems. The album got little love from Dashboard fans and front-man Christopher Carrabba even said at a recent concert that he rarely plays songs from *Poison Trees* live. *Alter* has brought the group back to their roots with lyrics focused in the third person such as "Even now I can feel your eyes / Watch me as I strum / Much too late at night." While the album may never be as loved as the band's early discs, *The Places You Have Come To Fear The Most* and *A Swiss Army Romance*, but it will certainly have fans happy to have another great set of songs in the band's repertoire.

You'll love it if you like: Mat Kearney, Matt Nathanson, Jimmy Eat World  
- By Paige Herlihy - Entertainment Editor



*Head First* - Goldfrapp (Mute)

The fifth studio album from the British electronic duo, Goldfrapp, is a marked departure from their previous work, as they seem to have jumped into their Delorean and gone back in time 25 years, to the era of gold spandex, roller-discos, Jane Fonda workouts, and Xanadu. The album is 35 minutes of unadulterated 80's nostalgia driven by synthesizers and drum machines, and rainbow-brite, and, as the album's first single, "Alive" advertises, *Head First* should "let the weight of it all just drift off on a cloud to another time." *Head First* features exclusively easy going dance-pop throughout, complimented by sexily husky female vocals that might just make you want to dress up like Madonna and pretend you're "Like a Virgin," even if it's just for a little while.

You'll love it if you like: Donna Summer, Little Boots, Neon Indian  
- By Nancy Aravec



*We Will Rock You* - Original Cast Recording (Capitol Records)

A Broadway rendition to the Rock n' Roll music of Queen, *We Will Rock You* is the soundtrack from the London based rock theatrical of the same name. Popular songs like "Somebody to Love," "Under Pressure," "Another One Bites the Dust," "We Will Rock You," "We are the Champions" and "Bohemian Rhapsody" are some of the plethora of songs on the album in which the original cast performs. Normally, these Queen songs are sung by a male vocalist, however, in the musical many of the songs, such as "Somebody to Love," are sung by a female vocalist named Scaramouche. The electric guitar in many of the songs overpowers the listener with an intense sound emphasizing the Rock n' Roll theme.

You'll love it if you like: Rock of Ages, RENT, Spring Awakening  
- By Stephanie Buscema



# Voodoo Farm climbing the ladder in NYC

By **WHITNEY BALLANTINE**  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Lights hit the stage, and within moments the electronic dancerock trio of Voodoo Farm will be taking their spots on stage.

Fans and friends alike surround them as the music starts and from the start to the end, no matter how many shows you go to, the whole room is always going nuts.

The band is lead singer/songwriter McKenzie Eddy, lead guitarist/songwriter Sean O'Connell, and lead synth/DJ/beat-machine Liam Dirlam.

Eddy is from South Carolina while O'Connell and Dirlam hail from Washington, D.C.

The three met in college when, along with two other friends, they started the band, Stealing From Bandits. SFB broke up just two years later, but at that time, "Local

music aficionados all agreed that the city of Columbia, SC had never seen a group of musicians with that much talent and energy on the same stage in a very, very long time" explains Dirlam.

So, with that, Voodoo Farm is bound to go places as they have all relocated to one city where music dominates.

Only formulating in April of 2009, they have rocked the New York City underground music scene like pros. Managed by hip-hop mogul, Damon Dash, they released their first album on September 12, 2009 and have worked with some of the hottest artists in the music scene to date.

Check out their Myspace page ([myspace.com/voodoofarm](http://myspace.com/voodoofarm)) for upcoming shows. They are currently working on their second album.

Voodoo Farm music is simply feel good, energetic, dance music. Download their album free: [www.voodoofarm.com](http://www.voodoofarm.com).

# No Congratulations for MGMT

By **NANCY ARAVECZ**  
Entertainment Editor

You're probably familiar with indie-psych rockers, MGMT—I mean, who hasn't heard "Electric Feel," and who doesn't love "Kids," and "Time to Pretend?"

After a whirlwind year of Grammy nominations and popular singles that were licensed for TV shows and movies, and played on repeat in American retail mainstays across the country like Forever 21 and Urban Outfitters, MGMT is gearing up to release their sophomore album, aptly titled *Congratulations*.

The band was congratulated for their infectious pop songs off their debut, *Oracular Spectacular* across the board by everyone from Perez Hilton and Rolling Stone to Pitchfork and The Fader. They were, after all, a more accessible alternative to the wacky tunes of Animal Collective, and had some choice tracks that were perfect for remixing and partying.

