Moravian Prepares to Welcome its 16th President, Dr. Bryon Grigsby

Veronica Range
Reporter

Dr. Bryon Grigsby really does have some big shoes to fill as he prepares to step into the role of Moravian College's 16th president. As I spoke with him over the phone a few weeks ago, I was assured that he would fit in just fine, especially because he is already one of Moravian's own.

Grigsby is a 1990 graduate of Moravian and he quickly expressed his enthusiasm about returning to his alma mater. He had always wanted to return to the campus in one way or another but it took until now for the timing to be just right. He said that this just feels like the next logical step for him; a step that he is taking with great honor. Grigsby stated that this is much more than just a job to him; becoming the president of your alma mater is something really special. He wants to ensure the college continues to flourish in order to continue transforming lives just as it did for him.

When asked what some of his future plans as president are, Grigsby started off by saying he will be doing a lot of listening his first few months here. The students here at Moravian will be his greatest source of information and he plans on asking what they would do if they had the power to make certain changes here at the college. By ensuring the college's enrollment is at capacity, which is another of Grigsby's future goals for the college, he will be sure to have plenty of students to talk with. He also plans on having a Facebook and Twitter account as a way to communicate with students. This proves the high importance Grigsby puts on technology. He has done a lot of work in his current role as Senior Vice President and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Shenandoah University in Virginia to promote technological advancement and plans to continue that here at Moravian.

Grigsby also spoke highly of many of the Moravian traditions and is passionate about keeping them alive as well as possibly starting some new ones. The first tradition that comes to mind when people think of Moravian: Vespers. He also treasures the freshmen “Moravian Mile” walk from north campus to south campus as well as the longstanding graduation ceremony. He also mentioned he has always been impressed with how friendly and open the students and faculty are here at the college. He feels that it is not something that comes with the size of the school but lies more in what the college chooses to value and how the institution is run. Grigsby wants to preserve what the college has always held in high importance but also energize the campus, possibly with some new programs and assisting students with resources that make them feel stable here. Because Grigsby is a Moravian alum, it shouldn't take him very long to become accustomed to campus when he takes the reigns from President Thomforde this coming July. I feel very confident in all of his future plans here at the college and I believe he is just as enthused to be coming here as our community is to welcome him. As we ended our phone call, he reminded me to include his e-mail address, which is grigsbyb@moravian.edu, so that if anyone had any questions, they could contact him before he sets up other networking mediums. “I always have time to talk with students”, Grigsby assured me.
Well, seniors, it’s official: we will be graduating in about 3 months. While it is certain that we will have a lot of work to do over these next 3 months, we will also have a lot of opportunities to celebrate our seniority as well.

January 31st marked the first senior event: 100 Days Until Graduation. Sponsored by the Senior Class Gift Committee, members of the senior class were invited to spend the evening in the HUB Pavilion to enjoy food, drinks, and music.

The next event will be on March 27th, which marks 45 Days Until Graduation. This event is also sponsored by the Senior Class Gift Committee but rather than being on campus, the event will take place at Roosevelt’s. The details are still being finalized but in past years, Roosevelt’s has had a drink special for seniors that night.

Following 45 Days Until Graduation is Wine & Cheese Night, which will be on April 26th. Details are also still being finalized.

Finally, there are a series of events that will be held during senior week. On May 8th from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM is the Senior Picnic, which will be on the PPHAC patio and will include a DJ, food, drinks, and other fun activities. On May 9th from 9:00 PM to 12:00 AM is the Senior Gala at Hotel Bethlehem. This event is exclusively for members of the senior class and dress is semi-formal. Lastly, on May 10th from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM is the Senior Soiree. Following Baccalaureate, the Senior Soiree is held in Johnston Hall and is sponsored by the Alumni Association. The Senior Soiree is open to seniors as well as their families; dress is also semi-formal.

These will be some of our last chances to celebrate as a class, so, be sure to mark your calendar for all of these events and keep your eyes peeled for more details.

