

# QUO VADIS

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## Program That Aids Students with Learning Disabilities Receives Federal Grant

PRESS RELEASE

Project Connections, a program at Middlesex County College that provides intensive support services for college students with learning disabilities, has received a five-year federal grant. The program, which celebrated its 25th anniversary last year, will receive \$297,987 per year, making the full allocation almost \$1.5 million.

"We are thrilled to be funded again," said Dr. John Herrling, director of the College's Counseling and Career Services Office, which oversees Project Connections. "This is a program that has helped hundreds of people learn strategies to compensate for their disability and move into successful careers. The funding was announced

by United States Senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez, who also reported on grants to 13 other New Jersey colleges and universities.

"This funding will help ease financial restraints and level the playing field for students with difficult circumstances that are beyond their control," Senator Lautenberg said. "With New Jersey being home to so many excellent colleges and universities, this federal funding will help students overcome obstacles, excel in the classroom and earn their degree."

Senator Menendez agreed.

"Education is the great equalizer, which is why it is so important to struggling families that their children have access to a quality higher education," he said. "Students who have to overcome the

most to get to college too often fall victim to a lack of support once they are there. This is an investment to ensure that these students reach their potential, which is important for the future of our state and our economy."

The grant covers 58 percent of Project Connections' annual program costs. Non-federal funding sources support the remaining 42 percent – \$216,528 – of the first-year costs.

Project Connections is a competitive program, limited to 160 students who have learning disabilities and are able to do college work. The program provides intensive support, including group and individual tutoring, counseling and a special orientation program. In addition, students take two courses: "Strategies

for Success," and a modified version of "Student Success 101."

In "Strategies for Success," students learn to understand their disability, develop a career plan, and learn how technology can help them overcome their disability. They use the adapted technology lab, which is one of the best in the state.

"Student Success 101" is a freshman course at Middlesex that teaches time management, study skills and strategies to be successful at the College. Project Connections has been continually funded since 1984; it is extremely well known throughout New Jersey and the region.

One of the many successful alumni of the program is LeDerick Horne, a real estate investor, playwright, advocate

for people with disabilities and a spoken word poet. He is also board chair of Project Eye-to-Eye, a national nonprofit that provides mentoring programs for students.

"Project Connections is a national model for disability services," he said. "The whole country looks at this program as the standard of excellence. I am very pleased that it is funded again. It allows for people to realize their potential and take advantage of everything that higher learning has to offer."

Mr. Horne has a CD of spoken word poetry out, and he is finishing a second. "I learned how to write in Project Connections," he said. "I am one of hundreds who got to realize their dream because of the support I got from that program."

## College Foundation Meets Challenge Match Goal

PRESS RELEASE

Last December, the Middlesex County College Foundation received a challenge grant from the Willard T. C. Johnson Foundation structured in two parts: an outright gift of \$500,000 as well as a challenge grant of \$500,000. In order to earn the full \$500,000 challenge match, the Foundation's supporters needed to make new scholarship gifts or pledges, which, when added together, equaled \$500,000 or more. The deadline to meet the challenge was June 30, 2010.

The MCC Foundation was successful and received the full amount.

"We are very grateful to the Willard T. C. Johnson Foundation and to Betty Wold Johnson for believing in Middlesex County College and its students," said Rose Cofone, acting executive director of the College Foundation. "This was a great boost, and especially welcome in a down economy. We are also grateful to the Foundation Board of Directors, College trustees, the

campus community, our corporate neighbors, and friends of the College who rallied to help us reach our goal."

In particular, Paige and Elizabeth L'Hommedieu, longtime supporters of the Foundation, committed to a leadership gift that was instrumental in achieving the match.

Because of the way the gift was structured, at the end of the campaign the Foundation raised \$1.5 million. This generous support will help to provide scholarship assistance to deserving Middlesex County College students for years to come.

"The officers of the Willard T.C. Johnson Foundation, Inc. understand the importance of this College and are pleased to support the Scholarship Endowment Fund," said Betty W. Johnson, chairman of the Board of Directors.

