We are the champions

Access denied

Student gives first-hand assessment of handicapped accommodations

BEN WHITMORE | Editor-in-Chief

Today, Kayla Sweeney can walk. Tomorrow, however, may be a different story.

Diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a rare connective tissue disorder, Sweeney sometimes endures episodic fits of harsh pain, which can last up to a month, while her joints weaken and dislocate even from mild strain. In order to maintain cross-campus mobility, Sweeney uses a motorized scooter, traveling the sidewalks alongside pedestrians.

"People often think I'm faking because you don't see the scooter all the time so people don't think it's real. People honestly thought it was a toy," Sweeney said.

Sweeney's scooter is not for eye candy, though; she depends on it to get to classes, making See HANDICAPPED, page 4.

For women, victory netted

AMOR PIMIENTOS | Reporters

The soccer match kept fans on the edge of their seats until the very end as the game went to penalty kicks after a 2-2 tie in regulation. The Lady Hawks found themselves fighting an uphill battle after the lady kicked from being up 1-0 to being down 2-1. With just over 10 minutes left in regulation, Junior Midfielder Alexa Maher planted a perfect kick in the top corner of the net to knot the score at 2 and keep their hopes for the championship alive. The score remained until the buzzer sounded, although Katie Fusaro was a sign of hope as she drove down the field in the final seconds of regulation to miss the goal by just.

See SOCCER, page 16

Hawks dig championship bump

GARTH WISEMAN | Reporters

The Roger Williams University Women's Volleyball team proved they have what it takes as they defeated the Endicott Gulls 3-0 in all three matches to cinch the Commonwealth Coast Conference Championship (TCCC). With this win, the team moves onto the NCAA tournament in New York this weekend.

See VOLLEYBALL, page 16

"Underground" rises above expectations

First sophomore class dance a hit

NICHOLLE BUCKLEY | Reporters

The Class of 2013 got lucky inched as their first event went off without a hitch.

On Friday, Nov. 5, the 2013 Inter-Class Council (ICC) held the first sophomore class dance, called "The Underground." a blacklight dance at Baypoint from 8:30-11 p.m. Sophomore class President Adam Semple chaired the event, which was run by Vice President Jenn Hamilton, Secretary Amanda Stubblefield, and Treasurer Lauren Just. Semple said, "The 2013 ICC asked about thirty different student leaders to staff the event, ranging from HRAs to plain old org members." RWU sophomores were the only people allowed to participate in the dance, which was DJed by sophomore Matt DiPirro, while Varsha Konidala oversaw a staff of highlighter henna artists, who did makeup for the dancers and staff.

"Our class has been begging us to put on a dance since freshman year. This year, we finally obtained permission and the blacklight theme seemed to fit," Semple said. "All three Baypoint ballrooms were opened up, as well as the courtyard at Baypoint. We [chose] Baypoint because it's basically sophomore central."

Semple continued to explain his motivation behind the event. "Well, the juniors have the junior semi-formal, and the seniors have commencement ball. Why can't the sophomores have something of their own? We want to give the class what they want and hopefully have some fun." However, Semple acknowledged that starting traditions are always an expensive endeavor. "We spent a significant portion of the sophomore class budget on the event, but we had of the most successful fundraisers put on by any class because of our $5.

See DANCE, page 3

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Alum, student open bar

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Sports..................16
Never forget...

WILL FOLEY | Herald Reporter

Roger Williams University will hold classes and keep all its offices open on Veterans Day, yet the campus community still passes to remember those who have sacrificed for their nation. This year’s Veterans Day memorial will be the tenth that the University’s Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) has held, according to Dean Ken Osborne, ROTC Battalion Commander. "This year’s ceremony will be particularly somber, as RWU will be remembering two Alumni who gave the ultimate sacrifice for freedoms. In 1967, Army Lt. Kenneth Goff went missing in action when his helicopter was shot down over the jungles of South Vietnam. Later, he was declared killed in action by former president Clinton’s administration. Goff attended RWU while it was still a community college, and afterwards he joined the military with a commission as a second lieutenant. Already, there is a small dedication to Major Goff in a small park in Woonsocket, Ri., his hometown, to be named in his honor.

Tragedy, though, has struck the RWU community all too recently with the death of Second Lt. Joseph Fortin. Fortin was an alumnus of the graduating class of 2008 who majored in Criminal Justice and was a participant of the university’s ROTC program. His wife, parents, and grandparents have remembered Fortin as having lived a loving life, making the best of every situation. Friends and fellow soldiers recall how he courageously headed the charge into battle overseas, thinking only of those serving under his command. His service, though cut short during Operation Iraqi Freedom in Feb. 2009, was more than commendable. The twenty-two year old was credited with saving the lives of four American soldiers, as well as having doubled the amount of drinking water and electricity available to the region in which he was stationed.

Although RWU no longer acknowledges Veterans Day with a break from classes, the students, faculty and members of our community who are serving in the military show that they feel the day is worth remembrance. Today, the nation pays its respects, aside and instead remembers and honors those who have signed a blank check payable to the United States of America. Hopefully all RWU students will pause and think about the sacrifices made every day on their behalf.

