



New club promotes unity, celebrates diversity

by Hillary Jones
senior reporter

Almost one out of every four students in the United States reported being bullied during the school year, according to the National Center for Educational Statistics.

Principal Larry Tucker initiated a multi-cultural gathering of students in September to get feedback from them regarding students at Marist who might feel marginalized.

The purpose of the program is to help bring social awareness to the school and help students realize the problems that some students face based on social differences.

Over the summer, Tucker talked with faculty members and students about the idea.

In the fall, he formed the group after additional discussions with senior Student Council members. The group's first meeting took place in late September.

"If we are doing the work that Champagnat wants us to do, then we should focus on people who are feeling marginalized," Tucker said. "We need to get people to become aware of other people's feelings."

The goal of the group was to figure out how students can become more united as a school and make everyone feel welcome, regardless of differences.

As the club continues to develop, Mr. Tucker and Dean of Upperclassmen Mrs. Beth O'Neill, counselor Mr. Erik Christensen and coach Rob Topps will also help guide members to set up a mission statement, objectives and discussions of issues most relevant to our student body.

"The way to approach this is to educate all students about every ethnic body that is represented at Marist," senior group member Christopher Murphy said.

President Brother Hank Hammer sees tremendous value in the group's goals.

"By willing to be welcoming and understanding people, we can all grow together and see each other as vital parts of the Marist family," President Brother Hank Hammer said. "Hopefully, then, we will come to see that we have so much more in common than we have differences."

On Dec. 5, professional consultant Troy Cicero came to Marist to speak at an assembly for seniors. The gathering focused on celebrating differences and ways of bringing the senior class closer together.

"I liked how the assembly had quotes and music about equality and overcoming discrimination," senior Clare Pitlik said. "Although the assembly had some great things about it, it is clear that issues of discrimination are deeply rooted, and hard to dig up and dispose of."

As the program thrives and more students join, many ideas are already taking shape.

One of the ideas is a "Big Brother-Big Sister" program created by guidance counselor Mr. Patrick Ryan. Ryan believes that students will feel more welcomed if this program offered training sessions about on how to handle conversations and topics related to the differences among students.

"Part of the program could involve an upperclassman and an underclassman having lunch together once a month," Ryan said. "It's just a matter of letting the younger students know that someone older has his or her back."



photo by Raini Eldorado

Members of the peace, justice and unity group gather in Champagnat Square on Jan. 23 to discuss ideas for moving forward with the new club. Principal Larry Tucker created the group last August after consulting with students and faculty.

As the club continues to form, members continue to reflect on better ways to make every student feel like they are a part of the school.

"The goal of the club should be to give all students a safe place to talk and get to know people, thus getting them involved," Student Council president Tom Englehart said.

Current members will focus on shaping the mission and direction of the club before inviting additional students to join.

"As a Catholic school, we must accept and treat everyone equally, with respect and love," senior David O'Neill said. "I would love to pass down a school that is stronger and more united for generations to come."



photo by Stephanie Lysy

RedHawk Theater tonight @ 6 p.m.

Marist's Got Talent

by Faith Laughran
editor-in-chief

Students in the theater program will help with the staging, lights and sound this evening.

Teachers and students from different clubs will serve as judges, and the winning contestant will receive a \$200 prize.

Singers, dancers, comedians and musicians from the student body will compete at the first annual Marist's Got Talent competition in the RedHawk Theatre at 6 p.m.

Admission is free for students, and the show is meant to be a fun night to get the student body together to support and enjoy their talented peers.

"Students should come to this show because there are so many hidden talents among our student body," Student Activities Director Ms. Bridget Hopkins said. "Most kids go to games and sporting events and that should be reciprocated for the students who are competing in the show."

Under Hopkins' guidance, SADD and student council members helped create the event to make a fun "sober Friday" night, with the help of many other clubs.

The art club helped create advertising and the background for tonight's stage.



Included in tonight's program is the singing trio of seniors Chloe Anderson, Renee Nealis and Maria Arreola.

"I'm excited about getting out of my comfort zone with my friends," Anderson said. "It's nice to have an opportunity like this at school."

IL State Scholars announced

Based on a combination of SAT or ACT scores and class rank at the end of junior year, 61 seniors have been named Illinois State Scholars this year. Over the past six years, a total of 402 RedHawks achieved this honor. "We are so proud of our Illinois State Scholars," Principal Larry Tucker said. "This is a powerful reflection of the caliber of students at our school, as well as the strong curriculum and preparation our teachers provide to help students excel." For the complete list of RedHawk Illinois State Scholars, visit www.marist.net.

-Maureen Mitchell, senior reporter

Speech and acting team competes at regionals tomorrow

by Emily Reynolds
senior reporter

The RedHawk speech and acting team competes at the IHSA regional meet tomorrow, hosted by Eisenhower High School. The top four contestants in each category will advance to sectionals next weekend.

The team’s regular season opened on Oct. 29 at Stagg, with at least two competitors placing at every meet since.

Junior captain Morgan Johnson won the first three tournaments of the season in special occasion speaking.

