

THE COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS' AWARD-WINNING STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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THROUGH TRAGEDY, WITH PERSISTENCE: SHE REMAINS ALTRUISTIC

BY DANIELLE PECCI
Editor-in-Chief

Dolores "Dee" Rincon, 72, exhibits the energy and love of 100 people combined. Once called the "Erma Bombeck" of Center Grove Elementary School for her writing skills, she often uses her writing as a way to help others and remains living proof that hardships have the potential to turn into positive action. It's a flattering comparison. A veritable whirlwind, Erma Bombeck was a peerless syndicated columnist who wrote for 900 newspapers, capturing the humor of suburban life in bestsellers such as *The Grass is Always Greener over the Septic Tank* and 14 others, penning more than 4,000 columns. Dee also makes great use of humor. Personable with a smile for everyone she meets, Dee knows how to consider both her own needs and especially the needs of those who don't always have the voice to speak.

She cherishes time spent with family. Exercising often, she can sometimes be found walking around Horseshoe Lake in Succasunna, New Jersey.

Rincon's blond hair radiates the same glow as her beaming face. Her peaceful demeanor reflects years of experience and knowledge, which came to her with full force later in life. "I think I was sleeping for the first 50 years of my life," she said.

Rincon wrote newsletters for six Randolph schools, an article for *Silk Purse Women Magazine* on reclaiming one's life, and a poem published in the *Randolph Recorder*. Rincon even appeared on a TV commercial in 1973 that ran on primetime channels for six weeks. She had written a letter to the company praising their nail product and landed a commercial, which paid her \$139. She has written three books. The third one, a children's book, is close to publication but still needs illustrations.

Rincon's book "Randolph Kids Speak out on Drugs," published in 1999 had students from Center Grove, Fernbrook, Ironia, Shongum, and Randolph Middle



PHOTO BY DANIELLE PECCI

Dee Rincon is an active member of the County College of Morris Alumni Board.

School submit anti-drug jingles in recognition of National Alcohol and Drug Awareness Week. The book was inspired by poster contests, which originated at Center Grove School and expanded to other schools between 1996-1999. The group, Parents Who Dare to Care, which Rincon actively participated in, helped fuel her idea for the book.

In 2006, Rincon released a book on parenting called "The Voices of Randolph." Within the contents are poems about parenthood, parenting tips and advice, and activities such as answering questions under the section "Parenting with a Plan," to get people thinking about their parenting style

and how they would act as a parent. Rincon interviewed people from around the area — parents, students, teachers, police officers, the clergy, faith communities and counselors — for their input.

In the Editor's Epilogue of her parenting book, Rincon describes what her father's death taught her, which was around the time she published the parenting book. "[My parents'] legacy taught me to be compassionate about others and to contribute to make this world a better place," Rincon wrote. "For 15 years, I have served Randolph as a volunteer. I never knew I'd gain the confidence, leadership, and creativity, while helping those in need."

Linda Nicholas met Dee in the '70s. Nicholas was friends with Rincon's now husband, and they became friends from that point on. "Dee has always strived to keep busy, and she has writing skills with poems," Nicholas said. "And even when she writes you, which she still does ... it's with great sweetness and kindness, and she's just that kind of person. Like when you get a phone call or a text from her or a letter, it's always uplifting, so, she's very good at the writing. And she's involved in so many things I can't even keep up with her."

Her third book, a children's book, centers around a little honeybee named Jasmine Jeepers. The other bees bully her because she is different from them. She can't read, see, or fly well, and she realizes she's finally had enough of the torment. Jasmine wants to sting the other bees, but later realizes that if she stings them, she would be no better. "My message is there's nothing like kindness or giving somebody a smile or just being nicer because it will come back," Rincon said.

The book was inspired by her own difficulties with sight. She has gone through eye surgery because of problems with the muscles, resulting in her eyes not working together properly. They didn't flow right, and she was slightly cross-eyed. She dedicated this book to her eye doctor, Dr. Anthony Caputo, a pediatric ophthalmologist from Roseland, New Jersey who performed two eye surgeries on her to correct the issue.