VETERANS DAY
Retention rates remain
Steady stats may surprise students

LAUREN TIERNEY | Herald Reporter

Transfer and retention rates have been a big topic of controversy at Roger Williams University in recent years, but students may find the statistics on the contrary of what they believe. Statistics follow the percentage of students that continue their education at the same institution after their first year. Multiple college fast fact databases state that the retention rate at RWU is at eighty-two percent. The percentage did drop to seventy-eight percent with the class of 2012, but stayed constant at seventy-eight percent with the class of 2013. This is still about six percent higher than the national average of seventy-two percent for retention rates of private master’s universities, which is the category RWU falls under. According to Lynn Fawthrop, Senior Vice President for Communications, the university as a whole is involved in improving the retention rate at RWU. It starts with the Student Advocates and trickles down to other departments, such as Student Affairs, the Center for Academic Development, and Financial Aid. The campus as a whole is doing everything in their power to keep students at Roger Williams. Recently, however, many transfer students are leaving for other reasons besides their satisfaction with the university itself. The drop in transfer rates coincides with the drop in the well-being of the economy. Around Oct. 2008, the economy dropped in a alarming level, which explains the decreased rate of retention in the classes of 2012 and 2013. Students’ families simply could not afford the increasing tuition rates and expensive meal plans. While there can never be enough government and university aid, Fawthrop explained that the school has been working arduously to compensate for the decline in the economy. One measure that the university took was to supplement one million dollars to the student aid budget. This increase occurred with the incoming class of 2013 and increases the financial aid of the other classes. When asked about the drop between the class of 2011 and the class of 2012 retention rates, Fawthrop said, “While we are still above the national average, we do not want to be content with (a rate of) seventy-eight percent.”

While the university’s rate of retention has seen a decline with the classes of 2012 and 2013, it is by no means at all-time low. The university is still six percent above the national average for private master’s institutions. The rate has remained constant at seventy-eight percent for the past two years, and the university is trying to return to a higher rate in the coming years.

Mark Fusco
The Admissions building is always busy.
The position has remained the passing of another Senate a business student, and also a newly-elected Shannon Logan Levenson, Bronson Mar- be named. Usually small ties, Paige said, to hold down from his position, but con- eate 37 is the largest surer. combined with unforeseen res- sations by Nick Conn, new Parliamentarian has yet to be named. These internal changes will also affect the members of some of the committees. Paige will have to step down as Finance Committee Chairman, but will still serve on the committee as student body Treasurer. A new Chairman will be appointed in the near future.

When asked about his new dut- ties, Paige said, “I’m really excit- ed to take over the role of Trea- surer. I am well-experienced as a business student, and I feel I can use the relevant skills I have learned. I look forward to working with all org leaders and to create events the students really want to see.”

After some big changes, Sen- ate 37 is the largest it has been all year. With the changes in major leadership positions, the university can hopefully expect to see some positive changes on the campus.

DANCE: Sophomore class event a success
Continued from page 1

maximum capacity and part way through the dance, they cleared one side of the dance floor and a few sophomores in the dance club did a dance that (sopho- more) Rhea Levin had choreo- graphed. She put a lot of hard work into it and I think she did a great job.”

Reflecting on the journey it took to make 2013’s dream a reality, Semple said, “From the day that our class started programming, we always gave people what they least expect. I am expect- ing excellence from our class. New standards being set and new ideas are being turned into reality. 2013. Get lucky.”

The new senators were sworn in at Monday’s meeting.

The new student body Vice President. This opened up the Treasurer’s seat. Senator Matthew Paige was nominated and elected as the new student body Treasurer. Former Senator Bobby Cabral also stepped down from his po- sition as Parliamentarian due to conflicts with other obligations.

The position has remained vacant for a few weeks. With the passing of another Senate meeting on Monday, Nov. 8, a new Parliamentarian has yet to be named.

LAUREN TIERNEY  Herald Reporter

The results are in. Fourteen students ran in the recent Stu- dent Senate elections, and eight people were appointed to Senate. Newly appointed Senators include: freshmen Allie Conn, Logan Levenson, Bronson Mar- tim, Brooke Misiale, Olivia Rog- ine, and Eric Thurston, sopho- more Ryan Fried, and junior Shannon Fashey. The freshmen made up the majority of the newly-elected senators. This is the first time that Senate 37 has had twenty senators.

Senate 37 was already an un- usually small sized group. This, combined with unforeseen res- ignations by multiple senators, including members with execu- tive board positions, forced Sen- ate to hold special elections to fill the vacancies. These elec- tions aren’t the only changes to Senate; however.

Bryan Dunn, former student body Vice President, stepped down from his position, but con- tinues to remain on Senate 37. An internal election was held to fill his post. Three senators can for the position and Nick Tsimotas, former student body Treasurer, was elected as the new student body Vice President. This opened up the Treasurer’s seat. Senator Matthew Paige was nominated and elected as the new student body Treasurer. Former Senator Bobby Cabral also stepped down from his po- sition as Parliamentarian due to conflicts with other obligations.

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After some big changes, Sen- ate 37 is the largest it has been all year. With the changes in major leadership positions, the university can hopefully expect to see some positive changes on the campus.
WQRI to return to air following hiatus

Lauren Terneny | Herald Reporter

After nearly five months off air, WQRI plans to be back on in the coming weeks. WQRI is the student-operated radio station here at Roger Williams University. However, students have not been able to utilize the station due to some issues that occurred over the summer.

Sometimes in July, the booth overheated, causing two failures to occur: one in the automation system and one in the server. This took WQRI off air until the repairs could be made. WORI was allocated $10,000 from the reserve account to make the repairs and updates to the booth. The reserve account is a special account used for capital expenditures such as these. It is for extraordinary circumstances and is rarely used.

But drastic times call for drastic measures, and the account was utilized in order to put the station back on air. With this allocation, WQRI installed an air conditioning unit in the booth to prevent future problems due to overheating. The station also got new servers and updated the technology in the booth, which now allows them to stream digitally.

With the resignation of Michael Prato, WQRI faces new changes in their executive board as well as in their booth. "I am very excited to see us get back on air and to hear the new shows that our DJs will be putting together," said Matt DiPietro, Promotions Director for WQR. "I am fortunate to be a part of this organization, especially in this new chapter that we have created for ourselves."