Other team members placing consistently in other categories include juniors Ashley Kikos, Liam Kelly and Cate Hynes.

“The team chemistry has definitely played a major role in our success this season,” Johnson said. “Everyone on the team is extremely supportive of one another. Those who do not make it to final rounds go to watch teammates who do to cheer them on.”

After coming in second place at the first two Catholic League meets, the RedHawks won the third meet at Fenwick on Jan. 21.

Hynes and senior Jake Listowski were tournament champions in duo acting, with Johnson and senior Bridget Ryan coming in second. Sophomore Kristen Kolp came in second in declamation.

For the second week in a row, Hynes was tournament champion in dramatic performance and Johnson won in oratory.

Catholic League nationals will be held in Louisville, Kentucky over Memorial Day weekend. Team members qualifying include Johnson, Hynes, Kelly, Kikos, Listowski, Ryan and Stokes.

Head coach Ms. Samantha Paoletti is very proud of the team’s success this year after losing a number of veteran seniors last season.

“The strong junior leadership and other members of the team have surpassed anything I could have expected,” Paoletti said.

“We try not to forget that we are all in this activity together, even though most students compete as individuals,” she said.



photo by Samantha Paoletti

The Redhawk speech and acting team competed at Fenwick High School at the Third National Catholic League Qualifier on Jan. 21. The team won the tournament and a number of members medaled in their events. The team begins its journey to the state finals by competing at the IHSA Regionals tomorrow at Eisenhower.

Chess team preps for state finals

by Marina Mosquera
senior reporter

The RedHawk chess team, currently 6-7 for the season, defeating St. Rita on Jan. 24 and winning its Jan. 19 match against Leo due to a forfeit.

Earlier victories came against St. Laurence and DeLaSalle, while the team has lost to Br. Rice, St. Ignatius, Fenwick, Mt. Carmel and St. Patrick.

The team also competed in the Chicago Catholic League Conference playoffs hosted by Fenwick on Jan. 28, where the RedHawks defeated Fenwick, but lost to Mt. Carmel and Br. Rice.

Team captain junior Joe Barry said that he encouraged everyone on the team to keep improving throughout the season to prepare for the state finals.

“We sometimes made costly mistakes in competition,” Barry said. “But I enjoy being around poeple who understand and appreciate the game as much as I do.”

Head coach Mr. Bob Morowczynski credits his team with a willingness to learn more about the strategies needed to win.

“We all enjoy chess and are willing to learn new parts of the game,” Morowczynski said. “The team shares a great chemistry this year and the new players have fit in very well. This team is very welcoming and we enjoy it when new students join.”

Some senior RedHawk players look forward to competing in college.

“I would love to continue playing chess in a club or on a team in college,” senior Christopher Murphy said. “Chess is all about strategy and strategy is a reflection of oneself. This means that every match is unique and this is what keeps me so interested in playing.”

Coach Morowczynski motivated the team to acheive the two major goals of finishing in the top half of the conference and in the top half of the state.

The team competes at state Feb. 10-11 in Peoria.



photo by Luis Ortiz

The RedHawk chess team meets every Tuesday and Thursday after school to hone skills in preparation for the IHSA state meet Feb. 10-12 at the Peoria Civic Center. The team was 6-7 for the season and the team defeated Fenwick last weekend in its last regular meet before state.

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Math team continues to tally up big wins

by MiKaela Dismukes
senior reporter

The RedHawk math team opened the 2016-2017 season by defeating 12 other schools to win both Catholic League tournaments on Oct. 29 and Dec. 3.

The team also won first place at its most recent match at DeLaSalle on Jan. 27.

The team is coached by veteran math teachers Mr. Jeff Nicholson and Mr. Owen Glennon.

“As a math coach, it is nice to see students working diligently as a team, performing well at each competition and demonstrating to other teams the best qualities of a math student,” Nicholson said.

The team and its coaches hope to qualify for state again this year. Last year, the team finished 4th in state, just under its best-ever record of 3rd in state in 2014.

“We need to work harder this year than we did last year and achieve the goal of winning the state title,” senior member Vicky Krummick said.

The team practices four to five days a week after school, working on hundreds of problems to prepare them for competition. The practices also help the team members to build strong bonds with one another.

“Joining the team has helped me really get to know my teammates and strengthened my love for math as well,” Krummick said.

The team will compete tomorrow at the Illinois Mathematics Teachers’ Association at Loyola beginning at 8 a.m.

Sophomore and senior members of the team will also compete on Feb. 7 at the American Mathematics Competition.

Regionals will be held on Feb. 25 at Lincoln-Way East, with the state finals following on May 6 at the University of Illinois-Champaign.

