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## Iona obtains second campus after Concordia College closes

By: Krystal Ortiz                      News Editor



PHOTO COURTESY OF SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS.  
**Iona will acquire Concordia's campus in Bronxville in the fall of 2021.**

Iona has secured a second campus after the announcement of that Concordia College ceasing will cease operations in fall 2021 to continue education for Concordia students.

Iona College and Concordia College have announced that both institutions have entered a formal agreement enabling Iona to acquire Concordia's Bronxville campus and continue education for Concordia's students through a teach-out plan, allowing most students to complete their degrees at Iona.

The formal agreement is not yet set, but it is expected to be officiated by this summer. Concordia will officially close after their fall 2021 semester.

Presidents of both campuses have reflected and addressed the announcement of

the agreement.

"Concordia's challenges are reflected broadly in the higher education sector; accelerated by the pandemic, these challenges necessitated an outcome that brings deep pain to all those invested in Concordia and its 140-year history," Concordia's President Rev. John A. Nunes, Ph.D., said. "I am grateful to the Board of Regents and my administration for working so hard to save our institution. Students continue to be our priority. By acting now, Concordia's Regents have provided our students with an excellent pathway for continuing the high-quality, faith-informed education they began at Concordia."

"The closure of a sister institution affects us all. As I've said since I arrived at Iona, higher education must, and will, be

different going forward," Iona's President Seamus Carey, Ph.D., said. "This is especially true for private, faith-based institutions, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the circumstances demanding change. While we pursue regulatory approvals, Iona and Concordia will work together to ensure their students can complete their education with minimal disruption."

Virtual townhalls have taken place to discuss the details further and also answer any questions that individuals may have had.

Iona intends to utilize the Concordia campus to develop a leading school of health sciences, and continue Concordia's legacy of excellence in health sciences education, according to the Iona website.

## Iona offers SSS TRIO Program to support first generation students

By: Krystal Ortiz                      News Editor



PHOTO FROM IONA.EDU.

**The program is designed to cater to first-generation students to support the completion of their undergraduate degree.**

Iona is offering the Student Support Services (SSS) TRIO Program, designed to offer students an extra layer of support during their time at the college.

The program, directed by Ingrid Renderos, is supposed to provide opportunities for academic development. It helps students with basic college requirements and strives to motivate students toward completing their undergraduate degree.

Eligible students are able to apply to the program through the Iona website. Terms for eligibility include students that are enrolled full-time, low-income (meeting

further financial requirements indicated on the website), a first-generation college student and/or a student with a documented disability.

"The goal of SSS TRIO is to increase the college persistence, retention, and graduation rates of its participants and help students make the transition from one level of higher education to the next," a statement pulled from the SSS TRIO Program website said.

The program offers further services such as individualized academic counseling and guidance, academic enrichment workshops, assistance with course selection,

career counseling and events, cultural educational trips and on-campus events, financial aid assistance, graduate school application guidance and support, mentoring services and tutorial services.

The services are designed to increase the retention and graduation rates of eligible students, foster an institutional climate supportive of the success of low income and first-generation college students and individuals with disabilities through services, according to the website.



# Iona celebrates Black excellence with series of events

By: Krystal Ortiz *News Editor*

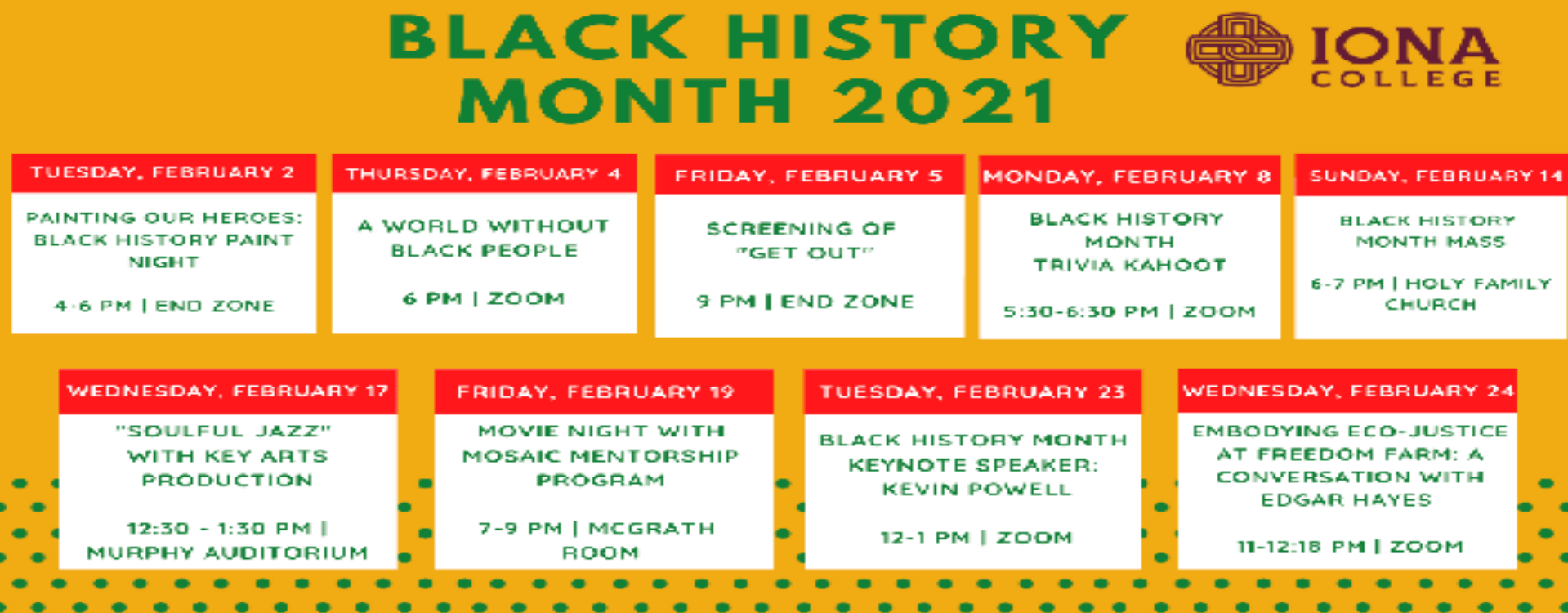


PHOTO FROM THE OFFICE OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

The Division of Student Life has catered to both mixed-mode and in-person students to enjoy and celebrate the achievements of Black Americans throughout history.