College President Joann La Perla-Morales said the need for scholarship support is greater than ever.

"It is wonderful news that the Middlesex County College Foundation has succeeded in

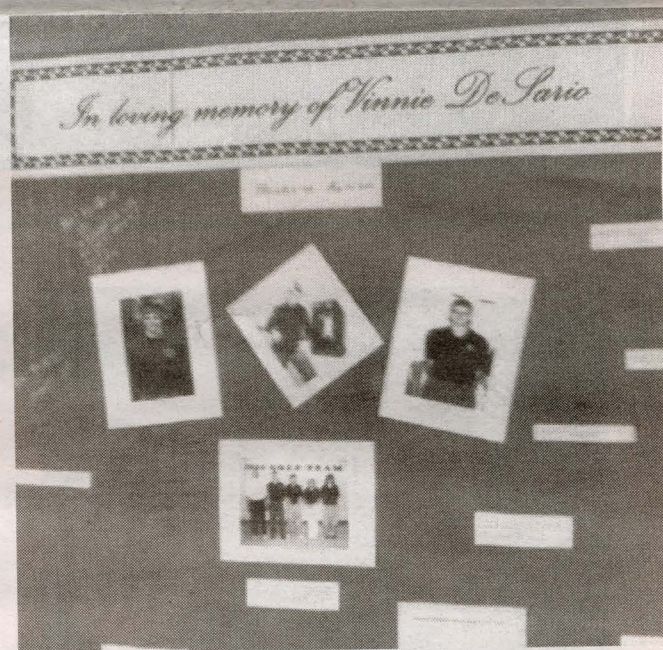
making its goal," she said.

"Many of our students are the first in their family to attend college. They are hard working and, especially in these difficult economic times, the need is very real. This gift will provide many students with the opportunity to fulfill their dream of earning a college degree. It is an investment in the future. Our graduates will become the talented people needed to contribute to the economy and future workforce of central New Jersey and this gift will make that happen. Thank you to everyone who continues to show faith in Middlesex County College. We are so grateful."

College Foundation Board Chairman Brian Daugherty thanked the Johnson Foundation.

"We are most grateful to the Willard T.C. Johnson Foundation, Inc. for this exceedingly generous gift commitment," he said. "A gift of this magnitude is extraordinary in the best of times, but at this critical juncture it means so much more."

## Photo of the Week



The MCC athletic department is featuring a bulletin board honoring the life of Vincent DeSario, who tragically passed away over the summer. Students are invited to come in and sign the mural.

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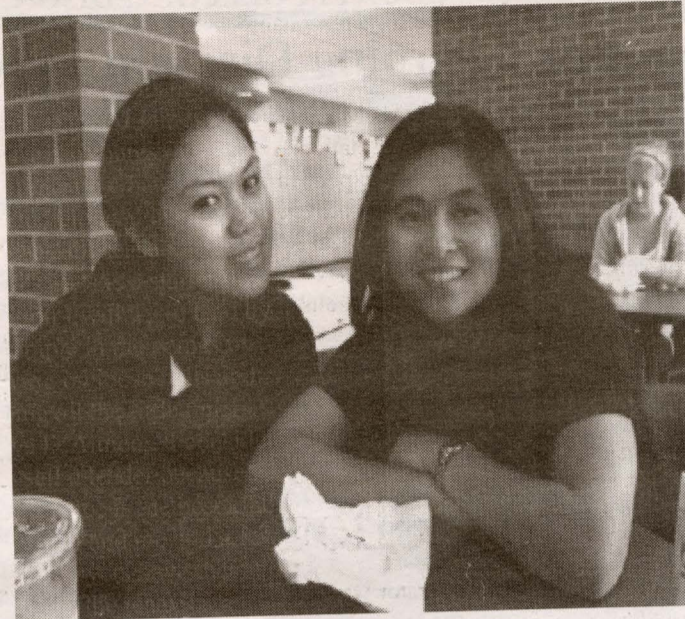


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# “What do you think of the new campus-wide smoke-free policy?”

