

The New | Perspective

CARROLL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT
NEWS PUBLICATION **SINCE 1874**

December 2016



HO HO HOLIDAY *FIRSTS*

how was your first Christmas with a new **tradition?** without **Santa?** with
a new **toy?** without a **loved one?**

Our | Perspective

The *New Perspective* is Carroll University's official student-operated newspaper. Its goals are twofold: to inform and connect the Carroll and Waukesha community, and to give students an outlet to hone their skills in both print and online journalism. In order to further these goals, the *New Perspective* is constantly finding new ways to create an innovative media publication that best serves the public interest. The *New Perspective* staff believe in fostering a newspaper that reflects not just publications past and present, but one that will help shape the future of college level journalism for decades to come.

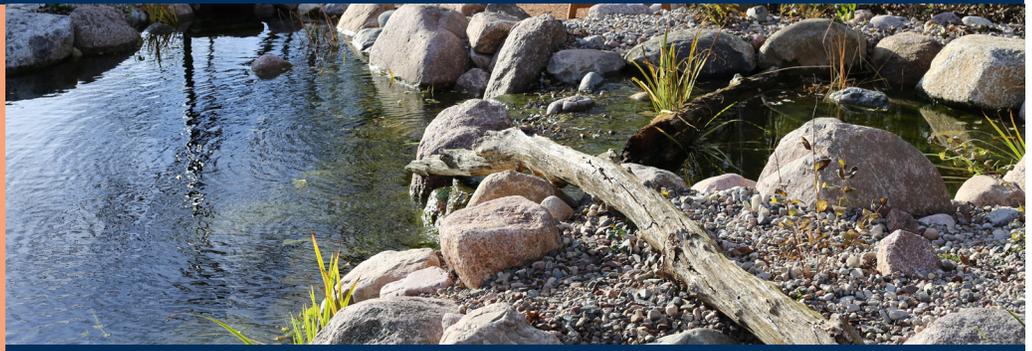


Photo by Noah Johnson

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a christmas carroll

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For many of us, it's the most wonderful time of year again. There are a lot of reasons to love this time of year: family gatherings, friend celebrations and streets full of decorations make us feel a little better about the dark nights and chilly walks across campus.

Before that last final is over and undergrads everywhere can breathe a sigh of relief, consider taking a break to learn about your friends and campus with our latest issue. Inside you'll find touching and funny stories about some holiday "firsts," learn more about one another with our ongoing Humans of Carroll University thread, get some valuable updates on Carroll's recently opened environmental research center at Prairie Springs - and much more.

So curl up to your roommate's dorm fireplace DVD and read at your leisure as we take this time at The New Perspective to wish you all Happy Holidays and a very Merry Christmas. This marks the last issue of the year until February, when campus comes alive again as students return to snow-custed streets and syllabus weeks that are only manageable because the MDR's Dino Chicken Nuggets return to the menu. But first - finals. Hit 'em hard, pat yourself on the back and take the next month and a half to rest up for round two. We'll do the same.

See you in 2017,

- LINDA BRAUS AND JACK SHERMAN, EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

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Cover photo and inside photo by Robert Graf

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *New Perspective* will accept letter submissions from the Carroll University community regarding questions or comments on printed material as long as they are sent via email to:

JACK SHERMAN | jmsherman@pio.carrollu.edu

LINDA BRAUS | lbraus@pio.carrollu.edu

ADVERTISING

For advertising rates, quotes, and other inquiries, please contact:

ALLIE WILFER | awilfer@pio.carrollu.edu

Staff | List

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Jack Sherman
Linda Braus

VICE PRESIDENT

Ben Thorpe

SECRETARIES

Dakota Pesold
Annie Englehardt

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Allie Wilfer

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Rachael Meyer | Sports
Colleen Buetow | A&E
Marissa George | Spread
Dena Abu-Saif | Op/Ed
Ben Thorpe | Feature

COPY EDITORS

Cassandra Fawley
Amy Van Dyke
Kayley Dyszelski

STAFF REPORTERS

Elaina Barbieri
Noah Johnson
Molly Peterson
Brita Ager-Hart

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Erin Hickey
Robert Graf

Staff list refers to members who contributed to the current issue.

New Research Facility Promotes Natural Sciences

By Noah Johnson | Staff Reporter

Carroll University expanded its presence in the community when the Prairie Springs Environmental Education Center opened its doors after a year in construction, boasting new facilities for student and faculty research, as well as an education center for community members and upscale housing accommodations for guests of the University.