Technology in the Classroom

by: Nina Krall
Reporter

Once, when I was in grade school, my teacher took my cell phone away from me for texting in class. I’m sure most kids these days have been penalized to some degree for using their phone during class time, be it a stern look from across the classroom or an embarrassing call out from their teacher. Most teachers have a strict cell phone policy in their class rooms, and if the individual teacher isn’t cracking down on it, most likely the school is. Even if cell phones are banned from class time, it might be time to re-evaluate how effective technology in the classroom can really be. It’s time to rethink the educational platform that our classrooms rely on.

The most important part of this equation is realizing there still needs to be a cohesive mixture of social interaction and digital interaction. The traditional structure of a classroom can’t be completely overhauled; rather, a healthy mix of discussion and group work can be aided by the use of technology. Sometimes, I feel like my generation is the last to experience a childhood free of the technologies that have become so commonplace today. I didn’t have a cell phone (a cell phone, not a smart phone) until I was a freshman in high school – a foreign concept to kids today. Almost all of the students in my field experience classroom last semester owned a cell phone, with the exception of three (two of which who informed me they were waiting for the iPhone 5 to come out). Though I see the inherent benefits of introducing new technologies to the classroom, I also value the traditional education system where teachers and students engage each other in material. We don’t want students to become robots, ticking away on their iPads without forming their own thoughts about the material. Observation and understanding must go hand in hand. There must be a connection between technology and engagement.

It’s time to get teachers excited about learning again. Many teachers I’ve spoken to, either friends, parents, or my cooperating field experience teachers, grow frustrated with students who don’t care and administrations that make it impossible to educate effectively. The grade school I attended, St. Thomas More, is implementing school-wide distribution of the latest iPad to their students, with half the school already in possession of the iPad and the other half to follow suit soon after, with the first half’s progress being monitored. Faculty I spoke to at the school who have iPads in their classrooms said it was “exciting to see how excited the students were” and that it has “changed the dynamic between the students and the teacher for the better.” Not only can students get excited about integrating technology into their classrooms, but the teachers can, too. This opens up a multitude of options for lesson plan ideas and group work for the students. Classes can now connect with students from across the globe with the click of a button, making for a unique and diverse learning experience. With the use of virtual field trips, students can see monuments from all over the world. The possibilities really are endless.

Teachers of older generations might turn their nose up at the technology movement occurring in our world and infiltrating the classroom. I can understand their concern. It’s hard not to see the threat of classroom management compromised with today’s so easily distracted youth. When twenty-two sets of eyes are looking at content individually and processing it individually, it can prove difficult to monitor where each student is at both physically and intellectually but this hurdle can easily be remedied. Give the students a few minutes at the beginning of class to wind down and focus in on the day’s lesson. Have them journal at the beginning of class – let them reflect on what they plan to bring to the discussion each day. Do something less traditional – turn off the lights and play calming music for the first five minutes of class. Allow them to relax and forget about the distractions of the outside world. Technology is a huge part of student’s lives. Teachers, both young and old, cannot ignore that fact. We are dealing with a new generation of learners, and as such school curriculums need to be revamped in response. If educators want to be relevant to their students, they need to employ relevant teaching methods in the classroom.
In light of recent events, a plethora of people have taken to voicing their opinions on what needs to be done to control gun violence in America.

President Obama has spoken out about some of the changes he would like to see put in effect. He has projected his desire for improved background checks on all gun sales, whether they were sold at a licensed store, a private sale, or at auctions and conventions.

Obama has also moved to ban all military style assault weapons as well as high capacity magazines. A ban had previously been placed on assault weapons, but had expired in 2004. Obama now plans on reinstating the ban. As for ammunition magazines, a law restricting all magazines to no more than ten rounds has been sent to congress for approval.