Iona is hosting a series of virtual and in-person events in honor of Black History Month, which started from Feb 2 to Feb 24. The events, coordinated by Melissa Aponte, Director of Student Development, are designed to celebrate the achievements of Black Americans throughout history as well as show appreciation for the college’s diverse population. In order to cater to both in-person and remote-learning students, the series of programs is composed of both in-person and virtual events. The following statement was prepared by Dr. Sumita Furlong, Chief Diversity Officer: “Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the second Black American, after W.E.B. Du Bois, to receive a PhD in History from Harvard University, created the Black History Week in February of 1926. His intention was to highlight and celebrate the contributions of Black Americans in the making of America. He wanted this week to showcase the achieve-

ments of Black Americans in sciences, inventions, education, literature, history, politics, creative arts, entertainment, sports, and multitude of other fields. Through this celebration, he also wanted to increase the visibility of Black life and history, at a time when this was largely ignored except to portray this community in negative ways. Ultimately, in 1976, this celebration evolved into Black History Month. Black History Month is still a vehicle we utilize to ensure that our nation does not forget or overlook the achievements of our Black brothers and sisters. This is why it is important to celebrate this month with a look at the past, present and the future through the kind of events Iona College is hosting. But, it is our hope that, in the near future, Black contributions will be so deeply embedded into the fabric of our national heritage that we will no longer need a month out of a year to remind us about the excellence of Black America.”

## Outside Iona

By: Krystal Ortiz *News Editor*

Throughout our hectic student lives, we should always remain aware of what is happening around us. In this column, I find the most significant things going on in the world and provide you with a small blurb of all the important details. Here are some of the major events that have been happening since last issue of The Ionian:

### General Coronavirus Update.

The U.S. currently holds the highest number of coronavirus cases compared to any other country with almost 28 million documented cases and over 470,000 deaths. Close to 10 percent of the U.S. population has received at least the first dose of the two-part vaccine. Rates of deaths and new cases are falling, according to new reports. Amid the fear of new more contagious variants of the virus, federal health officials urge individuals to wear two masks instead of one as a strategy to better protect themselves. Other countries have been taking further precautions as well. Germany has extended lockdown measures for another month despite a drop in cases due to the discovery of the variants. The British government plans to introduce mandatory quarantine and prison sentences for travelers who lie on their entry forms amounting to almost 10 years in prison.

### Information from NY Times, World-o-Meter and NPR News.

### Impeachment trial updates.

Democrats are prosecuting former president Donald J. Trump for the harm caused by the attack on the Capitol that took place on Jan. 6. The House resumed their case against him on Thursday. The Thursday session focused attention to the damage and injury caused by the riot and the “lack of remorse” by Trump. The House has charged Trump with inciting the riot as part of a desperate bid to cling to power. In defense of their case, Democrats showed footage of the riot depicting individuals with the intent of harming lawmakers that they may have found inside. The video was said to have evoked much raw emotion from the viewers during the hearing. The House proceeded with recounting their experiences from January. According to a report from the New York Times, it is unlikely that Trump will be convicted.

### Information from NPR News, the NY Times and Politico.

### Weather conditions cause major vehicle wreck in Texas.

Five people were killed and at least 36 people taken to hospitals in a massive wreck involving dozens of vehicles in poor weather on Interstate 35W in the Texas city of Fort Worth on Feb 4. The accident involved 75 to 100 vehicles over a mile-long stretch, according to the Fort Worth Police Department. Along with the death and injuries, multiple people were also trapped in their vehicles. Wintry weather conditions were said to be the likely cause of the accidents, leaving roads slick and icy. Temperatures were in the upper 20s during the day of the accident with a weather advisory put out around noon.

### Information from NY Times and CNN.



# Black owned businesses to support in New Rochelle

By: Margaret Dougherty *Managing Editor*



PHOTO FROM @MANIPLEASE\_ON INSTAGRAM.  
 ManiPlease is one Black-owned business based in New Rochelle to support.

As the coronavirus pandemic rages on, many small businesses are struggling to stay afloat. For Black-owned businesses in particular, this hardship is even more difficult. According to CNBC, from February to April of 2020, Black-owned businesses declined by 41% while white-owned businesses declined by 17%. Following the murder of George Floyd and the ensuing BLM protests, many Black-owned businesses saw an increase in customers. However, the upsurge of support has since faded. Supporting Black-owned businesses should be a year-long effort, and there is no better time to remind people of this fact than in the middle of Black History Month. If you are looking for a way to support the Black community but don't know where to begin, it is easy to start local right here in New Rochelle. Here are some businesses to patronize throughout the month of February and beyond.

## Alvin & Friends (914-654-6549)

Located at 14 Memorial Highway, just a two-minute walk from the Metro North train station, Alvin & Friends is one of the most well-reviewed restaurants in Westchester. Co-founded by Alvin and Gwen Clayton, the restaurant offers a combination of both Southern and Caribbean cuisine. Alvin & Friends is known for its welcoming atmosphere, elegantly designed setting and lavish parties, but the pandemic posed a major challenge to the Claytons' typical fine-dining business model. After adapting the menu to offer takeout options, Alvin & Friends is relying on the support of the New Rochelle community to survive until the next party can be held.

## Bella Glo Beauty Spa (914-235-4561)

Co-founded by Saye Konah and Tandrie Jones, Bella Glo Beauty Spa can be found at 570 North Avenue. The business offers plenty of beauty services for individuals of all ages, including hairstyling, make-up and men's grooming. They also prioritize skincare, offering hydrating products that will enhance tone and texture. The staff is dedicated to providing excellent customer service while staying COVID-safe.

## Jolo's Kitchen (914-355-2527)

Marc A. Moise (Jolo) was born in Haiti but moved to New York at the age of 14. He envisioned creating a way to share Rastafarian cuisine – which uses fresh vegetables and other vegan ingredients – here in Westchester county, and thus Jolo's Kitchen was born in 2008. The menu offers a wide array of Caribbean food for lunch and dinner, as well as a juice bar. Jolo's is located at 412 North Avenue and offers dine-in and curbside pickup.

## ManiPlease Mobile Nail Salon (914-315-9160)

Sharice Pegram, a New Rochelle resident, founded ManiPlease Mobile Nail Salon as a mom looking for a way to get manicures and pedicures while busy with a newborn. ManiPlease's licensed technicians can come to a client's home, office or other event. Based in New Rochelle at 547 North Avenue, ManiPlease also serves all of New York City and Westchester County. Their polish is vegan and animal-cruelty free, and all technicians are equipped with protective gear to ensure safety.

## Pepe's Place (914-632-7373)

Pepe Manigault started his restaurant to bring quality seafood to New Rochelle. Found at 560 North Avenue, Pepe's Place has a diverse menu of multicultural cuisine, ranging from a Moroccan lamb dish to the popular Buffalo shrimp platter. The mac and cheese and the cheesecake are two other favorites for diners. Customer service is a top priority for Manigault, and he strives to make eating at Pepe's Place a friendly experience for everyone. Takeout and delivery options are currently available.