“One of the biggest goals we have is to finish in the top five at the state contest,” senior member Jack Golden said. “Even if we don’t achieve this goal, I know that we have worked hard to develop our talents and represent Marist in a positive light. It has truly been an honor to compete.”



photo by Marie Weber

Seniors Vicky Krummick, Erin Olsen, Michael Mallon, Jack O’Neill, Grace Rodriguez, Eddie Kawczynski, and juniors Jake Rahn, Kyle McNamara practice for their next math competition tomorrow at Loyola.



photo by Sean Maxwell

(L to R) junior Elise Viz, junior Jake Rahn, senior Eddie Kawczynski, junior Valerie Pavilonis, junior Benjamin Rickey and junior Martha Kowalski compete at Fremd High School on January 21. The RedHawks will compete again on Feb. 7 at St. Rita starting at 4 p.m.

Academic team ready for regionals

by Stephanie Kozlowski
junior reporter

The RedHawk varsity academic team continues its 2016-2017 season with a 5-4 record and looks forward to competing IHSA regionals on Monday, March 6.

The team played a conference match at Marist on Jan. 24, defeating St. Laurence and St. Francis but losing to Providence.

On Jan. 21, the team competed at Fremd High School, winning matches against Hoffman Estates, Bradley-Bourbonnais and Notre Dame, but losing to Marian Central Catholic, Lake Zurich, Rolling Meadows, Palatine and St. Viator. The RedHawks also faced Fenton High School twice, winning one match and losing the other.

Head coach Mr. Jeff Nicholson is satisfied with the team’s performance so far this season.

“The senior group really set the tone for work ethic, and I think the younger players

are really going to work extremely hard, and try to go farther than the team did this year,” Nicholson said. “Next year’s team should do very well because this year they are facing teams made up of mostly seniors.”

The questions asked at competitions come from academic and cultural categories including math, literature, art, history and sports. There are 20 questions each match worth a total of 40 points.


“You never know what kind of questions you are going to get, so it’s a good thing to know a wide variety of topics,” junior Martha Kowalski said.

The JV team, coached by Mr. Sean Maxwell, currently has a 7-2 record.

Both teams compete next on Tues., Feb. 7 at St. Rita starting at 4 p.m.

“I’m really hopeful for what we can accomplish for the rest of this year,” junior Elise Viz said. “And next year, with all the extra knowledge we have acquired, we’ll really be a powerhouse with a strong lineup.”

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The power of the F-word

Many people have done something wrong to a friend, family member, co-worker or classmate and needed to apologize.

From the young boy telling a tale about how he did not eat the chocolate cake before dinner or the teenage girl that stole a classmate notes for an important test.

Imagine that in these scenarios, they asked for forgiveness. But also imagine that the person affected was not ready to forgive the wrongdoer.

Forgiveness is an act of deciding to let go of resentment toward another individual that has done wrong.

Forgiveness is often associated with maintaining a peaceful and healthy life, but it should be understood that there is a very long process involved.

Since forgiveness is taught and expressed differently for many people, there are several reasons why forgiving someone tends to be beneficial.

The power of forgiveness is allowing resentment to leave a person’s life and releasing a negative attitude. Forgiveness is a choice that a person makes when they are ready to offer empathy.

According to an article written by staff members at Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore, the steps in forgiving include reflecting, remembering, empathizing with the other person, letting go of expectations and forgiveness.

Forgiveness does not always lead to a healed relationship with the wrongdoer, but it does help the person affected.

Sometimes there is separation in the relationship, which is expected. Forgiveness does not mean forgetting either.

Forgiveness is sometimes a wonderful thing while hasty forgiveness can be a weakness according to a blog made by author Alina Tugend, to the Huffington Post in 2011.

This means that a person must have a sincere heart and it should not be forced upon them to do so. It can take days, weeks, months and even years for the relationship to heal.

The effects of having a forgiving heart results in improved emotional and physical health.

According to an article written by staff members at Mayo Clinic, forgiveness leads

to healthier relationships, higher self-esteem, lower blood pressure and less stress. Long-term grudges have negative effects, which can cause a decline in a person’s overall health.

Some people say that forgiveness is not the answer because of pride. Pride is a person feeling deep satisfaction or focusing on one’s own dignity.

According to forgiveness counselor Ana Holub, pride is a tricky emotion that should be removed from a person’s mind because it only hinders the situation more.

The Bible teaches us a lesson of forgiveness, but not a lesson on how to forget. Our minds will always remember the act, but there is a course of action to rebuild the trust.

A Christian who is not willing to forgive others will find their relationship with God hindered, according to Matthew 6:15. This is simply a decision of free will.

There will be people in life that are mean-spirited, rude and hurtful. Some people will never change and that’s okay, but we all need to realize that forgiveness is an act of justice that helps us move forward toward the greater good.

Just wash, cut...and donate

Many people nowadays seek ways to help those who are less fortunate. It is a common trend for someone to donate money to a certain charity that supports a specific cause like cancer.

Another trend that has existed for more than ten years is for people to donate their hair to special charities.

People of all ages, especially teens and kids, donate their hair. The leading organizations that receive hair donations are Locks of Love and Pantene Beautiful Lengths.

Locks of Love and Pantene Beautiful Lengths both partner with the American Cancer Society and other cancer charities to help children and teenagers specifically.

