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This documentary focuses on more than just the game of football.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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Dr. Kaalund discusses her views on culture and diversity.

SPORTS

Iona men’s basketball out of MAAC regular season after positive COVID-19 case
Men’s basketball will no longer compete in the MAAC regular season.

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Art exhibit portrays struggles, emphasizes hope

By: Margaret Dougherty *Managing Editor*



PHOTO FROM @NEWROCHELLENY ON TWITTER.

The exhibit brings awareness to many different struggles, especially those caused by the pandemic and racial discrimination.

The art exhibit “Struggle: An Exhibition for Our Times” opened on Feb. 15 at the Rotunda Gallery in the New Rochelle City Hall. Due to COVID-19, the exhibit is also available virtually. “Struggle” is presented by The Lincoln Park Conservancy, Inc., the New Rochelle Council on the Arts and the Iona College Council on the Arts. The exhibit is part of a larger series of events known as “Quest

for Justice – A 60-Year Commemoration of the Lincoln School Decision.” Decided in 1961, the Lincoln School Desegregation Case was the first application of the Brown v. Board of Education decision to win in a northern city.

Hailing from Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Connecticut and New York City, a total of 24 artists participated in the exhibit. “Struggle” focuses on the countless

difficulties faced today both personally and by society as a whole. The artists each used their unique medium – such as paintings, collages, sculptures and photography – to illuminate some of these issues and attempt to reach an understanding of one another’s struggles. Many of the recurring themes in the art centered around the pandemic, including struggles with mental health, economic uncertainty and food insecurity. However, the most dominant theme of the exhibit is the discrimination and marginalization faced by people of color.

Many of the artists were inspired by the growth of the Black Lives Matter movement this past year. Janet Smith Castronuovo created a mixed media collage entitled “Humanity Arises and Takes to the Street” to represent the many people who marched for Black lives in 2020. In the collage, a masked protester raises their hands while a red circle around their head creates a target mark. Behind the protester is a collection of newspaper clippings and powerful phrases that were commonly heard in 2020, such as “Hands up, don’t shoot,” “I can’t breathe” and “Stop the spread.” Although last year was filled with tragedy, Castronuovo found solace in using art as a creative outlet to reveal the positive side of things.

“After reading newspaper headlines and seeing news reports every day of crisis after crisis, I am surprisingly more hopeful than ever that we can start to mend, reestablishing a deeper understanding of the progress needed to fix the ills we have suffered as a people for centuries,” Castronuovo said.

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Workshop focuses on letting go of constraints, free thinking in problem solving

By: Krystal Ortiz *News Editor*

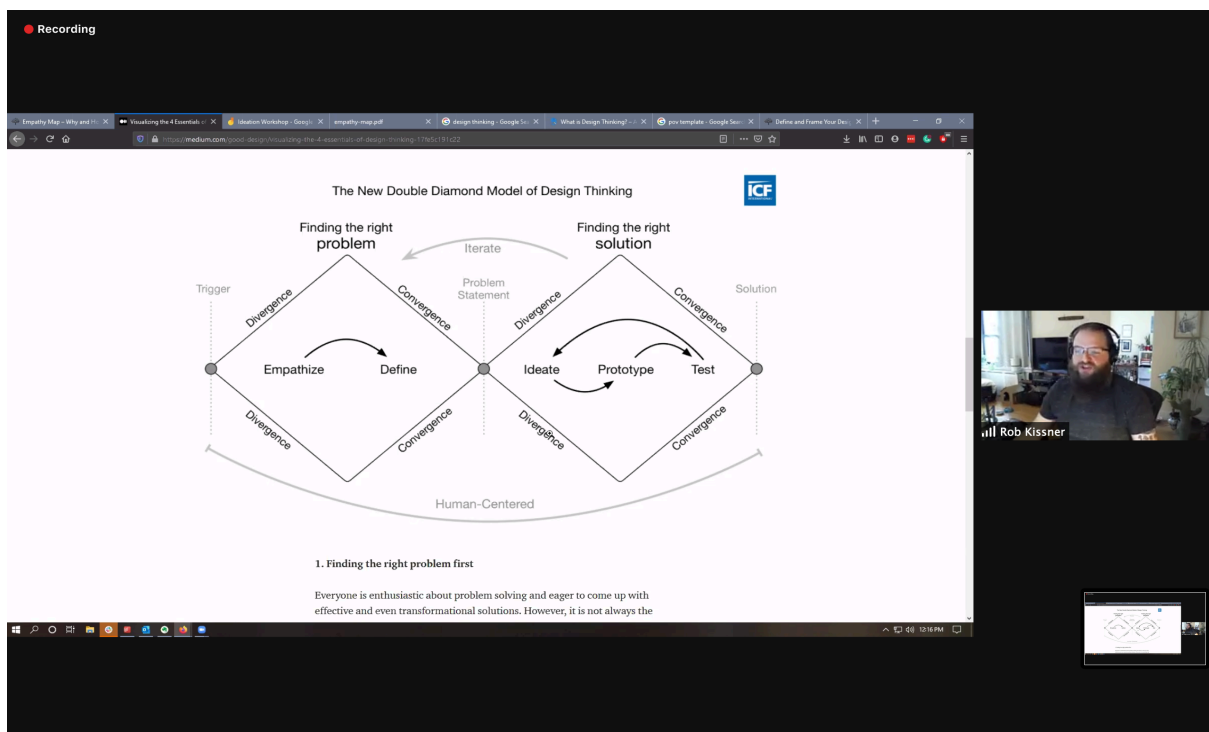


PHOTO FROM IONA.EDU.

Kissner stressed the importance of getting creative and letting go of pre-set ideas while brainstorming .

The Identifying Problem & Ideation workshop, intended to help students with “design thinking,” was hosted by Rob Kissner on Feb. 18.

Kissner, Founder & CEO of the Digital Arts Experience, aimed to help students discover a problem worth solving through the process of design thinking. Design thinking is a design methodology that provides a solution-based approach to solving problems. Ideation is a key component to the innovation process, according to Kissner.

Participants in the workshop learned techniques for generating ideas and sharing them with potential users.

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EXHIBIT

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Another artist, Shahaan O. Azeem, drew on his own experiences as a Muslim immigrant and hopes to challenge people’s assumptions. “My work explores issues of identity, equality and representation by taking a critical view of the perception and representation of people of color and marginalized groups in American society,” Azeem said. One of Azeem’s striking pieces is an untitled oil painting with gold leaf on canvas that shows a man whose face is covered with an American flag. He appears to be struggling to remove the suffocating flag and the words in the background – “back to Africa,” “criminal,” “inferior” – stress the pain and abuse endured by Black people in this country. Although the themes addressed in the “Struggle” exhibition are leaden with heartache, the sense of hope outshines the troubles. The artists express their commitment to bring about change and create a better world despite the current turbulence, and they hope their art inspires others to do the same. “I am an art evangelist sharing my message of hope,” artist Christina Thomas Greene said. If you are interested in viewing the virtual exhibit, visit the Lincoln Park Conservancy, Inc. YouTube channel or the Br. Kenneth Chapman Gallery page on the Iona website. “Struggle: An Exhibition for Our Times” runs through April 16.