Dr. Brooke McBride has high hopes for the future impact the facility will have on the community. McBride partnered with Project Pioneer, a Carroll University pre-college program for high school students, and had a volunteer group travel out to the center. While there, they helped with research projects, cleared invasive species while learning about their effects on the ecosystem, and discovered more about local ecosystems in danger, like the Genesee Creek.

The newly finished Paul Fleckenstein Research Facility houses a classroom with a completely different learning environment: rolling chairs surround four tables in an open room with natural lighting and a view of the garden pool. Other rooms exist for the purpose of studying and storing research samples with sleek, modern equipment. Next semester, classes in the Biology and Environmental Science fields will be visiting the facility multiple times and will indicate so in either the syllabus or the course description.

Fresh | Perspective

For every photo, there's a story. Check out the bigger picture behind these images at right.

TOP RIGHT: A view of the Prairie Springs sign as the gates slide back and reveal its three acre expanse upon which the Paul Fleckenstein Research Facility was recently built. Prairie Springs is situated adjacent to Carroll's 60 acre Greene Field Station in Genesee.

CENTER: An afternoon view of the Paul Fleckenstein Research Facility garden pool. The pool was artificially constructed but blends in perfectly with its surroundings and provides students with a perfect place to go over notes or experience nature.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Students on their way to help clear out invasive species and learn more about the local ecosystem as they engage in Carroll's pre-college program, Project Pioneer.



Photos courtesy of Noah Johnson

Pios Serve Community on Volunteer Day

By Colleen Buetow | A&E Editor

On November 12, 2016, the Carroll University community gathered for a day of volunteering to promote a lifelong experience of learning and service. Now in its eighth year, the Carroll University Volunteer Day represents a yearly event that brings together alumni, students, faculty and staff in order to help the greater community.

The Carroll Alumni Office organizes the event. The Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement, Eileen Baldwin stated, "The alumni office has two volunteer programs and both were started as a way for alumni to continue living out the mission. Many students are very involved in volunteerism during their time on campus and we know that this continues when they leave campus. We wanted to offer opportunities for alumni to come together and volunteer and this local event was one initiative to accomplish this."

Throughout the past eight years, it has gone through several changes. "One is the name. It used to be called Day of Caring, a couple of years ago the name was changed to Pioneers Serve: Carroll University Volunteer Day. This year a big change was switching the day of the week. Historically this event has been held on a weekend. The Carroll Alumni

Office conducted a survey and we found that alumni were interested in trying the event on a weekend. This year is the first time it is being held on a Saturday," Baldwin said.

Additionally, Student Activities helped plan the event this year. "The Volunteer Center is now very involved in determining locations, staffing of the event as well as communicating with students about the volunteer activities. Falling on Family Weekend this year, we wanted to make sure that some locations were kid-friendly too," said Baldwin.

Locations for volunteering are chosen based on popularity with participants in past years and the relationships that already exist with the Volunteer Center or the Office of Alumni Engagement. This year volunteers were present at Avalon Square, Saratoga Heights, Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, United Community Center, Green Power Gardens, and Prairie Springs Environmental Education Center.

Overall, the Pioneers Serve: Carroll University Volunteer Day offers the Carroll community an opportunity to come together to help a variety of organizations and promotes the spirit of service and volunteerism in our communities, which continues to impact the lives of many.



Photos courtesy of Carroll Alumni Office

Post-Election Effects on Higher Ed

By Linda Braus | Editor-in-Chief

On Nov. 8, President-Elect Donald Trump and Vice-President-Elect Mike Pence (R) won the presidential race in Waukesha County (with 60% of the county's vote) as well as nationally, a result that has since swept the country with mixed feelings. In addition to the presidential election, Waukesha County also voted to reelect Sen. Ron Johnson (R) and Congressional Representatives Paul Ryan (R) and Jim Sensenbrenner (R) with their receiving 67.9%, 78.1% and 69.9% of the county's vote in their specific races, respectively.

Leading up to the election, there was a tangible excitement on campus, with many Carroll students having the opportunity to vote for the first time. In order to facilitate students' ability to vote, the school provided shuttle vans to voting locations for residential students and the Campus Center Information Desk provided voter identification for those who needed it. Prior to the election, voices of concern rose regarding students' ability to vote with

Wisconsin's voter identification laws which require photo identification and posed multiple potential problems for students with out of state identification.

The buzz on campus did not stop when the polls closed. Many students gathered around their televisions or smartphones to watch the election results come in. For most students, their social media experiences transformed into a litany of political opinions, memes, celebration and chagrin-- increasingly so after the race was called and for the days following.