President Obama has already signed 23 executive actions, which do not require the approval of congress, to strengthen pre-existing laws, including steps to improve mental health laws. He plans on increasing access to mental health services, including the training of teachers in "Mental Health First Aid" and making sure that students who exhibit mental health issues are given the treatment they need as soon as possible.

Along with mental health, Obama plans on making schools as safe as they can be by ensuring that every school has an ample emergency plan. Another aspect of creating safer schools is to help schools create a more nurturing environment for the students and deciding what the best practices are for discipline.

Another plan that has been sent to congress for approval suggests providing efficient gun training for over 14,000 law enforcement officers, as well as first responders and even school officials. Obama also plans on giving law enforcement additional tools in over to prevent and prosecute gun crimes more efficiently.

Some of the steps are given little chance of passing congress’ approval, but Obama says that all efforts must be made to help keep gun violence under control in America.

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Change and progress are rightly associated with new leadership; the case of the United Student Government is no different. Andrew van der Kleut and Alicia Altemose are the new president and vice president of USG, and their ambitions are already being realized. In an interview, Andrew stated, “Our most important idea is being put into effect soon; this would be the increase in internet speed from 100 Mbps to 300 Mbps.” For those of you keeping track, this worthy initiative has already been carried out. Less than a month into the semester, the new leadership of USG is already showing its potential. In a campus-wide email, network manager Jim Beers wrote, “CIT acknowledges and expresses thanks to USG for the leadership role it took in the process of obtaining the ResNet Internet connection upgrade for our students.”

The increase in internet speed is clear evidence of the USG’s attention to student voices. You would be hard-pressed to find a Moravian student who was fully satisfied with the campus’ old ResNet. Alicia emphasizes one function of USG—the most important, in her opinion: “USG is the bridge between students and the faculty of the college.” The everyday student can, as both Andrew and Alicia explain, see the USG as the mouthpiece of the student body. Students should look to USG as a means to being heard, to shaping their college experience. Andrew reassures Alicia’s point: “Our job in USG is to voice and represent the opinions of the students that elected us.”

Thus it is important for students to treat USG as an extension of their ideas. When asked what drew them to office, Andrew and Alicia expressed similar sentiments. Andrew’s motivation was “the desire to voice the student body’s opinion” while Alicia claimed she “wanted to see more changes on campus. The best way to get what you want is to do it yourself!” This attitude is reassuring to students, like me, who were not certain of USG’s function or what they could gain from active participation. Both the new leaders are students who share our concerns, working for the benefit of the college as a whole.

Despite the early successes of these new leaders, they both wish to accomplish much more during their terms. When interviewed, they shared the desire to improve the YOLO at MoCo program, an initiative focused on the community of Bethlehem and based around student discounts to local shops and restaurants. This is certainly a worthy cause and will improve living experiences for all students on campus, allowing them to experience Bethlehem to the fullest.

Students can expect a great deal of activity from USG this year. Beyond improving the YOLO program, Andrew promises to “improve efficiency in USG through strategic planning, and assist in starting an on campus Quick Response Unit (QRS).” These ambitions display a strong concern for the wellbeing of students and student opinions. Alicia also cares deeply for students. She explains some of the practical and helpful changes she hopes USG will make, hoping to “improve the shuttle schedules, maybe get a health center representative on south campus, and start annual reports to the President’s (of the College) Staff detailing student complaints and the work being done to solve them.”

Both leaders are hard-working and concerned representatives of the student body at Moravian College. With their help, we as students hope to shape our own college experiences.
Sustainability

by: Briana Vanbuskirk
Reporter

Though many people think that their role in sustainability is limited to recycling and carpooling, Moravian College has made numerous behind the scenes efforts that demonstrate the potential for communities to drastically reduce our ecological footprint. The Sustainability Committee, Dining Services and Facilities epitomize the ‘ability’ in sustainability with their success in transforming Moravian into a “green” campus.