WORKSHOP

From Page 1

Participants also learned how to identify user traits, needs and scenarios. The workshop also covered concept-testing. Kissner explained the divergent process of design thinking to the participants as a basic way to figure out what the specific problem is. “We have a trigger; we experience a problem; we put ourselves in the shoes of the users to learn some insight about it,” Kissner said. “Based on that we identify what the real need is and who the people are that have that real need and then converge on a clear and concise problem statement.” Kissner stressed the importance of seeing the process of design thinking all the way through by examining all of the facts before coming to a conclusion. “This is the pit fall for people who try to solve problems is that they come up with a solution as soon as they see the problem,” Kissner said. “Design thinking is about the solution not coming until way later because you are going to mess it up, you are going to fail, you are going to come up with the wrong ideas, you are not going to know enough. So, you go into this, with nothing in mind and based on what you learned, you throw everything that you can at the wall and slowly refine that solution until you start to make some headway.” Kissner wanted the participants to understand the importance of letting go of “constraints,” prepositioned ways of thinking based on data collected, while brainstorming. “When you start brainstorming as part of the ideation phase of design thinking, put all of the constraints aside,” Kissner said. “This is the hardest part about this. We have to put all of the constraints floating inside our heads aside and start to freely brainstorm.” As one of the major points, Kissner wanted to point out that all ideas are important despite how far-fetched they may seem. “Anything goes, it does not matter how realistic or not it is in this phase because you want to get creativity flowing, you want to be really playful with this process, and even if something is totally unattainable, there are kernels of things in there that may trigger new ideas,” Kissner said.

Interested in writing for the Ionian?
Email our Editor-in-Chief, Stacey Franciamore, at sfranciamore1@gaels.iona.edu

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.

Globally, cases have almost surpassed 112 million with a little over 22 million active cases. The U.S. still leads with the most cases almost reaching 29 million with a death toll surpassing 500,000. There are more COVID-19-related American deaths than there were on the battlefields of World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War combined. The U.S. accounts for nearly 20% of global COVID deaths, but makes up only 4.25% of the global population. President Biden and Vice President Harris mourned those lost with a moment of silence on Monday. Despite the statistics, vaccines are expected to be delayed by recent extreme weather. The White House was expected to deliver 6 million doses of the vaccines across the country. Movie theaters in New York City will be permitted to open for the first time since the start of the pandemic on March 5, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced at a news conference on Monday. Movie theaters will only be able to operate at 25% of their maximum capacity, with no more than 50 people per screening. Masks will be mandatory and social distancing must be enforced.

Information from NY Times, CNN and World-o-Meter.

Biden administration is open to nuclear talks with Iran.

Iran has threatened to bar U.N. nuclear inspectors if the U.S. does not lift economic sanctions. The Biden administration has been working towards revamping an accord that limits Iran’s nuclear program. The administration stated that it would be holding discussions with world powers and Iran to discuss Tehran’s nuclear program, which has the possibility of resulting in a diplomatic deal where Washington could re-enter the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement that was left behind during the Trump administration. President Joe Biden has stated that the U.S. will rejoin the original Iran nuclear deal if Tehran resumes complying with the terms of the agreement. There is also a goal of developing a stronger follow-up non-proliferation pact.

Information from NBC News, NY Times and Politico.

Virginia abolishes death penalty.

Virginia state lawmakers have approved legislation that would abolish the death penalty in the state. Virginia, historically known as one of the nation’s most prolific death penalty states, would be the first southern state to outlaw the practice. The bill, HB 2263, is now waiting for Gov. Ralph Northam’s final approval. The Democratic governor has stated that he intends to sign the bill and called the death penalty “inequitable, ineffective and inhumane.” The state Senate approved a house bill by a vote of 22 to 16 that bans executions and establishes a maximum punishment of life in prison without the possibility of parole. A judge would have discretion to suspend part of that sentence.

Information from CNN, the Washington Post and AP News.



Dr. Kaalund reflects on background, diversity, Black History Month

By: Stacey Franciamore *Editor-in-Chief*

Where are you from? Where did you grow up?

“I am from North Carolina. I grew up in North Carolina. I attended graduate school in North Carolina so I’m a Tar Heel Born & Bred as we like to say. I’m very much influenced by the southern culture that cultivated me and made me who I am today. I live in Connecticut now with my husband and three children, so that’s a lot of my life outside of Iona. Most of my family is still in North Carolina so I spend a great deal of time going back and forth. I’m very close with my sisters. I’m one of four girls, which obviously colors my perspective on the world.”

What was your college experience like and how did it influence how you view culture and diversity?

“College certainly did have an influence [on how I view culture and diversity], and there are a number of reasons why and I’ll start with my minor in college. I was a chemistry major and I minored in African American studies, and so through that minor I was exposed to literature and Black diasporic culture that really opened my eyes in a way that a little girl growing up in rural North Carolina had not been exposed to. I remember reading Octavia Butler, Toni Morrison and James Baldwin for the first time and those kinds of literary worlds opened up to me.

I also remember that I was required to take an African studies class and we had to look at the map and understand how many countries there were in this continent that we often refer to as if it is solely a country and the diversity on the continent. I was exposed to this through my studies and it’s one way in which my perspective was influenced. Another way is just from the college experience itself. The roommates I had, the people I interacted with, and the people I was in class with all had an influence on my perspective. Of course, this influences how I know and understand diversity, inclusion and other related issues.

What does Black History Month mean to you?

“Black History month means a lot of things to me. One thing I would say is that it is an opportunity to educate probably first and foremost for me. It is an opportunity to share with everyone the accomplishments of the Black community beyond slavery, the Civil Rights Movement and Black Lives Matter. There’s so much more to the community than these pinpoint moments that we tend to look at and these individuals like Frederick Douglas and Martin Luther King Jr. They’re these individuals that seem to be the only people we learn about historically. I view Black History Month as an opportunity to expand knowledge around Black culture. It’s also an opportunity to celebrate not just the accomplishments, but the lives of the thriving Black people. It’s about shifting the emphasis from struggle and suffering to a much more celebratory and joyful acknowledgment of life. Finally, there’s this term that I’m really loving now: Black Futures. I take it as some sort of a push back to Black History Month and people talking about Black Future Month, and I embrace that too because I think there’s something to be said about acknowledging the folks who are trying to do the work to support issues that are important to the Black community. The community needs to look to the future and acknowledge that there is more work beyond what we’re doing today. I think I’ve come to embrace that it’s all of those things for me.”

What do you say to students who want to learn more about Black history? Where should they start?

“Don’t be afraid to ask a professor...All you have to do is ask the question and I’m sure many professors with various specialties in these areas will either get the resources for you for further reading and further knowledge, have the conversation or point you to the person who can provide those resources for you. There’s also a wealth of knowledge in the library. The library has great electronic resources, so many that I’ve seen for Black History Month in particular that can broaden your perspective as well. Doing a simple library search on a topic you find interesting, whether it’s fashion, culture, historical moments or things like revolution, there are so many aspects you can learn from doing that type of research. And then, don’t be afraid to talk to people. Personal narratives are important as well. The diversity of your friends, the people you know, and you hang out with on campus - ask questions.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER KAALUND.
Dr. Kaalund encourages students to broaden their perspective about Black culture and history by conducting research and asking questions.