Rincon astonishes her friends and family with her involvement in helping others with her hard work, time, money, and passion. "She's fascinating. She just writes these books, and she gets involved in councils," said Lorraine Scandariato, Dee's friend of almost 20 years who met her at their church, Resurrection Parish on Millbrook Avenue in Randolph, New Jersey. "Again, it's just community outreach, personal outreach. Just one of those people that you just like, you're in awe of. I don't know where she finds the energy to do

half of what she does, I really don't, but she's older than me."

Rincon has been involved with the Randolph Municipal Alliance Committee; Parents Who Dare to Care, a group dedicated to preventing underage drinking; and the Daughters of the American Revolution who have set up fundraisers in the past for veterans and dogs that sniff out bombs in the army. She was a facilitator for 15 years with a program called Rainbows, which helps kids who have experienced divorce and bereavement in their family. She was a teacher's aide in special needs for two years.

Rincon is also part of Toastmasters International, which helps people improve their public speaking ability while learning how to be a leader, and she was a crisis first responder, working with the Randolph Police Department, providing care for domestic violence victims. Rincon received the Carington Swain Fellowship Award and the Hixson Fellowship in recognition of her contributions and work while part of the Kiwanis Club of Randolph Township.

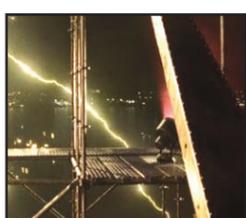
"I learned about people, teamwork, working together," Rincon said. "Sometimes you have to pound the pavement. Learn to be very persistent, very persistent. I didn't give up. I just felt the passion. I don't know where that comes from."

Her parents didn't have much money growing up. She'd receive new clothes for school and shoes for Easter, along with an Easter basket. "It's not like every week they'd buy you a toy," Rincon said. "You didn't have money." But what they gave her was happiness.

"I remember all the good things, but when my brother came along, it did put a lot of strain on them," Rincon said. "And they argued, and they did the best they could." Dee's brother couldn't speak until he was 4 years old because of aphasia, which affects one's ability to speak, write, and understand verbal and written language. "He could understand, but

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COLUMN: Four Esteemed Professors Retire

**BY PROFESSOR
KENNETH SHOULER**
Advisor for the Youngtown Edition

It's the English and Philosophy department I'm writing of but let's go straight to the addition, which is hard to ignore. Four professors who retired in December taught a combined 182 years at the County College of Morris. Not a misprint. And this little foray into addition doesn't include Professor Laura Gabrielson, Dr. Gail Watson, and Dr. Bob Chioffi, also recently retired, whose service bumps that number beyond 300 years. It's staggering. Do people stay with jobs that long anymore? The evidence shouts a resounding "no." According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median number of years that wage and salary workers had been with their current employer was 4.1 years in January 2020, down slightly from 4.2 years in January 2018.

These professors brought us not only longevity but expert teaching and leadership, extracurricular work and camaraderie, Emily Dickinson scholarship and a play called *The Park Bench*, year-round talks of baseball and recipes for dog food, dedication to the invaluable Writing Center and boundless community engagement, on and off this campus. The rest of us arrived at an institution not in its nascent stages but already thriving, thriving because of them and their colleagues from those earlier decades. Without them, our careers would have been impossible. I'm awestruck from the outside, which is but a fraction of what it must feel like from the inside.

Come to that, what does it feel like? Now, that is.

**DR. MARYANNE
GARBOWSKY**

Let Dr. Maryanne Garbowsky take the lead. She earned her doctorate from the Drew University Graduate School, writing on how reading the Atlantic Monthly impacted Emily Dickinson's writing. Dickinson's reading of a short story by Harriet Prescott Spofford result-

ed in a poem. "Dickinson's readings often triggered ideas for her poems, which show evidence of their influence in plot, theme, and/or word choices," Professor Garbowsky said. In 1989 she wrote, *The House Without the Door: A Study of Emily Dickinson and the Illness of Agoraphobia*. Later, in 2002, she wrote *Double Vision: Contemporary Artists Look at the Poetry of Emily Dickinson*. She started teaching in September of 1976, two months before Jimmy Carter became our 39th president. "I had two favorites," she says. "Creative Writing, since I love to write myself, and the American Literature surveys — the first and second parts. Introducing students to American literature has always been a treat for me." In one manner, Garbowsky's writing courses were an extension of her own love of writing.