MGMT's sophomore effort though, does not warrant any congratulations.

Their second album is certain to disappoint both fans and critics, and seems to be a deliberate, half-assed attempt to spurn their overnight success, and by extension the world of American consumerism.

While it may be admirable that the rebellious and eccentric duo is trying to "stick it to the man," throwing an entire album seems a little bit extreme.

Recently they issued "Flash Delirium," the first single off of *Congratulations* as a free internet download. A few days later, they went on record, probably because of pressure put on them by Columbia Records (and angry tweeters), apologizing for how terrible it was.

A sub-par first single might be excusable, but unfortunately for MGMT and Columbia Records, the rest of the album does little to improve on it. Absent are the catchy dance tunes, rather, the entirety of *Congratulations* sounds a lot like the less memorable tracks from *Oracular*, only the filler on *Oracular* was at least slightly compelling, whereas every single song on *Congratulations* drones on and on, hammering away at the redundant

theme of psychedelia.

If you can sit through a front-to-back listen of *Congratulations*, the only redeeming element in the album is MGMT's idiosyncratic sense of humor. For example, "Brian Eno" and "Lady Dada's Nightmare" slyly poke fun at industry giants like the "fame monster" herself and the futuristic ambient composer.

Irony and humor are not enough to get MGMT off the hook on this disgraceful album. Their efforts to estrange their mainstream audience is transparent and frankly, reprehensible.

Though I'm sure kids will continue to come out and spend their money on their concerts and albums, Andrew VanWyngarden and Ben Goldwasser messed up royally on *Congratulations*. They are better suited to making sarcastically congenial pop songs—maybe next time instead of brushing off their commercial success, they'll forget about their pretentious "artistic vision" and stick both to what they're good at, and what made people fall in love with their sound in the first place.

Long story short, don't waste your time on *Congratulations*.

# Artist In Wonderland: MoMA exhibit goes inside the mind of Tim Burton

Tim Burton is a creative genius. His exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art takes you into a mysterious alternate dream world.

From the moment you enter the exhibition it is as if you are walking into a funhouse. You are truly brought into Burton's fantasy world and that is exactly where he wants you to be.

The entryway into the exhibit is a piece of art in itself—a classic Burton monster with open mouth and teeth bared acts as the doorway into the dark mysterious world.

The exhibit explores Burton's life, career, and creative works thus far, many in various mediums. However, his exhibition is its own work of art, an installation of Burton's mind. Everything from the typography, to the placement of pieces, and the lighting and music brings you into this fantasy world and into the mind of the legend.

Curators Ron Magliozzi, Jenny He, and Rajendra Roy, along with Burton, did a fantastic job setting up this exhibition and making the viewer part of the exhibition and its works.

Burton's exhibition extends throughout three galleries, Theater 1 Gallery, Theater 2 Gallery, and the Special Exhibition Gallery, as well as into the museum lobby.

The exhibit includes more than 700

pieces, including drawings, paintings, photographs, moving-image works, storyboards, puppets, concept art works, maquettes, costumes, and cinematic



By **Kristen Giordano**

ephemera related to his feature films and personal projects.

When you first enter the exhibition you are greeted with six flat screen televisions playing episodes from "The World of Stainboy," a flash-animation series Burton created in 2006.

After the hall of televisions you enter into a room lit by black lights. In it is a big, animated sculpture, "Carousel," made in 2009 using a variety of mediums including epoxy, polyester resin, plasma ball, fiberglass, foam, and fluorescent paint.

The pieces in this room all appear to glow in the dark as eerie music, often associated with Burton and his films, plays in the background. Also featured here are six glow in the dark, acrylic paintings on canvas, and a two foot, foam latex sculpture of Oogie Boogie, a character from Burton's "Nightmare Before Christmas."

Next you enter the large gallery which guides you through the years of Burton's career starting with his early works and ending with his most recent. It begins with a full wall of around forty character studies, most done with pen and ink,

colored pencil, marker, crayons, and/or watercolors. Films from Burton's private collection, "The Island of Dr. Agor," "Houdini", and "Tim's Dreams" bring the exhibit to life.

"The Island of Dr. Agor" was made in 1971 when Burton was only 13-years-old. It is a stop-motion short, based on the story "The Island of Dr. Moreau" by H.G. Wells. It starred Burton and his friends and classmates.