Black people to watch in the 2020s

By: Aliyah Rodriguez

Features & Lifestyle Editor

Some decades are defined by stars and artists that give the era a little extra glamour. While entering the second year of the 2020s, here are some Black writers, actors, activists and creatives alike to keep an eye on for the next decade and beyond:

Amanda Gorman

Gorman is an American poet and activist who recently performed her poem “The Hill We Climb” at President Joe Biden’s inauguration in January. At only 22 years old, she was the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate. In 2015, she published a poetry book titled “The One for Whom Food Is Not Enough.” Her writings primarily focus on issues of race, feminism and marginalization. After performing her poem at Biden’s inauguration, Gorman received international acclaim and two of her books rose to best-seller status.

Amber Ruffin

Ruffin is an American television host and comedian. She became the first Black woman to write for a late-night network talk show in the U.S. when she began writing for “Late Night with Seth Meyers” in 2014. While writing for “Late Night,” Ruffin appeared in several segments such as “Amber Says What?” and “Jokes Seth Can’t Tell.” Ruffin now hosts her own late-night talk show, “The Amber Ruffin Show,” on Peacock. The “Amber Ruffin Show” deviates from other late-night talk shows by focusing solely on topical issues rather than guest interviews.

Chloe X Halle

Sisters Chloe and Halle Bailey compose this R&B duo. At the start of their career, the sisters performed in minor acting roles before moving on to music. The Bailey sisters started their music career by posting covers to YouTube, where they were discovered by Beyonce and signed to her label, Parkwood Entertainment. The sisters rose to stardom with their 2018 debut album “The Kids Are Alright” as well as their acting roles on Freeform’s “Grown-ish.” They earned three Grammy award nominations for their second album “Ungodly Hour” (2020).

John David Washington

Washington, son of famous actor Denzel Washington, is an American actor. One of his earlier roles was Ricky Jerret in HBO’s “Ballers,” but his breakout role was playing Ron Stallworth in Spike Lee’s “BlacKkKlansman,” for which he received a Screen Actors Guild Award and Golden Globe nominations. Since then, Washington has starred in Christopher Nolan’s action film “Tenet,” as well as most recently starring in “Malcolm and Marie” (2021), which is now on Netflix.

Lovie Simone

Simone is an American actress best known for her role as Zora Greenleaf in the drama series, “Greenleaf.” More recently, Simon has starred as title character Selah Summer in Amazon Prime’s “Selah and the Spades” as well as Tabby in “The Craft: Legacy,” based on the 1996 film.

Regé-Jean Page

Page is a British–Zimbabwean actor. Page started his career on stage but made his American debut as Chicken George in the 2016 reboot of the miniseries “Roots.” He was later cast as Leonard Knox in Shonda Rhimes’ legal drama “For the People.” Most recently, Page took the world by storm as the male lead the Duke of Hastings in Shonda Rhimes’ Netflix series “Bridgerton,” based on novels by Julia Quinn.

Telfar Clemens

Clemens is a Liberian-American fashion designer and the founder of Telfar, a genderless fashion label based in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Clemen’s Telfar bags have been described as “the decade’s most important accessory” by Dazed and Confused Magazine. Clemens’ bags were also featured in Oprah Winfrey’s 2020 “Favorite Things” list. Clemens’ Telfar site boasts affordability with its mission statement: “It’s not for you — it’s for everyone.”

Vanessa Nakate

Nakate is a 24-year-old Ugandan activist who focuses mostly on climate change. Inspired by Greta Thunberg, Nakate brought climate activism to her own country and began a solitary climate strike in front of the Ugandan Parliament in 2019. Since her beginnings, Nakate has advocated for diversity in environmental activism. Nakate has also founded climate movements such as Youth For Future Africa and the Rise-Up Movement in Africa. She has since spoken at several climate meetings such as the COP25 and the World Economic Forum in Davos.



PHOTO FROM @AMANDASCGORMAN ON INSTAGRAM
At only 22 years old, Amanda Gorman is already an accomplished poet who performed at President Biden’s inauguration.



PHOTO FROM PEXELS.COM
The sister duo Chloe X Halle have made a mark on the R&B scene, earning three Grammy nominations for their second album.

Ways to limit screen time

By: Aliyah Rodriguez *Features & Lifestyle Editor*

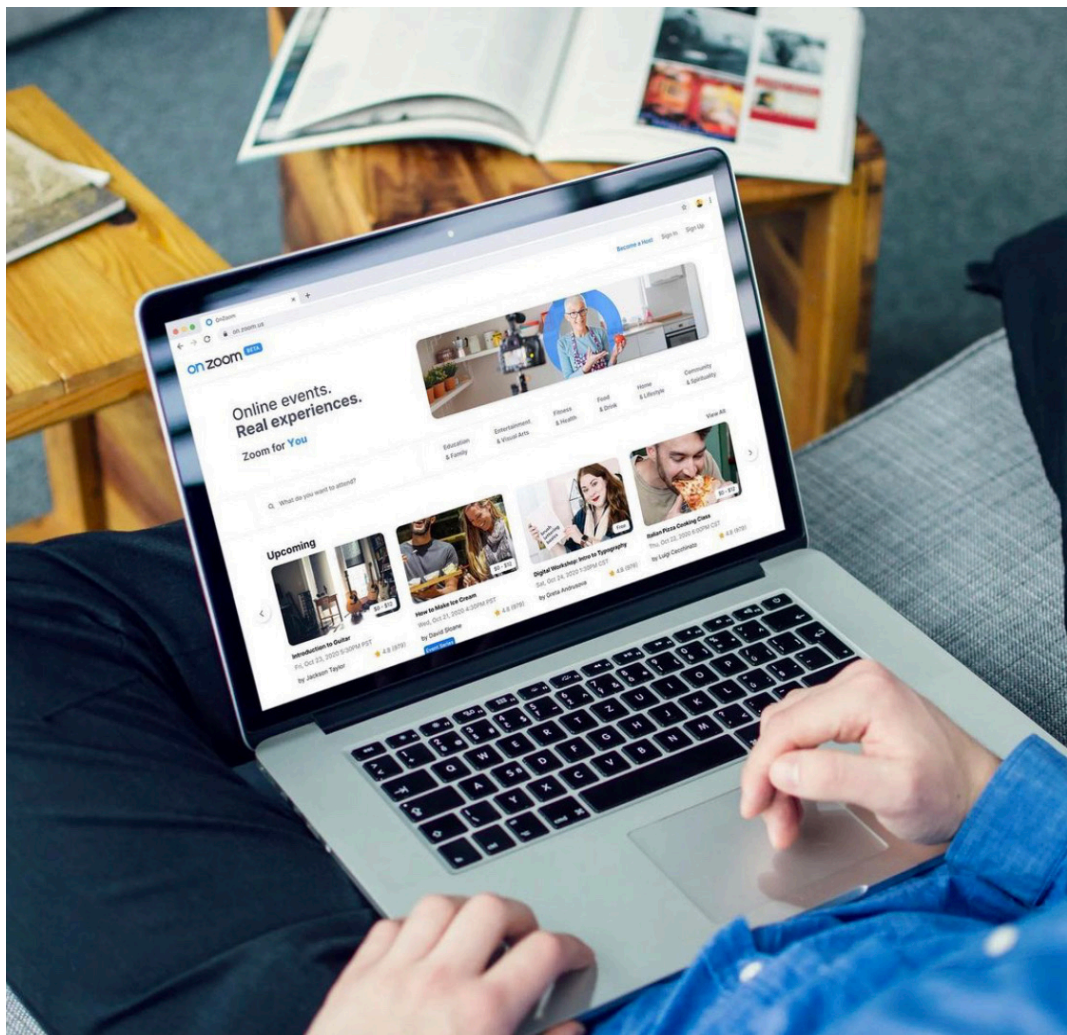


PHOTO FROM @ZOOM ON INSTAGRAM
Limiting screen time is difficult during the pandemic, but creating healthy habits will give your eyes a rest.