Now she reflects. "It is bittersweet; I love my career and feel very fortunate to have had it and pursued it for so long. It will be a loss for me: leaving my colleagues, friends I have worked with for so many years—who are like my family after so long—leaving the classroom and the energy of being with young people, who were always teachers to me along the way." She pauses. "As you can see, I did not 'go willingly,' but felt it was time. Time is precious, and one never knows when it will run out." Was there a highlight? "That's hard to say. I love the classroom experience, getting to know and work with students. Sharing my love and enthusiasm for literature and trying to spark their own interest has been a challenge and a love."

Fortunately, just a narrow gulf exists between the content of her work as an educator and her leisure time. "I write and research the connection between art and literature," she explains. "I practice art myself — including drawing, sculpture, and printmaking — and work for both a print journal and a Print Club newsletter as an editor." She writes for the Emily Dickinson International Society as an Art Editor,



**PROFESSOR
KENNETH
SHOULER**

I am an inveterate walker and he accompanies me. Needless to say, I enjoy my family and being with them wherever and whenever we can be together."

The head-spinning activity of what's to come sounds less like a retirement and more like a learning pilgrimage. Her plans? "To continue to be active in my research and writing about art and literature and to make literary presentations. Twice a year I speak for Great Horizons, a continuing learning group based in Morris County. I also take courses in art (I am registered for a five-week course in Art History); to enroll in a course for dog obedience and agility for my dog; to travel; to be with and see friends and family; to relocate (maybe); and to take courses in theology at Drew, which I've already done. I am a long-time member of a Bible Study group that meets monthly. To continue a French study group that I have been a member of for several years. She apologizes for being "long-winded," but there is still much she wants to do. "I might even consider adjunct work or tutoring."

**DR. DOROTHY
HOLLOWELL**

Three doors down from Maryanne was Dorothy Hollowell. Dr. Hollowell arrived on campus in August 1988. With Ronald Reagan's tenure on Capitol Hill ending, Hollowell's tenure on this hill was beginning. Studying the novels of Joseph Conrad and William Faulkner — specifically the characters, landscape, language, and the evolution of the Imperialistic Novel — she entitled her dissertation "The Study in Imperialism in the Novels of Joseph Conrad and William Faulkner." Tufts University approved her work and bestowed their highest degree on her.



**DR. DOROTHY
HOLLOWELL**

Aside from her appreciation of the novels, her teaching at County College of Morris traced a new direction. Though admitting that teaching grammar was rather boring, she enjoyed teaching writing skills. "I delighted in the small epiphanies seen in the students as they comprehended the concepts and practical applications in their writings," she said. And there was a bonus: "This enabled them to advance from this remedial course to the credit-bearing Composition I."

But as rewarding as teaching Writing Skills was, Children's Literature ranks highest. "Since I have young grandchildren, the youngest being four years old and the old-

est eleven, I have been captivated about teaching this course. I explore the psychological concepts espoused by Piaget, Erickson, Maslow and Jung, in particular, by observing the behaviors of my own grandchildren's examples in real time. Thus, I have a more engaging interest as I see the stimulation of the children through their imagination, the human interest, the sense of justice, and the logic behind their actions."

A highlight of her teaching career was being awarded Teacher of the Year at Centenary University in 1988 at their May commencement ceremonies. Further awards ensued: Educational Opportunity Fund Professor of the Year in 1998, 1999, and 2000. "Then, I was selected the EOF Educator Champion and was presented the award in Trenton."

Retirement lines up like a continuation of her previous desires to serve. "I've always had a passion for helping the needy because I grew up in a poor family," she says. "Therefore, I will continue my work with serving the community through my sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha, sewing special garments for the children in Haiti and West Africa." There's more. "I will continue to serve as advisor to the youth choir in my church assisting with music selection and act as a choir motivator and mentor for the members." Then there are family and leisure matters. "I will enjoy my grandchildren and share interesting readings from the Children's Literature course and assist them with their academics." Her alone time includes "some favorite movies, books from my reading list, traveling to a few interesting spots within the US and out of the country, and enjoying time with family and friends."