"Houdini" was made in the same year and was Burton's ode to the great Houdini. He made it for a class book report where the assignment was to write a 20-page report on Harry Houdini based on a book they were supposed to read for school. Burton says that this school project was when he realized he wanted to be a film producer. "There was one moment, and it

happened in school. I had a big final exam—we were supposed to write a 20-page report on this book about Houdini [Harry Houdini]. I probably would have loved reading it, but I didn't,

so I just decided to make a little super-8 movie based on it. I tied myself to the railroad tracks and all that. I mean, this is kid stuff, but it impressed the teacher, and I got an A. And that was maybe my first turning point, when I said,

"Yeah, I wouldn't mind being

a filmmaker."

The exhibit then shows cartoons Burton made while growing up, and a piece named "Crush Litter," a sign done in 1973 on metal. It won a contest for a local anti-littering campaign. Some student films made while he was a student at the California Institute of the Arts are also featured.

**"Goddamit, I don't care if I can't draw, I'm just gonna draw how I feel about it,"**  
~ Tim Burton

Burton himself did most of the works in the show, however some were created by other artists he worked with throughout the years on his feature films.

A highlight of the exhibit was the sculpture "Three Creatures," made of steel, burlap, epoxy, polyester, resin, paint, and rigid foam. Sketches from his time at the California Institute of the Arts are also very interesting, showcasing his classic training as an artist and how far he fluctuated from that. "I remember I was at Cal Arts and I wasn't a good life-drawer; I struggled with that realistic style of drawing. And one day I was sitting in Farmer's Market sketching, and it was this weird, mind-blowing experience. I said, 'Goddamit, I don't care if I can't draw, I'm just gonna draw how I feel about it.' All of a sudden I had my own personal breakthrough, and then I could draw, and satisfied myself. I've had very few experiences like that, and I'll never forget it."

Burton is a writer, director, producer, animator, actor, storyboard artist, conceptual artist, sculptor, painter, and more. Most people know him for producing and/or directing films such as "Edward Scissorhands," "Beetlejuice," "Batman," "The Nightmare Before Christmas," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "Corpse Bride," "Sweeney Todd," and his most recent, "Alice in Wonderland." However, few people know that he actually wrote the story and created the characters for many of these films, which were then adapted into the movies we know and love. Although Burton is best known for his artistic mastery in the film industry he is a great artist in every aspect of the word.

This exhibit will be loved by longtime Burton fans and newbies alike. The exhibition gives you an insight into his world and leaves you wanting more.

The variety of the work is amazing. He uses mediums many people have never heard of before and some they would never think to use.

It is astonishing how many different types of art Burton is skilled in and how many works he has accumulated throughout the years, even outside of his feature films. He is a creative genius and a master at his own craft—creating the eerie, mysterious, alternate worlds of Tim Burton.

The exhibit is at the MoMA through Monday, April 26. The MoMA is located at 11 West 53 Street.

# SEAHAWK SPORTS



Photo: Jim Hogue

Fifth-year senior Matt Watson's victory in game one gives him 16 for his career placing him in a tie for fifth place on the all-time Seahawks' win list with 1952 graduate Ziggy Wachsmuth.

## Men's baseball sweeps LIU in conference opening

By **STEPHANIE  
BUSCEMA**  
Wagnerian Editor

The lone team to sweep a four-game weekend series in the NEC opening, the Wagner Seahawks walked away with a 3-0 win against Brooklyn's Long Island University Blackbirds, in Game 4 on March 28.

Playing in their home field at Richmond County Bank Ballpark, the Seahawks obtained their 11th straight victory against LIU.

Pitcher Dale Hering allowed just five hits during 7.0 innings which included three 1-2-3 frames and did not walk a batter. Junior left handed pitcher Jack Rice recorded his first save as he struck out two batters over 2.0 innings in relief.

LIU's Julian Castro led off for the Brooklyn team threatening first in the top of the third inning. Castro hit a single before moving to second base on a sacrifice bunt. LIU batter Sam Sciamarelli followed Castro with a single up the middle in which Castro tried to score from second base, but was tagged out by senior outfielder Damian Csakai.

Junior Brian Martutartus led off the bottom part of the frame with a line-drive single to center field. After two outs, junior Jared Gruccio hit a single moving Martutartus over to third base. After trying to steal home on a failed double steal, Martutartus was picked off on the ensuing play.

In the top of the fourth, the Blackbirds threatened the lead as LIU's Albert Faz led off the inning with a double and advanced to third with one out. Faz was stranded on the base when Hering struck out Tito Marrero before a fly out which ended the threat.