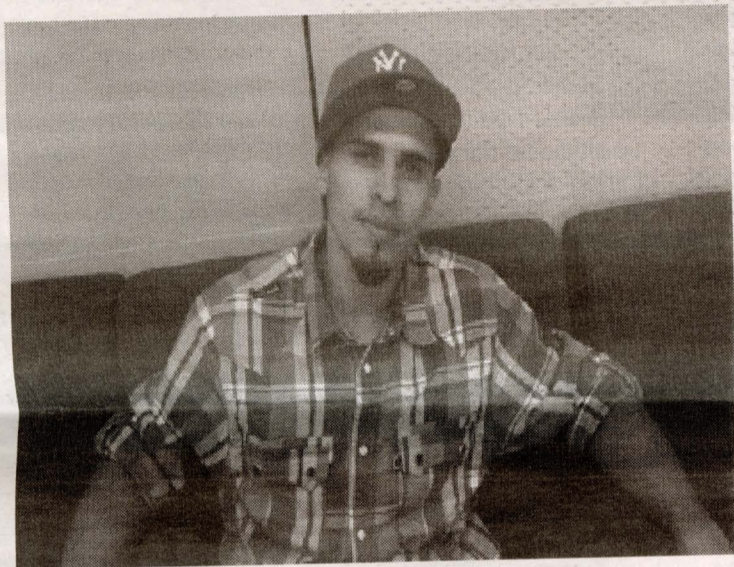
*“Smoking is bad. I don't [smoke]. I'm glad the college recognizes my health concerns.”*

- KRISTINE CALO, 22,  
NURSING



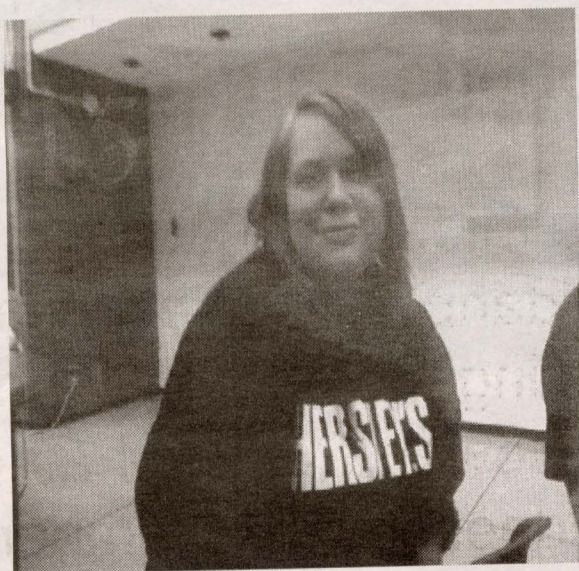
*“Do what you want to your body – just not around me. I take too good care of my body to have someone ELSE pollute it with second-hand smoke.”*

- ESTHER RAMIREZ, 22,  
NURSING



*“I'm for smoking sections, but there has to be restrictions. The few bad people who didn't follow the rules ruined it for the rest of us.”*

- ALONZO DELGADO, 23,  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING



*“The policy is not really enforced. People still smoke [on campus]. I pay no mind to it since it doesn't directly affect me.”*

- MIRANDA LISHMAN, 18,  
PSYCHO-SOCIAL REHAB

## REGISTRATION BEGINS OCT.15

### Publication Dates

- 3.Sept. 29
- 4.Oct. 6
- 5.Oct. 13
- 6.Oct.20
- 7.Oct.27
- 8.Nov.3
- 9.Nov.10
- 10.Nov.17
- 11.Nov.24
- 12.Dec.1
- 13.Dec. 8
- 14.Dec. 15

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*Other contributions by the MCC Marketing & Public Information Department*

# Cafeteria Gets Makeover at the College

**Russell Dolan**  
Staff Writer

Students returning to The College this year may have noticed the cafeteria is now run by a different vendor and has given it a whole new look as well as a big menu change.