While many issues were at stake for this election, one that might have stood out in particular - with seemingly direct implication to many Carroll students - was the candidates' stances on higher education. President-Elect Trump's website vaguely states his opinion that people should be able to more easily access two and four-year college as well as technical schooling. On his website, Trump also calls for a partnership with Congress to ensure that schools work to reduce the cost of college and student loan

debt for the incentive of federal money and tax breaks.

Congressmen Johnson and Ryan both call for more direct reformation on federal assistance in higher education, specifically student loans. Sen. Johnson's stance on student loans is considered particularly controversial, with his opponents stating that he is completely against federal student loans. Johnson has attempted to clarify that he sees the need for a complete overhaul of the federal government's involvement in student debt and he voted in favor of extending the Federal Perkins Loan program in 2015. However, Johnson's website clearly villainizes the federal government's loan provision, with claims such as "the federal government lured students into borrowing \$1.2 trillion in student loan debt outstanding." Rep. Ryan also calls for a new framework of government spending in higher education.

HOCU

Humans of Carroll University



By Allie Wilfer and Erin Hickey | Account Manager and Staff Photographer

“Even though I’ve been to Carroll for four years already, this is my fourth year, I still have problems like making friends and getting homework done, because homework was never a problem in my country. Helping the new international students to come in, adjusting them to everything, has been a little bit of a struggle right now, and with my health as well.

It was more difficult at first because I’m really close to my family, close to my parents, and moving to a different country and living alone was really new, especially to a country that isn’t my language and where culture is very different, including even clothing and fashion. But, so far it’s been really great because I think I’ve really changed as a person and I really like that.”

What Is HOCU?

When Brandon Stanton embarked on a project to photograph 10,000 New Yorkers in 2010, he didn’t plan on getting to know each one personally. But something happened - Humans of New York (H.O.N.Y.) happened.

“Somewhere along the way, I began to interview my subjects in addition to photographing them. And alongside their portraits, I’d include quotes and short stories from their lives.” The result was a social experiment now famous the world over, unparalleled in its intimate treatment of humanity.

Carroll University does not have 10,000 students - enrollment rests around 3,500 each year. But don’t let numbers fool you. For every student, there’s a story: of love, of family, of hardships and humor, of perseverance through trials both large and small. We’ve set out to tell these stories, just as Stanton did and continues to do.

Here they are, told from a place of truth and guided by just one question:

What is your greatest struggle?

CREATEing Their Futures

By Dena Abu-Saif | Op/Ed Editor

Juniors Deanna Daujatas, Rachel Kutzner, Kara Burke and Allison Tomczyk will embark on a life changing experience come summer of 2017. Through the CREATE program, they will travel to Edinburgh, Scotland for 10-12 weeks of research at The University of Edinburgh. Dr. Molter, a professor in the Chemistry department, was one of the staff members involved in the decision process. Even though this is the first year the CREATE program is in effect, it is similar to a previous program. The past program was run through a grant provided by the Thorsen International Research Program and sent two to four students to the United Kingdom to do research as opposed to just Scotland. The CREATE program is funded by a grant through the National Science Foundation and allows 4 or more students to attend the trip.

“The program is open to chemistry and biochemistry majors. It allows for diverse, interdisciplinary research,” said Molter. The University of Edinburgh sends a list of professors, their university and what research they will be doing. The students are then assigned to professors based on the interests they expressed in the application.

From the four students traveling next summer: Rachel Kutzner, Kara Burke and Allison Tomczyk are all Chemistry Majors and Deanna Daujatas is a Biochemistry Major. Although the trip does not happen until next summer, the idea terrifies and excites them. “I’m so grateful for this experience. It’s not just research to me, it makes me feel like I’m becoming a part of something bigger,” said Burke.

For all four of them, this experience is a stepping stone to help discern their future career paths. “I think gaining experience in a lab and being more confident in a lab setting is something that excites me about this trip. It takes me out of my element,” said Tomczyk. Regardless of previous research, each experience brings about different variables, results and outcomes, especially when being out of the country. “Europe is much older than America. I hope to visit historical places and immerse myself as much as I can,” said Daujatas. They have the option to use this trip as a CCE, an added bonus to an already incredible time.

Having found out about their acceptance in early November, the reality of the trip still has not set in. “I feel like I’m being punked,” said Kutzner. They all are still in a state of shock and will most likely remain that way until the trip gets closer. There was an overall consensus between the four of them of a desire to not disappoint. They remain grateful for this opportunity, and they hope to make Carroll proud during their time abroad.



holiday firsts

The holidays are a time for many things - for laughter, for love, for thinking of those with us in person and those who are present in spirit. We Pioneers are no exception. Each have their own different stories, some funny, some sad, and some profoundly heartwarming. At the same time, all of them have something common. Each began somewhere with a "first" moment that they'll be telling the rest of their lives. The following is a collection of these holiday firsts, from students, staff, and faculty alike. Relax, read on, and enjoy these tales over a cup of good cheer.