## Sweet Potatoes Restaurant (914-654-0500)

Located at 393 North Avenue, Sweet Potatoes was co-founded by two men with a passion for soul food. Sean Eggleston, born in the Carolinas, and Chad Cooper, a New Rochelle native, turned their passions into a restaurant that offers quality Southern dishes such as chicken and waffles, shrimp and mac and cheese. Sweet Potatoes offers both takeout and delivery.

If you are looking for even more local Black-owned businesses to support, be sure to visit ALLTHNGSBLCK.com. Janay Moss launched this thorough database in the summer of 2020 to compile a list of Black-owned businesses in Westchester and the NYC Metro area. The directory is broken down into categories such as service, beauty, shopping, food/drink, fun and barbers. Furthermore, if you have a favorite Black-owned business that is not listed, there is a submission section. We'd love to hear from you.



# How Black representation in film, TV can empower

By: Joseph Ferrer *Arts & Entertainment Editor*

Whether it be through film, television, literature or any other type of medium, representation in media can critically influence the public perception of ideas, topics and, most importantly, people. When people see themselves represented properly through others in media, it can be an uplifting and empowering experience to see a representation of your life and part of who you are to others. Proper representation of the Black community and culture is especially important because of this and Black representation has progressed significantly in recent times.

Well-executed Black representation in media does not start and end with simply casting Black actors in more roles. It involves actually putting in the effort to represent the Black community within the context of the media itself. Senior Maria Desir highlights this through the way in which “The Cosby Show” portrays the equality of Black families.

“‘The Cosby Show’ showed a regular Black family. You have a mom and dad who are a successful couple with kids and it showed that they were regular people,” Desir said. “One of my favorite parts was also when Theo applied to NYU and one of Bill Cosby’s daughters went to an Ivy League. It taught that us Black folks can be successful too.”

Other shows have helped portray Black families and communities in a positive light as well, such as “Living Single,” “A Different World” and “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air.” Sophomore Tianna Gil discusses how the representation in these three shows, in particular, made an impact on her.

“These shows were non-stereotypical shows about Black people in the United States. They did not place

a negative stigma on the Black culture and that stuck out to me,” Gil said. “These shows showcased essential positive traits among my culture and/or heritage such as our resilience, endurance, work ethic, strong achievement orientation and various more.”

As described in these examples, proper representation can be incredibly empowering and its presence is not only significant in the media, but for all of those within the Black community. Media can also help establish role models for people to look up to, especially in fictional media featuring Black protagonists with admirable qualities. Characters such as T’Challa in “Black Panther” and Miles Morales in “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse” go through relatable human journeys while also representing Black culture in their own unique ways. This is especially important for children as they can see themselves and their culture in a positive light.

Representation is crucial across all forms of media. Every instance of representation executed well is another chance to help inspire and empower those who face undeserved discrimination from prejudiced individuals. Proper representation can also help bring



PHOTO FROM BUSINESSINSIDER.COM

Black Panther made headlines as a film that celebrates Black society and culture.

people from across the Black community together as Gil explains.

“Representation creates a sense of unity and collectivism within the Black community. Seeing Black culture and individuals being represented establishes a sense of togetherness, creating a feeling that we are a part of something,” Gil said. “It shows that if someone from my community, culture and heritage can succeed in something I am interested in, I can do it as well.”

Black representation in media has progressed a significant amount, and as it continues to do so, Black communities and individuals can continue to find strength and inspiration by seeing people just like them in the media they consume.

# 10 books to read for Black History Month

By: Aliyah Rodriguez *Features & Lifestyle Editor*

In a world where Black stories are often told through a white gaze in film, one may wish to turn to novels written by Black authors that will give them a different perspective on life. From autobiographies to memoirs, realistic fiction to fantasy, if you’re interested in Black stories written by Black authors, here are 10 books for you:

## “The Bluest Eye” by Toni Morrison

The novel takes place in Lorain, Ohio (Morrison’s hometown), and follows a young African American girl named Pecola who grows up in the years after the Great Depression. Pecola is often regarded as “ugly” throughout the novel because of her dark skin, resulting in her desire for the blue eyes that she equates with “whiteness.” The novel touches on controversial topics such as racism, child molestation and incest.

## “Children of Blood and Bone” by Tomi Adeyemi

Tomi Adeyemi’s debut novel and the first in a series, the novel takes place in the fictional land of Orisha, inhabited by magical diviners and non-magical kosidán. The novels follows Zélie Adebola as she tries to restore the magic that a king has removed from Orisha through the genocide of her people.

## “Clap When You Land” by Elizabeth Acevedo

This dual narrative novel follows Camino Rios and Yahaira Rios, two sisters separated by a secret. Camino lives in the Dominican Republic and loves when her father comes to visit, while Yahaira Rios lives in New York City with her family. One fateful day, both girls learn that they lost their father in a plane crash. The two girls deal with loss, grief, the difficulty



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALIYAH RODRIGUEZ.

Black History Month is a time to read and learn about Black authors and stories.

of forgiveness and the unforgettable bonds that can form in times of great pain.

## “If Beale Street Could Talk” by James Baldwin

In Baldwin’s first novel that focuses solely on a Black story, themes of love in Black life are explored. The book follows a relationship between Tish and Fonny. The two become engaged, Tish becomes pregnant and their marriage faces a series of turbulent trials that threatens to tear them apart.

## “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” by Maya Angelou

Angelou’s autobiography follows her life from the age of three to 17 and the struggles she faces growing up in the South. At a young age, Maya and her brother are sent by their mother to live with their grandmother where they have early encounters with racism. At 8-years-old Maya is attacked by a man and spends the rest of her life dealing with the consequences. As Maya grows older, she learns to love herself as well as find her own voice in the world –

inspired by the ideas of great authors.

## “The Invisible Man” by Ralph Ellison

From the perspective of an unnamed narrator, the novel focuses on the social and intellectual issues African Americans faced in the early 20th century. The novel address issues such a Black nationalism through a group similar to the Nation of Islam, Black identity, personal identities and the racial policies of Booker T. Washington. The naïve narrator’s life goes from bad to worse as he struggles to navigate through a world that works against him.

## “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave” by Frederick Douglass

In this 1845 memoir Douglass recounts his life as a slave and his desire to become a free man. His story is told across 11 chapters and is generally regarded as the most famous narrative written by a former slave. The memoir is also considered to be one of the most influential pieces of literature.