"Periodically, the college is required to go through a formal process to select a food vendor. By law, it must be done at least every five years," said Tom Peterson, Director of marketing and college relations at The College. "However, the contract we had with the previous vendor,

Gourmet Dining, was for only three years, so we had to go through the process this past year."

Peterson said, "The Retail Services Corporation, which is the board that oversees food service and the bookstore, solicited proposals from vendors and evaluated them, and then selected Sodexo."

The retail services corporation looks for a catering vendor that has had worked in colleges before as well as "a company that can provide variety at a reasonable cost, keeping in mind that we have a diverse population. The RSC

liked Sodexo's proposal and awarded them the contract," said Peterson.

The new vendor cost no extra for The College and is making food for a reasonable price. The new menu is very diverse.

"There is a Mexican station, an Asian station, a new deli and an expanded salad bar. They've moved the burgers, fries and pizza section into Café A. They've also expanded the selections," said Peterson.

"I really like the Asian station. It doesn't taste like your typical cafeteria food," said Alyssa Mazarella, fresh-

man.

"The food is better than last year definitely," said Gina Anania, sophomore, "The sushi is delicious and surprisingly fresh!"

Not only is the new food vendor making the students happy but it's also making the employees of the cafeteria happy as well. Theresa Catenarro who worked at the college last year in the cafeteria boasts that she "loves" the new food vendor.

"The food is better and fresher. Everything is run more professionally. We're doing much better. We're busier and we're hearing good

reactions from the students. This is the best I've seen the cafeteria in two years," said Catenarro.

Sodexo brought in a new full staff, which the old vendor didn't have.

"Many of the employees of Gourmet Dining decided to stay with the company and work at other locations they serve. Others retired. They all had the opportunity to interview for a job with Sodexo, and some were hired," said Peterson.

Check out The College's new food selections in the College Center and be sure to give the tasty treats a try!

# New Cafe Opens Next to College

**Robert Horvath**  
Staff Writer

For the new Beechwood Café & Grill, business is booming.

"We've had a fifty percent increase in business since school opened," said Mike Farag, owner of the Beechwood Café & Grill.

The Beechwood Café & Grill is located right next to The College in the same mini mall as Subway and Pancho's Mexican Grill. It has been open for the past three months but has been seeing it's true potential now since school is in session. For students, it's a great place to sit down and relax before or after a class. Students can either eat a meal,

using their ten percent off college discount, or use the restaurant's free Wi-Fi. Farag said the busiest times from college students are usually during the afternoon hours and he sees most of his morning business from Raritan Center.

Farag was proud to say that what distinguishes them from other restaurants is the fact that everything at Beechwood is freshly made. His inspiration comes from his son not eating fast food.

"Everything is done in here," said Farag. "The soup is made fresh, the cheesesteak is real roast beef, and even the potato chips are made from real potatoes."

In the kitchen of the restaurant, there is a grill and a

huge refrigerator which stores

from The College starting to

a week ago and I love it," said Lisa Donato, a student of The College and employee of Beechwood Café & Grill.

Donato said the most popular items on the menu with college students are the buffalo chicken wrap and the turkey and Cuban paninis.

"You can get a coffee, come study, and do homework," said Donato. "Students like using the free Wi-Fi. A lot of places have time limits."

Beechwood Café & Grill marks the second location for Farag. His other restaurants are Europa Café in New York City and a soon to be announced restaurant opening in the Lehigh Valley section of Pennsylvania in a few weeks.



PHOTO / ROBERT HORVATH

most of the fruits, vegetables, and fresh produce.

pick up on this new café, students are also working there.

"I started working here

Not only are students

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## College Fair Tonight!

The Middlesex County Guidance Association is hosting the annual John McGowen College Fair on Wednesday, September 29 in the Physical Education Center. It will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and is for current high school students. For a complete list of participating colleges and universities, see Campus News above.

# MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE

# Celebrating HISPANIC CULTURE 2010

**Wednesday, September 15th**  
**Hispanic Heritage Kick-Off Program**  
Mariachi Band and Nacho Bar  
College Center, Main Lounge  
11 a.m.

**Tuesday, September 21st**  
**Film: La Bamba**  
College Center, Main Lounge  
Showtimes: 11 a.m and 4 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 29th**  
**Film: West Side Story**  
College Center, Main Lounge  
Showtimes: 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

**Thursday, September 30th**  
**Broadway Trip: In The Heights**  
*Bus leaves Lot 2 at 5 p.m.*

**Tickets on Sale for Students:**  
9/14/10 at 9:30 a.m.

2 Per MCC Valid ID at \$25

**Staff, Faculty, and Alumni can sign up  
for lottery beginning 9/14/10**

*Will be notified by 9/28/10.*

Ticket cost \$30

**Monday, October 4th**  
**Lecture: Enrique Morones:  
Immigration Activist and Founder of  
Border Angels**  
**Mexico's 2009 Human Rights Awardee**  
College Center, Cafeteria C  
*Free Lunch for Participants*  
11 a.m.

**Wednesday, October 20th**  
**Latin Music by Liset Alea**  
College Center, Main Lounge  
11 a.m.

**Monday, November 1st**  
**El Dia de los Muertos Celebration Party**  
College Center, Main Lounge  
*Free Refreshments*  
11 a.m.

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September 29, 2010

# MCC Anime Club

**Matthew Keenan**

*Arts & Entertainment Editor*

It has been a long road from the humble start up of The College's Anime Game Tech club. Starting out of a branch from the computer club, a group of five anime enthusiasts took it upon themselves to start a club to satisfy a large population of gamer, animation and technology loving students. In autumn

of 2004, JT Maguire, Kevin Galipean, Jon Wolan, Dorothy Eng, and Nirmal Sadarangani started a club that would soon become much more than a place to discuss anime.

In just a span of six years the club has expanded from five anime fans to over 70 members. The club has grown so large that the current president, Jaren Haskins, has to book an entire cafeteria just for the club sign-ups.

"We are officially the biggest anime club, bigger than Monmouth, Kean, Montclair, Ryder and even Rutgers," said Haskins. He said that the club is less like a club and more like a large family.

"We gather a lot of people that enjoy the same things and we just have a great time. We really are all friends and not just members of some club," said founding member Gordon Virasawmi.

The club has its own website dedicated to informing the public and the members on what the club is about, the history of the club, art by the members, a link to their twitter account, photos and videos of trips taken and dates of trips soon to be attended by the club.

"We organize groups from the club to attend at least seven conventions a year, we try to go to as many as we can," said

Haskins.

With a relaxed attitude combined with a real drive to set up social events and trips this club proves that with a little effort a small group of fans can quickly turn into an armada of friends.

Join them at their next meeting; info can be found on their website [www.mccanime.com](http://www.mccanime.com) or [facebook.com/animegame-tech](http://facebook.com/animegame-tech).

# Video games: there's no stopping them

**PRESS RELEASE**

Video games have been around for quite some time now. The very first video game was created by nuclear physicist William Higinbotham in 1958 and was called "Tennis for Two". This was actually before the game "Pong" was introduced in the 1970's by Ralph Baer. Back then, video games were a failing project and many companies that were originally interested in delving into the virtual world were starting to pull back. Then along came the Nintendo Entertainment System, which boosted the

popularity of video games enough to make it worth pursuing. It has been a long road since then but now video games are more popular than ever. According to a 2009 survey made by Martha Irvine of "The Huffington Post", 97% of children age 12-17 play video games at least one hour out of the day.