RYAN ALBRECHTSON | Alumnus

"The first Christmas when my brother knew that Santa wasn't real, he convinced me to play a prank on Santa, so we left a plate on the kitchen table that had cookie crumbs on it and a note that said "Ha, ha! None for you!" And when I woke up the next day there were no presents under the tree and there was a note from Santa that said "Ha, ha! None for you!" And I've never sobbed harder in my life."

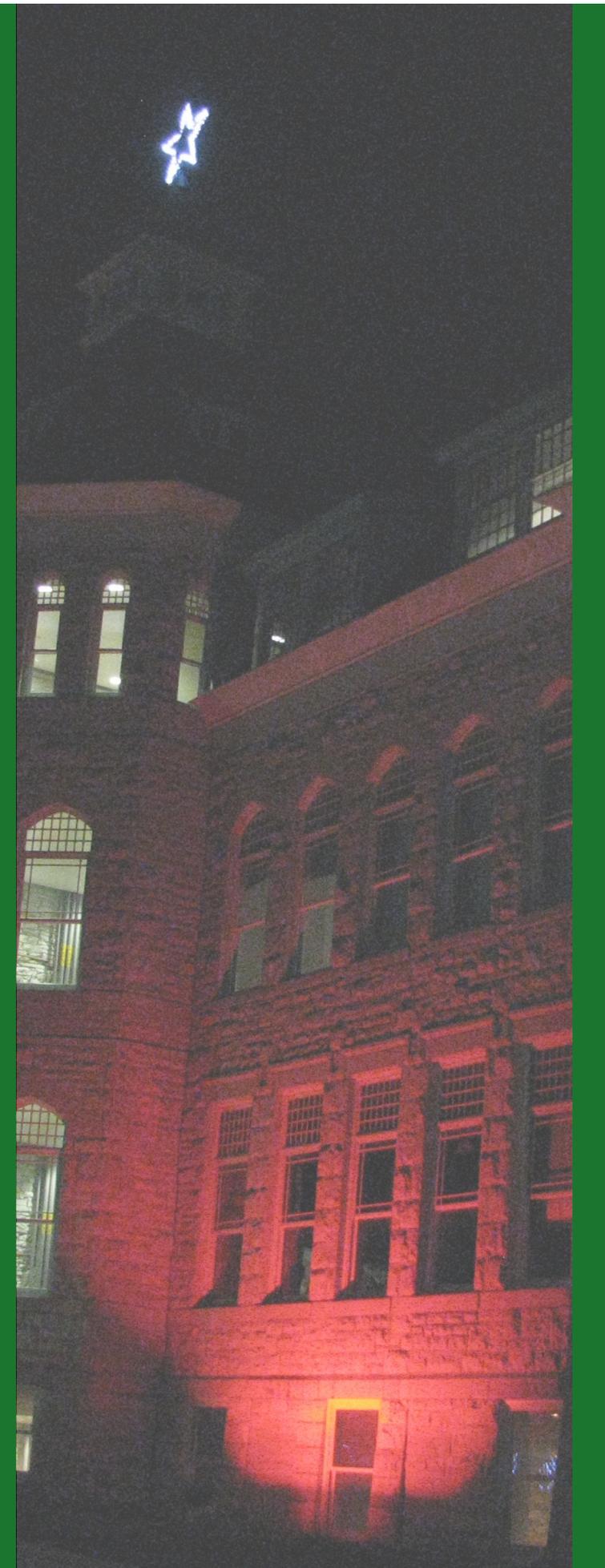
OLIVIA CARLTON | Student

"So every year for the past five years (starting senior year of high school) I have kicked off the Christmas celebrations with what I like to call, TGID. What is TGID you ask? "Thank god it's December!" To truly embrace TGID I wear an ugly Christmas sweater every single day until Christmas, and not the mass produced ones you find at Wal-Mart, I'm talking straight out of grandmas closet ugly sweater.

"I am not alone on my quest; the past four years my roommate has joined in on the festivities. We do share some sweaters, but have about 40 total between the two of us, allowing us to have many fa-la-la-la fabulous options. Over the years we have added many fun headbands, broaches, and socks. We have often been called the Christmas Queens, and it is truly the ultimate form of flattery. Tis the most wonderful time of the year - hope you enjoy my tradition!"

FRANKIE WINTHROP | Student

"Does the time I fell down the stairs trying to show my dad the tiara I had gotten for Christmas count? It was my first concussion..."