There are several academic aspirations for the future. "During retirement, I want to revise and publish my dissertation on imperialism." That's a challenging undertaking, but there's more. "I am interested in developing a student-friendly handbook with good practical tips on how to improve one's basic skills and writing techniques." Work at a local church is an extension of that interest. "I will serve on the advisory board at church to revive the after-school tutorial program to supplement academic programs for students from third grade to twelfth grade in Northern New Jersey." And she will look out for the college. "I will continue to recruit local students to the County College of Morris, a labor I have personally done for 33 years."

She pauses to reflect on what it means to retire after being a professor for so many years.

"I must admit that I wanted to work a little longer, but life's challenges can interrupt one's plans," she says. "However, I still want to inspire students to be their 'best' selves. To this end, I will be an advocate for students with the hope of mentoring future professors like myself. I want students to embrace the passion for learning. I became aware of this as a teacher of many EOF students of color who suffered some disparity in college preparation. I want to take this concept

to places like the Neighborhood House in Morristown and other local agencies to help prepare students for the rigors of college. Additionally, I want to work with the Martin Luther King Observance Committee in Morristown as it seeks to expand its year-round breadth of involvement in the community with an emphasis on building self-esteem and highlighting models/mentors for high academic preparation."

DR. JANET EBER

Dorothy's career at the college stretched to 33 years. That was six presidents ago. Extend those 33 years to 52, and six presidents to nine, and you have the duration of Dr. Janet Eber's calling. She began teaching in September 1969, less than two months after men danced on the moon and one month before the "Miracle Mets" won their first World Series. Janet would have preferred it was the Yankees, but that longing was fulfilled eight years later, in 1977.

The course she loved most was World Literature, Beginnings to 1650. "In that class, I taught the greats: Homer, Virgil, Dante, Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Donne. Who could ask for more?" But there was more. She made converts. "The highlights are really too many to name. I recall students who told me after the fact that they had become English majors because of my class; many went on to teach successfully, and others completed graduate degrees in the subject. To inspire any student is a highlight of my career."

Describing her as a teacher doesn't begin to capture her contribution. She was much more. Dr. Eber earned her degree from Drew University in 1981. Her dissertation was a genre study of the English epithalamion (or marriage poem) in the Renaissance, with a focus on the three epithalamia written by John Donne. That work behind her, more challenging work lay ahead.

She became chair of the English and Philosophy Department in 1984, around the time when Ronald Reagan would be seeking a second term. The Tigers won the World Series. The Yankees boasted the abundant talent of Mattingly, Winfield, Guidry, and Henderson, but were woefully short on pitching and more than a decade away from grabbing another crown. But true fans don't despair. Much of her spare time from April through October was spent following the Bombers, not to mention satisfying her voracious appetite for reading.

Dr. Eber served on many committees, perhaps chief among them the Curriculum Committee, which funneled new courses into the college. Walk past her office and you'd see her advising students. She stopped in professor's offices to discuss new courses, to seek out ideas, fighting for those professors to ensure that composition courses

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THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

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All students are welcome to contribute articles to The Youngtown Edition either in person or via e-mail. However, students cannot receive a byline if they belong to the organization on which they are reporting. The deadline for articles is the Monday prior to a production.

The biggest disappointments of the AFC and NFC from the 2021 NFL season

BY TYLER KARPMAN
Sports Editor

As the 2021 NFL season draws to a close with the 2022 Super Bowl coming Feb. 13, now seems like an opportune time to reflect on some of the teams that fell short this season, especially those with loftier expectations. Disappointing seasons are nothing unusual in the ever-changing landscape of the NFL, but some failures can seem harsher than others to fans of a particular team, for any number of reasons. Of course, since 18 teams miss the playoffs each year (9 from each conference), I've decided to focus on two teams in particular — one from each Conference — that truly stand out in just how badly they underperformed expectations. Here are my picks:

AFC PICK:

CLEVELAND BROWNS (8-9, 3RD IN AFC NORTH)

Where better to start with a discussion on disappointment than the "Factory of Sadness" themselves: the Cleveland Browns? Following a 2020 season that saw an 11-5 record and the franchise's first playoff appearance in 18 years, the outlook for the Browns 2021 season was optimistic, with many predicting them to win the AFC North, or at the very least, sneak into the playoffs as one of the three wild cards, guided by a strong offensive backbone of quarterback

Baker Mayfield, running back Nick Chubb, and superstar wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. The Browns started strong, winning three of their first four games, and were looking primed to continue on that path. However, problems were already brewing under the surface.