WQRI will have its grand reopening next Thursday, Nov. 18 at 8 p.m. in the Hawks' Nest. Tune your radio to 88.3 FM to listen in or visit them on their Facebook page.

HANDICAPPED: Building designs not tailored for needs

Continued from page 1

I chose this school because I have a disability. And then when you get here and you realize that they’re not accommodating your disability, it’s really ridiculous.

The university prioritizes its facilities spending, Tameo said. In a one million dollar facilities upgrade program, to take place over the next three years, Tameo said the university chose to apply funds to solve safety problems first, before tackling accessibility issues. This means that while the spending is proposed to address handicapped accessibility to sidewalks and lecture halls, repairs to buildings’ roofs, windows, and siding were slated first.

Sweeney expressed frustrations about a lack of adequate accessibility on campus: "I feel like they are not there to make things comfortable they’re there to meet a quota. And I know that’s what most businesses do, but I feel like the school encourages so much diversity, but it’s just like you have a disability it’s considered diversity, but they don’t do anything to help you."

"I chose this school because this is where the financial aid was, and I got money to go here because I have a disability. And then when you get here, and you realize that they’re not accommodating your disability, it’s really ridiculous," Sweeney said.

The university administration strives to provide all its students equal access to academics, even if only a few students have specific needs, said Brian Clark, Executive Director of Public Affairs.

"Our commitment to serving students with disabilities does not change if we have one physically disabled student on campus or 101 students. Nor does it change based on type or severity of disability," Clark said.

Clark could not provide an exact number of physically handicapped students on campus because the university does not require students to disclose disabilities, he said. "No academic accommodations can be made if there is no disclosure, but that is entirely up to the individual student," Clark said.

Sweeney has never talked to a university administrator or facilities employee about the problems that she has faced regarding accessibility. She said that she never knew who to talk to about it.

Tameo said that he would be more than happy to talk with a student about his or her needs so that he could evaluate whether or not his department could help address the need. "Instead of having a broadcast approach, many times we handle it on an individual basis and if we see a problem, we’ll work with it," Tameo said.

LAUREN TIERNEY
DANIELLE TERRY | Bristol Reporter

Downtown Bristol is scattered with fallen Autumn leaves at this time of year. The picturesque, historic town, set right on the water, is not the type of place that you would usually picture as home to skateboarders, but that did not stop Don Patchin.

"It's rad to be in this kind of town," said Patchin, owner of Flip Side.

Flip Side is a skate shop located at 170 High St., which is right along the Roger Williams University shuttle route. The store sells skateboards, sneakers, apparel, and skateboard accessories. The entire left side of the store is lined with bright, colorful skateboard decks. The store, which has been in business for the past three years, stands in the middle of a residential area.

Patchin said he wanted the store to open the said he wanted to open the store because he has had a life-long passion for skateboarding, being a skater himself since the age of 16. Flip Side's owner made a career out of skateboarding, before he moved to Bristol. Originally from Cape Cod, a few local skate shops noticed Patchin's potential. "I was sponsored and taken care of by local shops," Patchin said. During Patchin's career he entered in various skate contests throughout New England and New York. "I won a couple, one in Martha's Vineyard and two on the Cape at the Seaside Festival," Patchin said. "The Flip Side is a skateboarder's heaven. In Patchin's words, the store is a 'core skate shop for the skaters. Nice variety of sneakers and apparel for college folk and skaters as well. I just try to keep it basic and cool.' The products that the store carries are not flashy or trendy. Patchin likes keeping it low-key.

Unfortunately for Patchin, though, the newest trend among skateboarders is shopping online. "It's an online market, and shops like me are hurting," Patchin said. Some of Flip Side's customers prefer to shop online so they can browse through a larger variety of items and look for deals. Though he inevitably loses some business to online wholesalers, Patchin said he believes that his store offers benefits that online stores cannot. Flip Side has a friendly environment, a result of Patchin taking his business very personal. He said he aims to become friends with all of his customers.

Since Patchin aims to become friends with all of his customers, he offers them insider benefits. "I can get them anything they want," Patchin said. And he is flexible: "It's a pay me next week kinda thing. No mail store is gonna do that for you. It feels good trying to do something good and having the kids getting stoked out." Many RWU students shop and hang out at Flip Side. Will Dunn, a senior, has spent a lot of time in the store. "Donny is a super cool dude who is always willing to go the extra mile in order to satisfy his customers," Dunn said. Another senior, Kyle Connolly, who loves skateboarding, said, "Flip Side always has what I need and if Donny doesn't have what I need, he is able to get it for me. There is always a positive atmosphere at the shop."
Leo's makes you an offer you can't refuse

Every Tuesday is students' night at Leo's Ristorante

Bring your friends, show your student IDs and get the RWU $8 Italian Special

Dinner, tax, and gratuity not included.

Meal includes:
- Salad and Garlic Bread
- Pasta with your choice of: Meatballs, Chicken Parmesan, Eggplant Parmesan

Leo's Ristorante
365 Hope Street
Bristol, Rhode Island

Sun-Thur 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri-Sat 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Highly anticipated hookah bar undergoing construction, set to open soon

KATLYN PROCTOR  |  Opinion Editor

From the sidewalk, it looks like an old, empty house. But the inside is the start of something that Bristol has never seen before – a local hookah bar. Friends Rami Jaro, current Roger Williams University student, and Andy Jaro, a graduate of RWU, are the founders of My Shisha Cafe. It was really two dreams. Andy started it and I joined him," said Jen. Now, both have big plans for the cafe. Casual, light dining is offered with a focus on African and Mediterranean foods. In addition, a variety of hookah flavors will be offered — although getting that license wasn’t easy.