JEANNINE SHERMAN | Director of
Communications and Marketing

Christmas of '92 blew in on autopilot. Everything had an edge.

We went through the motions. There was half-hearted tree trimming and cookie baking. Rote conversations at holiday parties. Tight smiles stretched thin across tired faces. We tread in measured steps along razor-thin tightropes, struggling to balance between hope and despair. Elsie Mae was dying. It would be our first Christmas without her. There was nothing we could do but watch.

It was a stoic vigil that demanded gravitas at odds with the season. The abundance of blessings and good cheer struck like paper cuts, mocking the significance of what we were about to lose. Wife, mother, grandmother, sister, friend, confidante. The glue at the center of this raucous, rowdy, big, beautiful tribe I had married into. She was kind and generous and she genuinely cared. Her love was tangible and fierce and transformative. She was tiny and wicked funny and she always burned the shit out of meat. She was ours.

Damnit. She was ours.

Cancer didn't give a flip about our feelings or that it was supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year. On the contrary. It rubbed our noses in it. On December 22nd we bore witness. We marked interminable minutes by the hushed rhythm of the morphine drip and the lengthening pauses between shallow breaths. Then she was gone.

Christmas Eve found us gathered together for survival. We were a ragtag band of shell-shocked soldiers who had lost the battle but survived the war. We discussed funeral plans by a twinkling tree while "Here Comes Santa Claus" played on the stereo. For Elsie, we put on brave faces for the grandkids and steeled ourselves to get through a holiday we'd rather forget.

Then everything changed.

Humor is an art form in my husband's family and every one of them can bring it - to celebrate the best of times and to make the worst times better. That bleak midwinter night was no exception.

Beneath the tree, "Santa" had left an identical package for each adult. Forget Jesus. Our salvation was about to arrive courtesy of Goodwill. In the form of bowling balls.

Each ball was more magnificent and ridiculous than the one before it. Mine was adorned in magnolia leaves, a nod to my childhood in the South. My gay brother-in-law's was bedazzled in disco ball glitter. One had a giant fuse and the word "bomb" written on the side. My sister-in-law's was an ode to her nicotine habit - completely covered in crushed cigarettes. The "booger ball" was hidden in dryer lint (we won't even go there) and my father-in-law, Ed, received a ball attached to a chain, seeing as he had just lost his.

That first Christmas without our "rock" was unspeakably hard and there were plenty of difficult days ahead. But for a short time that night, the sea-saw of raw emotion tipped in our favor and we found the comfort, laughter and joy we needed, provided by some crafty brothers-in-law and a DIY hack on a trunk of bowling alley discards.

They gave us an amazing gift by reminding us what really matters most and that it can transcend the deepest loss. We belong to and care for one another and we find strength in our love for each other. In the face of everything else, that lives on.

Merry Christmas, El. You would be proud.

Why You Should Audit

By Brita Ager-Hart | Staff Reporter

Are you in a major so demanding you're left with no room for electives? Is there a subject that fascinates you, and you know Carroll has a relevant class you'd love to take, but you don't want to deal with the stress of taking more exams? If one or both of these problems sound familiar, you might consider auditing a class for fun.

By auditing a class instead of taking it for credit, you have the freedom to decide when you would like to attend class and how much time you devote to learning the subject without fear of facing GPA-related repercussions. The minimum requirement in order to have an audit show up on your transcript is regular attendance. The instructor for each class decides if there are additional requirements for auditors, and if there are any, they're not likely to be too demanding. This means that if you can put in even a minimal effort (showing up fairly frequently), auditing is a great way to learn more about something you find enjoyable.

I am auditing an art history class this semester. I have always been really interested in the subject, but sadly I couldn't fit another four credit class for credit into my schedule. Fortunately, because I can audit the class instead, I am still able to spend two hours on Monday and Wednesday afternoons learning about subjects like the ancient Egyptian mummification process and the immense undertaking that was the construction of Hadrian's Wall.

In addition to adding to your store of general knowledge, there is another long-term benefit of auditing: increasing the appeal of your transcript. The fact that you cared enough about your education to take the initiative to audit a class will speak well of you to prospective employers or graduate school admissions officers. Additionally, don't overlook the financial benefit of auditing rather than taking a class for credit. Although you do have to pay a fee, it is nowhere near the amount you would have to pay if you were taking the class for credit.

While my choice was an art history course, you can audit most types of classes on many different subjects at Carroll. There are only a few kinds that do not admit auditors: studio art classes, labs, applied music classes, and music ensembles.

It is important to note that students taking classes for credit have registration priority over auditors, so if you wish to audit, you're not allowed to sign up for your desired class until a week before the semester starts. However, it is very possible that the instructor will still let you in even if the class is technically full. That's what happened in my case.