Both organizations use donated hair to make wigs for children and teens with cancer who lost their hair during treatment.

According to Pantene Beautiful Length’s website, they received over 800,000 hair donations since they began in July 2006.

In addition, Pantene Beautiful Lengths has donated 42,000 wigs to the American Cancer Society Wig Bank

According to Lily Robbins, a spokesperson for Locks of Love, their headquarters receive up to 2,000 hair donations a week.

The process of people donating their hair is simple. A person must follow certain guidelines on how to donate hair which are found on both websites of Locks of Love and Pantene Beautiful Lengths.

According to the Locks of Love website, the length of hair must reach a minimum of 10 inches to be donated. The organization also accepts curly hair that is straightened and layered hair that meets the length requirement.

No more than 5% gray hair is accepted, according to the Pantene Beautiful Lengths website. The minimum length required for donation is 8 inches.

Hair must be washed and completely dried before being sent in as a donation. Color-treated hair is not accepted.

Another requirement is for people to put their hair in a ponytail at the nape of the neck and measure the hair from the tips to just about the hair tie.

After the hair is cut, the donor should put the ponytail into a zipper-lock bag and mail it in a padded envelope.

Donations should be mailed to Locks of Love, 234 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33405-2707 or to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, Attn: 192-123, 806 SE 18th Ave., Grand Rapids, MN, 55744.

Each organization will send the donor an acknowledgement letter within 6-8 months, because that is how long it takes to process the hair into wigs.

Mostly women donate their hair but more men have started to grow their hair long to donate it to this cause.

According to *New York Times* reporter Elizabeth Hayt, many professional male athletes have donated hair, including New York Giants cornerback R.W. Quarters and Oakland A’s right fielder Nick Swisher.

Both men and women should take up this challenge.

These hair donations give hope and boosts the self-esteem and dignity of children and teenagers who are bravely fighting cancer.

Grief on the reef

The world’s oldest and largest living ecosystem is on a slow stroll to extinction. The “rainforest of the sea,” or the Great Barrier Reef, continues to undergo dramatic stress due to coral bleaching and other harmful threats.

The Great Barrier Reef stretches over 1,800 miles right off the coast of Queensland, Australia. It consists of more than 3,000 reefs and 600 islands. It is also part of the seven wonders of the natural world.

Composed of living coral growing on dead coral dating back about twenty million years, the Great Barrier Reef is roughly the size of Texas. It is home to 30 species of whales and dolphins, six species of sea turtles, 215 species of birds, 17 species of snakes and more than 1,500 species of fish.

A number of factors pose serious threats to this habitat, especially bleaching.

According to a report by Sheila Lewis of CNN, bleaching occurs when coral is under extreme stress by changes in conditions like temperature, light, or lack of nutrients. The coral then lets out symbiotic algae from their tissues causing the coral to turn white.

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies reports that 93% of the reef is affected by bleaching. This heightens the risk of extinction as the bleaching causes the coral to starve.

According to the official Queensland State Government website, the Great Barrier Reef is also under pressure from climate change, poor water quality from land-based run offs, coastal development, illegal fishing and major storms and floods.

The reef is not only important to nature, but also to the Australians and people all around the world.

The Reef offers 67,000 jobs in the tourism industry because it is a popular vacation destination. These jobs depend on the health of the reef. Local communities benefit from the income tourism provides.

The Reef also provides food to over 94 countries. Compounds found in the reef are being used in medicines, some of which are used to treat cancer.

The Nature Conservancy says we must conserve water, reduce pollution, support reef-friendly businesses, plant trees, conserve energy in homes and dispose trash properly in order to see the reef grow stronger and healthier.

It is essential to help the Reef. Communities all over the world need to work together and recognize that we need to start acting fast. If not, this natural wonder of the world will continue to disappear, with very bad consequences.

In defense of the Dakota Access Pipeline

by Marina Mosquera
senior columnist

The Dakota Access Pipeline is the safest and most environmentally sensitive way to transport crude oil from domestic wells to American consumers. It is a 1,172-mile-long underground oil pipeline project starting in Stanley, North Dakota, and travels in a southeastward direction to end at the oil tank farm near Patoka, Illinois.

The pipeline is the result of a long thought out process that involved review and approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and regulators in North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Illinois.

This \$3.8 billion project crosses almost entirely private land, often already in use for other utility easements. The Dakota Access Pipeline does not cross the Standing Rock Sioux reservation, even at the portion of the pipeline that is the topic of dispute at Lake Oahe.

The Dakota Access Pipeline protests are grass roots movements that began in spring 2016. Many in the Standing Rock tribe consider the pipeline and its intended crossing of the Missouri River to create a threat to the region's clean water and to ancient burial grounds.

All protests regarding the pipeline need to cease. The pipeline is not threatening the region's clean water. The pipeline will sit approximately 92 feet below the riverbed, with increased pipe thickness and control valves at both ends of the crossing to reduce the risk of an incident.

The pipeline will deliver as many as 570,000 barrels of oil a day from northwestern North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to connect to existing pipelines in Illinois. This is much more safe than the current method of transporting it by 750 rail cars a day.