"People in town didn’t know what it was — they thought it was something illegal. We had to tell them what it was and now, they support us," said Jen. Hookah is a flavored tobacco leaf that contains no nicotine, although smoking hookah still passes large volumes of smoke through one’s lungs, which poses health risks. Shisha, which is Arabic for tobacco, is a long valued social tradition in Arab countries. "We really just want it to be a place for people to be entertained by hookah and be more social. Come here to play cards, be with friends and smoke hookah," Jen said.

Currently, My Shisha Cafe is still undergoing interior construction. Once the building at 261 Wood St. undergoes interior renovations, it will transform into Bristol’s first-ever hookah bar, My Shisha Cafe. The building at 261 Wood St. undergoes interior renovations, transforming it into Bristol’s first-ever hookah bar, My Shisha Cafe.

Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert attract record-setting numbers at rally in D.C.

DAVID CHASE  |  Herald Reporter

As our economy goes down and our taxes go up, Americans have become scared and gone insane. Comedy Central satirical political analyst Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert share this belief, as they hosted the "Rally to Restore Sanity And/Or Fear" at the National Mall in Wash­ington D.C. on October 30. The event was broadcasted live on Comedy Central and other news stations such as C-SPAN.

Stewart and Colbert came out in several outfits, one showing them in cloth jackets of the American flag on them, and another having Stephen Colbert in an Easy Knollie jump suit. Jokes aside, Stewart and Colbert had a central purpose to not have Americans be afraid of the current issues in the country. Although, many have seen it as a joke to bash incumbent political officials.

"I can’t control what people think this was, I can only tell you my intentions," Stewart said. Stewart went on to explain why he and Colbert did the Rally to Restore Sanity and March to Keep Fear Alive.

He said, "This was not a rally to ridicule people of faith or people of activism...or to suggest that times are not difficult and that we have nothing to fear—they are and we do. But we live now in harder times. This was, "Stewart added.

Stewart ended the rally with an inspirational thought to some 215,000 who attended the National Mall that Saturday morn­ing. "The country’s 24-hour political

pugent perpetual panic conflag­rator did not cause our prob­lems, but its existence makes solving them that much harder," Stewart said.

Stewart told this large crowd that it is okay to be afraid, but it’s not okay to go insane because of these hard times. The power struggle that exists between the political parties needs to end and they need to band together to get the country back on top in all aspects.

Stewart got their respective points across to the audience. Adjunct pro­fessor Zona Douthit attended the rally and left the message get across to the audience. That spirit generated was in­spiring. Stewart asked the crowd to pick up the litter when they left, and I saw some college students with a big black garbage bag after picking up other people’s trash," Professor Douthit said.

The point of the rally was to hang “there” if you will. Not to freak out on your constituents because you are having a tough time paying the bills. "If we simplify everything, we hear nothing," Stewart said when speaking to the media’s magnification of current issues.

The main focus was the press and its own way of zeroing in on issues. Furthermore, the message to work together with every­one in the country to solve problems, whenever they may be, is to solve the problems we have every day.

"He reminded us that Amer­i­cans are intelligent and resourceful people. We can cooperate and get the job done, even if Congress can’t," Professor Douthit added.

Stewart continued to speak about the American people and how to keep holding on no matter the issue or the problems they may have to work with to solve those issues.

"Americans don’t live their lives solely as Democrats, Repub­licans, Liberals, or Conserva­tives," Stewart continued. He went on to point out a live shot of cars describing different types of people, but the deeper analogy was the "you go and then I’ll go" as Stewart said. The mission to provide good will will be a long struggle, but we can get there.

"We know instinctively as a people that to get through the darkness and back into the light, we need to work together," Stewart said.

Jen Stewart concluded his speech by ending the rally saying that "sanity has been and will always be in the eye of the beholder, and to see you here to­day and the kind of people you are has restored mine."
CHRISTINA BERLINGUET | Herald Reporter
Performing poet, play writer whose play has been performed in New York City, and now an inspirational woman who works for John King, Olivia Worden's story is motivating for all students and adults looking for direction in their lives.

Worden attended Sarah Lawrence College and graduated with a concentration in creative writing in 2005. She then became an accomplished writer and had two of her poems, "Dark Phrases" and "The Looking Glass" published in poetry journals. She also had a chat book about her poetry published. One of her greatest achievements was when her play "The Block" was performed in New York City at the 45th Street Theater, which was right down the block from where "Hair" was being performed.

You may be asking yourself where the inspiration from such success came from. Olivia Worden found her voice in a writing class led by Jeff McDaniel, who specialized in slam poetry. Prior to taking this class Worden was hesitant to share her inner thoughts in public, but McDaniel encouraged her and her classmates to go beyond their comfort zones. She continued to write poetry and in this process ran a program called "Two Verbose for your Mom!" It featured poets from New York City and two students from her college. Worden continued to perform poetry and opened for Little Yi Park, who is the laureate of Queens, meaning she was appointed by the government to perform poetry that represents Queens at government events. Worden found inspiration from Little Yi Park because she was Korean and Worden was adopted from Korea. This opened up doors for Worden creatively because she began to open up and write about personal themes such as her race and the fact that she was adopted.