The memoir is a treatise on abolition and features two introductions by white abolitionists who argued for the accuracy and validity of Douglass’ account, as well as his literacy.

## “Their Eyes Were Watching God” by Zora Neale Hurston

Set in Florida in the early 20th century, the novel explores Janie Crawford’s coming of age from a voiceless teenage girl to a woman in charge of her own destiny. It’s hard for Janie to make her way in the world as a Black woman in the 30s, but her journey of self-discovery takes her through three tumultuous marriages and a journey back to her roots.

## “Transcendent Kingdom” by Yaa Gyasi

28-year-old PhD candidate Gifty is in her fifth year studying neuroscience at Stanford University when she receives a call that her mother, who suffers from a deep depression, is not feeling well. Gifty sends for her mother so she can take care of her and is overwhelmed by the memory of the first time she experienced her mother’s deep depressive phases at the age of 11.

## “The Vanishing Half” by Britt Bennet

With a story spanning across five decades, this multi-generational family saga follows identical twin sisters Desiree and Stella Vignes. The light-skinned twins were raised down south and witnessed the lynching of their father at an early age. The twins run away and are separated – eventually leading their separate lives. Desiree gets married, has a child and eventually moves back home while Stella moves to California – passing as a white woman.





## Gaels chat romance at Iona

By: Cameron Deshnad *Contributing Writer*

Iona, a school full of academic and athletic achievement, appears to be missing one certain aspect that all those Hollywood movies promised in bulk: romance! While there are a few relationships budding within the community, it seems as though the majority of Iona is single. Valentine’s Day is fast approaching and yet only a few feel the love in the air. It’s enough to make students wonder, is romance dead at Iona?

The general consensus: Yes! An overwhelming majority of students find that romance at Iona is simply not working out. Despite attempts to find love, many have found their experience on campus to be lack luster at best.

Students have identified many potential killers of romance which range from athletic commitment, to preferring to focus on themselves, to a general lack of interest on properly coupling up!

However, the prime suspect of the death of romance remains to be the recent COVID-19 outbreak and its multiple intrusions on student life. An overwhelming number of students pointed to the coronavirus pandemic as a major factor in stunting the growth of potential relationships. It separated students by not only forcing an elongated break, but it has also kept a number of students at home for the semester. Couple the newfound forced distances with the ever-present fear of the virus, and COVID-19 has created a fairly potent anti-love potion.

Sophomore Ryan Thomas had a harsh yet brief eulogy for love.

“Love is dead. Reason? Corona.” Thomas said.

Despite the misgivings that students have, the corpse of romance has yet to go cold! COVID-19 won’t be around forever which is giving some students a beacon of hope.

Sophomore Tara Fitzgerald has a far more positive outlook on not only romantic love but all sorts of connections that students can make at Iona.

“While coronavirus pandemic has put a lot of things on hold, romantic, familial, and platonic love still carry on.” Fitzgerald said.

Whether it’s friendships or a budding romance, some students find that not even a pandemic can stop them from forging new bonds and maintaining old ones. It may not be what Hollywood promised, but in some ways it’s better. Maybe the college experience doesn’t need to be so focused on romance.

Sophomore Tim Bergamini definitely doesn’t see the need to rush into anything during your college years. However, that doesn’t mean he thinks romance is dead at Iona.

“All in all, love is not dead,” Bergamini said. “But don’t rush to find it, enjoy the college experience and if you would like to find a relationship, do it after you fully enjoy your college experience and are ready to settle down.”

Regardless if romance ever sweeps Iona, it seems like students are still enjoying themselves despite, or perhaps in spite, of it. So, is romance dead at Iona? Sure, but it only takes a few willful hearts to resuscitate it!

## What screams ‘Gen Z’ more than Zoom dates?

By: Tiffany Persuad *Staff Writer*



ILLUSTRATION BY JON REINFURT FOR BOSTON MAGAZINE.

**Needing to social distance because of COVID-19, many have taken to online dating platforms for romance.**

The COVID-19 pandemic brought a lot of unexpected changes to our lives. Couples that once saw each other daily were forced to go months without physically being together. FaceTime, phone calls and Netflix parties became the best way to spend time together while being so far apart.

Social distancing has become the main hindrance of dating during COVID-19. There is practically no basis to a relationship without some physical elements - no hugging, no kissing, and no staring longingly into each other’s eyes across a dinner table - so this love thing has gotten... hard.

Junior Mackenzie Byrne is in a long-term relationship with her boyfriend who lives across the Atlantic Ocean in County Kildare, Ireland. COVID-19 placed a halt in their traveling ventures by visiting one another during holiday breaks. Byrne says that she is trying to make the most of keeping the love alive through virtual means.

“It is frustrating and upsetting since there is no way of telling when I will see him next, so we have strengthened our relationship by having virtual date nights and finding as many activities online to keep things fun,” Byrne said. “Not being able to see my partner has made me realize how lucky I am to have him and how precious loved ones and life is.”

Unlike Byrne, there are many people who are committed to riding solo (for now at least). The term “self-love” has been coined the main theme for some years now as Gen Z and Millennials are deemed more career focused than ever. They strive to better themselves in any way which suits their palette - spiritually, emotionally, physically, etc.

Senior Michael Mitrione, who is too busy perfecting the “post-workout selfie,” was not dating before the pandemic, so his feelings about relationships remain stoic.

“I barely have time for myself when I’m indulged in work and school,” Mitrione said. “It would be disrespectful of me to commit myself romantically to someone when I’m unsure of how I would juggle my priorities.”

Dating apps are one of the only ways to safely meet people, however depending on the person(s) involved and what they’re looking for, it can take longer than usual to create a meaningful connection. A Saturday night at Spectators Sports Pub and Restaurant isn’t exactly the picture of romance, which is why apps like Tinder and Bumble can increase your dating pool so your options can expand to people that aren’t your classmates.

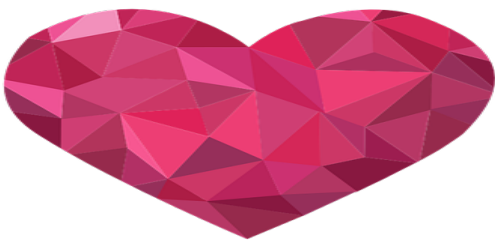
Although the dating scene is a total bust at the moment, imagine all the weddings that have been or will be postponed! Lovebirds that have already paid for wedding preparations are suffering major financial losses that can develop into deeper troubles within a relationship.

COVID-19 has had a domino effect on every kind of relationship: you’re interested in someone you meet online but, then what? On the bright side, with vaccinations and widespread state reopenings on the horizon, you can look forward to finally hitting the town with your ex’s best friend.



