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Former Congressman Joins LIU Post

Photo & Image By Nicole Curcio
News Editor



Former U.S. Congressman Steve Israel will be joining the LIU campus as Chair of the new Global Institute as well as a writer in residence, working with students who are interested in careers in writing books and media. The Democrat, who retired as the U.S. Representative for N.Y.'s third congressional district, after serving for 16 years, always found LIU Post to be a special place, calling it the "jewel of the district" that he represented. On campus, he held college affordability town meetings throughout his term along with a symposium on cyber defense.

Originally from Brooklyn, Israel's interest in politics began when John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Though he was only in fourth grade, the assassination brought him to "the notion of standing up for what you believe in, even at great risk." According to Ballotpedia Israel attended Nassau Community College and Syracuse University before earning his B.A. at George Washington University in 1982. Before running for office, Israel had his own small marketing company for small businesses and charity known as the Steve Israel Association. He began his career as a Town Councilman in Huntington. While holding that position, Israel constantly wrote. His first novel, "The Global War on Morris," a political satire of Washington that has potential for the big screen, was published in Dec. 2014.

Israel was elected to Congress in 2000. He served through 9/11, the financial meltdown in 2008, Obamacare and the Iran nuclear deal. "I was able to travel the world as a member of Congress, trying to understand the complexity of global events and its impact on my neighbors at home," Israel said. "[Representing New York] was the greatest honor of my life."

Switching energies from politics to students is going to be a smooth transition for Israel, as he has had experience interacting with students. Considering that his district included many campuses, including LIU Post, NYIT and SUNY Old Westbury, the former Congressman has been

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Student Email Disabled After Possible Security Breach

By Caroline Ryan
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Early in January, undergraduate students attempting to access their LIU email accounts were unable to do so. Abigail Van Vlerah, dean of students, sent an email to students on Jan. 2 cryptically explaining that because "a file with undergraduate student information was inadvertently emailed to some LIU undergraduate students," the university responded by "disabl[ing] access to my.LIU and implemented a password reset for all undergraduate accounts." All student email accounts were disabled and had to be reset.

Van Vlerah did not state who "inadvertently" sent the file with undergraduate student information, what the file contained or how many LIU undergraduate students received the file. In her email, Van Vlerah stated that "only a limited number of recipients opened the [erroneously sent] email" and "[n]o password, social security, credit card or bank information was disclosed." Students also received the same message from Van Vlerah in a letter mailed to their homes notifying them that they needed to

reactivate their school email accounts.

The deactivation of the LIU email accounts left many students concerned as to why they couldn't log in or were not sent an email warning before the accounts were disabled. "The system shouldn't have been down and we don't even know if our personal information got compromised," junior nutrition major, Alexi Stiliadis said.

Alexa Romano, a junior English major who had trouble logging into her account, posted an inquiry on Facebook asking if other students were having trouble logging in. "I personally found it frustrating not knowing ahead of time that they were deactivating our accounts. They should have been more aware of leaking private information," she said.

In an effort to understand how a file with undergraduate student information could be inadvertently emailed to students, or why the disabling of all student emails was required in response, the Pioneer contacted computer science professor, Christopher Malinowski.

Malinowski stated that although he doesn't know how LIU servers are implemented, "emails often may contain context which are used to spread malware. It may be the case that the hosting email server may have been compromised, in which case accounts may be disabled in order to reconstruct the server base. Much of the rationale behind disabling accounts depends on the nature of the incident or intrusion."

The university's Vice President for Information Technology, George Baroundi, did not respond to the Pioneer's inquiries about the emailing of the file with undergraduate information or the university's response of disabling student emails. Instead, he said that since this was not a technology breach, all questions should be referred to the dean of students. Van Vlerah responded to the Pioneer's inquiries by re-sending her Jan. 2 email.

For further assistance with technical issues or questions, students may contact the IT Help Desk at IT@LIU.edu.

Campus Event



On Jan. 18, students gathered in Hillwood for Meet the Greeks.

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A Note from Your Editors

By Joseph Iemma
Features Editor

As the Features Editor of your school newspaper, I would find it severely unjust if I did not take the time out to express to you, the reader, my appreciation and simply say- thank you. Thank you for making my articles in news, features, opinions, and arts & entertainment, a small part of your day. It has truly been an absolute pleasure to write for you while being a part of an award-winning college newspaper. As a senior who anticipates graduation in May with a Bachelor's Degree in Broadcast-Journalism, this semester truly feels like none other. It's an eerie sensation; the circle we call life is slowly cycling me out of our education system and into the "real world." What waits for me in the real world? That is a question I cannot provide an adequate answer to. At 21 years old, all I can say is that we'll have to wait and see.

However, as a senior on his way out, I would like to give you some advice to stick in your back pocket. Whatever you decide to do in life, give it your all and do it with a purpose. Never make an excuse for yourself; hard work and an unbeatable work ethic come second to none. You have to study, you have to practice, you have to work and you have to work hard. There is no force too great or powerful that can get in the way of your dreams.

In closing, here's to a great semester. Suggestions for story topics, as well as student submissions, are always welcome. After all, this is your newspaper.

By Caroline Ryan
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Dear Readers,

I would like to start by introducing myself. I'm the new co-editor in chief, Caroline Ryan. I'm a junior journalism major and I'm very excited to be taking on this role.

I think it is important as college students that we have an active voice on campus. After all, we spend most of our time here; why not write about the things on campus that are important to us? My goal is to make the Pioneer more interactive and useful for students. We want the Pioneer to be something every student can relate to. This semester, we are introducing student surveys in our Features section on an array of topics of interest.

Along with student surveys, we also are going to open our "Letters to the Editor" page to student, faculty, alumni and friends who would like to voice an opinion related to our campus. (Of course, we reserve the right to publish or not publish all letters to the editor, due to space constraints.) We are also going to have a new Post alumni corner. We envision this space as a place where alumni can submit letters, pictures, illustrations and articles. Also, where we can feature an "alumni of the week."