It’s been a problem plaguing students since the beginning of the pandemic: between attending Zoom lectures for hours, writing assignments on your laptop, using your phone and trying to watch some TV to destress; students are spending way too much time behind the screen and it’s really starting to take its toll with the start of the new semester.

The first, and easiest, thing you can do to limit your screen time is to limit unnecessary usage of your cell phone. Sometimes, in those 8 minutes between Zoom lectures, you might be tempted to do some quick scrolling through your Twitter or Instagram feed. Try downloading a productivity app or utilizing your phone’s settings that will keep you from using your phone during the times that you’re in class. Apps like Freedom and Screentime (available for both iOS and Android devices) block the usage of specific apps within a time frame that the user sets.

Secondly, try limiting the way you access information. Sometimes getting your news from social media apps like Twitter can eventually send you on a spiral of endlessly consuming new information for a long period of time. Instead of relying on apps that combine news and social commentary, access your information from apps or websites specifically designated for just news, or even in limited time frames like the evening

news.

Another opportunity to limit screen time is to use your breaks as a break instead of as an opportunity to multitask. When you’re ready to eat your breakfast, lunch, dinner or even a quick snack, keep your devices away from you. It’s always tempting to try to get as much work done as possible throughout the day, or to simply enjoy a meal with the next episode of your Netflix show, but these moments can be used to give yourself a break from your screen. A run to the restroom doesn’t need to involve social media either, regardless of how tempting it may be to bring some entertainment into the bathroom with you.

Lastly, try giving your eyes some rest every chance you get. When you have a break between classes remove your glasses, power down your laptop screen or even simply close your eyes to relieve the tension for a few moments.

Limiting screen time may not be possible for every student, however. Sometimes you just need those few hours of Netflix viewing or TikTok scrolling to unwind after a long day of remote work. If you find yourself feeling a headache coming on, don’t stop yourself from taking a moment to give your eyes a break. The best thing you can do for yourself is to simply listen to your body.

Gaels chat about self-love

By: Maria Desir and Aliyah Rodriguez *Staff Writer and Features & Lifestyle Editor*



PHOTO FROM PEXELS.COM
Self-love is a way to care for yourself.

Valentine’s Day is officially behind us, but the lovey dovey decor, heart chocolates and choirs of teddy bears singing “Be mine” in our local CVS stores might still be haunting some. The influx of people doing some last minute shopping or booking dinner reservations have left many men and women feeling that they’re missing out, or that there’s something wrong with them just because they are not in a romantic relationship. Valentine’s Day can be the best of times, and it can be the worst of times. For those who are single, Valentine’s Day shouldn’t make you feel bad about yourself. This day is about love, and no love is better than self-love. Here is how some fierce Iona Gaels feel about giving themselves a little extra love this year:

Sophomore Sonia Aweh believes that self-love is different for every person.

“I believe everyone has a different idea of what love means to them. In that sense, do whatever makes you feel loved and happy,” said Aweh

Aweh’s tip for any Gael that may be struggling with self-love is to simply enjoy the time that you get to spend alone with yourself, do something nice for yourself or even call on some friends.

Sophomore Diego Rivera believes that self-love needs to start with an internal reflection on who you are.

“Self-love is that feeling and power of knowing your worth and accepting for who you are and who you will become,” Rivera said.

Junior Joshua De Coteau believes that loving your external self is just as important as loving your internal self.

See **SELF-LOVE** on Page 6

What’s new for the Lunar New Year?

By: Tiffany Persuad *Staff Writer*



PHOTO TAKEN BY WONG LU YIANG FOR SHUTTERSTOCK
The Year of the Ox is meant to be prosperous for relationships and economics.

The Lunar New Year, also known as the Chinese New Year, happened on Feb. 12. It’s a new beginning for those who solely observe this holiday, and an additional beginning for those who also observed the New Year on Jan. 1. 2021. According to the Chinese Zodiac calendar, 2021 is the year of the Ox.

Some past years of the Ox include 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997 and 2009, so if you were born in one of those years, this might help you prepare for what lies ahead. There are 12 animals associated with the Chinese Zodiac, and the Ox is placed second. Oxen represent hard work, discipline and stubbornness.

The name “Lunar New Year” derives from the first new moon of the lunisolar calendars traditional to many east Asian countries including China, South Korea and Vietnam, which are

regulated by the cycles of the moon and sun. As with many winter solstice celebrations, the symbolic darkness of night is banished by the light of fireworks, lanterns and candles. A 15-day celebration is held that entails parades, dragon dancing and gift-giving. When commemorating the Lunar New Year for the rest of the year:

- Include...
- Lucky numbers: 1 and 9
- Lucky colors: red, blue purple
- Lucky Flowers: tulip, evergreen, peach blossom
- Lucky Directions: southeast, south, north

See **LUNAR** on Page 6

Is TikTok’s 15 seconds of fame over?

By: Sean Jordan Contributing Writer

Many people have had these lyrics engraved in their head from the past year: “I’d let you had I known it, why don’t you say so?,” “I’m just a loser, Shouldn’t be with ya’, guess I’m a quitter,” and of course, “Renegade, Renegade, Go, go, go.” These songs dominated the radio and the internet for the past year because of one app: TikTok.

TikTok, an app created in 2016, allows users to upload short 15 second or minute-long videos to its a platform for anyone to view. Before the pandemic, TikTok was on the surge with new downloads jumping from 54 million in July 2019 to 115 million in March 2020. And with everyone stuck at home on their phones, the app just grew and grew with a whopping 315 million users in Q1 of 2020, and then 306 Million in Q2. Yet a bubble can only get so big and many have speculated that has happened to TikTok. Research provided last week by chartr.co shows that TikTok just hit a new peak this month, but many think it is downhill from here.

In 2011, the hot new social media app was Snapchat. What made Snapchat different was the ability to send disappearing pictures to friends and stories that lasted a short amount of time and then they were seemingly gone forever. This is what made Snapchat so popular, and as their competitors watched their customers spend more time on Snapchat they knew they had to do something. Soon, almost every social media app had a story feature that mimicked Snapchat’s unique posts that only last 24 hours, like when Instagram came out with its own version in 2016. Soon after that, Snapchat usage was on the decline.