In developing the route, the United States Army Corps of Engineers held 389 meetings with 55 tribes regarding the Dakota Access project. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps reached out to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe multiple times to discuss archaeological surveys conducted before finalizing the route, according to the Dakota Access Pipeline Facts website.

In April 2016, Standing Rock Sioux elder LaDonna Brave Bull Allard established a camp as a center for cultural preservation and spiritual resistance to the pipeline; over the summer the camp grew to thousands of people.

Recently, their interests have been overtaken by politically-motivated, anti-fossil fuel protesters who are using this issue as a disguise for their often violent and extremist efforts to cause disruption.

Law enforcement has been forced to arrest more than 400 protestors in response to several criminal incidents, including trespassing, vandalism, chaining themselves to equipment, burning tires and fields, damaging cars and a bridge, harassing residents of nearby farms and ranches, and killing and butchering livestock.

There was even at least one reported incident where gun shots were fired at police.

According to an article written by Kevin Kramer, the U.S. Representative for North Dakota's at-large district, thousands of protesters, most of them from out of state, have illegally camped on Federal land in Morton County, North Dakota, to oppose the construction of the pipeline.

The celebrities, political activists and anti-oil extremists who are blocking the pipeline's progress are doing so based on highly charged emotions rather than facts. According to an article written by Chris White, proponents of the Dakota Access Pipeline believe the American Indian tribe protesting the project is more concerned about getting "easy money" than protecting water supply.

The sources also claimed DAPL offered the tribe emergency vehicles in the event the pipeline burst, but that was not enough. The tribe demanded a shipping fee for delivering the oil even though it doesn't cross tribal territory.

Violence is never the answer, especially during the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. If the protests should continue, from here on out it should be peaceful.

Protesters need to reconsider what they are fighting for and research the benefits of the pipeline. Civil rights leader, Mahatma Gandhi, once said, "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed."

photo opinion

by Maureen Mitchell and Faith Laughran

Which faculty member do you most admire and why?

				
Madison Rogers freshman	Patrick Griffin sophomore	MacKenzie Koss junior	Donovan Thomas senior	Mr. Patrick Hennessey guidance counselor
<i>Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Sweeney are the best because they are very nice and kind and are always there to help and support me.</i>	<i>I admire Mr. Gouterman because he is very interesting and he inspires me to keep following my dreams.</i>	<i>I admire Mrs. Holder because she makes English fun. She is down-to-earth and pushes her students to the best of their ability.</i>	<i>I most admire Mr. Gay. He is a brilliant man who cares about educating his students well, loves them and goes out of his way to help them...and he gets quite a few laughs along the way.</i>	<i>After going through the college admission process with Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Peterson this year, I was so inspired by their concern for the Class of '17 and their knowledge of what it takes to get our students into college.</i>

Here's the buzz on bees

by Megan Alagna
junior columnist

Before judging bees for their painful sting, think about the food the world would lose without them.

Alexandra Zissu of the National Resource Defense Council reports that one out of every three mouthfuls of food we consume is the direct result of honey bee pollination.

In recent years, the bee population has declined drastically as a result of many factors, including the use of pesticides and climate change.

Entire bee colonies are disappearing due to a phenomenon called colony collapse disorder, as bees desert their hives and die at increasing rates.

Climate change plays a part in this decline, as warmer winters and cooler summers make it more difficult for bees to find food.

According to *New York Times* journalist Michael Wines, a survey done by the Bee Informed Partnership found that nearly 5,000 beekeepers around the world lost 42 percent of their hives in 2015. This is a rate alarmingly above the normal annual loss of 10 percent.

Bees may seem like a nuisance to many, but the earth needs these insects to help important crops grow. Without bees to pollinate crops, the world's food supply would become very limited and bland.

The bee population needs our help.

The agriculture industry needs to rethink its use of chemical pesticides or it will eventually wipe out the bee population entirely and put itself out of business.

People should write to their representatives to urge them to support legislation that limits the use of these pesticides.

Meanwhile, the more flowers we plant, the more food sources we create for the bees.

One out of every three mouthfuls of food we eat comes as a direct result of bee pollination. The alarming decline of bees around the world in recent years is a major cause for concern.



Moraine offers alternative route to university

by Michelle Lenz
junior reporter

A lack of American engineers has not just caused our country to consistently place low on international STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) ranking, but the lack is also part of a growing economic crisis.

The U.S. Department of Labor predicts 2.4 million STEM jobs will be unfilled by 2018. STEM employers cannot find the skilled workers needed for these positions.

The Engineering Pathways program at Moraine Valley Community College offers high school seniors a close to home, lower cost access to STEM education. The College of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has partnered with Moraine and seven other community colleges statewide.

Students who successfully complete the Moraine program are guaranteed acceptance into U of I's engineering school.

Moraine Valley Community College started the program in fall 2016. Students spend two years studying at MVCC before transferring as juniors, saving over \$30,000 on a U of I Engineering degree.