In the Browns' Week 2 contest against the Houston Texans, Mayfield suffered a torn labrum in his left shoulder. While this injury didn't prevent him from continuing to play, Mayfield's play was noticeably shakier, leading to the offense stumbling as the team slid to 4-4. During this decline, Beckham Jr. began voicing frustrations about his usage in the Browns' passing attack, citing poor chemistry with Mayfield. As a result, Beckham Jr. was released from the team Nov. 5, after which he quickly signed with the Los Angeles Rams. In the weeks that followed, the Browns traded wins and losses, entering their final four games at 7-6, in striking distance of the playoffs. Yet, back-to-back losses quickly dashed those hopes, as Cleveland was eliminated from playoff contention prior to their Week 17 contest.

As mentioned, a large factor in Cleveland's late-season slide came from the inconsistent play of Baker Mayfield, who was injured most of the season. Playing in just 14 of the team's 17 games, Mayfield finished the season with 17 touchdown passes to 13 interceptions, a noticeable step back from his 2020 rate of

26 touchdown passes to just 8 interceptions. Compounding this issue, Mayfield threw two or more interceptions in three games, including four during a two-point loss to Green Bay in Week 16, a loss that all but eliminated the Browns from the playoffs.

Can the Browns rebound from this season to make it back to the playoffs, or are their fans in for another lengthy stretch of failure and heartbreak? That depends on whether Mayfield can bounce back from the shoulder injury that plagued him this season. If he can, Cleveland has enough talent on both sides of the ball to make a push back to the playoffs. If not, the Browns may be staring in the face of another lengthy search for a franchise quarterback, a misery Cleveland fans unfortunately know all too well.

NFC PICK: WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM (7-10, 3RD IN NFC EAST)

Following a 2020 campaign that saw Washington find itself atop an incredibly weak NFC East, the team surprised many when they nearly knocked the eventual Super Bowl Champion Buccaneers out in the Wild Card Round. Guided by the league's 4th best overall defense in 2020, it appeared that Washington was poised to improve upon those strengths and take a step forward. However, on-field failures ended up being just one of the or-

ganization's many problems during the year.

Fans had to endure sewage pipes leaking onto seats and railings breaking at the team's stadium, FedEx Field, which has consistently been ranked by players and fans alike as one of, if not the worst, NFL stadium. With a disappointing product on the field itself, it should come as a surprise to none that FedEx Field drew the second least number of fans over the course of the season, only beating out the Detroit Lions, a team that did not get its first win until Week 13.

The team's defense, led by second-year pass rusher Chase Young, was expected to be the main highlight, complimented by an offense that added veteran journeyman quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick. However, Fitzpatrick suffered a season-ending injury during Week 1, forcing the team into starting a surprise success story from the previous year in quarterback Taylor Heinicke. While Heinicke played well enough, given the relatively low expectations placed on him, it was the team's defense that failed them.

In each of the team's first seven games, Washington allowed opponents at least 20 points, allowing 29 or more points in five of those contests. By seasons' end, Washington ranked 8th in points allowed and 11th in total yards given up out of all defenses in the league. This came partly courtesy of the team allowing an average of 5.7 yards per

play, seventh worst in the league. Washington also allowed opponents to score on 42.4% of their possessions, once again seventh worst in the NFL. Young, who had finished his rookie season with 7.5 sacks in 15 games, played in just nine games, in which he recorded just 1.5 sacks, a massive step-down from his production in 2020.

These defensive woes, coupled with an offense that was struggling as expected, caused Washington to fall hard out of the gate, sitting at 2-6 headed into their Week 9 bye. Out of said bye, the team seemed to find its footing, getting revenge on the Buccaneers to kick off a four-game winning streak to get back to .500, and right in the thick of the hunt for a wild card berth. However, they would follow that streak with another; losing four straight, two each to their divisional rivals the Eagles and Cowboys, which dashed any hope left for the team, as they were eliminated following their Week 16 loss against Dallas.