You might still be thinking something along the lines of, "Why on earth would I want to add another class to my course load? I dread going to the classes that I already have." The simple answer is that if you take a class because you enjoy the subject matter, you won't dread attending. In fact, you'll look forward to it. I like to think of my class as forced relaxation. I don't feel as bad taking four hours out of my week to learn about ancient Greek architecture as I would spending four hours taking naps.

The Fifth Year: Breaking the Stigma

By Elaina Barbieri | Staff Reporter

In October 2016, I made the decision to add a fifth year to my undergraduate studies. As a junior, the end of my college career was like a boulder crashing its way down a hill. It felt merciless and absolutely inevitable. The first semester of my third year had barely begun, yet I was already lamenting over my final months at Carroll.

Anxiety began to twist my relatively successful college experience into one of unreached potential and missed opportunities. I tore the internet apart, looking through every existing internship and job opportunity that might interest to me. Each job requirement left me unsatisfied with my personal skills. Each internship request made me feel ill-suited for the position. I was left with one conclusion: I am not ready to graduate.

This was not necessarily the fault of the school. I entered Carroll with the hopes of being a political psychologist, but by the end of my sophomore year I had set my sights for a career in public relations. Thus, I began preparing for my field of interest late in my college career. When I continued research into my possible career options, I was compelled to further expand my educational horizons. So, this past October, I opted out of graduating in four years.

But, as I discussed my choice with students and teachers, I ended up with a variety of responses. Most noticeably was the simple reply, "Why?" It seems like a harmless enough response and I was not aware of it at the time, but there seemed to be a nagging stigma that surrounded the five-year undergraduate degree. The work ethic and intelligence of those who pursue a five year bachelor's degree becomes exposed to harsher investigation by peers or employers. In adding an extra year, I hoped to acquire more skills and confidence in the workplace, but after discovering that my decision could reflect negatively on me I began to doubt if there were any real benefits to my decision at all.

The good news is that I am not alone. Many students before me have made a similar decision to extend their education beyond what is traditionally expected. Not to mention the countless other students who throw the idea of an additional year around in their heads before tossing it in their mental wastebasket.

Why did you choose to extend your undergraduate education past the four year standard?

Gabe Wichser (Fifth Year Senior, English Major): To be honest, I didn't exactly choose

to extend my undergraduate education, but that's just how it worked out. I switched my major to English at the end of my sophomore year, and accepted that the change in course requirements would mean additional time here at Carroll.

Dr. Galow (Professor of English at Carroll University): I had unlimited access to really smart people who had devoted their entire lives to examining formerly dark little corners of existence. And I was fully aware of my privilege and realized that I might never have an opportunity to do this again. So I dabbled in everything.

Declan Paterson (Junior, Nursing Major): I actually did not successfully complete a class in the nursing curriculum and, in order to retake the class and graduate, I needed to add an additional year.

Did you face any opposition or judgement on your decision?

Gabe Wichser: The only opposition and judgement I faced was internal. I was initially very hard on myself about the additional time; I felt scared because I was unsure about my career path, but eventually realized (with the help of my advisor) that the extra year is really a blessing in disguise. The only (obvious) downfall is the financial burden, but I haven't felt judged in any way; if anything, my classmates seem to respect the decision.

Dr. Galow: My parents had made it clear that I was responsible for my education. At 18, I was on my own. So I had no other pressures or purses with strings attached that pushed me in any particular direction...Today the pressure to get out in four years is pretty prevalent, and it exists for a variety of reasons... a four year graduation rate is a huge factor in ratings and there is a pressure on the university to keep those rates in check, leading to an even more pervasive sense that students must graduate in four years.

Were there any benefits to adding an additional year or years to your undergraduate studies?

Gabe Wichser: The biggest benefit I've experienced is the ability to more fully mature as a learner and as an individual...Although I now feel overly prepared to enter to start 'adulting', I appreciate how the extra time has allowed me to explore career options and create more established relationships with professors and mentor figures.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Five Fast Facts for Better Sleep



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

By Molly Peterson | Staff Reporter

Sleep is especially important to our everyday lives. College students are recommended to get to eight to nine hours of sleep a night but average five and a half hours a night. But, it can be hard to get to sleep when you're constantly studying, going to class, working and socializing.

Let's start with a scenario that might sound familiar: you wake up for your eight a.m. class and it's practically impossible to get out of bed. We've all been there. Here's how you can change that:

NUMBER ONE

Skip out on the caffeine. Your last amount of caffeine should be four to six hours before you plan on going to bed. It can be hard because you need to stay up to do homework and caffeine is helpful to keep you awake. However, you'd be surprised that it stays in your body and keeps you awake much longer than finishing that three page essay.