We are hoping that opening up the paper to everyone will broaden the Pioneer's readership, and make students excited to pick up the Pioneer on campus every Wednesday or read it each week at www.liupostpioneer.com. We welcome all students to contribute to our award winning paper. Email us at liupostpioneer@gmail.com

The Little Theater Renovations Completed Without Issue

By David Capobianco
Staff Writer

Over the last month, three large storage pods have been outside the Little Theatre, in the faculty parking lot. Those pods have been used to store costumes from the Little Theatre costume shop during the renovations of the shop. The renovations were prompted towards the end of the fall semester during a routine inspection on campus by the Nassau County Fire Marshall. The Fire Marshall's inspection found that the clearance space from the ceiling to the shelves in the shop and the shop's stock room was not up to code.

Professor and Costume Shop Manager, Jen Rice, said that in the past, growing stock forced them to add more pipes and shelves to the stock room, which eventually resulted in the space no longer being in compliance with the Nassau County Code. Since the required changes were so extensive, Rice and her team decided to go through with a full renovation for both the stock room and costume shop. "This was an opportunity to take a look at the room as a whole, and how we could improve the way we use the space," she said. "It was decided that since we were going have to reconfigure a portion of the room, it would be greatly beneficial to redesign the entire space."

From the beginning of December to just last week, the costume shop, which has costumes for every theatre and dance production that LIU puts together, was completely redone, as well as the stock room. Heather Drastal, general manager of the Post Theatre Company, said that the rooms are now updated with new flooring and light fixtures, and are much less cramped.

Rice designed the entire new space herself, modeling it after the TDF Costume Collection store in Astoria, New York. "With the new design, we get the ceiling clearance, and will now have a space that is specifically set up for what our stock has become," she said.

Renovations began in early December, coinciding with the dance

company's tech week, which began on Dec. 5. Senior dance major, Jen O'Neill, pointed out that tech week is one of the busiest times of the year for both dance majors and the crew. The week requires an extensive and exhaustive set-up for five shows over one weekend.

The renovations continued during tech week because "the preliminary work was completed more quickly than we had anticipated, and we were glad to be able to begin the main part of the project sooner," Rice said. "It didn't interfere with tech."

Due to the construction, all of the costumes from the shop that were not being used during the shows that week, as well as other materials from the stockroom, were stored in the pods outside of the theater. "Every single article of clothing had to be moved from the shop to the pods," O'Neill said. Rice discussed a time during a show when they considered replacing an item because it wasn't specifically a dance-related garment however, the item was already in the pod. Since it would've been difficult to get out, the dancer just kept the original garment.

Working around the renovations, the dance crew was able to have a successful tech week and avoid any problems. "It opened my eyes to how much of a team effort our shows are," O'Neill said. "Our thanks goes to the people who work hard behind the scenes to make things happen. With the help of Jen Rice, it was truly smooth sailing."

The renovations are now complete, and everything is back to normal. The swiftness in which the renovations were completed was a "pleasant surprise" for Drastal, who said that everything seemed to go smoothly.

The pods were just emptied on Wednesday, and theater and costume shop are now back to fully functioning running smoothly again, just in time for the beginning of the spring semester.

Graduation Plans for Class of 2017

By Nicole Curcio

News Editor

As spring semester begins, the members of the class of 2017 have diplomas on their mind. Upon completing their studies, students will walk across a stage located under a white tent on the lawn in front of Humanities rain or shine according to an email sent on Jan. 5 to potential grads.

Until May 2014, following the campus-wide commencement ceremony, the graduation was broken up into smaller ceremonies for each of the different colleges and schools. Graduates accompanied by their families were separated and walked to smaller tents around campus to receive their diplomas from the deans of their schools.

The rain or shine conditions have potential graduates feeling indifferent about their once in a lifetime ceremony. "Having graduation outside is both a good and bad idea," senior marketing major, Sharon Sextus said. "Good because we have a beautiful green campus to shoot pictures but bad because we're shielded by a tent. Plus, the ground isn't leveled in a way everyone can view the graduation ceremony." The outdoor graduation may prevent Sextus' brother from watching her walk the stage as he is in a wheelchair and may not be able to get a close enough seat.

Nicole Ulrich will also be graduating this May, obtaining a degree in accounting. The second semester senior finds a college graduation outdoors to be bizarre; considering graduations she has attended have always been

held in indoor arenas. "I think being outside as early as it is in the day and the season can cause a huge problem. Not only may it rain, it may still be cold."

In the past, graduates were allowed to have as many people as they wished attend the ceremony. There have been no indications of a limit being applied this year. Though graduates are allowed unlimited guests, there is limited guest seating under the tent. Abby Van Vlerah, the dean of students, said, "This year, we have seating for nearly 7,000 people so families and friends of our graduates can take part in their great achievements. We also have additional room in the Tilles Center." According to past viewers, the livestream is apt to skip and lag. "We are working to create a special, seamless livestreamed viewing." Sextus feels that the university should consider holding the ceremony in Tilles as "guests will feel uncomfortable [outside] and that is not what LIU represents." Unfortunately, with only 2,242 seats in Tilles, the space would not fit both graduates and guests.

A rumor circulated that both LIU campuses, Brooklyn and Post, would possibly combine ceremonies at the Barclay's Center in Brooklyn. Similarly, graduation was planned to be combined for the class of 2013. However, according to a previous Pioneer article by Rebecca Martelotti, former President David Steinberg moved the ceremony back to campus for Post students after "many expressed a sense

of loss, fearing that the LIU Post identity would be swallowed up in the larger [university-wide graduation] event."

"I think combining graduations would make the ceremony too long," Ulrich said. "I feel whether or not you know someone personally at graduation, you know that you went to Post together and with that, brings a sense of unity at the ceremony." An email sent by the Commencement Office on Jan. 5 stated that the ceremony will remain on the Post campus. "The effort to unite all Post students in one ceremony has created an important feeling of unity and family as we send our graduates off to exciting new adventures and careers." Van Vlerah said. "Hosting the event on campus is part of a proud tradition that aims to remind students, that as they make the transition from student to alumni, they will always have a place at LIU."