With all of this in mind, it seems that Washington, set to receive a new name and logo the day this article is slated to be printed, was not ready to take hold of the NFC East as many thought they could be. However, if the defense manages to return to its 2020 standing, and the offense can take the next step, Washington could well be in position to make some noise in the coming years. But, as this year has shown us, reality can be disappointing.

PROFESSORS

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weren't overloaded.

Her beginning at the college was a world apart. Listen to her recollection. "My first semester classes were all in Henderson Hall. It was just called the Administration Building then. We moved into the library in December of 1969, where our offices were and some classrooms. Sheffield Hall, then just the A building, came around the same time. Our students were a great joy — proud, prepared, and engaged. At 23, I had veterans in class older than I, and they were terrific and thrilled to be in college. We all knew we were a part of something important. What great times!" Black and white photos reveal young people, many having witnessed the horrors of the Vietnam War, leaning forward in shirts and ties, eager to settle, deservedly, into an institution of higher learning.

Dedicated to County College of Morris in all or part of seven decades, Professor Eber will now find time to serve herself. "My immediate plans are to catch up on the long list of books I want to read but didn't have the time to do so." She pauses. "I also plan on going to my grandsons' soccer games. They're both terrific players." She takes a moment to reflect. "Retirement is bittersweet. My identity has been

inextricably bound to my profession. It's not easy to let it go."

PROFESSOR ALEX KUCSMA

Four years after Professor Eber began her career, Professor Alex Kucsma arrived. Fresh from earning his masters degree in British and American Literature from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, Professor Kucsma began teaching in September 1973, during the first expansion of the college. "I entered Cohen Hall on boards because the concrete had not set on the entranceway," he says, recalling the time nearly half a century ago. The academic buildings were known as A, B, and C. That year Dr. Peter Williams, Prof. Sandy Jackson (later Dr. Jackson), Prof. Sandy Vandergaag; Prof. Michael Gessel; and Instructor Angela Marcopoto were added to the staff."

He recalls one course vividly. "I loved teaching American Literature I. It provided me with a great opportunity to speak about the formative ideas that flourished from the Mayflower Compact to the Civil War: The Puritan Age, the Age of Reason/Revolution (the Enlightenment) and the Romantic Period. This gave me the opportu-

nity to discuss the great writers that formed our nation: William Bradford, Jonathan Edwards, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine, Hawthorne, Melville, Poe, Emerson, Thoreau and Whitman... to mention just a few. It was my great joy."

But there were highpoints that didn't involve teaching, too. "I am pleased that the legacy of the Challenge Grant I wrote in 1989 continues with Accessibility Services (formally CASE), the Writing Center, and the Math Center."

There were other creations. "I will forever be grateful for the support of the English Department and the Liberal Arts Division that brought *The Park Bench* to the stage and earned me the title of playwright from the Dramatists Guild. Writing under the name of "John Glennville," Kucsma called his production a "play of ideas." It served up heady commentary on social issues such as gun control, gay marriage, and more. The play was first presented on campus in January 2015. Asked about its theme, Professor Kucsma said, "While the message of the play is that the rediscovery of the old principles of love can lead to happiness, it offers a counterpoint to contemporary liberal thought given by a delightful old man who loves to sing Cole Porter songs." The play was directed by Chase Newhart, from New Providence, who had acted with the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey in Madison

and directed for both the Summit Playhouse and the Chatham Community Theater. His production of "Glengarry Glen Ross" won the Perry Award for outstanding production of a play in New Jersey. A month after its campus debut, the play could be seen on YouTube. It's still there: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rFZoH0JULI>

Alex made other lasting contributions. "The Stars II program, while modified from my original intent, continues. I, myself, will benefit from work I did that gave county college professors parity with state colleges on retirement benefits after twenty-five years of service."

He also taught courses that no longer exist. "I introduced Science Fiction into the curriculum in the early 1970's. I had a graduate course in Science Fiction at Bowling Green and decided to teach it here. It was popular. I stopped teaching it when Science Fiction was not considered a General Elective transfer course. I also taught Contemporary Literature, until Kenneth Burke, the father of modern criticism, visited CCM in 1981, two weeks after winning the National Medal for Literature, an honor given to a living American writer for contributions to American letters. I asked him for the names of modern writers he considered significant. He told me there were no great writers after Faulkner and Hemingway. I hap-

pened to agree with him. I stopped teaching Contemporary Literature because if I cannot get enthusiastic about a course I am teaching, I do not want to teach it."