Leading the 2013 IN FOCUS on Sustainability, directors Diane Husic (Biological Sciences professor) and Don St. John (Religion professor) wish to convey the importance of a sustainable culture, as it not only results in economic prosperity, but serves to ensure the health and well-being of the human race and the environment we all appreciate. “My hope is that this year’s In Focus theme, which is so inter-related to the other 3 themes (Poverty & Inequality, Health Care, and War & Peace), will begin moving us towards the type of institution that prepares students to be responsible ‘custodians of mother earth’ - of the planet, of ecosystems, and of each other,” says Dr. Husic.

Since the Sustainability Committee was definitively established in 2007 by student Elyse Jergen and committee chairman Frank Kuserk, significant initiatives have been taken to promote environmental consciousness within the Moravian community. Two years ago the Science department introduced an Environmental Science Minor for students that enjoy earth sciences, but have majors in other areas. Inspired by the 2013 IN FOCUS theme’s emphasis on educational experience, Dr. Kuserk also aspires to offer two internships for Moravian students in the upcoming academic years. One opportunity would be a Research Assistant in charge of collecting data for the Princeton Review and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), an association of which Moravian is a part. The other would be a Communications Assistant, responsible for publicizing departmental information pertaining to the environment through the web and other forms of publication.

Dining Services has made alterations in their recycling habits that might have gone unnoticed to many Moravian students. For those who are new to Moravian, we are used to tray-less dining, readily available waste and recycling containers, and locally bought and made foods that we all enjoy. These relatively new but noticeable changes are strengthened by the staff’s resolution to recycle their cooking oil, recycle their cardboard, use biosafe soaps, recycle pre and post consumer food waste for compost, and support Fair Trade providers such as Starbucks. The employees are also offered a Sustainability 101 class to educate them about ways to have an environmentally conscious work ethic. Mark Copenhaver, director of Dining Services states, “Ultimately our goal is to limit and eventually eliminate as much waste going into landfills that is not biodegradable.”

Another department that has transformed significantly throughout Moravian’s sustainability movement is Facilities. Randy Hafling, director of Grounds keeping, holds the 2012 “Field of Distinction” award. In recognition of the transformed women’s softball field, the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization awarded Moravian for using Pioneer Ultra friendly Paint, organic Fertilizer, a reduced amount of pesticides and eco-friendly machinery. So far, 37% of our athletic fields are maintained organically.

Andy Anderson, a member of Moravian’s Sustainability Committee and Associate Director of Plant Services, led the college to the “2005 Green Ribbon Award” from the City of Bethlehem for their exceptional management of recyclable waste. Facilities recycles scrap metals from furniture and broken appliances, leftover paint, vehicle oil, florescent light bulbs containing metal and mercury, batteries, and all paper products (including cardboard). One Facility member on staff is certified in removing Freon from refrigerators (a cancer related chemical when exposed to the environment) before they can be recycled as scrap metal. All old furniture is donated to local Salvation Army stores or local firefighting departments for use in routine fire training. Facilities also donates all landscaping waste to the City of Bethlehem Compost located less than a mile from campus, supplying free mulch to Bethlehem citizens at any time.