Today, many are having deja vu of the whole Snapchat stories scenario, with Instagram coming out with the reels feature on its platform in August 2020. The feature allows users to film and post short 15 second videos, exactly like TikTok. Many fear that with more and more companies copying TikTok’s iconic short videos, fewer people staying



TikTok exploded in popularity during the early months of the pandemic, but many predict the success can’t last forever.

home, legal issues with countries in the past and a decline in new users from Quarter One of 2020 - grossing 315 million new users to only 177 million last quarter - that the 15 seconds of fame for TikTok is over.

LUNAR
FROM PAGE 5

- Avoid...
- Unlucky numbers: 3 and 4
- Unlucky colors: white and green
- Unlucky direction: northeast

For general believers, this year is meant to be prosperous on the relationship front. So, take some time to figure out your love language and the love languages of those around you. Those interested in finance should be happy to know that this year’s economic front is abundant, “...no explosive or catastrophic events will occur, so it is a favorable year for economic recovery or consolidation, a year of long-term investments (especially for creating a reserve stock for the coming unproductive years),” according to theChineseZodiac.org

Famous people born in the year of the Ox include: Napoléon Bonaparte, Walt Disney, Barack Obama, Gerald Ford, George Clooney, Vincent Van Gogh, Princess Diana and Richard Nixon.

For those who are born in the year of the Ox, you will face some obstacles within your finances, health, career and education. It’s advised that you prioritize your mental health and exercise but in moderation. To avoid or lessen the blow, try to incorporate your “lucky” elements (listed above) in your daily life. Until new predictions arise in 2022, the year of the Tiger, you’re stuck between the good and the bad.

SELF-LOVE
FROM PAGE 5

“[Self-love is] appreciating the you that you see in the mirror every day and working to be the best image of yourself for you and not for others,” De Coteau said. “Remember that you are a priority.”

Sophomore Alondra Gamez believes in evaluating your space in the world, knowing when it’s time to give your energy and acknowledging when you need to take a step back.

“To me self-love is being kind to your mind and body for existing and forgiving your faults in order to become the best version of yourself,” Gamez said. “This can also mean making yourself a priority at times where you feel like you’re not receiving the energy you are putting out in the world, and it’s not selfish to build and improve a relationship with yourself because ultimately, it’ll improve your

connections with others.”

Lastly, Sophomore Sionainn Kriska believes in prioritizing your mental health.

“Self-love is taking care of yourself mentally and physically, and taking time to make sure that you are in an okay headspace before anyone else,” said Kriska

When asked if they had any tips to share with Gaels struggling with self-love, Kriska concluded by saying “Take time loving yourself and doing the things that you enjoy.”

Self-love looks different on everyone, and can be practiced in a variety of ways, but what matters most is that everyone takes the time to give themselves the care they need.

Interested in writing for Features & Lifestyle?
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Overcoming imposter syndrome

By: Stacey Franciamore *Editor-in-Chief*

This year has been exciting and transformative for me. From submitting my honors thesis to starting a new internship to applying for graduate school, there are so many new things happening in my life. With these changes come new experiences and new opportunities to learn more about myself, not only on a professional level but on a personal level. As I’ve taken on these endeavors, I’ve started to recognize unfamiliar - yet familiar - feelings, ones that I’ve always had yet never took the time to process. They’re feelings of self-doubt, fear and anxiety. They’re feelings that make me feel like I am unworthy. This is when I realized I was dealing with imposter syndrome.

Imposter syndrome is when you believe you are not as capable as others perceive you to be. For example, when I started my internship three weeks ago and was assigned my first project, I felt an intense amount of hesitancy enter my body. I felt like I wasn’t qualified enough. I thought my boss would look at my work and question if I was right for the job. I spent that day feeling stressed, worried and scared, only to receive an email from my boss a few days later telling me everything looked great and that no edits were needed.

When I submitted my thesis I thought, “Is this good enough?” When I applied for graduate school I thought, “Will I be able to handle this?” This is when I acknowledged that I had the bad habit of questioning my success and doubting my talent and skills instead of being confident and welcoming any and all achievements that come my way.

I recognized that I had to change my thinking and shift my perspective. In order to do this, I’ve been reminding myself of all the hard work I’ve put in over the years - the late nights, early mornings,



FRANCIAMORE

stress and even tears. I did not achieve my success by chance or luck. I achieved it because I put in the work. I’ve been telling myself that as long as I always put my honest, best self forward, I will always be enough.

These last few weeks I’ve been working hard on overcoming these feelings, and if you suffer from imposter syndrome you should too, because let me tell you: You deserve all the good things that come your way and you are capable of so much more than you think.

Here are some affirmations I’ve been speaking to existence to shift my thoughts and perspective. Repeat after me:

I am confident in my abilities.

I am me and that’s enough.

I belong here.

I deserve all of my achievements and success.

Interested in contacting The Ionian’s Stacey Franciamore? Email sfranciamore1@gaels.iona.edu.

To be young, gifted and Black

By: Aliyah Rodriguez *Features and Lifestyle Editor*

If you’ve never heard this phrase before, allow me to introduce it to you. “To be young, gifted and Black” is a phrase with a rather brief history that holds major significance for Black people.

The term was originally coined in Lorraine Hansberry’s posthumous play about her own life. The play detailed her life from her childhood growing up in the ghetto, to her time in college, to eventually becoming a prolific writer with her successful play “A Raisin in the Sun.” Unfortunately, Hansberry became terminally ill and eventually died at only 34 years old. She was the first Black woman to have a play performed on Broadway.

Nina Simone, a dear friend of Hansberry, penned the 1958 song titled “To Be Young, Gifted and Black” in her friend’s honor. Not only was the song meant to pay homage to Hansberry who died so early in life, but it was also meant to be an anthem that makes Black children feel good about themselves and inspires a positive outlook on who Black children are.

It’s Black History Month in 2021 and there is still a need for people to make Black children feel good about themselves in a world that still chooses to dehumanize them,



RODRIGUEZ

villainize them and make them feel

like their successes are nothing compared to their white counterparts.

This is my view of the world, of course, but if you feel like the exact opposite is happening then perhaps you’re missing out on an integral part of your Black friends’ life experiences. The world is not kind to Black children, regardless of how young they are, regardless of how gifted.

I’m 21 years old and preparing to fully enter the world of adulthood and yet I still listen to this song on my bad days. I need the

song to remind me that who I am is enough, what I am capable of is enough and that the world will accept me for my talents and gifts regardless of my skin color. I know that there is a very good chance that won’t be the case.

Perhaps this is an open letter to the Black students at Iona College: you are enough. Your talents, your gifts, the things that make you who you are – it’s all enough. Like Hansberry’s existence as a writer, your existence as college students alone makes you an inspiration to younger children. Make sure to tell them that they’re enough and that they’re worthy.

And to all the non-Black students on campus, just be an ally. Support your friends’ art and their business ventures, support their dreams.

Together with Simone I say, “Oh what a lovely precious dream to be young, gifted and Black.”