Worden's latest project has been leading workshops for the poets that performed in poetry slam that took place on Thursday. She has been encouraging the poets to write strong poems that can be performed well while still strong in content. Each slam poet has their own personas when it comes to performing their poems. Most people stand up, but the little things that they do with their body and voice, like where they took their breaths and choosing what words to emphasize help them to stand out amongst the other poets. Worden realizes that most poems are personal, which can make students feel vulnerable, so she helps them create characters when they perform so that they are still expressing themselves, but through a different character. Worden's passion for poetry was apparent throughout the interview conducted, and she demonstrated this by emphasizing poetry's therapeutic qualities. In speaking with students she encouraged them to use writing as a way to work through difficult things going on in their lives. On a personal note she states, "I have always found that when I feel like I only have three options - either screaming, punching a wall, or losing my mind - if I turn to poetry or my writing I'm able to cope better and make sense of a tough situation." When students approach her looking for inspiration for their own work, Worden often gives them this therapeutic approach. Worden strongly believes that everyone can write and that it is an important tool to have. Although she admits that it comes easier to some people she says, "It's like a muscle, and all you have to do is work it."

How did Olivia Worden go from performing poetry to working for John King? After she graduated Worden started working for a film and production company, but felt as if her writing was too commercial, and as if she did not have enough time for her own creative work. She worked on "One Fast Move Around the Sun," which inspired her to work with higher education. From this company she built networking skills and applied for a job in admissions at Roger Williams University, so she could get a feel for the college environment and see if she was happy with a career in higher education. She discovered that she loved working with students and started working for the Law School Alumni Programs and Events where she wrote the international student newsletter. She loved this job because it combined her writing skills with higher education. Worden built her way up to working for student affairs and hopes to someday teach writing and emphasize the importance of writing. She says, "writing creates a community and a support system, while also working as a form of therapy for some people." Worden's passion for writing is apparent and she continues to spread her enthusiasm across campus.

We can all take Worden's journey as inspiration in finding a career that involves things you are passionate about. Worden's passion for writing and interest in higher education has combined to give her a life of success and achievement. Many students are stressed about what they want to do in life. Look at this story and encourage yourself to find what you are passionate about and follow your aspirations, and when life gets you down in the dumps, allow your negative thoughts to escape onto paper.

OLIVIA WORDEN, POET

Photo courtesy: Alex Deibel
Nichelle Buckley | Herald Reporter

On Thursday, Nov. 4, 4th-year Williams University student and co-founder of Pen Collaborative, The Hawk’s Herald, and MSU’s Poetry Slam, Omar Reyes, announced that the slam will be sponsored by the Writing Center and co-sponsored by Student Senate, the RWU Pen Collaborative, The Hawk’s Herald, and MSU. “A poetry slam, for those of you who don’t know, is pretty much a poetry competition,” Reyes informed the audience. “We wanted to have a poetry slam here on campus to make us feel a little bit more united in artistic expression. Over the last year and a half, we’ve had poetry slams with over 200 people in CAS 157. It’s not even filled when we have classes here.”

To begin the slam, Omar read a poem of his own, followed by two sacrificial poets, who were there to set the standards. Although they were sacrificial, they still received scores from the judging panel, which consisted of Olivia Warden, Jeffrey Silverthorne, Gary Shore, Laura Choiniere, and Donya Martin, who was the only student that Omar could trust with judging.

To order to participate in the poetry slam, the students had to attend two workshops on Wednesday night with Olivia Warden. Those helped them in smoothing out their poems and preparing them for the slam. Out of all the 15 participants, on a scale of 1 to 10, scores ranged from 6.8 to 9.5. The top 5 were called back, and Julia Weiss ultimately won with a score of 26.5. “I am shocked,” Weiss admitted. “Omar begged me last week, and the poem I read, I was just going to read that as a sacrificial poet, but I chickened out.” Omar agrees. “Yeah, she chickened out. But I’m very happy she won. She was really nervous, but she looked very comfortable up there.”

Omar was picked by Karen Billot, head of the Writing Center, to be the MC because he used to host a poetry slam in Providence and he’s very passionate about the issue. Omar states, “so pretty much, this poetry slam is special because we teamed up with Pen Collaborative, which is a course dedicated to free writers that are prisoners who have been imprisoned for some kind of speaking out against their government. This year’s writer, Tran Khai Thanh Thuy, is Vietnamese, and for most of you that don’t know, Vietnam has a community government, and she was thrown into jail on kind of a bogus charge. Someone assaulted her husband and she was defending him. She had written a lot of essays and novels about Democracy, so the government had their eye on her, so they threw her in jail. She is suffering from tuberculosis, and conditions are pretty bad. We want the government to know that the U.S. is involved. We’re trying to get it to gain attention.” Karen Billot was very happy with how the three poetry slams have gone. “It has become more typical in writing centers to sponsor these kinds of events. I had told Omar I was thinking about a poetry slam but I don’t know anything about it, and he knew what to do.” Judge Laura Warden was very happy, as well. “Every year has been different. Every slam brings new energy, new creativity, new voices, and I think everyone is unique and wonderful in their own ways. I think students are eager to perform in ways they’re not asked to do in the classroom. With free expression, I just never know what I’m going to hear.” After every reading, Omar concluded is saying, “applaud the poet, not the score.”
Rebekah Dion get national recognition for on-court dominance

GRIFFIN LABBANCE / Student Reporter

The end of a semester, for most students, is a time to reflect on the achievements made around campus, in classes or in their respective clubs, organizations or teams. However, for Rebekah Dion, a Roger Williams University senior and the Women’s Volleyball Captain, the reflection is on her national athletic ranking.

Dion has faced the women’s varsity volleyball team through a season of many highlights. With a recent TCC Championship to add to her list of accomplishments, she is now finishing out another successful season as a valued player for the Hawks. Some would look at all of Dion’s accomplishments throughout her life and think that she had been dedicated to the sport ever since she could pick up a volleyball, but talk to her for a few minutes and you will find that this isn’t the case.