The undergraduate ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. followed by the graduate, doctoral and dual candidate ceremony at 3 p.m. Both will take place in front of Humanities. To apply for graduation students need to log into their LIU accounts, go to "My Center", click the drop down list under the "Academics" header and choose "Apply for Graduation". Upon doing so, students should check the status of their graduation application by going to "Self Service – Degree Progress/Graduation." All must be complete by Feb. 10.



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Changes in LIU Promise

By: Adam Hornbuckle

Staff Writer

The spring semester has brought new faces to the LIU Promise office, located in Hillwood Commons. The Promise office offers students assistance with schedules, career services and academic guidance.

The Director of LIU Promise, Christopher Salute, left his position in early January. Along with being the director of Promise, Salute served as the director of student-run businesses. Taking his place as director of student-run businesses is Cara Caporale, who has been a promise coach for six months, since August 2016. Caporale also serves as one of the associate directors of LIU Promise alongside Sara Panarelli, who is now the senior associate director of Promise.

Dylan Silva, the chief operating officer of the student-run businesses and a junior business major, is excited to have Caporale on board. "Cara is hands down very professional; she likes to hear what the student's wants and needs are for the student-run businesses. She has been working

with the eboard (executive board) to help revamp the businesses, menu, etc. We have new products and vendors being launched over the course of the next few weeks," Silva said.

The Student-Run Businesses Director of Operations, Matt Betz, a freshman business major, is also optimistic for the future with Caporale's leadership. "The biggest thing I see is that last semester we had trouble getting ideas approved by Chris. With Cara, I see her listening to us and doing anything possible to get our ideas in the store. There's a lot of positive changes coming. We are planning on improving our relationship with the student government and hope to get closer to the student body through that relationship. The student body is our family and it's important to us that we provide the best service and products to them as possible."

Also leaving LIU Promise is Mikki Rosman, who has served as a promise coach since September 2014. In addition, Promise

Coach Kaitlyn Jensen, left LIU Promise for a new position at University Center. Jensen had served as a promise coach since January 2014. Both Rosman and Jensen are LIU Post alumni.

Kames Davis, a sophomore business administration major, was disappointed to learn that her Promise Coach, Miki Rosman, was leaving. "Miki was the reason I stayed at Post last spring; I'm so sad to see her leave. I was comfortable going to Miki about any problem I had. She wasn't just an academic advisor, she was a great mentor and it's sad to see her go," Davis said.

New to LIU Promise is Gerald Russo-Stannard, who started in early January. He will serve as associate director of LIU Promise. Russo-Stannard, who has worked in higher education since 2008, most recently worked as interim associate director of academic internships at John Jay College.

Former Congressman joins LIU Post continued from page 1

able to interact with college students. LIU administrators have talked with Israel about teaching next fall, which is something that sparks his interest. "I don't presume to show up on campus and suddenly believe I am qualified to teach," Israel said. "Two different things I am interested in teaching are ultimately, the process of book writing and how Congress drives foreign policy- how foreign affairs are developed." Within that, one of the things he loved most about Congress was seeing student run programs in remote areas of the world change the lives of others. "I am excited about teaching in that area."

As Israel joins LIU, he will not be keeping partisan ties with the democratic party. He asked former colleagues to come to LIU with him and had recently received commitment to their joining him. Former colleagues will bring LIU the opportunity to talk and learn about foreign policy and intelligence matters. Israel is also looking to bring in global leaders to give students a better understanding of international challenges we have. "We live in the most volatile, uncertain and complex world in decades. What I want to do is help people understand the trends that seem to be gripping us in so many places," he said.

Israel jokingly stated that the Global Institute will be located, "wherever we can find parking." Dr. Jeff Belnap, Dean of LIU Global, is delighted Israel has agreed to provide leadership in founding LIU's new Global Institute. "The perspective he has gained through his nearly twenty years of foreign policy experience in Washington will assist us to shape new international programming," Belnap said. "This will also help the greater LIU community foster meaningful international connections through access to global leaders and high level discussions on politics, culture and media." Representatives of the Political Science Department stated that they were not involved in the discussions regarding Israel's joining LIU or his new position.

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Meet the New Dean of the College of Education

By Kristina Huderski

Staff Writer

Dr. Albert Inserra, who was appointed the Dean of the College of Education, Information and Technology on Oct. 10, had a long journey before acquiring this position. Studying chemistry and biology at Seton Hall University, Inserra never thought his life would end up the way it did. After receiving his masters degree in genetics at Seton Hall, he applied for a job at Essex Catholic High School, an all boys school in New Jersey, helping biology, chemistry and physics teachers set up labs. Just after receiving the job Brother Clancy, a priest who worked at the school, offered Inserra a teaching position even though he didn't have an education degree. Inserra took the job and while teaching, he finished his masters degree.

At first, Inserra struggled with his job, not having any support or experience in the educational field. But, he fell in love with education; leading him to move to Long Island, taking a job in West Islip teaching Chemistry and Biology for 10 years. During his time teaching at West Islip, Inserra got his Certification in Administration at Hofstra University and received his doctorate at Fordham University. He then began a career in administration and soon became a Superintendent in Carle Place for 10 years, and in Port Washington for seven years.

Although Inserra loved teaching in a high school setting, he knew he couldn't do it forever. After spending 34 years in K-12, Inserra knew he had had enough, which is why he retired in 2002 and became a professor in educational administration at Dowling College. In 2014, after being at Dowling College for 12 years, holding both professor and chair positions in educational administration, the chair of the Board of Trustees asked Inserra to become the president of the College of Educational Administration. Inserra was shocked regarding the offer saying, "I had no aspirations to be, nor even thought about it." After conversations with his wife and thinking about the future of Dowling College, a school that was already \$54 million in debt and had an enrollment decrease from about 6,000

to 1,500, Inserra took the job offer and started his presidency in September 2014.