PHOTO FROM PEXELS.COM

**Despite changes brought on by COVID-19, students at Iona still believe that romance isn’t dead.**







10 books to read to feel the love this Valentine’s Day

By: Aliyah Rodriguez      Features & Lifestyle Editor

Whatever your relationship status may be - single, taken or “it’s complicated”- Valentine’s Day is the perfect opportunity to pick up a romance book and dive headfirst into the romantic fantasy of your dreams. Here are 10 book that will get you in the spirit for Valentine’s Day:

If you’re interested in LGBTQ Romance:

“Red White and Royal Blue” by Casey McQuinston

The novel follows Alex Claremont-Diaz, the son of America’s first female president who is running for reelection. After an incident at a royal wedding, Alex has to pretend to be friends with England’s Prince Henry to prevent a media scandal that will distract from his mother’s reelection. In a classic friends-to-more trope, Alex and Henry become friends, which eventually leads to romance as the two come to terms with their positions in the world.

“The Song of Achilles” by Madeline Miller

Miller’s debut novel follows the story of Achilles – the infamous hero of Homer’s “The Iliad” - and Patroclus, through the eyes of Patroclus, from the moment a fateful accident forced their lives to intertwine. The story takes place prior to and during the Trojan War and the prose intricately weaves a romantic tale in alongside descriptions of ships, battle strategies and gory deaths. The book brings to question how much one is willing to sacrifice for fame, and how cruel fate can be to lovers.

“7 Husbands of Evelyn Hugo” by Taylor Jenkins-Reid

When aging Hollywood icon Evelyn Hugo is ready to tell her story, she chooses Monique Grant – an unknown



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALIYAH RODRIGUEZ.

The Bluest Eye and Their Eyes Were Watching God are some books to read for Black History Month.

magazine reporter - for the job. Giving her final interview, Hugo transports the reader through her life as a Hollywood starlet in the 1950s, her fame, her career and her seven husbands along the way. As Hugo’s life unfolds – ambition, unexpected friendships and a great forbidden love is revealed.

If you’re interested in poetry:

“Love Poems” by Pablo Neruda

Originally published anonymously in 1952, Neruda’s

“Love Poems” caused a great scandal for its sensual approach to romance. Filled with passionate and captivating images that reimagine the world through the lens of a lover’s body, this collection of Neruda’s poems is a must for Valentine’s Day.

If you binged Bridgerton recently:

“The Duke and I” by Julia Quinn

Now a series created by Shonda Rhimes for Netflix, “The Duke and I” is the first novel in a series that follows the regency-era Bridgerton family. Daphne Bridgerton, the book’s main character, is not like most eligible young girls in her time. She has always made friends with boys when such relationships were ill-advised, and when it’s time to enter the courting scene Daphne realizes that she is well-liked but not desired in the way that she wants to be. In comes Simon Bassett, the Duke of Hastings, who does not wish to be desired at all. A chance meeting between the two creates a plan that turns the ton on its heels: they’ll fake a courtship to attract suitors for Daphne and keep the ladies away from Simon. But what happens when their fake courtship starts to feel a little too real?

“Pride and Prejudice” by Jane Austen

This classic romance novel follows Elizabeth Bennet, a young woman coming of age in regency-era England. In this classic I’m-not-like-other-girls story, opinionated Bennet often clashes with her romantic prospect, Mr. Darcy, displaying a pleasant performance of civilized sparring and witty banter. Austen’s wit captivates in this novel of manners as Bennet comes to terms with the societal norms and expectations of her time. She chooses the realness of who she wants to be over the superficiality that society demands of her.

See **BOOKS** on Page 7

A tribute to all the loves in our head

By: Jocelyn Arroyo-Ariza      Staff Writer



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOVECLIPS ON TIKTOK.

Back in what is now referred to as the original quarantine, Timothee Chalamet went viral on TikTok for his dance.

February 14th is upon us once again, with many of us spending the day at home scrolling through various social media sites or streaming our favorite comfort show. With traditional romance seeming to be fleeting in a pandemic, a generation of college students are currently wondering if these are meant to be the best days of our lives. In a time of great uncertainties, many turned to fictional and celebrity crushes to get themselves through these dark times. Here are some crushes who made quarantine a more tolerable experience.

Timothee Chalamet

One of the most prominent rising stars in Hollywood today, Timothee Chalamet was supposed to have one of his biggest years yet. His upcoming projects, Dune, The French Dispatch and the untitled Bob Dylan biopic, were all affected by COVID-19, with only his SNL appearance added to his filmography. Despite this, Timmy became a pop culture phenomenon when

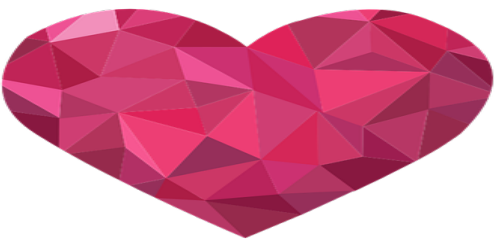
a clip from Call Me By Name was paired with Melanie Martinez’s “Playdate.”

Though the clip itself is 21 seconds long, it has become as famous as Timmy’s actual films, being viewed millions of times and creating parodies. For a brief moment, we are transported to the dance floor, something that has become foreign, where we don’t have to worry about social distancing or if we have adequate masks, and we are just dancing with Timmy.

Harry Styles

The beloved former One Direction member has been in the hearts of many in the past decade, from his days competing on “The X Factor” to fronting the cover of Vogue.

See **TRIBUTE** on Page 7





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BOOKS

FROM PAGE 6

**If you’re interested in some scandal:**

“Something Borrowed” by Emily Giffin

The novel follows Rachel White, a single thirty-year-old woman who has lived in the shadow of her best friend Darcy Rhone for her whole life. After a night of drinking at Rachel’s 30 birthday, she sleeps with Darcy’s fiancé Dex. Despite the complication, this one-night stand grows into something much more and Rachel explores the meaning of friendship and true love.

“The Violent Delights” by Chloe Gong

In 1926, a blood feud is boiling between the two rival gangs of Shanghai. Juliette Cai had returned home to assume her role as the heir of the Scarlet Gang while her rival – and first love – Roma Montagov runs the Scarlets. While this rivalry comes to its head, people begin to whisper of a contagion, a monster in the shadows causing bodies to stack up throughout the city. Juliette and Roma must set aside their guns to work together to save their city in

this retelling of Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet.