“I started playing volleyball in my freshmen year in high school but up until then, I had played soccer during this fall,” Dion commented.

Dion first heard about RWU volleyball from head coach, Bert Stoltzmann. Stoltzmann told Dion that the team was making tremendous strides and had big goals set out for them. Dion took on a challenge and joined the women’s team during her freshman year at RWU.

Dion, currently, is a middle-hitter and co-captain for the Hawks. The position allows the player to be versatile as they play a key role in blocking, hitting and even distracting the other team. I am allowed to make huge contributions to my team, and that’s what I love to do,” Dion explained.

Dion reflected back on her second-year as a captain of the volleyball team, and admitted it was difficult but at the same time a very rewarding season. As a co-captain, Dion must lead the team, both, on and off the court. She describes it as, “honorable and exhausting but rewarding in the end.”

Dion, a NCAA athlete, has had the chance to be ranked both regionally and nationally. She has been noted as a genuine athlete by the NCAA and has been ranked 24th and 19th in the United States for her hitting percentage. Dion is currently ranked 11th amongst some of the nation’s top athletes in her division. Dion sees this impressive award as an encouragement to keep working hard. Not only has volleyball helped her grow as a leader and as a captain but she explains how volleyball has helped her allow to make huge contributions to her team. Volleyball has helped her overall as a student by getting me more involved on campus and helping me stay on my regiment my time to get all my work done,” she explained.

Dion added that volleyball has helped her to work cooperatively with other people both in and out of the classroom. “I have become a more amenable person, easily adapting to situations and facing adversity with confidence and success,” it takes a unique athlete to look beyond the playing field, or court, to recognize how they can better the community they live in through athletics. Dion said that although her athletic career at a college level is ending after the NCAA Championship, she hopes to continue it in a different way. “I would love to continue to play the sport on a more local level by getting involved in community league. I have also considered becoming a high school, and maybe even a college, volleyball coach.” Dion said.

Dion has had a very successful volleyball career at RWU and as she comes to the end of her last season wearing a Hawks jersey. Finishing with an overall team average of 29-5 and a conference championship trophy, Dion considers the season to be a great success. Dion wanted to thank all of her family, friends and teammates as she attributes a lot of her successes to them. “Without them, I would not be the player I am today,” Dion explained. She added that her mother was one of the main contributors to her success over the years. “My mom has supported me throughout every step of my NCAA volleyball career, she comes to all of my games and encourages me to try my best in everything I do.” Dion’s inspiration can never pay back for all the help she got, for making him an athlete.

Mark Fusco

Rebekah Dion, a RWU senior, is nationally noted for her athletic achievements.

Nacho average Mexican joint

KATLYN PROCTOR / Opinion Editor

They call it the ‘garden,’ but replace the images of dirt mounds filled with corn stalks or tomato plants with something more desirable: freshly chopped jalapenos, corn and freshly made Pico de Gallo or salsa. This ‘garden’ is the heart and soul of Nacho Mamma’s. It is the heart and soul; that is, aside from the three-man team that runs Nacho Mamma’s, it did construction for years. My Dad owns his own company in Bristol, but I just always wanted to open a restaurant,” said Michael Siino. 32. Collaborating with cousin Steven Blount, Siino and a few others created the catchy idea of Nacho Mamma’s – and rolled with it.

And they’ll say: ‘Just dig it through the garden.” As two customers, presumably Roger Williams University students, approach the order window, they are greeted with a big smile from friendly employee Jennifer Warren. After narrowing down the menu items (with coaching from Warren and Siino) to one dish that satisfies their Mexican craving, Warren asks if they want it hot. This is a common question in the restaurant because they mean business; the spicy factor is designed to appeal to everyone. New menu items must endure a rigorous taste test, including a meeting with the Spice Boys, a phrase coined by Warren herself. “The two spice boys and I test the food for how hot it really is and what will appeal to everyone, including those who aren’t big on spicy food,” said Warren. By the end of their visit to Nacho Mamma’s, the girls leave with over a pound of burritos, loaded with toppings after being dragged through the garden.

Located on State Street where the Bristolian Pizzeria used to be, Nacho Mamma’s is thriving, as well as staying true to their core values: serving fresh food with sizeable portions for a good price. Each day, head chef Chris Blount, with help from Siino and the rest of the crew, arrive at 9 AM to prepare all the delicious ingredients. “Every day, we make our salsa from scratch. The meats are freshly roasted and the fish are bought fresh every two days for the fish and burritos,” said Siino. The morning prep work takes a lot of time and hard work, but without it, the garden would not stand for all that it is made out to be. “We keep everything fresh to ensure the value of food. It’s totally worth it,” said Siino.

Not only is the menu for Nacho Mamma’s loaded with options for everyone, but it is perfect for RWU students. Nothing beats value priced meals and hearty portions. To make it sound even more heavenly, students have the ability to pay with a UCard or even order delivery after 5 PM. Conveniently, the University shuttle still stops students off only a block away from the restaurant.

Surrounded by reggae music — yes, reggae, not Mexican — and a few of his closest friends, Siino is doing what he loves. But it took a lot of hard work as well as the motivation to follow a dream for him to get where he finally is. “It’s a tough business to run, especially in the historical district of town, but we make it work,” said Siino. “I’m just surprised that no one else tried to do this here before me.”