During his first year as president, Inserra, said, "We did very well, but were still struggling." Although enrollment was not stabilized and the college still had a lot of debt, things seemed to get a bit better. In September 2015, the incoming class was larger, but still



Photo By Kristina Huderski

not enough. By January 2016, the college was in trouble and when a potential partnership fell through, was forced to close. "The worst part," Inserra said, "was the students." Worried about where they would go, Inserra reached out to Dr. Kimberly R. Cline, the president of Long Island University. Cline sent a team over to Dowling to help the students. Inserra and Cline worked out a program that allowed all of the Dowling student's credits to transfer over to Long Island University. On Aug. 31, 2016, Dowling College officially closed its doors.

In September 2016, 150 Dowling students started school at LIU Post, several of them joining the education department.

"Post did an excellent job welcoming Dowling students, it was really incredible," Inserra said. "Dr. Cline and their faculty went out of their way." Some students who transferred from Dowling to Post have struggled with the transition and are trying to get back on their feet at a new school. Rebecca Sapan, a senior who transferred from Dowling to Post, said,

"Although transferring schools was very unexpected and hard at times, LIU is a great place to continue my education. Because I was going into my senior year at Dowling, I was scared I wasn't going to graduate on time." Sapan majored in media at Dowling and because that major is not offered at Post, her major is now broadcasting. Sapan has struggled a little with advanced classes because of material she had not learned, but will be able to graduate on time.

Kerri Ilyichenko, another senior transfer, said, "Changing schools unexpectedly was hard to come to terms with. It was something I never thought would happen, but transferring to LIU is allowing me to further my education with the right tools for a successful future."

After Dowling closed, Inserra wasn't sure if he wanted to retire or continue working. He said the closing of Dowling "wasn't a good way to end a career in education." Inserra then found out that the dean position for the College of Education, Information, and Technology at LIU was available because the dean at the time, Louisa Kramer-Vida, was holding the position temporarily. Inserra applied, was offered the job and accepted it. He officially started on Oct. 10 and said, "everyone here has been terrific." His first goal is "to make the College of Education a place that everyone thinks about when they think about teaching

and learning." Inserra believes enrollment is going up because of the growth in education jobs, which will benefit LIU.

Inserra has been busy in his first few months. He is creating five dual certificates, allowing education students to be certified in two areas. He is partnering with local school districts to get freshmen involved in field work right away. Also, he is expanding the doctoral programs to Brooklyn and Hudson, and partnering with departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "If you can marry your passion with a career, you've never worked," Inserra said. "This is advice he believes every student should follow."



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Long Nights, Crowded Streets and a Cab Driver Who Knows the City Secrets

By Jada Butler

Assistant News Editor



Pictures taken by Dorianna

Fighting her way through circles in the crowded streets of Washington D.C. at 4 a.m. was not how Dorianna Valerio imagined spending her first presidential inauguration. After graduating from LIU Post in 2014 with a BFA in Journalism, Valerio joined CBS News Radio as desk associate, and a year later promoted to chief. Most days she can be found sitting behind the desk, operating audio files and fact checking. However, for news breaking events like the Presidential Inauguration, Valerio can be found working behind the scenes, covering the event live.

“My experience was really long and very interesting,” Valerio said. She spent three days of early mornings and long nights setting up for the CBS News Radio long form inauguration show. Traveling from her hotel to the Capitol, the uncertain weather and the mix of protesters and supporters created a new atmosphere Valerio was not used to. Valerio got lost in the

city several times.

Crowds of people were waiting to enter designated areas at 5 a.m. “It was interesting to hear the support and the disruptions all in the same space. It was really an interesting dynamic,” she said.

An experience with a cab driver one morning helped to lessen the challenges Valerio faced. “I had never been to D.C. before,” she said. During the inauguration, roads are closed down and usual routes to the Capitol are blocked. Fortunately, this cab driver knew the secrets of the city.

“He was very knowledgeable about which streets were closed off,” Valerio said. The driver, who had been working since President Reagan was in office, was used to the inaugural madness that overtook the city every four years. During the 2012 inauguration, the driver was granted permission by the Secret Service to drive in restricted zones. “He was confident in

maneuvering the city,” Valerio said.

It was Valerio’s first time attending an inauguration, an experience she described as a “once in a lifetime witness of a peaceful transition of power.” Though the excitement did not reach everyone in the city, “this is routine for D.C. people,” she said.

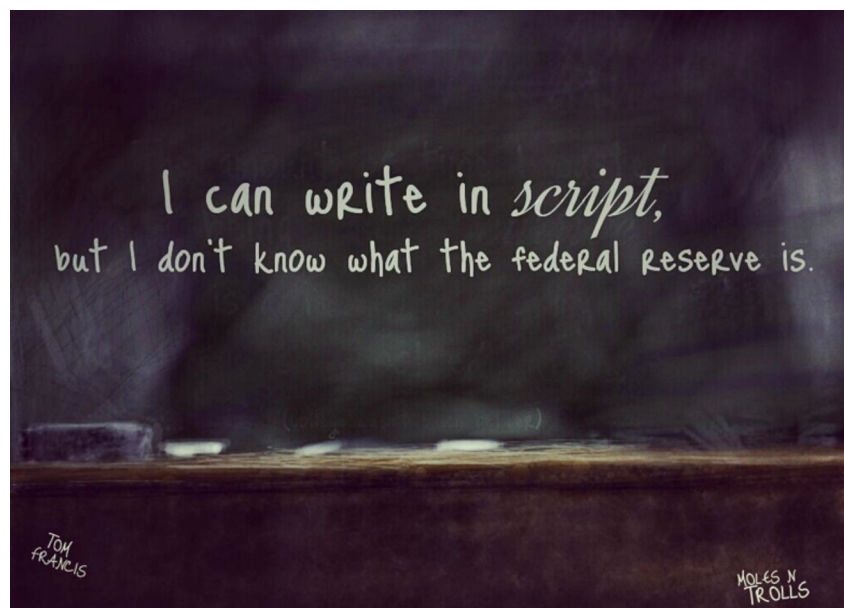
This May will mark Valerio’s two year anniversary at CBS. Aside from the inauguration, Valerio also assisted in coverage for the Democratic and Republican conventions in Philadelphia and Cleveland last summer. “I had a great time seeing politics in a very intimate close-up view,” she said.