Interested in contacting The Ionian’s Aliyah Rodriguez? Email arodriguez31@gaels.iona.edu.

A new issue of The Ionian is out every other Thursday on our website, theionian.org!

‘We Are: The Brooklyn Saints’ is an emotional documentary on football, community

By: Joseph Ferrer Arts and Entertainment Editor



PHOTOS FROM NETFLIX

“We Are: The Brooklyn Saints” focuses less on the game and more on the development of the team’s community.

There are plenty of sports-focused documentary series that tell the stories of all-star players who became some of the best players in history. “We Are: The Brooklyn Saints,” however, does not follow that path. The four-part Netflix docuseries centers around a Brooklyn-based team in a youth football league, and it isn’t focused on showing a cliché rags to riches story. The sports docuseries also doesn’t focus much on the outcome of the games the Brooklyn Saints play either. Instead, the show centers itself around the community that the team creates and how it helps young children step into their own regardless of whether they win or lose.

“We Are: The Brooklyn Saints” immediately establishes itself by showing one of the young team members tell their barber about how they lost the championship. This intentional decision to not be a typical sports documentary helps the show become an extremely heartwarming look at the building and fostering of a community. There are genuine bonds and trust being formed between the coaches and players and seeing that bond strengthen through the games of the Saints is endearing. The coaches see each one of the children on the team as their own, which makes the effort they put in to see the kids succeed and raise them even more powerful. One of the most emotionally

resonant parts of the show is seeing how a positive community is able to grow despite being within an area with a negative connotation and stigma surrounding it. Brooklyn has a reputation for being a dangerous borough and the team has had other competitors forfeit just because they did not want be in the area. The series shows how despite these hurdles, the Saints are able to help develop a vibrant and positive community in a harsh neighborhood in order to help make an impact on the lives of the kids involved.

The series also shows the struggles and effort that all members of the group, including the children, go through in order to play on the team. One especially impactful scene showcased how one of the coaches and his sons repeatedly make the drive from Brooklyn to Long Island every day both for school, football and work in order to help give the kids a chance at better opportunities. Seeing the dedication of both the coaches and players is one of the most impactful aspects of the show.

“We Are: The Brooklyn Saints” sets itself apart as a sports documentary that focuses not on the game itself but on the coaches, players and parents who work to help raise the children and give them opportunities to find community and become successful.

‘One Night in Miami’ showcases struggles, triumphs of Civil Rights Movement

By: Jocelyn Arroyo-Ariza Staff Writer



PHOTO FROM AMAZON PRIME STUDIOS

“One Night in Miami” is the a film that educates and informs viewers on Black history.

“One Night in Miami” is the directorial feature film debut of Regina King and is a movie adaptation of the stage play by Kemp Powers. The film is a fictionalized retelling of the night that Cassius Clay unexpectedly became the world’s heavyweight boxing champion. The story follows Clay after his upset against Sonny Liston as his friend Jim Brown wanted to commemorate the event by going to a Black hotel. Malcolm X and Sam Cooke were waiting at the hotel. Not much is known about what the men talked about, however, the following morning Clay announced that he converted to the Nation of Islam and changed his name to Muhammad Ali.

At an almost two-hour running time, viewers are

transported to an intimate conversation between friends that happen to be some of the most influential Black men in recent history. If you are looking to watch a movie to celebrate Black History Month and/or educate yourself, this is the perfect film.

It is apparent through its cast’s performances that “One Night in Miami” was initially a play with characters acting as vessels representing the Black struggle. Tension arises as the four men discuss what it means to be successful and Black as well as the guilt some of them have. Before the men meet, we see them grappling with their success and the implications of their triumphs.

Rather than showing graphic depictions

of violence, the film emphasizes the characters’ internal struggles. The majority of the story takes place in a hotel room with little action, so the plot is largely dependent on the dialogue. Bigotry is referenced and its presence is felt as the movie demonstrates how each man is personally affected. Malcolm X accuses Cooke of pandering to a white audience, but Cooke adamantly denies this accusation. Clay doubts his decision to become a member of the Nation of Islam, while Brown questions his career as a football player.

The film does take liberties with its historical accuracy, which is expected in this genre of movie, by adjusting the timeline of events to condense what is happening in the lives of these four men. Despite this, “One Night in Miami” captures the spirit of the civil rights movements of the 1960s. Audiences are tired of seeing violence inflicted against Black people. There is an abundance of movies that prominently feature, and some may argue profit from, this suffering, from graphic historical dramas to white savior narratives. Instead, “One Night in Miami” showcases Black characters being agents of change in their lives, which sadly is a rarity in Hollywood unless there is Black talent behind the project. If you are looking for a movie that captures the essence of what the civil rights movement meant and what it continues to mean, give “One Night in Miami” a stream on Amazon Prime.

Amazon’s ‘Bliss’ is ignorant towards its many flaws as a sci-fi drama

By: Joseph Ferrer *Arts and Entertainment Editor*

When done properly, stories with science fiction settings can be used to explore concepts and themes in engaging ways that captivate audiences into their worlds. Amazon Prime Video’s “Bliss” desperately believes that it’s accomplishing this and offering a unique take on the simulated world concept. Instead, it ignorantly portrays an unoriginal, incoherent mess of a film that has little of actual worth to say.

Directed by Mike Cahill, the film follows Greg (Owen Wilson), a disrespected office worker living in a seemingly depraved society before he meets Isabel (Salma Hayek), a telekinetic who tries to convince him that the world that they live in isn’t real. Rather than trying to break free from the supposed simulation, the two then become lovers and greedily take advantage of the world with their newfound powers.

Bliss’s premise is unbearably unoriginal

as it wears its inspirations from films like “The Matrix” and “Inception” on its sleeve. Right from the start of the film, it’s painfully obvious that the world isn’t as it seems which creates no suspense or mystery behind what actually happens in the world. The explanations of how the technology of the film works and the truth behind the world are also incredibly confusing and underwhelming. The film gives viewers new information through characters giving random exposition dumps whenever it feels like it’s convenient to do so instead of naturally leading up to it. The film so poorly communicates information to the viewer that its themes and messaging are wildly incoherent.

Both of the main characters are incredibly unlikeable with Greg turning into a bumbling deadbeat due to Isabel’s constant manipulation of him. Isabel

is particularly aggravating as she’s the only source of meaningful information in the film and instead of continuously progressing the plot, she manipulates Greg and turns him into her lover. The film seems to revel in the two characters’ obsessive debauchery and because the film doesn’t use it to properly highlight any themes or provide meaningful commentary, it becomes uncomfortable to witness.

What makes the interactions even worse, however, is the ham-fisted dialogue of the script and the poor acting. Characters behave and talk in completely nonsensical ways and at times it feels like characters have to say their motivations and thoughts out loud repeatedly as if the audience was not smart enough to actually piece together what they’re feeling and going through.

“Bliss” also has several garish flaws from a filmmaking perspective as well.

There are certain scenes in the film that clearly cut between multiple different takes of the same shot with the camera angle not changing which gives the film an amusingly bad sense of shoddiness. There are also scenes where the camera jarringly cuts several times within a mere few seconds which makes it incredibly hard to discern what’s actually happening. These issues become increasingly prevalent as the film goes on with the last 30 minutes in particular having some of the worst editing in a recent film.