"The Engineering Pathways program is a gateway to over a dozen engineering majors at the College of Engineering at U of I," Assistant Dean for Science, Business, and Computer Technology Panos Hadjimitsos said.

In addition to cost benefits, the program boasts dual advising from both MVCC and U of I counselors, job shadow opportunities, and guaranteed scholarships.

"Clearly, the tuition savings up front while receiving a quality engineering education close to home are benefits to consider," Hadjimitsos said. "Also, expert faculty, small classes, free tutoring services and an environment conducive to student successes are resources readily available to Engineering Pathways students."

Applicants must be first-time college students. Students from low-income families, members of underrepresented ethnic groups, first generation college students and women are especially encouraged to apply.

"Since there are no caps, it is truly up to the applicant to earn a seat in the program," Hadjimitsos said. "A few less than half the applicants were admitted last year."

Students in the highly competitive program receive mostly A's and B's in high school, have lots of extracurricular or work experience in engineering-related fields and have a median ACT composite score of 29.

"It is highly encouraged for students to have four years of STEM courses during school," physics and engineering teacher Dr. Jennene Fields said. "It is especially important to make sure you senior year incorporates both math and science. AP courses are not necessary but certainly do help."

The program is demanding and expects students to take a full course load of 15 to 18 credit hours during the fall and spring semesters. Engineering Pathways students take classes with the general population of the college in addition to an introduction to engineering course that is exclusive to the program.

The course requirements have been selected in collaboration with the College of Engineering at U of I to ensure a smooth transition for students once they transfer.

Students must maintain a 3.3 cumulative GPA in these required courses, and in each course must earn at least a 'B.'

"Students who have developed good study skills and habits, are self-motivated and self-regulating, can prioritize their schedules and have a passion for engineering do very well," Hadjimitsos said.

Average class size is in the low 20's. Physical science courses are limited to 32 students.

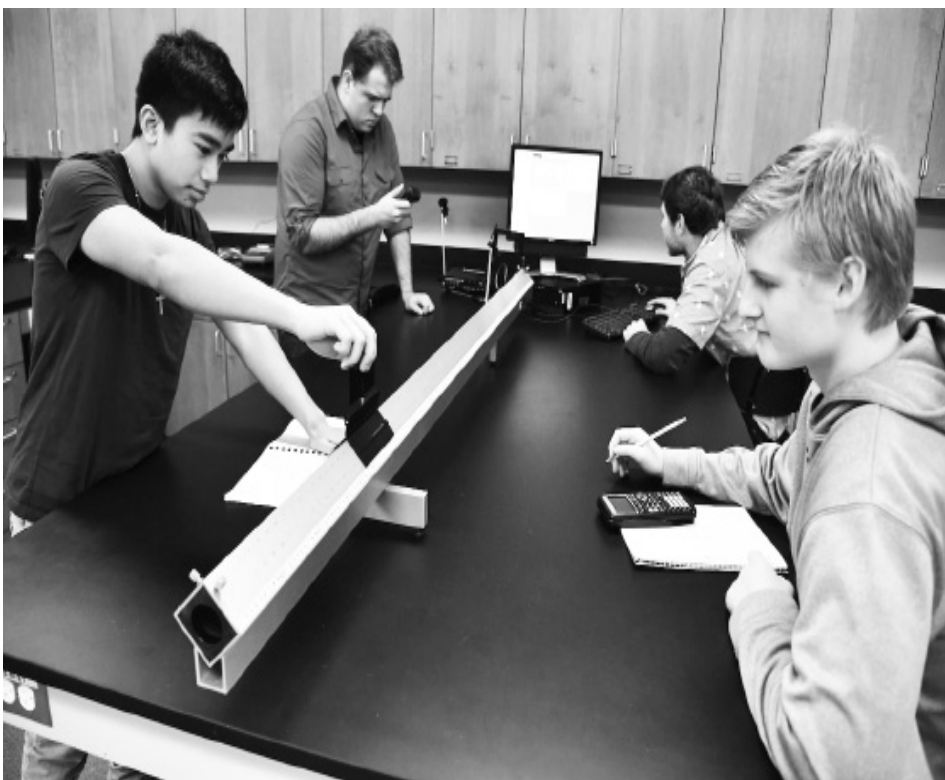


photo by Glenn Carpenter

Moraine Valley Community College Engineering Pathway program students Steven Allgood Jr., Troy Lemuel Magpantay, Jimmy Havlin, and Benjamin Meyer measuring velocity in their Mechanics class.

"Through the courses, students explore various engineering careers through a variety of methods," Fields said. "We incorporate building and design projects, resume writing, and lots of communication."

Students are also required to participate in engineering extracurricular activities, STEM competitions, engineering societies and job exploration activities.

The program encourages and helps students network and apply for summer internships. Several companies in the Chicago area have expressed interest in working with Engineering Pathways students.

"We bring in guest speakers from various engineering backgrounds," Fields said. "Last fall we brought in seven guest speakers. Some of the companies represented were Nokia, Northrop, Grumman, BP, Siemens, Jenner and Block, Panduit and CNH."