“I’m having a really great time working for CBS Radio,” Valerio said. She is grateful to have bosses who trust her enough to allow her to cover these political events, and she has been able to learn a lot.

“I’m learning to appreciate what I am currently doing as a young journalist,” Valerio said. She is focused on the skills she is learning now at CBS, rather than planning too far ahead into her future career.

Valerio credits her time working on The Pioneer as a staff writer, news editor, and then Editor-in-Chief, with teaching her skills like meeting deadlines, that make her a real journalist. “I work very hard to be someone who never misses a deadline, never forgets to do something, and never misses the mark,” she said.

Aside from journalism and radio, Valerio loves to spend time with family and friends. There is importance to balancing work and life, even early on in a career. Ten years from now, Valerio hopes to be an expert in having a great career and a happy personal life without having to sacrifice either.



LIU Post alumnus Tom Francis ('06) has shared with the Pioneer one of his political cartoons for the inauguration of the Pioneer alumni corner. Francis founded MOLES N TROLLS COMICS in 2017. Francis received his B.A and is also a screenwriter.

Hit the Ground Running: How Tau Kappa Epsilon Earned Club of the Week



By **Joseph Iemma**

Features Editor

LIU, TKE Chapter Meeting, 2016

Tau Kappa Epsilon, TKE, is one of six greek life organizations on campus. Its track record of philanthropy is a lengthy one indeed. Since Fall 2013, the fraternity has successfully organized and executed 25 charitable events, both on and off-campus. One of the fraternity's favorite organizations to raise money for, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, has benefited mightily from TKE. "I'm proud to say that we've been able to donate upwards of \$5,000 to St. Jude's, that's special," said Muhmaet Hassan, a TKE brother since 2015.

The Pioneer interviewed Nicholas Brailovsky, the president of the Tau Kappa Epsilon chapter on campus, and Muhmaet Hassan, the fraternity's treasurer, about the fraternity's upcoming charity events for spring semester 2017.

Q) "Before we get started, how did the charity event with Chipotle go last December?"

A) Hassan: "Really well. Although turnout at Chipotle of Hicksville was less busy than expected that day, I'm happy to tell you that we were able to donate about \$350 to our friends over at St. Jude's which is always good. I think we established a good connection with that Chipotle location, so perhaps going forward, we can offer an event for them later in the semester."

Q) "Nick, as President of the fraternity, what are some contrasts when it comes to the functioning of TKE between the fall and spring semesters, if any?"

A) Brailovsky: "Well in terms of recruitment, I think we like to take the same approach when it comes to taking in a new recruiting class, however; I think we recruit better in the fall for a variety of reasons. One being that there's a higher influx of new students, but two, we focus on charity, philanthropy and our academics

just a little bit more during the spring."

A) Hassan: "Just to piggyback off of that, last semester we were able to organize three charity events. This semester we would like to shoot for four to six. For example, we're organizing a winter carnival, which will be on campus. We're currently in the beginning stages of organizing but all proceeds will go to St. Jude's and we're really proud of that. We even organized a GoFundMe account in regards to our St. Jude's philanthropy. Our goal for that operation is \$5,000 alone."

"This is my last semester. After I graduate, I want to be able to look back at my time here at Post and say 'Wow, we had a great time, but we also did great things.' That will really mean a lot to me."

The link to donate to TKE's St. Jude's go fund me account is: <https://www.gofundme.com/theta-kappa-for-st-judes>



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The Spring Semester Resolution

By Joseph Iemma
Features Editor

Break is over, school is back in session, and 2016 is finally over. For better or for worse 2016 was certainly one of the more pivotal and perhaps tumultuous years in recent American history. With that said, there are two things the LIU Post community can take solace in. One, there hopefully be no more nasty, negative, and divisive presidential campaigns for at least two and half more years. Two, and most importantly, it's time to usher and embrace a new calendar year, as well as a new year academically.

Academically speaking, 2017 offers a sense of refuge, a renewal of some sorts for both students and professors. For some students, 2017's Spring Semester will be the semester they 'right the ship,' says Lauren Falco, a Junior Education major. "Although I finished with an above average GPA, and rarely missed class, I'm going to view this semester as a reset." By her standards, Falco, by her standards, blames a sub-par fall semester on the flu. Knocking her out of seven school days, Falco says the sickness "knocked me off the school rocker." So what is Falco's Spring Semester resolution? According to Falco, 'Stay healthy, stay focused, and maintain above a 3.5 GPA.'

Lauren Falco isn't alone when it comes to writing the wrongs of the previous semester. Lauren Kane, a Senior Business major, plans to apply for her masters in business after she graduates this May. However, "I won't get into the masters program I want if I take days off," said Kane, as she pondered on what was a lack luster Fall Semester. "My

grades were fine, I even felt like test scores were better than ever. What dragged me down was tardiness, but that is correctable." Post Students and Professors alike are all too aware of the traffic concerns rear their head all too often, especially when it comes the Long Island Expressway and Northern Boulevard.

"Traffic shows no bias," says Dean Eretzian, an undeclared major who hails from Queens. "My first week, it seemed like every morning there had to be an accident of some proportion." Luckily for the young Freshman, Eretzian was never involved in an accident during the fall semester and has zero plans of being involved in one any time soon. According to Eretzian, the biggest adjustment he had to make when coming to post was adjusting to the commute. "If I had to, I could have walked to my High School [Saint Francis Prep] if I was running late. There's a big difference when it comes to a five minute drive, to a 15 mile adventure on the Long Island Expressway."

In terms of the Spring Semester, it seems that Post students need to hold themselves accountable when it comes to the alarm clock. Perhaps students should give themselves at least 15-20 minutes of buffer time when it comes to their morning commute during the Spring Semester. In closing, Lauren Falco probably said it best before our man on the street interview concluded. "No stress if you're not late and studied for your test. If you're not prepared, then prepare to fail."