“Bliss” could potentially be amusing due to its bad qualities but the nearly two-hour runtime makes it incredibly hard to sit through. The entire film is a confused mess of ideas that tries to tell a new message with a tried and true sci-fi formula but ends up not saying anything meaningful in the process.



PHOTOS FROM AMAZON PRIME STUDIOS

“Bliss” ignorantly believes that it’s smarter than it actually is.

What We’re Watching

The Ionian e-board shares what television series’ they’re currently watching.

Love Island UK
I’m obsessed with Love Island! I’m a sucker for reality television and it doesn’t get any better than this. I’m watching Season 4 of Love Island UK on Hulu!
Stacey Franciamore, Editor-in-Chief

“Seinfeld”
I’ve recently been going through the entire “Seinfeld” series. It’s an iconic show that’s had a huge impact on modern culture and the chemistry of the cast is unmatched.
Margaret Dougherty, Managing Editor

“The Durrells in Corfu”
The production design on this show is breathtaking and makes me wish I was in sunny Corfu rather than cold NY. The characters are also hysterical and you can never quite guess what will happen to them next.
Emily Varker, Chief Copy Editor

“Demon Slayer”
It has it all - action, depth and humor! I also have always appreciated anime as an art form so the show also has a beauty aspect that can easily be appreciated!
Krystal Ortiz, News Editor

“Better Call Saul”
With what a masterpiece “Breaking Bad” is, I had to start the prequel, and it’s absolutely amazing so far. I really recommend it if you enjoyed “Breaking Bad.”
Matthew Chaves, Sports Editor

“Attack on Titan”
I love how the show deals with a gray sense of morality. Sometimes the best decision isn’t what’s best morally but you’ve got to do it. I also just really love anime.
Aliyah Rodriguez, Features & Lifestyle Editor

“Attack on Titan”
I’ve also been watching “Attack on Titan.” I’m impressed with how the show transitioned from a thriller/action series to a serious war drama while still keeping its core themes that the series started with.
Joseph Ferrer, Arts & Entertainment Editor

“WandaVision”
I enjoy watching this show because every episode is so thrilling and I can’t wait each week for the episode to release.
Riana Khan, Chief Photo Editor

“Crime Scene: The Vanishing at the Cecil Hotel”
I love true crime and this case is very complex and opens a needed debate about mental health.
Ciara Serpa, Advertising Manager

“Schitt’s Creek”
I recently started watching “Schitt’s Creek.” I really like that there’s light-hearted comedy, but also a serious message behind it. It’s fun and easy to watch!
Frances Hoey, Social Media Manager

Junior Joseph, Ross among top performers for Gaels this week

By: Giovanni Paolo Tagliafierro *Assistant Sports Editor*

The Iona College's men's basketball team is back in full swing as the Gaels concluded a packed slate of games this week, finishing the stretch off with a 88-65 win against Monmouth on Saturday.

The Gaels began with a doubleheader against rivals Manhattan on Feb. 12, a game in which they were victorious 85-67. The team was bolstered by their outside shooting, going 10-21 from deep against the Jaspers.

Manhattan kept up with Iona for most of the first half, but Iona went on a 29-12 run to close out the period. The Jaspers outscored the Gaels in the second half, but the deficit was too large for them to overcome and Iona cruised to a victory.

The game featured a solid performance from freshman forward Nelly Junior Joseph and junior guard Berrick JeanLouis, who notched 15 and 16 points, along with eight and seven rebounds respectively. The team benefited from freshman guard Ryan Myers' scoring boost off the bench, who accounted for 13 of Iona's 28 bench points.

Iona could not match their success from game one in the second matchup with Manhattan on Feb. 13, dropping the rematch at the Hynes Center 77-70.

Iona was unable to overcome the performance by Manhattan's junior guard Elijah Buchanan, who scored 26 points and grabbed 13 boards en route to the road victory for the Jaspers.

The Gaels' scoring attack was limited as they weren't able to carry over their impressive shooting numbers from the night before, going 5-19 from deep. The team also struggled on the boards, allowing 23 second chance points.

JeanLouis shined for a second straight performance, notching another 16 points and seven rebounds in a game where he played all 40 minutes.

Senior guard Isaiah Ross scored 18 as Iona's comeback fell just short in their 74-70 loss at Quinnipiac on Feb. 17.

After Iona battled back from an 11-point halftime deficit, senior forward Dylan Van Eyck converted a layup with 10 seconds on the clock to cut Quinnipiac's lead to just two, but after a quick foul by Iona, the Bobcats sealed the win with two late game free throws.

The Gaels would get back to their winning ways however during their Friday-Saturday doubleheader sweep against conference leader Monmouth.

Friday's game saw the Gaels hold on to a five-point lead in a 91-86 win over Monmouth at the Hynes Center. Iona scored early and often on the Hawks in the first period, leading to a 54-34 lead at halftime. Monmouth guard Deione Hammond scored 19 points in the second half to lead the Monmouth rally, but Iona was able to hold onto the lead and take home the win.

Although Hammond was stellar, he was not the most impressive player on the floor that night, as Junior Joseph continually made it happen on both ends of the court all game long. The first-year forward from Nigeria totaled 19 points while shooting 9-11 from the field, to go along with 11 rebounds and five blocks. The performance gave Junior Joseph his third double-double of the season.

Senior guard Asante Gist poured in 18 points and served as the team's facilitator with five assists.

Game two of the doubleheader took place on Saturday at the Hynes Center, which saw Iona beating Monmouth by a score of 88-65. The Gaels outscored the Hawks by 10-plus points in both halves on their way to an easy victory.

The Gaels were able to control the glass against the Hawks, grabbing 49 boards compared to Monmouth's 29.

The strong inside presence combined with Iona's floor spacing proved to be key, as the Gaels hit a season-high 13 3-point field goals.

Ross provided the scoring punch for the Gaels, dropping



PHOTO COURTESY OF ICGAELS.COM

The Iona College men's basketball team achieved a season-high 54 points in one half against the Monmouth Hawks.

in 31 points and pulling down five rebounds in Saturday's win. The effort gave Ross his third 30-plus point game of the season and brought his season average for points per game up to 20.5.

Monmouth currently sits at the top of the Metro-Atlantic Athletic Conference with a record of 10-6 against conference opponents. Iona's back-to-back wins against the Hawks pulled the team to within four games of the top spot at 6-3, and a record of 8-5 overall.

Iona water polo begins season in new conference

By: Giovanni Paolo Tagliafierro *Assistant Sports Editor*

The Iona College men's water polo team began their spring season on Feb. 12 as they fight to gain a spot in their new conference's tournament.

The Gaels will compete in the Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference's East division this season after numerous teams in their home conference, the Northeast Water Polo Conference, decided not to compete in 2021 due to COVID-19 concerns. Cross-town rivals Fordham, as well as LaSalle, have also opted into the MAWPC this season.

Tournament play for the MAWPC is scheduled to begin on March 6, according to a release on the Collegiate Water Polo Association's website.