While the Moravian College staff has been working hard to improve the recycling habits that positively affect the entire Bethlehem community, it seems that efforts lack in the student population. In 2011 the Environmental Club conducted trash audits at their event called “Trash on the Patio.” After sorting through the Bernhardt & Wilhelm garbage that was collected over one weekend, it was discovered that at least 58% of the garbage (that’s 84.8lbs of a total 145.5lbs) was recyclable. It could be the distraction of other themes (Poverty & Inequality, Health Care, and War & Peace), before they can be recycled as scrap metal. While the Moravian College staff has been working hard to improve the recycling habits that positively affect the entire Bethlehem community, it seems that efforts lack in the student population. In 2011 the Environmental Club conducted trash audits at their event called “Trash on the Patio.” After sorting through the Bernhardt & Wilhelm garbage that was collected over one weekend, it was discovered that at least 58% of the garbage (that’s 84.8lbs of a total 145.5lbs) was recyclable. It could be the distraction of other themes (Poverty & Inequality, Health Care, and War & Peace), before they can be recycled as scrap metal. While the Moravian College staff has been working hard to improve the recycling habits that positively affect the entire Bethlehem community, it seems that efforts lack in the student population. In 2011 the Environmental Club conducted trash audits at their event called “Trash on the Patio.” After sorting through the Bernhardt & Wilhelm garbage that was collected over one weekend, it was discovered that at least 58% of the garbage (that’s 84.8lbs of a total 145.5lbs) was recyclable. It could be the distraction of other themes (Poverty & Inequality, Health Care, and War & Peace), before they can be recycled as scrap metal.
By most all accounts, America’s economic woes are numerous and daunting. US debt is nearing 16.5 trillion dollars. Nearly 50 million Americans live in poverty. The federal deficit is well over 1 trillion dollars. All the while, America’s leaders are engaged in a rabid political brawl, occasionally coming to mediocre deals that are no more than legislative procrastination. Considering these facts, and many equally abysmal realities not here listed, it is reasonable to harbor fear about the immediate and future state of the country.

Adversity, it would seem, prompts some to take perspectives not otherwise popular in the United States. Richard Wolff is often described as “the most dangerous economist in America.” Mr. Wolff, Professor of Economics Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, is known for his stark critique of American capitalism. As an orator and a writer, he makes his views accessible, abandoning much of the economic jargon that serves only to muddy the water when economists explain their views to people not familiar with economics.

The essence of the story Mr. Wolff tells is that American wages have not risen significantly or regularly since the 1970’s, while the productivity of the average worker has skyrocketed, along with the profits of their labor. Meanwhile, corporate executives and others in positions of ownership and administration have enjoyed previously unimaginable pay increases and bonuses, siphoned from the huge profit margins made possible by flat wages and increasing productivity. For businesses, Mr. Wolff puts it, the last thirty years have been “Nirvana.”

So, what to do? Mr. Wolff suggests that Americans start their own businesses, working together to found companies more equitable and transparent than the current giants. He may be on to something. If new firms with alternative command structures emerge, the corporate greed that led to flat wages would be left unsatisfied, allowing for an economic revolution defined by a more reasonable income gap between the worker and the owner. This would reinvigorate the American dream of a steadily increasing standard of living from generation to generation.

Sadly, Mr. Wolff’s proposal leaves much to be desired, mostly in that his fierce distrust of conventional solutions removes an important element necessary to a positive economic transition: stability. If Americans are to create new businesses that pay more than big firms while simultaneously offering competitive prices, a lot of personal investment will be necessary. Such investment is not possible (at least not in massive terms) when so many Americans remain unemployed or underpaid. I suspect that if Americans are to innovate, create and compete, they may well need to start off in better conditions than today’s economy. Mr. Wolff does not believe in the short term fixes that could make this possible. One assertion central to his argument is that our current economic crisis will not improve over time, at least not to the point of true recovery, and that pushing for re-regulation is pointless because the rich will eventually gain the political weight to regulate once more. The latter concern is well-founded and likely true. But the former assumption — that American democracy as it currently exists is incapable of implementing meaningful change — may be needlessly pessimistic. Already, favorable changes are being made, in such forms as increased taxes and the reasonable, albeit imperfect, Affordable Care Act.

Such change can continue. If pragmatic regulation addressing stagnant wages can be brought about, the temporary increase in pay could create an economic environment much more conducive to entrepreneurship than the one we currently inhabit. This road would not be without temptation — Americans would no doubt be inclined, at least in some number, to continue the culture of consumption that contributed to the mess. Further, it would be up to these new firms to equitably approach management and ownership, lest the phenomenon of corporate greed be repeated. Still, a mixture of Mr. Wolff’s ideas and those of more mainstream economists could bear fruit. Average Americans might do well to consider and promote for such initiatives, instead of waiting for Washington to come up with an answer.