With leisure ahead, Alex will turn to his novels and plays. "The Park Bench" was the first flowering of my talent. Now I plan to focus on bringing my plays and novels to the public. I have written five novels and seven plays. As a member of Dramatist Guild, I will work with the New Jersey Theatre Alliance to bring my works to the stage. I am searching for an agent for my novels. These things will keep me busy."

Then the man whose laugh we've come to know well slows down. "I had a great career at CCM. I worked with some incredibly bright and creative people. It was a pleasure to come into work every day and meet colleagues from all departments in the hallways and offices. The faculty is the heart of the college.

"As I retire with three colleagues who were part of a great tradition of excellence at CCM, I cannot help but recall the words of John Milton:

The world was all before them, where to choose

Their place of rest, and Providence their guide:

They, hand in hand, with wandering steps and slow,

Through Eden took their solitary way.



PROFESSOR ALEX KUCSMA

REVIEW: Spider-Man: No Way Home

BY LAURA SAN ROMAN
Entertainment Editor

The anticipation for *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, the third movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe series, was intense during the weeks leading up to the film's release. The film was met with critical and box office success, landing at number four on the all-time box office list. The question is, did the film meet people's high expectations? I believe it did.

The film stars Tom Holland as Peter Parker/Spider-Man, Zendaya as Michelle Jones-Watson, Jacob Batalon as Ned Leeds, Benedict Cumberbatch as Doctor Stephen Strange, Marisa Tomei as Peter's Aunt May, and various villains from the previous *Spider-Man* movies, including Alfred Molina as Doctor Octopus, Willem Dafoe as Green Goblin, and Jamie Foxx as Electro. In addition, as we were all waiting for, Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield starred in the film as well, reprising their roles as Peter Parker/Spider-Man opposite Holland.

Watching Maguire and Garfield on screen, reprising their old roles, was a huge deal for



PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

Spider-Man fans. Many audiences erupted in cheers and applause at seeing the old Spider-Men come back to the big screen. Fans had speculated about their appearance in the film long before the movie's release, but actually seeing it happen was a major surprise for fans all around the world. The movie gave fans everything they wanted, seeing the three Spider-Men working together and the iconic Spider-Man pointing meme.

The acting is fantastic. Holland brings the audience to tears

in his emotional scenes. He also shines in his fight scenes, showing different sides to his character consistently. Another performance worth noting is Dafoe as Green Goblin/Norman Osborn. Dafoe brings a terrifying element to the character, switching between Norman and Green Goblin with ease. Batalon as Ned is hilarious as usual and brings a comedic element to the film. Zendaya's character flourishes as we see more of MJ's personality come through, including her care for Peter.

The fight scenes are extremely well-done, particularly Peter's end fight with Green Goblin. The sheer anger and murderous intent toward the villain is something we've never seen from Peter before, showcasing a darker side of Spider-Man, and the MCU in turn. Peter's fight with Doctor Strange is also thrilling, when they enter the Mirror Dimension with incredible CGI.

The cinematography is excellent, especially during Doctor Strange and Peter's fight scene and

during the scene when Peter realizes Norman has become Green Goblin. This scene is arguably one of the best in the film, showing how Peter's Spider-sense is incredibly intuitive and can tell a change before he even realizes it himself. The scene creates a major amount of suspense for the audience, who become eager to know what Peter is noticing thanks to his Spider-sense.

Many fans have criticized the MCU's Spider-Man for being too dependent on Iron Man and Stark technology, but this movie blows those criticisms out of the water. By the ending of the film, Peter Parker is no longer dependent on anybody but himself. We now anticipate a more adult Spider-Man as he navigates college without the support of his old friends, Aunt May, and Happy.

Fans can be sure to see Tom Holland appear as Spider-Man once more as it has been announced that there will be another trilogy of Spider-Man movies starring Holland. Based on the end credit scene with Tom Hardy's Venom, it can be assumed that we will see Venom in a Spider-Man film very soon.