MVCC enrolled 21 students in their first Engineering Pathways class this fall, and 90% will be continuing with the program.

The program has already admitted 12 students for next school year and expects to enroll over 40 students by fall.

Seniors can apply for the Engineering Pathways program through MVCC's website before March 1.

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RedHawk cheerleaders compete at state today

by Raini Eldorado
junior reporter

It has been 11 years since the RedHawk cheerleaders brought home a state championship.

Today, the cheerleaders will compete at state for the second year in a row and the 10th time since their 2005 title.

The 24 girl squad includes seniors Emily Cocco, Morgan Insley, Maeve Reilly, Meagan Stoffle, Carolyn O’Connell, Tyra Thompson, Lauren Gray and Caitlyn McKeivitt.

Juniors include Meagan Loranger, Mary McKenna, Carly Turcich, Faith Holubik, Hannah Hart, Julianna Dabrowski, and Abigail Arvesen.

Varsity underclassmen cheerleaders include Cailin Stevens, Caitlin Richter, Alyssa Hartley, Myah Gillespie, Anna Frieling, Emily Egan, Mia DeMonica, Grace Arvesen, and Jhadia Adams.

“We trained as a top 10 team all season and for the past four years,” Cocco said. “We plan to place as we have trained.”

While spending most Tuesday and Friday evenings cheering on the varsity basketball team, the cheerleaders practice hard on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to prepare for weekend competitions.

The RedHawks started their competition season at Crystal Lake Central High School, finishing in fourth place.

They went on to take second place at Andrew High School, fourth place at Joliet West High School, second place at Lincoln-Way West High School and second place at Oak Forest High School.

While the squad enjoys cheering on their fellow RedHawks at football and basketball games, the girls credit competition with bringing them together.

“The best part of cheerleading is competing with girls who have become my best friends,” Dabrowski said. “As the season went on we became close and it is now more of just a family bond.”

The squad is taking the state finals one day at a time.

“Our goal is to make it to day two [tomorrow],” said head coach Amber Weber.



photo by Mary McKenna

The RedHawk varsity cheerleaders compete at Stagg on Jan. 22, finishing third overall behind Lincoln Way-East and Providence. The squad took 5th at sectionals last weekend to advance to the state finals today at Illinois State University.

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RedHawk poms squad finishes season

by Meagan Loranger
junior reporter

Back in July, the RedHawks poms team attended a four day camp at Northern Illinois University. At the camp, they learned dance routines, for which they all earned blue ribbons.

To get a blue ribbon, each team member performs a routine and the instructors of the camp judge to determine which color ribbon they will get. A blue ribbon is the highest honor.

On Jan. 8, the team took first in pom, second in jazz and third all-around at Maine East.

During one of their routines, the sound system failed and the music stopped, but the RedHawks continued on with their performance and were awarded second place.

On Jan. 15, the girls were awarded fourth place at Loyola Academy in the Catholic School Championships.

One goal this season was to place at every competition, but their biggest goal was to make it to state.

To advance to state, a team must place in the top six teams at sectionals. This year, sectionals were held on Jan. 21 at Mahomet-Seymour High School, but the RedHawks did not advance.

Like many teams, the poms team has its own special rituals before competing.

Right before the girls perform, they stand in circle with their arms crossed right over left and their right feet pointed to the middle of the circle. One of the seniors gives a pep talk, they pray the Memorare and then they shout their secret motto, “#KTS.”

“This ritual unites us into one single force instead of 19 dancers,” senior Michelle Condon said. “It gets us ready to execute our routine to the best of our ability.”

Although the team did not advance to state, the girls cherish the memories of making the most of the season together.

“This was one of my favorite teams throughout my four years on poms,” senior Lynese McIntosh said. “We were always laughing and really clicked together as a team. We were a very strong team this year, with so much talent combined into one.”



photo by Megan Costello

The RedHawk poms team poses with its first place trophy for pom, second place trophy for jazz and third place trophy for overall performance at Maine East High School on Jan. 8. The team’s competitive season ended on Jan. 21 at sectionals.

Rivalries motivate RedHawk basketball team this season

by Sheila O’Keeffe
senior reporter

The rivalry between the Marist RedHawks and Brother Rice Crusaders is well anticipated each year in boy’s sporting events.

In basketball, the rivalry continues to bring the Marist and Brother Rice communities together. The teams played a game televised on WCIU on Jan. 17, with the RedHawks falling in overtime, 65-73.

“Rice has a great program and the players from both teams are familiar with each other, coming from the same grammar schools,” head coach Gene Nolan said. “It creates a really fun atmosphere and a great experience.”

Marist alumnus and current Academic Dean of Underclassmen Mr. Joe Inzinga, remembers the rivalry during his time here as a student.

“The rivalry was very intense and represented bragging rights until the next year,” Inzinga said. “It is a healthy rivalry and one we hope lasts for generations.”

The rivalry creates excitement for the game among the students and especially the players.