Following the team's opener against Fordham, three consecutive games were postponed for the Gaels, including a rematch against Fordham on Feb. 14, a game against LaSalle on Feb. 14, and another game against Fordham scheduled for Feb. 20.

These challenges are to be expected in a pandemic year, and head coach Brian Kelly said in an interview via phone call that he and his players are working on getting into mid-season form in such a shortened season.

Safety remains the team's top concern, Kelly emphasized in the interview, as players and staff continue to follow and reinforce protocols in place to keep everyone healthy and keep the team in the water.

Kelly praised the leadership of his three seniors, Andrew Brozovic, Brett Hofer and Patrick Hudak, citing how important their experience is to the team, especially given the new and ever-changing environment that the squad is playing in during this season.

The three seniors were recently named captains for the 2021 season. Kelly has coached the trio since they began their collegiate careers, and Kelly says that this chemistry results in better communication with his team as a whole.

Kelly also highlighted how pleased he is with the talent and work ethic that the newly added freshmen on this year's squad have shown. They will only continue to grow as they get more comfortable playing at the collegiate level, Kelly added.

Andrew Miller, who had a three-goal performance in his Iona debut in the season opener, is among the group of new players that will look to make a difference for the Gaels this season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ICGAELS.COM

This is the first time Iona College will compete in the Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference in at least 10 years.

MAAC creates initiative to celebrate Black culture

By: Matthew Chaves

Sports Editor



PHOTO COURTESY OF ICGAELS.COM

All 11 teams in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference have joined in with MAAC's "Time Out for Black Lives" initiative.

The Metro Atlantic Athletic Committee created "Time Out for Black Lives," an initiative for MAAC basketball players and coaches to celebrate Black culture.

The initiative comes after the MAAC United for Justice campaign, announced on Aug. 20, where the MAAC set forth a multitude of changes that would better highlight Black lives and diversity. Iona's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee joined in on ensuring diversity among their student body with the addition of junior Francis Acolitse as their Diversity Inclusion Chair.

"On behalf of the MAAC presidents, I share my deep gratitude for the work being done on our campuses and beyond as our student-athletes, coaches and administrators seek to promote education for social justice and combat racial injustice," Niagara University President and MAAC President James Maher said in the United for Justice announcement. "We know this is a long and winding road, and we are fortunate to have such an amazing group of people who are committed to becoming the change we seek for our society."

With MAAC's new initiative, "Time Out for Black Lives," the league aims to shine a spotlight on Black culture.

On the initiative's website, timeoutforblacklives.com, they have the following description explaining what they hope to accomplish with their initiative:

"Time Out for Black Lives" is the MAAC's effort to bring attention to the greatness of Black culture. It is a website where college basketball student-athletes and coaches contribute their time and resources to read story books for children with a positive message about Black culture, justice for all and education. It is our dream that with a ball and a moving story, we can celebrate the greatness of Black culture in a positive way."

So far, the website has a total of 23 books narrated by different players and coaches across the league, including "Together for Kwanzaa" by Juwanda G. Ford and narrated by Iona women's basketball head coach Billi Chambers and "A Nation's Hope – The Story of Boxing Legend Joe Louis" by Matt de la Peña narrated by Iona men's basketball head coach Rick Pitino.

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



Iona men’s basketball out of MAAC regular season after positive COVID-19 case

By: Matthew Chaves *Sports Editor*

Iona College sent out an email Monday announcing there has been a positive COVID-19 case amongst their Tier 1 members. The men’s basketball team will not finish their regular Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference season games.

“Due to a positive COVID-19 result received by a Tier 1 member of the men’s basketball program, and subsequent quarantine and isolation protocols, Iona will not have the required number of student-athletes to complete for the remainder of the MAAC’s regular season,” the announcement stated. “Student-athletes who have been cleared via health department, NCAA and MAAC protocols remain able to train during the pause in activity for those who cannot.”

This comes just a week after a 51 day-long break that the Gaels were excited to break. The break was between Dec. 23. and Feb. 12.

The Gaels just finished their week with a double-header win against Monmouth and were getting ready to go up against Marist on Wednesday.

“This is extremely unfortunate news to learn at a time so late in the season,” head coach Rick Pitino said in the email. “I feel awful for our student-athletes who worked so hard to get back following our pause that lasted nearly two months. The pandemic is still very real, and ultimately the health and safety of those around the program is most important. We look forward to returning and competing in the MAAC Championship in March.”

The MAAC Championships start on March 8. The Gaels have officially ended their regular season with a 6-3 MAAC record, 8-5 overall.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IONA GAELS ON YOUTUBE.

This is the second time this season the Iona College men’s basketball team has been directly impacted by COVID-19.

Iona golf prepares for tight schedule ahead

By: Matthew Chaves *Sports Editor*

The Iona College golf team hasn’t played a competitive game for almost a year. The Gaels were unable to defend their championship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Luckily, seven of the nine Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference teams, including Iona, will finally be able to grab their clubs and head to the courses come early March, according to head coach Sean Burke. It’ll be the first competition the Gaels will play since they tied 3rd at the Lonnie Barton Invitational on March 9, 2020.

Iona will have 7 events this season, starting off with the MAAC Spring Kickoff and ending with the Sacred Heart Spring Invite, right before the MAAC Championships. Starting March 6, the Gaels will have a competition to go to every single week, including the MAAC Championships, until April 25.

“We’ll have a very busy schedule,” Burke said via Zoom call. “In the hope that we’re playing everything, it’ll be hectic and if things go awry somewhere, we’ll have backup and alternative plans.”

Given the long time since any competition for the team, they are itching to show off their skills on the courses and bring home wins for the college, according to Burke. The roster’s depth is richer this year with a total of 10 golfers, compared to seven last season.

“These guys want to play golf, they want to play a lot,” Burke said. “They would be playing every day if they had the option, whether it was tournaments or practice or on their own.”

COVID-19 has affected all of the sports in the NCAA, including golf. Their season was canceled right after the Lonnie Barton Invitational. While other sports are more at risk for COVID-19, golf seems less at risk due to the nature of the sport. Despite this, when other sports shutdown, it was understandable for golf to follow suit, Burke said.

Since the Gaels’ title win in 2019, a lot has changed throughout the league. It’s a mystery for Iona and Burke just how good the other teams in the league are, but the same goes for them when looking at Iona, Burke said. The lack of knowledge is sure to bring on major competition this season, given everything goes smoothly without interruptions from COVID-19.

Should the pandemic get in the way somehow and cancel some of the events, the team is in a good position to absorb that hit due to the robust schedule and depth of the team, according to Burke.

If someone on the team got COVID-19, making sure everyone else is safe and healthy followed by gathering five members of the team and heading out to the tournament would



PHOTO COURTESY OF ICGAELS.COM

Iona College will be hosting the Battle at Rum Pointe in Ocean City, Md. on March 27 and 28.

be the game plan, Burke said.

“I don’t care if that’s one through five, three through eight or six through 10,” Burke said. “They’re all working hard to be ready to go and if their number gets called, I have great confidence that they’ll step up and do their best.”

The Gaels have their first event, the MAAC Spring Kickoff, on March 6 in Ocean View, New Jersey at Shore Gate Golf Club.