In the bottom of the inning, the Seahawk's finally broke through. With one out, senior Vinny Avella had a crisp hit to right center that led to a double. Battling back from a 0-2 count, Higgins laced a RBI single

to center field for his second hit of the game while Avella crossed home plate to give Wagner a 1-0 lead.

At the top of the fifth inning LIU again threatened by loading the bases with one out only to have Hering induce an inning-ending double play off the bat of Gerard Tingos. The Blackbirds failed to score any runs while stranding a runner at third with one out in the inning.

The Seahawks tacked on another run in the bottom of the seventh inning with a double down the left field line coming from the bat of Csakai as junior Jon Lucas crossed the plate. Finally, Rice entered the game in the eighth inning to close out and give the Green and White their fifth-straight win. In the four-game weekend series, the Seahawks committed just three errors in four games, compared to 16 errors over three games against Richmond the previous weekend.

Infielder Jared Gruccio said, "For some reason, we don't know why, we seem to play at our full potential when we are back home. Down south it was sunny and warm, but we play four games in the freezing cold when the winds are howling, and we win."

Both the Seahawks and the Blackbirds produced six hits as Higgins and freshman Matt Valle of LIU each had two singles. Hering records his first win of the season making his record 1-1 as LHP. Matt McCormick falls to 0-3 of the season as McCormick struck four, gave up two runs and two walks in a six inning span.

Senior outfielder, Joe Conforti commented, "The games went well. The pitching and hitting really excelled this weekend against LIU. I think it was a great way to start off a conference play." Junior pitcher A.J. Pirozzii agreed, "The pitching was excellent during the weekend. I think each week they will get better and better in time for the playoffs."

## Women's lacross falls short To Sacred Heart Pioneers, 9-7

By **MARISSA  
DiBARTOLO**  
Campus News Assistant

The women's lacrosse team came up short against the Sacred Heart Pioneers, the game ending in a 9-7 Wagner defeat. The Seahawks' record falls to 1-7 on the season, while the Pioneers improve to 5-4.

Junior attacker, Karen Vitkus brought the Seahawks to an early lead with a goal off an assist from junior attacker, Dana Marchitelli with 14:48 left in the first half of the March 26 game. However, the Pioneers came back strong scoring five consecutive goals in the remainder of the half, shutting out the Seahawks.

Sacred Heart kept the lead with an early goal in the second half, bringing the score to 8-3, but Wagner came back with a vengeance.

With 24:43 left in play, sophomore midfielder Carolyn Clark got a goal off a free position, followed shortly by Melanie Garces, bringing the score to 8-5 with 16:13 left. Sacred Heart's Jackie Pierce countered with a free position shot of her own, increasing the Pioneer's lead to 9-5,



Photo: Wagner Athletics

After falling short to Sacred Heart Pioneers, 9-7, senior midfielder Teri Noll accepted a marriage proposal on the fifty yard line from former Seahawk basketball star Joey Mundweiler.

putting the Seahawks down by 4.

Despite the five consecutive goals brought by the Seahawks, it was not enough to come back from the first half defeat. Clark and senior midfielder Teri Noll each received a goal a piece over the final five minutes of play, bringing the final score to 9-7, allowing the Pioneers to hold on to their victory.

Clark and Vitkus grabbed two goals each while Marchitelli earned one goal and one assist.

After the game, the Seahawks came to center field, while former Seahawk basketball star Joey Mundweiler proposed to Teri Noll in front of family and her teammates. The crowd cheered, as she accepted.

## Women's swim team finish 12 overall at the ECAC

By **RACHEL ZAYDAK**  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The Wagner Seahawks swim team traveled to Pittsburgh, PA to compete in the East Coast Athletic Conference Championships February 26-28, 2010. In the University of Pittsburgh's Trees Pool, the Seahawks faced off against 18 other teams. Ultimately, Wagner's meet roster of only seven girls snatched 12th place among the fastest swimmers on the East Coast.

The depth in Wagner's line up showed in with their strong relay performances. First, the Green and White's 200 yard freestyle relay team of junior Sarah Plucinsky, sophomores Jakki Guenther and Lauren Meyer, and freshman, Alanna Gibbons stole a 9th place over all and 1st in the B final. The girls clocked in at a time of 1:39.96. The four, also competing in the 400 yard medley relay received a time of 4:04.08 and 10 place.

Additionally, on the second day of competition, the 200 yard medley relay of sophomores Breaune Sweeney and Patricia Gavin, Gibbons, and Guenther upheld the impressive relay trend set the 26th. They



Photo: Wagner Athletics

The Wagner Swim Team concluded their swim season with third place in the NEC Championships and placed 12 overall at the ECAC.

touched in at a time of 1:52.40, grabbing seventh place.