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Student of the Week: Stephanie Athanasopolous

By Joseph Iemma

Features Editor

Don't let her petite stature fool you. Stephanie Athanasopolous, a senior digital art and design major, boasts a persona that is larger than life, and she has the résumé to prove it. Before she turned 21 last October, Athanasopolous had already interned for a blog site known as The Dishh. It was where a young Athanasopolous designed material for one of Kim Kardashian's closest friends, Jonathan Cheban, the founder and CEO of the website since 2014. With her sights aimed high, Athanasopolous now works as a member of the graphic design team at JCDecaux [DEC], an advertisement company whose stock is publicly traded on the European Stock Exchange.

As a full time employee with JCDecaux, Athanasopolous is poised to graduate in May. Despite her packed schedule, the Pioneer interviewed Athanasopolous over the winter break.

Q) "How'd you get into Graphic Design?"

A) "Well, as a young girl in a Greek Orthodox elementary school, the emphasis is always on looks and appearance whether that be at the church, proms, schools functions, you name it. So long story short, Facebook infiltrated my group of friends in the 7th grade, and who took the pictures? Me. So before uploading all of the group pictures, I would edit them, and use Photoshop. So with that said, I became the 'editor and chief,' and just like that, playing with Photoshop became a hobby of mine."

Q) "Ah, well thank you Facebook! Looking at your college transcript, it says you came in undecided, want to explain that to us?"

A) "Well, I'm the daughter of two Greek immigrants who own a diner in Ozone Park, Queens. I watched them work hard, and I wanted to make them proud. So, I figured 'Why not take up law?' Well, I almost did just that. That was

until I took a digital design class here at Post, and the rest was history. I was hooked; my professor at the time told me I had a great skill set for design. The next semester I was a declared Digital Arts & Design major."

Q) "Were there any doubts or reservations? Push-back from your parents?"

A) "Eh, I guess there was some. I mean, when you make a life decision at the age of 18, it's tough to trust your judgment on things, but I did it. As for my parents...I wondered how they'd take it. However, my father basically said to me; 'The biggest decision I ever made was leaving Greece, the key to making a decision is sticking with it, but only if it's your passion. Is this your passion, Stephanie?' I responded 'yes,' and he said, 'Well then I'm proud of you, and you have my utmost support, just be home by midnight please.' I was going out that night, that's why he said that to me."

Q) "What's it like practically having a career with a publically traded company? Do you do anything else on the side to refine your skills, keep you busy?"

A) "It doesn't faze me; I wouldn't say it's easy because it's not. Meeting deadlines for a company is no easy feat, but I get my work done. In terms of what I do on the side...I am also a freelance graphic designer, and if you want you can see some of my work here on my website: <http://www.stephathana.com/>."

Q) "Where are you five years from now?"

A) "Love these questions, because I have no answer for them. Of course I have goals, and I'm constantly creating systems in my head to reach those goals. Ideally I'd like to run my own graphic design company, but let's graduate first, and then we can really talk future."



Bryant Park, Stephanie Athanasopolous

Q) "Last Question: Any advice you want to give to the reader who may be struggling to take that next step in their career and/or major?"

A) "If we had a camera for this interview, I would look straight into it and say, 'What are you waiting for?' and that, 'You can do it.' Seriously, so the world is so full with talent and opportunity. Go out there and do it, get it done. Believe in yourself, set the bar high, and just do what you have to do. The worst thing you can do is sit on the sideline and tell yourself every reason why you can't do it. Just do it, my friend, do it, see what you can do, and the rest will be history. I promise."

Arts This Week

By Thomas Gillen

Co-Editor-In-Chief

Jan. 26

Communications and Film Department present Lunchtime Lecture Series featuring LIU post alumna Olivia Wicik, formerly at CBS News Radio and now at Ralph Lauren. Humanities 108 at 12:30 p.m. Free lunch. Open to students of all majors.

Jan. 27-28

Theater: "Mad Rush," by Ethan Moore and Emily Ann Banks. Student performance at Rifle Range Theatre at 8 p.m. General Admission is \$10.

Jan. 28

Music Department presents LIU Post Woodwind Day. Master classes and recital performance by LIU Post Woodwind Faculty. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and is \$15. First Master Class at 9 a.m. Open to middle school and high school woodwind players on Long Island and greater New York area.

Jan. 31 - Feb. 4

Art Exhibition: "The Hive" by Janise Teodorczyk. SVA Gallery in the library. Reception Wednesday, Feb. 1 from 5-8 p.m.

History Made on the Gridiron

By **Greg Vavrinec**
Contributing Writer



Photo By Nicole Curcio

The football team entered the 2016 season as underdogs, but proved all the experts and doubters wrong once the season was complete. The team entered the 2016 season with the expectation to build off its underwhelming 2015 season, finishing 4th in the Northeast 10 Conference, with a 7-4 record last season. Going into training camp last summer, Head football coach Bryan Collins believed his team had the capability to achieve many milestones this season. That started with the return of most of his skill position players and a new group of incoming freshman that he thought would make an immediate impact for the Pioneers this season. He was right. The season was historic. The Pioneers won more games than they ever have in one season.

Coach Collins had especially high expectations for his returning quarterback, and captain, Jeff Kidd. "I expect a lot of big things this season from Jeff this season, he has been showing a lot of great signs in camp and I think that he's poised to have a big season this year for us," Collins said before the season. Kidd's season was set up for success. He knew he would have all of his offensive weapons returning, which is a dream for a quarterback no matter what level of football. "Having all of these guys come back for me this year like Shane [Hubbard], Malik [Pierre], David [White], Kyle Ward and James Higgins definitely makes

me job easier since I now had a year to work with them and I'm just very excited," Kidd said. After the preseason workouts were complete, it was time for the regular season and the journey began for the Pioneers. The Pioneers were happy in particular to see some playmakers on defense return from injury. Secondary player Jarod Chester and defensive lineman Jess "Shark" Agbotse both returned from injuries that had kept them out for most of last season. Agbotse was ecstatic to be healthy and back with the team this year. "It's always hard watching your brothers play and know you can't contribute every Saturday was rough for me so I'm very excited for this year," he said before the season.