Be sure to check out Nacho Mamma’s website at www.nachomamma.com. Become a Facebook fan or keep an eye out for menus floating around campus.
**OPINIONS**

**What you have to say**

**WTF of the Week**

**MARK FUSCO | Photo Editor**

Recently, our Hawks’ Herald editors traveled to Kentucky for an annual college media conference. With the knowledge that we were heading south, the weekends leading up to the trip became filled with jokes about education below the Mason-Dixon line being…. well…. below the Mason-Dixon line. However, as the conference wore on, we began to fear that our humorous jokes at Southern education could be misread. And then it hit us. An afternoon stroll through the wonderful capital city of Louisville left us laughing harder than any of our second-rate jokes could have predicted. In preparation for a University of Louisville basketball game, several large signs describing public parking areas were set around the city simply reading “PARC.” As editors at The Hawk’s Herald we got our fair share of criticism for occasional types in the newspaper, and rightfully so, but this spelling slip took the cake. Needless to say the thought of not being able to “park” our cars left all four of our second-rate jokes could have predicted. And then it hit us. An afternoon stroll through the wonderful capital city of Louisville

**TOMEO: Respect our history**

**NICHOLAS TOMEO | Copy Editor**

The Massachusetts Fall Preservation Event to announce the annual Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources from this past Tuesday is, in my view, essential to making official the significant historical properties that are in danger of demolition or radical alteration. Without such a conference, the historic preservation community would not acquire the knowledge on how to preserve such properties, and in effect, preserve the rich heritage of Massachusetts as a state. As most people know, Massachusetts is probably the most historical state in the nation, and given the past demolition of such landmarks as John Hancock’s tower, it is important that the statewide non-profit historic preservation organization reaches out to the greater community, myself included to attend with the Historic Preservation Society next year. I have an immense appreciation for historical properties, which became even more profound with my visit of Boston this past August—I am a Californian, it must be noted—and witnessing how much has been preserved along the Freedom Trail, as well as the beautiful Victoria Park, such as that of the Nichols Family on Roxbury Ave. As for the event itself, it is an excellent opportunity for students from Roger Williams University to acquire knowledge from those in senior positions and with expert experience in historic preservation. Above all else, though, this recent event helps to further fulfill Historic Preservation Massachusetts’ four objectives of education, advocating, promoting, and partnering by communicating specific details to the historic preservation community. Without this conference, the progress of these four objectives could not be communicated as effectively, most susceptible to the dangers of demolition or radical alteration. The conference this past Tuesday is suggested to continue these efforts and I wholeheartedly admire this. While my majors are in Anthropology and Classics, I have always had an appreciation for historical houses and for history as a study, in general, especially for historic events tied to the colonial era and the years during, and before and after the Civil War, the Postbellum Era and Guilded Age, as Mark Twain described it, Massachusetts has an abundance of such historical properties, and thus, this conference has direct importance to me. I anticipate knowing how this conference went at the next club meeting.

**F1 gears up for exciting season finale**

**MARK FUSCO | Photo Editor**

Formula One, the pinnacle of auto racing, comes to a close next weekend at the sold out Yas Marina circuit in Abu Dhabi. Some of the highest-profile automotive manufacturers in the world, such as Ferrari, Renault, McLaren-Mercedes, and BMW, take part in the international race series every year. The current season has proved to be an exciting one as the drivers’ championship hovers in the balance in one of the closest title races since the sport’s inception in 1950. Five different drivers representing three different manufacturers have won races this season, causing the championship leader to change an astonishing nine times. "Four drivers with three different teams have a chance of the title, which has never happened before. This is an epic championship battle," McLaren-Mercedes Team Boss Martin Whitmarsh told the automotive website worldcarsfans.com. A mere 24 points separate the top four drivers heading into the 55-lap Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, where 35 points gap up for grabs. Red Bull Renault driver Sebastian Vettel, currently third place in the championship points, claimed the checkered flag last year during Formula One’s inaugural season in Abu Dhabi. Vettel, who also holds the fastest lap record at the Yas Marina circuit, is close behind teammate Mark Webber. The second-place Webber trails Ferrari driver and championship leader Fernando Alonso by only 6 points after a podium finish last week in Brazil. McLaren-Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton rounds off the top four with a 22-point total for the season. Alonso currently has two championships under his belt, but the young Vettel and teammate Webber have been among the fastest all season long. After the last three races have been slowed by rain, next weekend’s dry weather forecast books promising to provide drivers with ideal racing conditions. The Yas Marina circuit is one of the few Formula One tracks to run in the counter-clockwise direction also boast one of the longest straight-aways of any current Formula One circuit. The grand prix of Abu Dhabi will air Sunday Nov. 14, at 4:30 p.m. in the SPEED channel and is sure to be a race worth watching.
The election is over and the dust has settled: Now what?

Ding dong! The witch is no longer House Majority Leader. Which old witch? Nancy Pelosi! The conclusion of the 2010 midterm elections has brought with it much debate about the relevance and origins of this Republican victory. Winning 239 seats in the House of Representatives and 46 within the Senate is a very good turn around for the Republican Party, but what does this mean we, as studious and driven college kids, can expect over the course of the next two years? Also, how did our generation vote and in what sort of forum?

The overwhelming victories that the Republicans achieved speak volumes as to the national frustration with “hope” and “change.” Nationwide the number of votes under the age of 30 decreased from nearly a quarter to just 20.4%, which is a substantial drop. In 2006, the under 30 demographic supported Democrats by nearly thirty points which is down to only twenty points in 2010. So, does this mean about us as participants within our government? We are a woefully apathetic generation, for the group with the most to lose to be so uninvolved is rather concerning. These statistics also indicate that a larger portion of the under 30 voters supported Republican candidates, or perhaps it just means that more of the Republicans who are under 30 got out and voted. Now that the government is more evenly distributed between the Democrats and the Republicans, what will the next two years be like?