**If you’re interested in learning about love through the eyes of multiple women:**

“Love” by Toni Morrison

The novel tells the lives of several women and their relationships to the late Bill Cosey. The main characters are Christine, his granddaughter, and Heed, his widow, who are both the same age. Once friends, the two are now at odds years after his death. Morrison uses a split narrative to explore love in its varying forms while exploring the relationships between the living and the dead.

**“Waiting to Exhale” by Terry McMillan**

The novel follows four friends who find strength in their friendships when the men in their lives prove less than reliable. The women struggle with stability and their identity in their rare friendship while waiting to exhale – waiting for “Mr. Right” to take their breath away.

TRIBUTE

FROM PAGE 6

The “Watermelon Sugar” singer turned 27 on February 1st with his fans baking birthday cakes and other tasty treats, trying to keep warm through the snowstorm. Others chose to stream his newest album *Fine Line*, sharing their favorite memories of not being able to attend ‘Love On Tour,’ but having fun regardless in their bedrooms or dorms dancing away to “Sunflower, Vol. 6.”

**Zendaya**

This Emmy-awarded actress has been shaking it up since her Disney days. Coleman has been busy these past few years playing MJ in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, singing alongside fellow Disney star Zac Efron in “The Greatest Showman,” playing Rue in ‘Euphoria’ and more recently as Marie in “Malcolm and Marie.” When she isn’t being a fashion icon and inspiring girls to become more confident, she is raising awareness to social issues through her social media accounts.

**To All the Anime Boys I’ve Loved Before**

Honestly, an entire article could be filled with all the submissions about Iona’s favorite

two-dimensional fellows. From all the sports animes, to childhood classics, to whatever was available on Crunchyroll, there were so many contenders that it would have not been fair to name just a few.

With Valentine’s day on the horizon and quality dates seeming just out of our reach, it’s nice to have our mental loves to get us through it all.

TO OUR READERS:

The Ionian editorial board encourages its readers to write letters to the editor. If you wish to submit one, please sign your full name and graduating year or staff position. Please avoid any untruthful attacks on persons or organizations. The opinions and views presented in each letter to the editor are not necessarily those of the Ionian staff. All submissions must include at least one form of contact information. Letters may be edited for clarity and grammar, and the Ionian reserves the right to write its own letter headlines.

Interested in writing for Features & Lifestyle?

Contact Aliyah Rodriguez,  
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[arodriguez31@gaels.iona.edu](mailto:arodriguez31@gaels.iona.edu)





# WandaVision surprises with bold new direction for Marvel Cinematic Universe

By: Katherine Daly      *Staff Writer*

After almost 2 years of waiting the MCU has finally returned and has created a whole new format with “WandaVision,” the new series streaming weekly on Disney+.

“WandaVision” definitely doesn’t have Marvel’s traditional style of all-around action sequences but it creates a new dimension of speculation and wonder. Although it’s different, it leaves the audience with an experience of wanting more answers. Some people may find it too complicated or ridiculous to really enjoy it. However, one of the most enjoyable aspects about “WandaVision” is how most of the series is surrounded by a big mystery.

The premise of the show takes place after the events of “Avengers: Endgame” and Wanda and Vision are happily married, living in suburbia. However, not everything is what it seems as their normal life seems to be taking on the form of a TV sitcom, changing and adapting by the decade.

With its first few episodes, it’s much better than other shows, but far from perfect. The dialogue can be a little slow but it makes up for it in entertainment with two great actors Elizabeth Olsen and Paul Bettany who take the

stage once again to play Wanda and Vision. However, the twist of the two character’s marriage convinces the audience of their wonderful chemistry and propels the show forward to greater heights.

Each new episode features a generalized overview of popular television shows from a featured decade. The show even re-creates sets and concept art from shows like “Dick Van Dyke,” “I Love Lucy,” and “I Dream of Jeannie.” While it’s enjoyable to see them play on the time period and genres, it quickly morphs and reveals some of the show’s considerable charms, which are slow to appear but welcome when they do. The overriding cheekiness of the show-within-a-show format makes an initial commitment to playfulness, but like “The Truman Show” or “Pleasantville,” cracks start to show in the squeaky-clean firmament of their carefully-curated world.

“WandaVision” gives Disney the opportunity to use its expansive universe to actually try new things, rather than just grafting shades of other film genres onto existing action blockbuster formulas. It’s theoretically fascinating and, in practice, a unique experience.



PHOTOS FROM DISNEY

Elizabeth Olsen and Paul Bettany star in the newest series of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

# Netflix’s ‘The Dig’ dramatically retells important archaeological discovery

By: Joseph Ferrer      *Arts and Entertainment Editor*

Netflix’s “The Dig” is an engaging, dramatic retelling of one of the most important archaeological discoveries in human history. Set in 1939 England, the film details the story of the excavators who unearthed an ancient Anglo-Saxon ship at the site of Sutton Hoo. While some parts of the film may be overly dramatized and not completely accurate to the real-life circumstance, ”The Dig” gives tribute to the event while compellingly highlighting its themes of death, legacy and discovery.

The film begins by focusing on the affluent but sickly widow Edith Pretty (Carey Mulligan) and her hiring of the novice excavator Basil Brown (Ralph Fiennes) to examine the large tumulus within her estate. Despite the pressures they both face from other characters, the two discover that underneath the estate are artifacts from an Anglo-Saxon civilization, including the remains of an entire buried ship. The drama of the film centers around outside influences impeding the process of the excavation, Pretty’s rapidly declining health and the imminent start of WWII.

The way “The Dig” tells a narrative with focused themes through a real-life occurrence is impressive, with certain scenes throughout the film highlighting the emotional weight behind the excavation and how it relates to the characters’ personal lives and human society as a whole.

While both Basil and Pretty have their own separate character arcs, the unearthing of the Sutton Hoo ship uniquely unites the two of them together and emphasizes the narrative’s themes of legacy and carving a path for the new generation. Both Basil’s journey of discovery and sticking to his family’s legacy and Pretty’s arc of accepting her decline in health and understanding that her life had a meaningful impact on others

are engagingly explored through the same unifying event. The costume and set design work of the film are extremely detailed as well and do a great job of capturing the look and feel of London right before WWII.

While “The Dig” does tell the story of Basil and Pretty well, it also flounders when it shifts direction to focus on another excavator involved in the project, Peggy Preston (Lily James), about halfway through the movie. Peggy is another important contributor to the Sutton Hoo excavation in real life but her character in the film has a large number of creative liberties taken. Her rewritten story also doesn’t entirely relate to the themes of the rest of the film, which makes the shift towards her feel out of place as it drags the film for another 45 minutes.