Prior to the historic 2016 football season, the Pioneers never won more than 11 games in a single season. And, the team had only won 11 games in a season three times in history, since the football team was first established back in 1962. But this team had a different feeling to it. Even the players were ready for a long season, according to Anthony Denunzio, a junior defensive tackle. "Coach Collins said during training camp and all season that we are not going to be training for 11 games, we prepare for 16 since day one." The reason to practice for 16 games is to be optimistic about playing the five potential rounds of playoffs should the team make it to the final round, and win the

NCAA Division II Playoffs.

Once the season began, the Pioneers began winning games in dominant fashion, outscoring opponents by upwards of 20 points a week. According to the university athletic department website, the Pioneers scored a total of 480 points while allowing only 272 points to all opponents. At the season's end, the Pioneers finished the regular season with 11 wins, and an undefeated record for the fourth time in the school's history.

Over a dozen players on the football team, as well as Coach Collins, were rewarded for their accomplishments. Quarterback Jeff Kidd won the Northeast 10 Conference MVP. Seven players were elected to the Conference First team, and eight players were elected to the second team all-conference. Head football coach Bryan Collins was the conference Coach of the Year.

But the mindset and training in the preseason were more valuable than ever as the Pioneers entered the NCAA Division II playoffs for the second time in three years, this time as the tenth ranked team overall in Division II Football. Their first matchup was a home game against the Rams of Winston Salem State University. The matchup was the first home playoff game for the Pioneers since 2002. The Pioneers emerged as victors and made school history by being the first team to win 12 games in one season. This

Continued on page 14

History Made On Gridiron Continued From Page 13

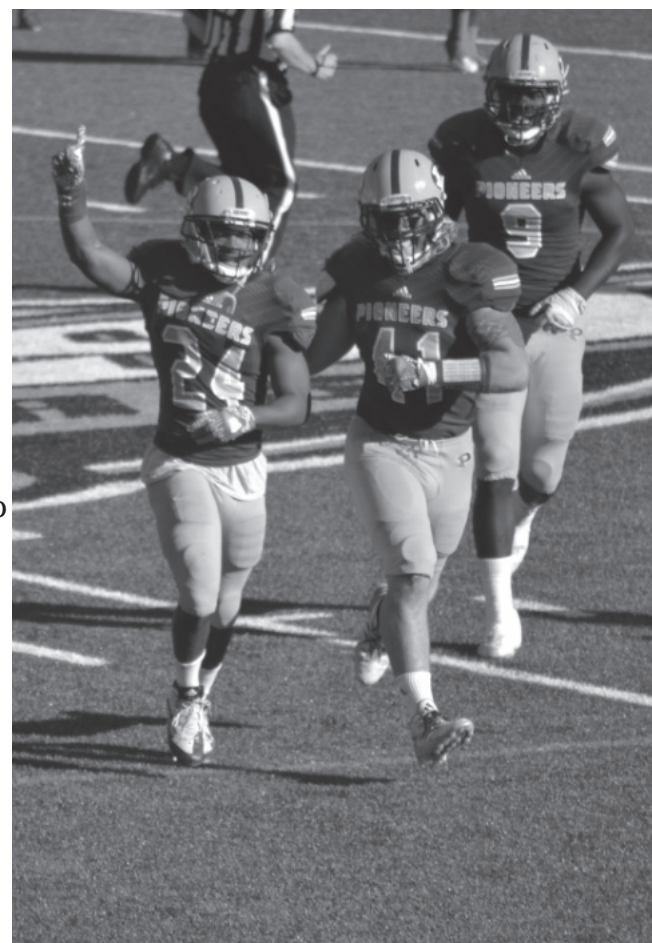
also was the farthest the team had gone into the NCAA Playoffs by advancing to the second round. However, the Pioneers then fell short to the Shepherd Rams, losing 40-21.

Although the final result was not what the Pioneers had hoped, this was nonetheless a season that LIU Post students and players will never forget. "This season is one season that everyone that attends this school will never forget; this truly was a special group," said alumnus Jeff Kroll.

The football team now waits to see what will happen for next season, as ten seniors will graduate this spring, including wide receiver Shane Hubbard. Hubbard recorded the best season a receiver has ever had at LIU Post by finishing the season with a school record 1,048 yards and nine touchdowns. He credited his quarterback and the coaches who have nurtured him for his four years with the program. "It all starts with the coaches, training me and making sure I know what's expected of me every day, whether it's in practice or during games," Hubbard said. "I also have to thank Jeff [Kidd] because he is a great guy and an even better teammate and we just work really well together and that's what gave us so much success."

Hubbard was not the only member of the Pioneers to receive recognition for his hard work after this season concluded. Safety Jarod Chester came away with one of the biggest accolades of the season by being awarded "All-American Status." The Division 2 Conference Commissioner's Association honored Chester as a second-team selection. For Chester, it was his first All-America nod in his collegiate career. He is the first defensive player for the Pioneers to be named since 2011. Chester led the Pioneers this season and ranked third among the league's defensive backs with 78 tackles (42 solo, 36 assist). He also paced the NE-10 in interceptions with seven.

This was truly a historic season for LIU Post football. The team won more games than it ever has in one season, had over 15 players voted to All-Conference teams, and had a select few win national collegiate awards. Fans can look back on this season with pride, despite the Pioneers not attaining the ultimate prize of an NCAA Division II Championship. The future looks bright for the Pioneers, as players and students wait for kickoff of the 2017 football season in September.



Softball Team Looks to Improve on Last Year's Play

By Shelby Townsend

Sports Editor

After completing a productive, non-conference fall season on December 7, the softball team took a much deserved four week break before resuming training in preparation for the tough spring season ahead.