“Off the court we try to keep each other mentally calm and locked in because we know how much hype surrounds these games,” senior basketball player Justin Brown said.

The game against conference rival Benet Academy on Jan. 20 was featured as the game of the week on CN100 Marist won 49-45.

In the annual Callahan-Griffin Classic played against another big rival, St. Rita, on Jan. 24, the RedHawks fell short when the Mustangs hit a buzzer beater, ending the game 59-61. The boys went on to beat Joliet Catholic Academy on Jan. 27, bringing their season record to 21-2.

The team rotates captains every week so each players has a chance to be a leader.

“When we use the word leadership, we emphasize the plural,” Nolan said. “Leadership comes from each player on the team.”

The RedHawks play at Notre Dame College Prep tonight at 7 p.m.



photo by Raini Eldorado

RedHawk power forward junior David Daniels (center) looks to pass during the game against Joliet Catholic Academy on Fri. Jan. 27. The RedHawks won the game, 36-20. The RedHawks travel to Notre Dame College Prep. for a 7 p.m. game tonight. The team’s next home game is on Feb. 10 at 7:00 p.m. against St. Viator.



photo by Brandon Fitzpatrick

Number 1 ranked 220 lb. wrestler senior Diata Drayton takes down his Kaneland opponent on Dec. 17. Drayton is undefeated this season, with a 33-0 record. Drayton and the RedHawk varsity wrestlers will compete in the Class 3A IHSA regionals tomorrow at 9 a.m. at Andrew High School.

Drayton defends undefeated record

by Maureen Mitchell
senior reporter

The RedHawk varsity wrestling team has a record of 9-18 this season and won this year’s East Suburban Catholic Conference tournament, upsetting Marian Catholic with a final score of 170.5 to 169.5.

The team’s breakout star is senior Diata Drayton, who is currently 33-0 for the season.

Drayton came to Marist to play football, but his cousin convinced him to join the wrestling team as well. After junior year, Drayton decided to quit football and put all of his energy into wrestling, something head coach Brendan Heffernan has been glad to see.

“[Diata] has had a very productive off-season,” Heffernan said. “He really dedicated himself to having a better diet, lifting weights, and getting stronger and faster. He’s really showing that on the mat this year.”

His coaches have also seen Drayton improve his skills this season, as proved by his record, and Drayton credits his coaches for inspiring him to focus and work hard. Not satisfied to win matches 3-1, Drayton seeks to sweep his competitions and is working hard to achieve that goal.

“[My coaches] have been pushing me harder in practice and when we wrestle they don’t take it easy on me,” Drayton said. “They help me stay focused.”

Drayton plans to continue wrestling after high school. He is being scouted by several Division 1 and 2 colleges, including Old Dominion, McKendree, Millikin, and Indiana Tech.

Drayton is ranked the number one 220-pound wrestler in Class 3A by IllinoisMatMen.com and is hoping for a state title to cap his season.

The wrestling team competes in the IHSA Class 3A Individual Varsity Regional Tournament at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow at Andrew High School.

Two games left in girls’ strong season

by Cara Donegan
senior reporter

The RedHawk girls’ basketball team, led by senior captains Caily Landers and Claire Austin, goes into tomorrow’s final home game against Lincoln-Way East with a 23-4 record.

The team started the new year with wins against New Trier (65-42) on Jan. 7 and archrival Mother McAuley (56-39) on Jan. 9.

Head coach Mary Pat Connolly, assisted by Renee Chimino and Dan Connolly, has many expectations for this year’s team.

“We have great rebounders, combined with girls who can score from the inside and outside, combined with a great bench,” Connolly said.

Connolly also noted that the team has great chemistry which continues to grow every day.

“We had an overnight trip to Kentucky and trips like these definitely help the team chemistry grow, which helps us in the games,” she said.

The team’s goals this year included improving in practice every day and winning as many games as possible to hopefully lead them down to state.

“Our goal is state,” said senior captain Caily Landers. “That’s what every teams’ goal should be. We work hard every day at practice and we all have the heart, especially the five seniors who don’t want this season to end.”

According to Connolly, key players this year include Landers, seniors Claire Austin, Maggie Robertson, Julia and Kate Ruzevich and sophomore Abby Callahan.

Julia Ruzevich surpassed 1,000 career points in the game against Crete-Monee on Nov. 23 and was presented with a plaque at the Marian Central game on Dec. 7.

“It was such a special feeling for me,” Ruzevich said. “I worked so hard to reach that goal and when Coach Connolly surprised me with the award, it was an unforgettable moment.”

Tomorrow’s home game at 2:30 p.m. is followed by a final regular season game at St. Viator on Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Regionals begin on Tues., Feb. 15, location TBA.



photo by Patti Arvesen

Head coach Mary Pat Connolly (center) huddles with her varsity players during the game against Benet on Jan. 20. The RedHawks defeated the RedWings, 62-46. The team hosts Lincoln-Way East tomorrow for a final home game in the Red and White Gym at 2:30 p.m. The team’s last game before regionals is Wed., Feb. 8 at St. Viator at 7:30 p.m.