The Seahawks then finished their relay performances, as well as their regular meet day competition with the 800 yard freestyle relay race. Guenther, Meyer, Sweeney and Plucinsky came in at a time of 7:58.10.

Senior Jessica Hart, the reigning ECAC record holder in the 100 yard butterfly, received second over all in the event with a time of 55.79. The event winner, Erin McGraw, from Colgate University, touched out Hart by a mere .34 seconds. Also, on the

first day of competition, Hart competed in the 50 yard freestyle event, clocking in at a time of 24.29 and notching an 11th place.

The Seahawks concluded the swim season with a 4-1 section record, a 3rd place at the North East Conference Championships, and maintaining last years results, a 12th place over all at the ECACs. Head coach Mark Sowa was quick to not miss a beat, as demanding off season workouts have already commenced.



# Women's soccer gives back to community

By CAROLYN SUSINO  
Wagnerian Sports Editor

The women's soccer team gave back to the community with their recent volunteer work on Wed., March 24, at the Wagner College Early Childhood Center (ECC) in Campus Hall.

The athletes broke up into groups and read books with the pre-school children. While the event was in the middle of the week, the athletes were able to make time in between classes to read to the children.

Freshman Ariane Ackerman said, "Reading to the children as part of our volunteer community service, was an amazing experience. The children were so excited to see us!"

Assistant Coach Marcie Klebanow believes that the community service is a great way for the athletes to contribute their services to the community while also keeping them grounded.

She commented, "Having the players do something for someone else, asking for nothing in return, creates a sense of humility which all athletes need. The project also allowed the girls to give back to a community which has supported Wagner College and the soccer program for many years."

Between practices, scrimmages, and games, they consistently make time throughout the year to volunteer on and off campus. Last February, the team participated in a project called the Staten Island Community Youth, where they traveled to Staten Island Academy and read aloud to first grade students. Coach Mike Minielli sets up the volunteer work through connections with the schools involved. He said, "It has been very



Photo: Wagner Athletics

Junior Briana Vassallo (above) read books with children at the Wagner Childhood Center in Campus Hall on March 24.

successful as we have been asked back as well as asked to read for other grades. The players and students have had a great time doing it."

After reading books to the children, they work on activities that are related to the reading. Klebanow stated, "Literacy is a very important factor to children's academic development, and since academics is a major priority for our athletes, we want our girls to promote reading and writing to the young students."

They also participate in weekly clinics on the weekends at the college and at other elementary schools on Staten Island. This past weekend on Sun., March 21, the team held a big soccer clinic at Fischer Field that comprised about 50 kids, ages 6-12.

The team ran drills with the young players, and answered questions from parents and other coaches that watched from the side. All the team

members participated in the event, and split into groups according to age group. Sophomore Kaitlyn Lleuellyn ran drills with the six-year-olds, and claimed that the experience captured the more playful side of the sport. She stated, "I enjoyed it because I really enjoyed that age group. It used to be so much fun to play those little games, when soccer wasn't so serious but more playful."

The team has further plans to teach a kindergarten class of the ECC how to play soccer on the Sutter Oval in this month. "Since volunteering allows our student athletes an opportunity to broaden themselves and open their eyes to new and unique experiences, dealing with different people with versatile backgrounds allowing for intrinsic growth, we plan to continue to implement volunteering into our off season curriculum," stated Klebanow.

# The lock on March Madness



By TYLER JEFFRIES  
Wagnerian Columnist

I thought Kansas was a shoo-in. Having watched their Big 12 conference title run a fair amount in the weekend preceding the Dance, I concluded that this team was going to steamroll everyone on its path to a national championship.

When they were clicking on all cylinders, this was a team that looked like they could compete with the Nets.

Coupled with the fact that every pundit on television was calling this year's college hoops competition some of the worst since the inception of the 64 team tournament, Kansas seemed to be even more of a lock than the Tar Heels were last year. That is of course, until the selection show.

Dubbed the number one overall seed of the tournament, the Jayhawks were esteemed the "privilege" of a region that featured Ohio State, Georgetown, Michigan State, Tennessee, and Maryland, making for what was unquestionably the toughest corner of the big bracket.

Rounding out the rest of the one seeds are the resurgent Kentucky Wildcats, the oft-considered-overrated Duke Blue Devils, and the perhaps snubbed Syracuse Orange (or is it Orangemen again?) Kentucky and Cuse appeared to have nearly as rough a road as Kansas did, with Coach Cal's boys having to keep an eye on a red-hot West Virginia squad and Boheim's crew on a collision course for Kansas State.