NUMBER TWO

Nowadays, phones and laptops are constantly used to finish that last bit of homework or socialize

before bed. However, experts say a student should put away all technology and study materials 30 minutes before bed. Instead try coloring, reading a book for fun, or if you must use your phone, change the brightness to night mode.

NUMBER THREE

Use some earplugs or an eye mask-- or both. Light and sound can affect your sleep more than you think- especially if you're a light sleeper. However, make sure you can still hear your alarm with the earplugs. Otherwise, you'll be well-rested but late for class.

NUMBER FOUR

Pillows! Here's the thing that singlehandedly can affect your sleep more than any of the other tips. You actually might be using the wrong pillow. Studies show that depending on if you sleep on your back, side or stomach, your pillow use will be different. If you sleep on your stomach, a pillow that is very thin with little stuffing is the best, or you can get rid of the pillow altogether and get a

mattress pad that has a pillow top. For those who sleep on their back, the common pillow is actually the best choice, a soft or medium-firm pillow that can fill the space between your neck and the bed. A memory pillow is also a nice option. Side sleepers are recommended to sleep on an overstuffed pillow. This can give extra support to your neck along with making sure you don't put all your weight on one shoulder.

NUMBER FIVE

Set a sleep schedule. This can be difficult since most college students have a different schedule every day. However, going to bed at the same time every night and waking up at the same time every day gets your body into a routine. This helps you fall asleep around the time you have set to go to bed, and you'll start waking up naturally in the morning.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Declan Paterson: I think a huge benefit to the extra year will be that my coming semesters will be less intense credit-wise so I shouldn't be super overwhelmed with classes or homework. While it's a little upsetting I won't be graduating with my original class, I'm incredibly glad that I chose to stay and get my degree.

What would you say to those who are currently torn about taking additional time to complete their bachelor's degree?

Dr. Galow: It was a very different scene when I was going through college... If I could go back, I wouldn't choose a different path. And when talking with students, I

always stress considering both the costs and the benefits. Why are you considering sticking around? To avoid some short-term discomfort... or out of fear? Or will it truly benefit you either in terms of developing your skills or preserving your mental health? **And what is the real cost to you of doing so in terms of money, time, personal relationships, career options, etc.?**

Declan Paterson: I would tell them it's nothing to be ashamed of and that it happens more than you think. You won't be the only one who is doing it. If it's for your future, I'd say an extra year would be worth it. One of my favorite quotes I think applies well here, "It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop."

PRINCIPAL AUDITIONS

for

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all information is available at carrollplayers.weebly.com



The Chainsmokers' Latest: Tragically Farther than Closer

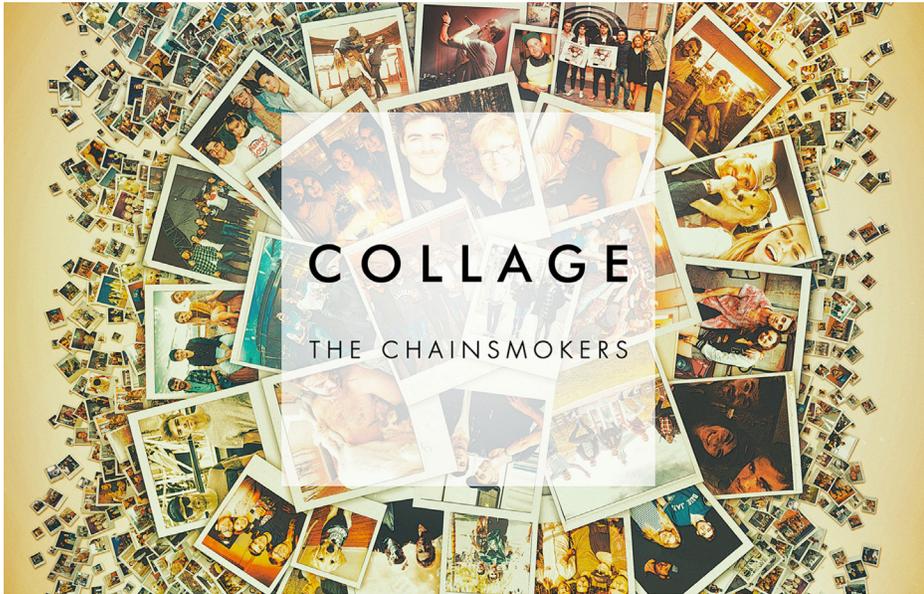


Photo courtesy of deviantart.net

By Ben Thorpe | Feature Editor

With the current musical climate heavily dominated by EDM and pop, it seems only natural that a skillful blend of those elements would be irresistible to the mainstream listener. The Chainsmokers managed to do just that with their #1 charting single *Closer*, which was seen as the first step toward a more narrative and emotive trend in pop. However, when it came time to build on that new sound with their newest release *Collage EP*, The Chainsmokers fail completely to progress, instead falling back on the old 2014 rave sounds that trap EDM in a perpetual cycle of complacency.