Rewind the clock back to the 1990s and you will find half that percentage of children of the same age playing video games. What once was shunned as an activity for "geeks" and "nerds" has now hit the mainstream. There are unlimited websites

dedicated to video games and "gamers". Entire television networks such as Spike have large segments dedicated to video games. There are huge conventions such as E3 (Electronic Entertainment Expo) which host game premieres, trailers, extra content and an assortment of other activities held all over the world which attracts millions of people a year to attend. There are books about video games and how to beat them and books just continuing the story of a game. There are magazines which keep you up to date on games and give reviews which suggest the best ones to play.

There are college majors that teach you the art of making games. To put it simply, video games are ingrained deeply into our society and it will only get more popular with time.

Now the current game consoles, the XBOX 360, The Playstation 3 and the Wii, can do much more than just play games. They can play movies, they have internet access and allow you to surf the web, and you can buy other games without leaving your home. You can play against people all over the world. You can create a virtual "you" that can interact with the rest of the

virtual world provided by your console. They even have motion detectors you can add on to play certain games without even picking up a controller, and webcams so people can see and chat with you in real-time. There is even talk about developers working on "virtual reality" consoles that will allow you to walk through a game world without touching a controller.

The future of the gamer world is a bright one and I for one cannot wait to be there when the next big step in video game technology comes to fruition.

# Rutgers Nightlife

**Sana Qureshi**

*Staff Writer*

College is important! We were taught that all our lives, so we came to college to become better people and lead a better life. A majority of the students would agree that is the reason as to why they are in college. However when you ask them about their major,

future plans, further studies at a four-year college—you get a blank face. I know I do. A lot of us are just here with no idea as to what they want to do in their future. The sad part is that I've actually seen people making no attempts to find out more information about their major or their future career even though The College has many resources and people

there to help. One only needs to take the first step.

Of course not all of the students are ignorant. I've also seen very determined students at The College who know exactly what they want to do in life. They have their life all planned out. Life won't always go the way you plan, but it is always good to have plans because you are pre-

pared for the outcome. Smart people usually have a back-up plan.

This is the time to make plans for the future; one should decide their major and also perhaps decide on a minor. Start thinking of careers because you don't want to be stuck your whole life doing something you really don't like. Consider your options

and take some risks. At this stage of life you can afford to take risks because life won't come and bite you. If you waste this time fooling around and having "fun" the rest of your life won't be so much "fun." So live in the moment, but don't live FOR the moment.

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## Confessions of an Ex-Smoker

**Kristian Santiago**  
Managing Editor

I'm not a rebellious kid anymore. Sure, I'm only 22, I still have blue highlights and I love listening to Motley Crue with the volume turned way up. Six months ago, I decided to kick the very habit which, at 16 years old, I thought established me as a certified badass. Hello, my name is Kris, and I'm an ex-smoker.

You'd think I would be happy about the smoke-free policy on campus. My feelings are more mixed than ever. The good: I won't be tempted to

chain smoke three cigarettes in between classes and I won't smell cigarette smoke and crave one. The bad: It's so much harder to bum a cigarette when my day has been plain awful. Obviously with health risks and money matters added into the equation, the good definitely outweighs the bad.

In retrospect, I totally regret lighting up in the first place. I'm not a "soap-box" ex-smoker who, now that I am cured, will go and chastise others for smoking. I love smoking. I love cigarettes. Go ahead and judge me. Nothing will ever be a better partner

for coffee. My only regret is that I know how refreshing that first cigarette of the day feels, and how relaxing that quick smoke break at my job is. I opened up Pandora's Nicotine Box: if I had never known what kind of calm smoking brings to me, I wouldn't miss it.

So while I sit here chewing on disgusting store-brand nicotine gum, I would like to thank the college for embracing this new policy. Although it may make things awful right now, this foot-flavored gum will pay off in the long run.

**Lynn Lin**  
Opinion & Editorial Editor

Descending the steps of The College's library, walking past the classrooms and bathrooms, searching for a book to read in an attempt to kill time until class – having found something desirable – I find a seat and I am immediately greeted with male genitalia. No. It is not what you think. It is the obscene graffiti drawn and carved into the desks at the library, specifically in large concentrations on the lower floor.