### Slut-Shaming

**Slut:** (noun) a slovenly or promiscuous woman
Male equivalent: none

**Double standard:** (noun) a rule or principle that is unfairly applied in different ways to different people or groups.

Slut-shaming is the idea that it is completely acceptable to shame, demean, and essentially control a woman. We see this everywhere in the media. You don’t have to look as far as Rush Limbaugh to see some of the biggest slut-shamers. Slut-shaming has become ingrained into society, so much that many people don’t even realize they are doing it.

If the object of one’s affections likes another woman, that woman becomes a slut. If a woman wears anything shorter than knee-length, she becomes a slut. Even if a woman is born with large breasts, she is a slut. If a woman has sex with even one person, she is a slut. The reason this method of control is so effective is because there is no way to win. If a woman wears longer skirts she is a prude. If a woman doesn’t have sex with someone she is a frigid prude bitch who “friend-zones” people.

The number of people someone has sex with has no effect on their character. The number of people someone does not have sex with has no effect on their character. No one should have to answer to the entire world about their personal private practices. As long as the parties involved are consenting and responsible adults, there is no reason to judge. I don’t owe anyone an explanation on my personal choices; neither does the woman walking back to her dorm at 6:00 a.m or the woman sitting next to you. It is not yours, or anyone else’s, place to judge anyone. No one has that right. No one is entitled to such a pedestal.

Women who slut-shame further the oppression of women in a patriarchal society. In order to fight for equality among all genders, we must end slut-shaming. It starts with not calling every woman you don’t like a slut. It starts with not judging others for their personal choices. It starts with not holding women to a different standard than men.

It’s 2013. We shouldn’t still be insulting people for not conforming to our ideas of what they should be.
Director Tom Hooper's film variation of the hit musical Les Misérables opened on Christmas day and lived up to its title, reaching a domestic total of over $138 million in the box office.

Hooper seemed to have thought out his whole process by using the advantages of film to broaden the range of the original musical and create a much more personal connection between the viewer and each character. To create this intimate atmosphere, Hooper's main focus seemed to be placed on the camera angles. Many of the musical numbers, as with most of the movie, is filmed with such a close angle as to allow the viewer to not miss a single flash of every emotion that is played across the face of each character. This was a surprising aspect of the movie and was not to be taken lightly. The abrupt physical closeness to the characters is what demanded the viewer to pay attention to the big screen, and thus, made the viewer feel more a part of the action.

The unique camera angles weren't the only risk that Hooper took. His choice to film Les Misérables with live singing on set instead of pre-recorded vocals has resulted in a work of raw emotion and absolute awe. This, combined with the close camera angles, is what emphasized every ounce of emotion on each character's face. This brings a powerful greatness and passion to the film. There was an intensity felt throughout the theater that seemed to keep viewers on the edges of their seats.

As for the part of the actors, the cast list seemed randomly put together at first, but after watching the film, it is clear that each character was carefully selected for their corresponding part and woven together to create the well known plot. Each actor's chemistry with their co-actors on set was fantastic and left no doubt in the minds of the viewers that they had been born to play opposite of one another.

The plot was quite incredible as well. To watch Les Misérables on the big screen was almost to have read the original novel by Victor Hugo. Hooper did an excellent job keeping the plot close to the original. While Javert's quest to hunt down Valjean is the glue that brings the plot together, the underlying story of the revolution by the classes is certainly made evident in each of the characters. Marius and Enjolras are the embodiment of the revolution. Enjolras becomes the leader of a group of students hell-bent upon making changes to the political system and earning more wages for the poor. Marius joins the revolution to find deliverance from his upper class family and lifestyle. The revolution is even apparent in Javert, who has been besmirched by serving the upper class obediently and submissively.

In conclusion, Tom Hooper managed to remake Les Misérables with an impeccable taste and flawless vision. Les Misérables carries with it plenty of zest and passion to keep every viewer satisfied for 2 hours and 38 minutes.
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