Jamie Apicella, who is entering his 19th season as head coach of the Pioneers, said he feels very positive heading into the 2017 season. "Our strength this season is going to be our pitching staff," Apicella explained. "We have three formidable pitchers [who] arguably are going to make up the strongest staff in the region."

Senior pitcher Ashley Martin also feels very confident heading into her final season. "Our biggest strength is that we have a lot of depth at each position," she explained. "I think our team is going to be much stronger than last year."

Last spring, the Pioneers finished with a 37-15-1 record. Coach Apicella hopes that the team will work past the shortcomings of last year, and he does not want his players to be content with just making it to post-season play.

"My goals have not changed in 19 years," Apicella said. "We always strive to be

the best. We want to win every facet of the season." This includes being regular season champions, East Coast Conference champions, regional championships, and a chance to compete for the NCAA Division II Championship this May in Salem, Va.

Senior infielder Kayla McCoy feels very confident in her team's ability to make it further in the post season. "Our team is extremely versatile and the internal competition pushes us to be better," McCoy explained.

Apicella wants to see his team achieve smaller goals throughout the season and improve on some mistakes from last season to reach the ultimate goal of a national title. This includes a .970 fielding percentage as a team, a goal they have come up slightly short of the last couple of years. According to the LIU Post's athletic site, the Pioneers fielded at a .967 in 2016. Apicella also said he would like to see his players play to the scoreboard less and focus on playing their own game to the best of their ability.

Each year, the Pioneers kick off their spring season in March with a tournament in Florida. This year they will compete in the PFX Spring Games, which according to the tourna-

ment's website, is the largest college softball event in the world with over 300 teams competing from the five collegiate divisions.

"We play some of the stronger programs from other regions to really test our team early," Apicella explained. "Getting a taste for the strong teams early will help us late in the season."

Although conference and non-conference play during the rest of the season can be difficult, Apicella is confident in his team's ability to win. They will play each team in the East Coast Conference four times during the regular season, which Apicella said can be very difficult.

McCoy said her team is focused on playing "Post softball" which means not focusing on each individual opponent. "We intend to approach each game the same and remain consistent," she said.

"We have always been a good finishing team," Apicella said. "It is just a matter of keeping our thoughts simple and playing the game to our true potential every day we step on the field."

Women's Basketball Cruises to Win Over GCU

By Shelby Townsend

Sports Editor

The women's basketball team broke a three game losing streak Saturday with a 77-67 win over Georgian Court University at the Pratt Recreation Center.

Freshman Forward, Mikaiya Moore, was the leading scorer for the Pioneers with a total of 17 points. The only time the Georgian Court Lions led the game was after the first basket of the game by Ivana Kovacev; but their lead was short-lived as Moore responded with a lay-up to tie the game. After a successful jump shot by Moore less than four minutes into the game, the Pioneers never relinquished their lead. They ended the half ahead of the Lions by seven points.

The Pioneer's biggest lead came with 2:10 left to play in the third quarter, after two free throws by Pioneer, Sasha Patterson, brought the home team up by 17. The Lions attempted a comeback in the fourth quarter but were only able to get within nine points of the Pioneers for the rest of the game. A missed jumper by Lion Guard, Kaitlyn Lister, was rebounded by freshman Pioneer Guard, Kyla Formey, ending the game with the Pioneers up by ten.

Coach Dierdre Moore and the Pioneers are now 9-10 and will return to the court Wednesday Jan. 25 when they take on Daemen College in Amherst, NY at 4pm.



Senior Forward Janaysia James drains a three pointer
Photos By Shelby Townsend

Men's Basketball Suffers Fourth Straight Loss is Overtime

By Shelby Townsend

Sports Editor

The Pioneers lost their fourth straight game Saturday after Saint Anselm College rose to a 87-81 lead in overtime at the Pratt Recreation Center.

Senior Forward Greg Dotson led the home team in total rebounds and total points with 9 and 26 respectively, and Senior Guard Jared Hall led the team in assists with ten. The Pioneers started strong, leading the Saint Anselm Hawks 15-9 within the first four minutes of the game, but he lead for the rest of the first half would be a tug of war between the two teams. At the half, the Pioneers came out one top with a small four-point lead.

The majority of the second half was dominated by the Pioneers. A 6-0 run by the Pioneers brought them to their largest lead of 13 points with 11:22 left in the game. It seemed as though the Hawks just couldn't miss, and they quickly chipped away at the Pioneers lead during the last four minutes of the second half. It was a three pointer by Saint Anselm sophomore Tim Guers that brought the Hawks to a one point lead over the Pioneers with just one minute left in the game. A clutch free throw by Red Shirt Junior Guard Aary Bibens tied the game with one second left on the clock, causing the game to overtime.

The Hawks dominated the first few minutes of overtime with a 5-0 run over the Pioneers. A steal by Hawks Senior Forward Chris Braley sealed the deal with the Hawks up by six.

Coach Erik Smiles and the Pioneers now hold a record of 5-14 and will return to the court January 25 when they take on Daemen College in Amherst, NY a 6pm.



Senior Guard Jared Hall drives to the basket
Photos By Shelby Townsend

Results

Women’s Basketball
Wednesday, Jan. 18 vs Molloy College
Lost 65-45

Men’s Basketball
Wednesday, Jan. 18 vs Molloy College
Lost 72-68

Wrestling
Friday, Jan. 20 vs Millersville University
Won 24-20
Saturday, Jan 21. vs Belmont Abbey College
Won 23-22
Saturday, Jan. 21 vs Minot State University
Lost 23-18
Saturday, Jan. 21 vs tiffin University
Lost 33-9

Women’s Swimming
Saturday, Jan. 21 vs Assumption College
Lost 134-125
Friday, Jan. 20 vs New york University
Lost 118.5-71.5

Upcoming Schedule

Men’s and Women’s basketball
Wednesday 25
@ Daemen College

Wrestling at USC Wildcat Open
Saturday 28
Rhode Island

Womens Swimming vs. Kutztown
Saturday 28
@ Pratt



Photos Taken By Adela Ramos