This is completely unacceptable. Not only am I greeted with these crude drawings, I am also forced to look at the multitude of vulgar, racist, sexist, anti-religious and homophobic comments and rants. Perhaps the anonymity of these senseless acts is too enticing to pass up. I have no idea, but something needs to be done.

The library is a place of relative solitude. It is a shared space for which students can go to study, enjoy the literature, or do their homework in peace. However, how can anyone find sitting

at a desk that is wall-papered with obscene images and ignorant comments enjoyable? Granted, some of the comments do provide a chuckle or two as some try to actually rebuttal these anonymous vandals, but the only thing they are achieving is fueling the flames. Why would one respond by writing on the desks as well? You become no better than the vandals. The saying "don't feed the troll" comes to mind.

I understand removing the carved-in images and comments might require more than just elbow grease, and purchasing new desks will only provide a new canvas for the vandals to begin anew. However, something can be done! I am not a fan of invoking "big brother" but installing security cameras to observe the library will serve as an adequate deterrent in not only vandalism but theft as well. Don't like the idea of being watched? Then, you know what to do!

In the end, please refrain from defacing public property that one would not do to one's own property.

## Poseidon, God of the Sea, Bring Grace upon Me

**Dorian Benson**  
Staff Writer

Far too many times I've tried to come to the conclusion that the world is not round. It is indeed flat. Here I am, captain of this ship I call life, and yet I maintain no control over this ocean swell that is slowly forcing me toward the end of the horizon. Far too many times I've tried to resist the push and pull of these tides, but it's all been a futile practice. So here I am, standing at this edge and as the water cascades over, I wish that I was never made the captain of my own fate.

Everything seemed to be much clearer when I was younger—I guess everything is when you possess no control over your own life. Each daily activity was predetermined by greater forces such as teachers and parents. Now I have control over what "sea" I shall sail

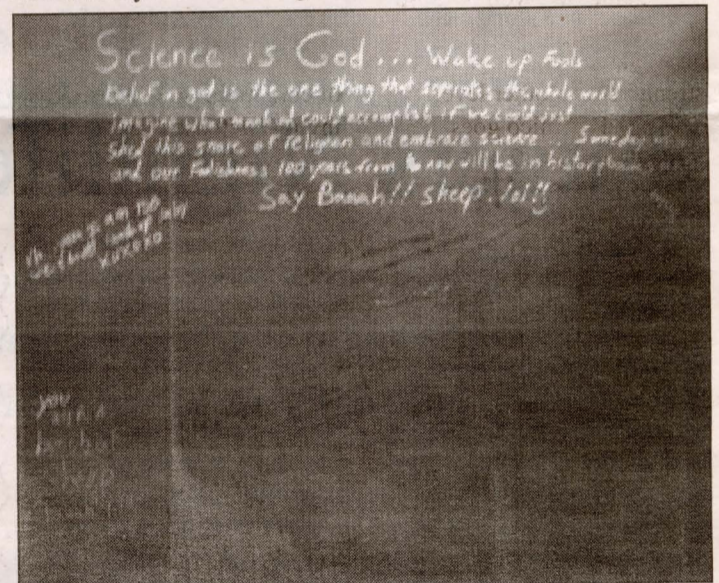
and it frightens me. It's hard to imagine that at only 19 years old, I am supposed to command my own ship. I am supposed to take control of my life and make decisions that will essentially predict the path that my life will take.

It's unnerving to know that a man who has made so many mistakes in the past is now responsible for himself. What of my crew? What used to consist of the likes of twenty first mates in mariner school (high school) has now been reduced to three. Scuttlebutt and mutiny eradicated my loyal crew. Such is to be expected when one graduates. Everyone seems to set off in different directions. The King and Queen (parents) still accommodate me and supply me with nourishment, but one cannot be expected to live under another's rule forever.