But the Duke Blue Devils, the undisputed weakest one seed, landed themselves in prime Final Four run territory, with the only legitimate threat being Villanova.

As soon as round one it became clear that it was Duke's to lose, as 15 seed Robert Morris gave Nova all it could handle and then some. This

game would set the tone for the rest of the topsy-turvy tournament.

If anything can be concluded from this year's tournament, it's that there is absolutely no such thing as a lock. Villanova would escape by the skin of their teeth, just to be slain by 10 seed St. Mary's two days later. Georgetown wouldn't even make it out of the first round. An Ivy League school would go to the Sweet 16. And big bad Kansas, the juggernaut I penned in on every one of my brackets as the eventual king of the land, would be upended by the Panthers of Northern Iowa in what will go down as the biggest upset in the history of the March Madness tournament.

While my bracket sheets were made irrelevant, I was elated. Much like the rest of the country, I relish an upset.

It is in our cultural makeup to pull for the underdog after all, and its moments like watching Northern Iowa leap into each other's arms at the sound of the final buzzer that makes sports and, more specifically, this tournament great.

Three out of the four Final Four teams are not one seeds, and that is a good thing for the NCAA. It shows that parity exists in bounds and that unpredictability is the only thing predictable about this format.

There's talk about switching to a 96 team field in years to come. There are pros and cons to this. The negative is that the regular season will be considerably less important for power conferences like the Big East and ACC.

A team that would have been considered on "the bubble" this year such as Virginia Tech gets in no questions asked. Conversely, the argument could be made that with the addition of schools that are not so rich in basketball tradition, we'd get the treat of even more gutsy performances such as UNI's and in turn more thrill-ride upset games.

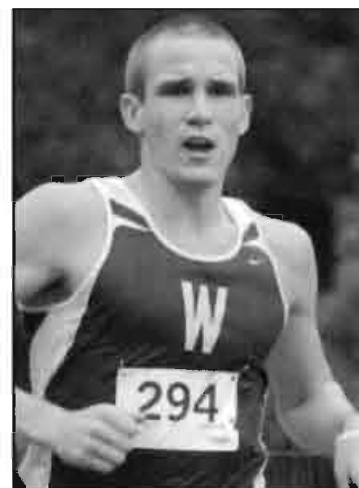
If forced to guess, I'd say it's a done deal that we get 32 more teams added to the Big Dance in the next year or two.

There's just too much money on the table for the NCAA and CBS to stay put with the current format. We will all still tune in for hours at a time and remain engrossed by game after game.

Come to think of it, our continuing national obsession is the only lock about the March Madness tournament.

## Softball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
4/7	Manhattan College	Bronx, NY	3:00 p.m.
4/10	Mount St. Mary's University	Emmitsburg, MD	1:00 p.m.
4/11	Monmouth University	West Long Branch, NJ	12:00 p.m.
4/13	Temple University	Staten Island, NY	3:00 p.m.
4/18	Fairleigh Dickinson University	Hackensack, NJ	12:00 p.m.
4/21	Yale University	Staten Island, NY	3:00 p.m.



(Above) Sophomore, Thomas Iannacone

On March 27, sophomore Thomas Iannacone led the men's track and field team in their second event- the 15 Annual Season Opener at Monmouth University. In the 1500-meter run, Iannacone took first place out of 106 runners with a season-best time of 4:01.67.



# If you could change one thing about your dining experience at Wagner, what would it be?



"I wish there were more choices for sides in the hawk's nest, instead of the fries I am always eating."

Michelle Rauen  
Senior



"Probably more transfer hours for the Hawk's Nest."

Chris Valletta  
Junior



"Cheaper prices in the Hawk's Nest."

Sarah Pope  
Freshman



"I want REAL Starbucks!"

Melissa Sidoti  
Freshman



"It would be nice if there were more options at dinner, like there are at lunch...although I guess there is nothing wrong with a sandwich."

Brianna Soldano  
Senior



"I would like to have transfer hours at the Wag for more than a half hour at night. But thank you to Chartwells for really taking into account the student body's suggestions and providing us with more of a variety of food."

Stefanie Rebholz  
Senior



"Make the block pirce higher so we can fit more in it"

Stephanie Porter  
Freshman



"Better customer service from employees."

Shane Courtney  
Junior



"I think we still need more healthy options."

Anthony Cappodora  
Sophomore