The opening track *Setting Fires* is likely to be the biggest let down to anyone that was excited for new sounds and directions the song is complete with a female vocalist who is somehow completely indistinguishable from the four others on this EP and the stereotypical palate of rave culture synths and samples. Melody on this track and across the EP (apart, again,

from *Closer*) is frustrating predictable and lacks any sort of innovation. Whereas *Closer* brought an element of humanization and dynamic emotion to lyrics (as opposed to overproduction and heavy handed pitch correction), The Chainsmokers missed the opportunity to continue with that refreshing idea and instead decided to pump out predictability.

The project only gets worse on tracks like *All We Know*, with a sound suspiciously similar to *Closer* (dual male and female lead, hints of narrative and less produced lyrics), that fail to take that final step away from mimicry towards originality. Any listener who has had *Closer* on repeat will find this track the least offensive on the project, but will likely feel the teasing and subsequent failure to deliver obnoxious. The Chainsmokers only prove with this track that the success and cultural impact of *Closer* was their only success.

The remainder of the project treks only further downhill.

The track *Inside Out* can be summarized completely in the previous paragraphs, with not a single notable feature. As if to serve as a final spit into the faces of all their disappointed listeners, The Chainsmokers slap their outdated single *Don't Let Me Down* as the fifth and final track, as if to drive the final nail in the metaphorical coffin of their artistry.

Truly, this project could not have taken a bigger nosedive for The Chainsmokers: creativity, listenability, and even marketability (with only three actual new tracks) all suffered. However, after *Closer*, it may seem harsh to have expected the now-iconic duo to simply hop over to the next mountain. But this *Collage EP* represents a great threat to the entire EDM genre: the use of overly-streamlined sounds and clichés as crutches to escape the difficult work of creativity, which can be found in the stagnant cesspool of The Chainsmokers latest ill-fated release.

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Franchise

By Dena Abu-Saif | Op/Ed Editor

Coming from the multi-million dollar Harry Potter franchise, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* had a reputation before the first letter of the script was typed. The public was prepared for a mind blowing production mimicking the intense endings of Harry Potter and the *Deathly Hallows* Part 1 & 2. Nonetheless, this is the first movie in a supposed four movie spread; therefore, it cannot kick off with a plot that intense. This movie did exactly what it should do: introduce the characters and give the viewers a feel for what magic looks like in America. This movie also takes place seventy years before the first Harry Potter movie, placing the movie in 1920s America.

Although everyone would love Albus Dumbledore to walk through Ellis Island, the addition of a completely new cast of characters represents Rowling's desire to start something new while upholding similar themes. Newt, played by Eddie Redmayne, is a fun-loving and sometimes sporadic animal lover who draws the connection from London to America. Redmayne wonderfully displays a man who prefers his suitcase instead of human communication. The way he never really looks at anyone he talks to for longer than a few seconds contrasts how he treats his beasts. Queenie, played by Alison Sudol, did not have any type of fight scene, but she did not step back when things went sideways. Sudol beautifully portrays a caring women with a intrusive curiosity. Tina, played by Katherine Waterston, brings in the strong women theme through her work with the Magical Congress of the United States of America and her incessant need to follow things through to the end. Waterston has to balance being both feminine with Tina's desire to protect children, and masculinity with regaining her place as an Auror. The resident no-mag Jacob, played by Dan Fogler, provides that close friend that carries throughout Rowling's movies. Folger showcases comic relief and balances out Newt's quiet personality.

The movie wonderfully showcases how magic works in a non-magic world. The Magical Congress of the United States of America keeps wizards underground and cleans up any accidental magical messes. The President, Seraphina Picquery, played by Carmen Ejogo, immediately gives off a wary feeling. The way she handles situations and addresses Newt and Tina gives the feeling of an ulterior motive. Ejogo captures the essence of a President but always has a look in her eye that shows her mind working it a different direction.

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them is a great way to kick off a new adventure into the magical world. Viewers know just enough about the characters to be intrigued, yet there are just enough unanswered questions to make more movies that will leave viewers pleased and, let's be honest, probably a little bit sad.

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