House Majority Leader is arguably one of the most powerful positions within the U.S. government, and under the Obama-victory, we as a nation were witness to a relatively single-party dominant system. The Democrats had no problem taking the eleven billion dollar deficit that was created under President Bush and making it nearly two billion all in the name of saving our economy. The health care bill, contrary to the belief that...
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

After reading the article in the October 28th issue concerning the HP Society’s budget shortage this year, I would like to make some clarifications on a point the article made an incorrect assumption about. Although the article is correct by highlighting our activities in the Bristol area this year, the Student Senate should not be to blame for our budget shortages. The writer was unaware of the fact that our lack of a budget was due to the fact last year’s HP Society failed to hand in the budget for the 2010-2011 school year. That lack of a budget, plus not attending monthly club presidents meetings, made the HP Society become an inactive club for the 2010-2011 school year. Since then, the HP Society has worked incredibly hard to prove ourselves as a worthy club on campus. Our hard work has paid off by being elevated back to a full club in late October by Student Senate. Now we are able to compile a full budget and operate as a true club. None of this could have been possible without the guidance of both the leaders and members of the Clubs & Orgs and Finance committee of the Student Senate. Thank You,

D.J. Sevigny
President, Historic Preservation Society

Thoughts? Concerns? Questions? Speak up!
ahawksherald@gmail.com

Opinions

Responsible Beverage Service

On Premise Training

At

Roger Williams University Baypoint Inn & Conference Center
144 Anthony Rd
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Time: 10am-3pm
On: Sunday November 21, 2010
Cost: $36 for community members
      $16 for RWU students

Preregistration required. Call Donna Lynn Darmody, Director of Health Education, at 401-254-3413 or email at ddarmody@rwu.edu

Message in a Bottle

HAWES
The RWU Health and Wellness Educators
CSD 211 401-254-3491
As the overbearing mid semester workload ends, and final projects, papers and tests are discussed, you'll probably start to feel stress in ways you never have before. Caffeine intake becomes nonstop and rupts a person's sleep pattern. Never have before, caffeine as a sleep disorder is something you feel, in ways you or bruxism, is actually classified as a sleep disorder since it interrupts a person's sleep pattern. Bruxism can cause long-term effects such as tooth loss and gum recession. In more serious cases, it can even “fracture” teeth. Here are some tips to help prevent something that may be happening while you are unconsciously sleeping each night:

**Monitor caffeine consumption.** Although it helps student efficiency, large amounts of caffeine cause the cortisol levels to increase. Cortisol is the stress hormone of the body—if these are at a high level at bedtime, teeth grinding is almost inevitable. It has been said that taking Vitamin B helps decrease this stress hormone, although there are no studies actually proving this theory.

**Alcohol moderation.** The more you consume, the deeper you pass out—causing your unconscious behaviors to worsen on your sleep.

**Hydrate.** Dehydration is one of the main contributors to grinding—be sure to drink 8 oz. of water a day.

**Watch what you chew.** Don't chew on pencils, pens, bottle caps or anything along these lines. Jaw muscles will become accustomed to the constant clenching and you will become more susceptible to grinding.
continued from page 1

from the conference. Each year, the conference places a first team and second team based on the past season. This year, three athletes from the Roger Williams volleyball team placed on the All-TCCC First Team and two on the Second Team. Along with those placements, Rebekah Don earned TCCC Player of the Year, Kristy Luczynski received Rookie of the Year, Brittney Sul-

Crossbar. Fusaro recapped those close the regular season with an impressive 29-5 record. This is the best record in history since the 1984 Women’s team. Coach Bret Stothart feels as though this win is just what the players de-
served. “Last year, we won the championship by working hard to become the best team by the end of the season, but this year, we already were the best team before we even started,” Senior Jill Hudg agrees with Stothart and sees this win as a long-coming reward. “It’s [the win] refreshing because everything we’ve been saying all year is real and the fact that we didn’t win is not good or not good enough,” Hudg said.

Along with the win, the team collected many respected awards

What is the significance of the win for the team and how will it impact their upcoming matches?

The win marks their second TCCC Championship in three years, and it will be competing in the Division 3 Women’s Soccer tournament, which begins this weekend in Oneonta, NY to determine which team will be advancing to the round of 16.

almost every match we lost, we were tied or ahead late, but didn’t finish,” Stothart said. The Hawks will play their first match on Friday at 12:30 p.m. Although it will be a challenging match for the Hawks, Stothart feels that the team has what it takes, and if they can find that drive, then they can overcome their challenges. Stothart said simply, “If we’re willing to take that leap to the next level and really believe we deserve to win and that we deserve to be among the best teams in New England, we can accomplish some truly great things.”

Continued from page 1

VOLLEYBALL: Hawks soar to conference success

Equestrian takes home second place at JWU Show

Julie Moody | RWUhawks.com

This past weekend, the Roger Williams University Equestrian team totaled 57 points and finished tied for second with the University of Rhode Island and Becker College at the Johnson & Wales University Show. The show was highlighted with two first place finishes for the Hawks, Amelia Stasny finished first in Open Fences, and Abby Hane earned the top spot at Novice Fences, earning seven points.

Three Hawks also earned runner-ups finishes, including Emily Panzani in Novice Fences, Chelsea Weinert in Intermediate Flat, and Sarah Chelew in Beginner Walk-Trot-Cross.

Six Hawks grabbed third place finishes in the show including Stasny and Shannon O’Keefe in Open Flier, Scott Pearson in Open Fences, Pammett and Cara McSoley in Novice Flat, and Lenny Carlucci in Walk-

Trot. Brown University won the show with 35 points.

The next show for the Hawks will be on Nov. 13th at Two Rivers Farm in Westport, Massachussets, hosted by UNKase-

Dartmouth.