RINCON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he couldn't get up the words," she said. "He talked in broken sentences."

Rincon saw her brother go through dialysis because of renal failure and her parents struggling to pay for treatment, forcing them to take out a loan. She wishes she became a speech pathologist, an aspiration held within her that she thinks about sometimes. "I just love my brother," she said. "I'm happy with my life. It is what it is. I feel like I've done great things. I've helped people, and I feel like

I got more."

After graduating from Morris Knolls High School in 1968, in the National Honor Society and ranking 20 out of 220 in her class, Rincon explored the world after her 12-year run in school. "I just want to go out there and have some fun, and I did that," she said. "But I worked hard, and I got promoted at my job. And that was nice. I did work my way up. In fact, I'm still friends with one of my former bosses from 1972. He was the one that took me under his wing, and he said, 'I want you to go back to school' because he was really pro-education."

Dee fervently believes the

man who took her under his wing — Michael Wolff, a now retired director of marketing research of the Warner-Lambert Company where she had previously worked as his secretary in 1972 — helped shape her whole life from then on. Wolff's wife has told Dee, "Mike always feels you are the success in his life."

"You got to find your own confidence, and you do that by doing things," Rincon said. "And so now, I can say things, and I can kind of kid [with my husband]. Before, I was like this little mush. I couldn't find the words. I didn't know the words. The more you read, the more you learn, the more

you can articulate, right? That's what college is going to do."

Rincon attended County College of Morris at night, two nights a week for six years. She received her associate degree in business administration. She had one or two more courses left to complete and said to her husband, "I can't stop here because I had my son. I have to finish this degree." Dee graduated from CCM in 1985. "I do have a little bit of regret," she said. "I really think I should have gone and gotten my four-year degree, [which] would have opened up even more doors for me."

Dee was honored with CCM's Alumni Humanitarian Award in 2019. Her daughter, who took her life at the age of 30 in 2017, had recommended her two years prior to her receiving the award. Rincon had no idea. Barbara Capouras, director of alumni relations at CCM, showed Dee the letter. "It was a letter from my Marissa recommending me. What she said was so nice," Rincon said. "She talked about my getting out in the middle of the night and helping people with domestic violence. She talked about how she'd meet people, and they'd say, 'Oh, we love your mother. She's doing so much for the community.' It was so well written. She had a talent."

The loss of her beloved child sparked a deep concern within Rincon for the well-being of students at CCM. Someone gave her the name Todd Doney, an associate professor of visual arts at CCM. She gave him a call. "I said my daughter passed away," Rincon said. "I am deeply concerned about the students in mental health. Suicide is on the rise, and that would become worse. I want to honor my daughter with an art exhibit and also give the message out for mental health."

The art exhibit, named "Marisa Rincon: An Impression

of Life," lasted seven weeks, and approximately \$5,000 was raised and put in Marissa's name for the Marisa Rincon Memorial Scholarship for the Arts. Dee's supportive community and reading self-help books aided her when dealing with her daughter's death.

"You have different times in your life. OK, I cried. I think tears are OK," she said. "I used to think, oh, you're an emotional wreck if you cry. Maybe I cried for the whole day. ... We're not gonna get away with not having challenges in our life."

Rincon took out her phone at one point, and she pulled up the song "Brave" on YouTube by Sara Bareilles and played the song. The melody filled the room, and the lyrics hit differently this time. As the song continued playing, Rincon said, "I think about my daughter reminding me of myself. I wanted to be brave. Marissa, speak up, on the voice that she couldn't do for mental health because she was too embarrassed about it. I think I've touched a nerve with you." She was right. Her empathetic soul picked up on my feelings of relating to the want and need of being brave when facing mental health issues.

Dee Rincon lives with a sunny disposition, remaining structured and aware of life's constant lessons and obstacles. Possessing a deep curiosity for people, she easily makes new connections and friends. Through writing and a charitable, soft heart, Rincon has dedicated an impressive amount of time doing good for the sake of others. "She's just always looking to help, and even to this day, I just marvel at her," Scandariato said. "I mean, just the way she presents herself with people, and she's always willing to listen and help out and offer life's advice, even despite her own situation. It's very admirable, and it's genuine, too."

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