The acting of the film is solid with great performances from across the whole cast, however, some casting decisions do feel odd and out of place. As one of the starring leads, Carey Mulligan’s casting feels especially off as the 35-year-old actress represents a woman who was around her 50s during the real-life events. Mulligan’s youthful appearance also makes her character’s significant health complications harder to believe.

While some aspects of the film feel disingenuous towards the actual real-life event, “The Dig” is an enjoyable retelling of an important historical discovery. Basil’s contributions towards the Sutton Hoo excavation were only recently properly attributed to him by researchers and this film does a great service towards telling the world of his legacy.



PHOTOS FROM NETFLIX.

“The Dig” replicates the detailed setting of 1940s Europe.



# Foo Fighters get out of their comfort zone on ‘Medicine at Midnight’

By: Owen Conway *Staff Writer*



PHOTO FROM SILVA ARTISTS MANAGEMENT

The new Foo Fighters album combines their traditional rock sound with elements of pop.

There are few musical acts that have been as consistently reliable from the start of their careers as the Foo Fighters. Dave Grohl and company have been pumping out arena-ready, easy-on-the-ears rock music for over 25 years, and any departures from the band’s signature sound have been minimal.

Shades of experimentation were visible on the 2017 Foo Fighters album “Concrete and Gold,” with production by Greg Kurstin (of Adele and Kelly Clarkson fame, among others) bringing elements from the world of pop into the equation. On the newest Foo Fighters album “Medicine At Midnight,” Kurstin helped the Foos produce an album again to fulfill Dave Grohl’s ambitious vision of making a catchy, upbeat and pop-ish album.

“Medicine At Midnight” is laden with nuances that are all new to Foo Fighters’ music, from the gospel choir fills in the opening track “Making A Fire,” to the Low Rider-esque cowbell of “Cloudspotter,” to the video game-like synthesizer licks of “Holding Poison.”

Grohl also taps into his sensitive, soft-music side that he revives every once in a blue moon on tracks like “Waiting On A War” and “Chasing Birds” that feel genuinely sincere and not out of place on the album. The closing track “Love Dies Young,” with its shiny guitar and endlessly catchy verse and chorus, sounds like the best Killers song Brandon Flowers never wrote.

Such a departure from the Foo Fighters’ usual reliable sound could have been very clunky and awkward, if not for the band also filling the album with what they do best: head-banging rock. The three guitars of Dave Grohl, Chris Shiflett and Pat Smear coupled with the body-shaking bass of Nate Mendel make the album’s heaviest songs (with riffs reminiscent of the Foo Fighters album “Wasting Light”) easy to imagine as the catalyst for an arena full of people on their feet dancing along. And almost thirty years since trying his hand at singing lead in a band, Dave Grohl’s iconic sing-scream vocals have never sounded stronger.

“Medicine At Midnight” may be a rock album by all accounts, but it is not a standard Foo Fighters album by any stretch of the imagination, and it is a welcome change.

# ‘Flack’ is a tale of an American working aboard, with an unsatisfyingly edgy twist

By: Jocelyn Arroyo-Ariza *Staff Writer*



PHOTOS FROM IMDB AND AMAZON.

“Flack” attempts to be edgy and nuanced, but falls short.

“Flack” is a British comedy-drama that follows Robyn, an American publicist played by Anna Paquin, working at a London based firm. Due to pay cuts and scheduling conflicts, it was unclear if the show would continue beyond the first season back in 2019. However, arrangements were made and “Flack” season two eventually premiered in the UK in April and became available for streaming this January.

The newly acquired Amazon series follows Robyn’s ongoing struggle to balance her exuberant clients and her personal life. Both seasons emphasize her efforts to navigate the cynicism of London and how she often succumbs to the pressure of it. The problem is that we all have seen this show better executed before.

“Flack” falls into the recent television trope of being overly dark

and edgy. Though British comedy is notoriously dry and features less slapstick humor than American comedies, the show feels muddled. “Flack” attempts to appear more realistic, but it confuses realism with darkness and does nothing with said darkness.

The series has what most viewers come to expect from a show of this caliber: the characters are clichés of the modern workplace. The protagonist is a hard-working leading lady with a tragic background hiding her inner demons, but she fails at devoting her time to her actual job. However, she is good at her profession, which implies the questionable message of trauma being necessary to be good at one’s job. Robyn has her family, friends, love life and a job that demands too much. However, Robyn’s backstory does not engage the viewer enough to make them

care about her situation or her problems.

The supporting cast does not fare better with side characters receiving limited development across the two seasons. Most of the background characters act like jerks for no reason other than to justify how the real world works. Robyn’s clients are self-absorbed celebrities, and they leave no emotional impact other than the trouble they have caused. The show’s limited runtime also impairs character development with plot threads feeling half-baked as they repeat already existing formulas. Although the show itself is not long with a total of 12 episodes, the story beats are repetitive. If you enjoy seeing crazy celebrity antics and figuring out how they can get away with them, “Flack” might be an enjoyable show for those looking for something new.

The promotional poster for “Flack” attempts to convey that the show

is grounded in reality and showcases the duality of the modern working woman with contrasting makeup and lighting. However, it also highlights the largest fault with “Flack”: the fact that it tries to appear more nuanced than it is. The show has all the parts of an engaging program but lacks the creativity to try something different or work with what it has to offer. It seeks to pull the audience in with a fish out of water narrative. However, the concept is not utilized properly, and its attempts to distinguish itself make “Flack” feel more like a parody.



# Iona men’s basketball aims to continue form after month-long break

By: Giovanni Paolo Tagliafierro *Staff Writer*

Iona men’s basketball looks to finish the season strong as they approach the remaining portion of their freshly adjusted conference schedule.

The Gaels have had a difficult season so far, and not because of their play on the court, but because of the time they have had to spend off the court. After winning three straight games to close out 2020, including a two-game sweep of Rider, the men’s team was placed on their second 14-day pause of the season due to COVID-19.

Wednesday’s upcoming game against Niagara will be the first game the Gaels have played in over a month.

With such a small sample size, the Gaels have a lot left to prove in the remaining 11 conference games of the regular season, nine of which will be played at the Hynes Center.

Head coach Rick Pitino has led the team to a 5-3 record so far in his first season at Iona. He looks to add to that win column down the final stretch of conference play.

Iona’s defense is an aspect of the team that Pitino has influenced immediately in year one. The Gaels average 6.5 steals a game this season, which ranks fourth in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

Defense has not been the only area of success for this Gaels team, as they trail only Siena and Monmouth in scoring margin in the MAAC with a 3.75 differential this season. This can be attributed to Iona’s efficient ball movement, which has racked up 117 assists in only eight total games.