As troubling as the news of this unavoidable

future is, I have learned much over the course of 19 years. I have learned to take everything in stride, for it is too troublesome to always be worried about upcoming storms and tidal surges. I also realized that I may have the qualities of a captain after all and that the pursuit of happiness is my only meaning for sailing. No matter who I may disappoint or make proud, I have realized that I can only live for myself. There is no need to live to another's standards.

Maybe resisting the push and pull of the tide is foolish for now. Maybe I should just go with the flow. If I happen to plunge off of this horizon, I pray that Columbus was right when he stated the world was round. So let us unfurl our sails, raise our anchor and steer our vessels off in search of eternal bliss. Set sail for Eden, set sail.



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2. Letters, articles, and photographs that are submitted become the property of Quo Vadis.
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4. We encourage articles from students not associated with Quo Vadis.
5. The Editorial Board reserves the right to reject or edit any material on the basis of length, taste, suitability or clarity.

The opinions expressed on the pages of Quo Vadis are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Board of Trustees, the Administration or the Editorial Board of Quo Vadis.

### Response Policy

The Editorial Board of Quo Vadis will publish any "Letter to the Editor" that includes: author's name, address and contact phone.

September 29, 2010

**Focused Guard James "J.J." D'Amico Looks To Lead Colts to a Successful Season**

**Jordan Somerville**  
Sports Editor

The preseason and regular season for Men's Basketball Colts expeditiously approaches. As the faithful have been itching to hear new information on the upcoming season, the Colts newly starting guard James "J.J." D'Amico shares thoughts and feelings on what he plans to do to help lead his team to a successful season.

"As a starter this season I will try to lead by example in the games by diving on loose balls and doing all the little things," says D'Amico, "I consider myself a leader because experience is the best kind of teaching and me and a few other players have that at this level on the team."

Even after the phenomenal season the Colts had last year with guard/forward Arman Wilson headlining with his tremendous scoring ability, D'Amico and the rest of the Colts squad look to set higher goals and start on a positive note. It begins at this time during the off-season, where most games are won because that is the time to work on weakness and improve strengths to another level.

D'Amico goes in-depth on his off-season

regimen by stating, "The off-season consist of three days

Colts pride themselves on



*"The main thing that separates me from other players on opposing teams is simply my will to win." -James "J.J." D'Amico*

of conditioning which strictly involve defense."

Defense is what the

during the 2009-2010 season, and even though there is a new coach taking over the

reins this year, the Colts still stick with making defense a focal point of their game plan. D'Amico and the Colts plan to improve on their strong defense displayed last season, allowing opponents an average of only 72 points per game.

Although the Colts are training intensely on defense during the off-season, D'Amico is known as a shooting guard due to his excellent touch from the perimeter.

"As a 2 guard, I believe I am a good shooter and this is the position where I get the opportunity to shoot a lot," said D'Amico. Averaging a little over 10 points per game last season, D'Amico plans to takeover during crunch time in games this season as a starter and leader.

When striving for success in a game that is so difficult to make it in such as basketball, there has to have been an influence in the life of the player at some point and time. D'Amico's case is no different.

"I have been playing basketball my whole life," he says, "and the only person who truly influenced me to play basketball was my dad."

D'Amico also cites the All-Star point guard Steve Nash of the Phoenix Suns as

player that he looks up to and follows his game after. "Nash always seems to make the right decision in the game and he is a great leader on top of that."

D'Amico has been driven to work hard and relentlessly throughout his entire career and most recently has been influenced by a familiar name.

"My work ethic I believe is very solid and the person who has instilled that in me is my coach, Christopher Tarver."

Tarver has been awarded the head coaching job for the first time here at The College, and he looks to influence the rest of his players the same way he has with D'Amico.

As most players have in basketball before the start of competitive play, D'Amico has some individual goals set for himself. However, unlike many of the players out in the game today, he also has team goals set for the 2010-2011 season.

"My individual goal is to be the best I could be, and my team goals are to make it to the nationals this year." D'Amico also said that "We can learn as a team from our mistakes last year and try to not repeat any of them in order to have a great season."

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