Senior guard Isaiah Ross has been a standout player for the Gaels this season. The transfer from University of Missouri-Kansas City has made a huge leap in his second year in Maroon and Gold, upping his points per game from 11 last season to 22.3 this season.

The guard’s shooting percentages have also improved this season. He is currently shooting 42.4% from deep, and has hit 25 3-pointers, which have accounted for a large share of the Gaels’ scoring attack.

Ross has seen an uptick in time on the court as well, averaging nearly 37 minutes per game, as he cements himself as a leader on a young team that features only three other returning players.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ICGAELS.COM

The Iona men’s basketball team has scored a season-high 85 points in their win against Coppin State.

Senior guard Asante Gist and senior forward Dylan Van Eyck have also added stability to the Gaels rotation as Pitino and staff shape a new core nucleus for subsequent seasons to come, while freshman forward Nelly Junior Joseph has shown that he will be heavily featured in Iona’s future with a 56% shooting percentage from the field and his spot as the team’s third-leading scoring.

The Iona men’s basketball team will be looking forward to resuming their season on Wednesday at home against Niagara. Iona is 22-18 all-time against the team, with their last matchup resulting in an overtime loss to the Purple Eagles in the Hynes Center, 100-91. Tip-off is scheduled for 2 p.m.

# Iona basketball to be aired internationally

By: Matthew Chaves *Sports Editor*

The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference announced they will air all men and women’s basketball games internationally after an agreement with SIDEARM Sports, their website provider.

For American viewers, all MAAC basketball are broadcast across the United States on ESPN3 or ESPN+. Now, international viewers can join their American friends. International broadcasts will now be streamed on www.MAAC.tv for the 2020-21 season.

This international broadcasting will help MAAC’s reach in a time when playing in the league is an uncertainty. Many teams in the league, including the Gaels, have had to postpone their fixtures due to outbreaks of COVID-19 amongst their facilities.

Since the beginning of the season, @MAACHoops has tweeted out schedule changes for women’s and men’s basketball over 10 times each. That’s over 10 times that the schedule has had to be changed due to the impact of COVID-19.

With a shaky schedule for both sides of the court, the addition of an international broadcast for viewers across the globe brings a sense of community from afar.

MAAC Commissioner Rich Ensor emphasized the excitement of this opportunity.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for the conference to reach fans, families, alumni and recruits who are currently overseas,” Ensor said in an interview with icgaels.com. “These people deserve to see their friends and families play every night, and this agreement with the MAAC member schools’ ESPN Production staffs and SIDEARM Sports will allow them to do so. It has always been a long-term goal of the MAAC to provide increased access for international markets, and this is the next step in providing content to that market.”

Men’s basketball aims to continue Wednesday against Niagara. Women’s basketball is set to continue Saturday against Monmouth.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ICGAELS.COM

For those in the United States, games will continue to air on ESPN3 or ESPN+.





**QUOTE OF THE ISSUE**

“You can’t put a limit on anything. The more you dream, the farther you get.”  
- Michael Phelps

# Iona reopens newly renovated Hynes Center West with blessing

By: Matthew Chaves *Sports Editor*



PHOTO COURTESY OF IONA GAELS ON YOUTUBE.

**The renovations for Hynes Center West took a total of 169 days.**

Iona College reopened Hynes Center West on Feb. 3 after renovations announced in August of 2020 finished.

The center was opened with Dean of Students Joel Quintong, Father Gerard Mulvey, senior and Vice President of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Gabriel Finch and senior and Campus Minister Kate Schmitt.

Fr. Mulvey helped reopen the cardio and weight room by blessing the room with a prayer and holy water while Schmitt and Finch praised the new renovations.

“I just want to thank the entire Iona community for spending the time to upgrade these facilities, between the varsity weight room and the cardio room,” Finch said in a YouTube video posted by Iona Gaels. “I think it’s really going to improve the student-athlete and student experience here at Iona, so I’m really thankful to be able to be here and enjoy it for one last semester.”

Schmitt, who’s a member of Iona SAAC and on the women’s water polo team, echoed Finch’s praises for the Iona community.

“I definitely think that having this opportunity to exercise for student-athletes and the general student population alike is very important,” Schmitt said.

Fr. Mulvey expressed hope for good use out of the fitness room for all those who use it in his blessing prayer.

“May they find this space to help them physically but also spiritually as well,” Fr. Mulvey said. “May it be a place to deepen friendships, team spirit, as well as the spirit that makes us Gaels.”

A list of guidelines being implemented by Iona’s athletic department can be found [here](#).

# Iona women’s basketball hopes to improve offense in remaining season

By: Matthew Chaves *Sports Editor*



PHOTO COURTESY OF ICGAELS.COM

**Senior Olivia Vezaldenos scored a season-high 25 points against Niagara while junior Juana Camilion made a season-high 10 field goals against Niagara as well..**

The Iona women’s basketball program has faced their share of challenges this season with the COVID-19 pandemic as they have not played a game since Jan. 2. The long layoff for the Gaels will continue until Friday when they are scheduled to play their first game in over a month against rival Manhattan.

The Gaels entered the season with high hopes after

being projected in the preseason to finish fifth in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Association and will look to carry that momentum for the remaining 10 games of the regular season.

This adversity has not stopped the women’s team from maintaining their high level of competition as they are currently 4-5 in the season. The team, which features eight

new players, has shown resiliency by winning four out of their last five games, a streak dating back to Dec. 18 after starting the season on a four-game losing skid.

With tough defense, the Gaels stand as the third best team in the MAAC at limiting the opposition’s scoring, allowing an average of 56.7 points per contest. The numbers of turnovers the Gaels force is also a strong suit as they rank third in the MAAC in steals per game with 9.33.

Senior guard Olivia Vezaldenos and junior guard Juana Camilion, the former of which poured in seven 3-pointers in the Gaels’ latest victory against Niagara, have starred as a consistent 1-2 scoring punch for the team, averaging 11.7 and 11.8 points per game respectively.

Vezaldenos, a transfer student from Concordia University, Portland, is in the midst of her first season at Iona. She is one of eight new players to join the Iona squad this season.

Paula Weekes, a redshirt forward in her second season of competition, has also been a strong piece in the Gaels’ frontcourt with her rebounding and inside scoring presence, averaging 6.1 rebounds per game and shooting 44 percent from the field.

Iona women’s basketball is currently sitting at sixth in conference play in the MAAC and will look to improve on their 3-3 record within the conference in their remaining 10 games of the regular season.

The Gaels will travel to Draddy Gymnasium in Riverdale to play Manhattan on Friday. Tip-off for the contest is still to be decided.