Thomforde Retirement

by: Kristian Cantens
Reporter

Over the summer, it was announced that President Thomforde would be retiring in the spring of 2013. I sat down with him one rainy afternoon to discuss his last year as president, his experiences at Moravian, and his prospects for the future.

To be a good president you must really love the place, Thomforde told me at one point during my talk to him, in a matter of fact way. Indeed, it was his love for Moravian College that drew him here in the fall of 2006. He was first attracted by Moravian’s rich heritage – specifically the way Moravian in the past and present “provide service to the periphery of society”. In the past, Moravian accepted women when few others did, and currently strives for diversity in the student body – no doubt an admirable quality. Additionally, the mission of the college also resonated with him. He liked how Moravian has a strong liberal arts program, and a “pre-profession” program that is also grounded in the liberal arts.

For Thomforde, this initial appreciation for the mission and heritage of Moravian College soon became a passion as he began to integrate himself into the community. He was impressed at the “student creativity,” which he’d often witness first hand at concerts, plays, and student exhibits. He also took the time to meet and befriend as many students as he could – shaking their hands as they passed by, or giving them a warm smile and a friendly salute. He says that during fall, he feels their energy, excitement, and optimism for the new year.

Thomforde’s appreciation for the community extends also to city of Bethlehem itself. On his precious walks through Main Street, he gets to enjoy the atmosphere as well as the decorations put up for Christmas.

But his most treasured memories here at Moravian are during graduation, where he has the distinct “privilege of shaking the hands of every student” and “seeing their radiant faces.” “It’s not something everyone gets to see” he says.

He’s going to miss Moravian, he assures me. He felt that he was “embraced by all” and he enjoyed the time he spent with students. On the upside, retirement will allow him to do things he hasn’t been able to while working. He says he looks forward to being a “full time father and grandfather” (he has five children and six grandchildren). He also plans on reading more, which he’s never been able to get around to while president.

When Thomforde leaves us this spring, our memories of him will remain with us, just as his legacy will remain at Moravian. We’ll remember that tall, jolly man who shly loomed over us and held us together -- perhaps in the same way the tallest center pole holds together a tent; and Moravian will cradle his legacy (most notably the “InFocus” program) for years to come.

“To be a good president you must really love the place...”
Opinion

Rock the Vote!

by: Nolan Warner
Reporter

What exactly determines voter turnout has long been a matter of study and debate for political scientists and there are numerous theories as to why turnout has steadily declined over the last several decades, both in the U.S. and in other established democracies. But while voter turnout is a problem in all age groups, it is the youth voice that is heard least at the polls. Democracy, it would seem, is sadly undervalued by today’s college-aged youth. More specifically, voting, a right for which many in the world are still fighting and dying, is often neglected by citizens between the ages of 18-24, more so than any other age group. With the complexity and importance of the issues at stake in 2012’s presidential election, ignorance and indifference among the ranks of the millennials generation is a major problem.

There is no shortage of excuses made by those who don’t vote. Among them are “I don’t really know the difference between the candidates,” and “My vote doesn’t matter.” Neither of these are good reasons not to get out on Election Day. Among those who don’t vote, there are plenty of smart, competent young people who make one of those claims or some other equally unreasonable excuse. This generation has access to more information than any before it and will inherit the economy and social atmosphere determined largely by the upcoming election. As such, it’s both shocking and saddening that only 49% of Americans between 18-24 showed up to vote in the 2008 presidential election.

Perhaps the most destructive nation believed by many of today’s young potential voters is that their vote does not matter. While it is true that there is no election determined by just one vote, the mentality that one’s vote “doesn’t matter” trivializes the value of an individual’s vote. It is often said that “your vote is your voice,” and it’s true – the more people vote, the better the system works, and the more people’s interests are considered. If everybody harbored a sincere view about the impact of their vote, democracy would die. Voting, then, is an important means by which every American can act as a vanguard of the democratic process, while still being at the grassroots level.

How can one be unaware of the differences between the two main candidates in this election is a mystery. This generation has more access to information than any before it, with tools such as the internet available to answer the questions of an inquisitive mind. It’s practically impossible for someone who has taken even two during campaign season without watching one of their ads, signing up for stickers, posting on social media, or using their campaign’s Facebook post without a political message. Furthermore, the two approaches being presented to the American people are radically different, both in their economic and social merits. That said, there’s no good reason not to know what’s going on. Whether it is easily seen or not, the political issues in play today have a profound impact on the life of every American. From student loans to women’s rights, every policy debated on today’s political stage, both economic and social, will affect millions of Americans. Everybody has something at stake. To devalue oneself of the knowledge which they can vote for their interests to devalue oneself of democracy’s greatest merits: self-determination.

The video was released globally, including in the Middle East, including in Egypt, the Coptic Christian community there is a minority group’s tension with Muslims prevalent in Egypt and their group’s tension with Muslims is well documented. Nakoula, according to the Times of Israel, contacted and received support from about 15 key players from the Middle East, including Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan and Egypt, and a few fellow Coptic Christians from Egypt.

The Invader Among Us

by: Adam Rinaldi
Reporter

In a world that is becoming more interconnected and globalized, the actions of one country can have a significant impact on another. This is especially true in the case of the Middle East, where tensions between different religious and political groups are high. One such group that has recently garnered attention is the Coptic Christian community in Egypt. Their interactions with Muslims, as well as the broader implications for the stability and security of the region, are of great concern to many.

The latest controversy to capture the world’s attention is the release of a video by Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, who is suspected of emigrating from Egypt, a video titled “Innocence of Muslims.” This film is a dislike of Islam, as it presents a distorted and misinformed view of the religion. The video itself is a disgrace to filmmaking, religion, America, and society as a whole. The quality of the video indicates how to avoid it in the future.

Our country is being put in a situation that may result in war. Many Americans are not aware of the Muslim riots that have been occurring globally, and they are ignorant of the causes of these riots. A video produced in Southern California by a man who took the alias of an Egyptian-American named Sam Birci, whom the predominant Muslim figure is, who is suspected of emigrating from Egypt. The video itself is a disgrace to filmmaking, religion, America, and society as a whole. The quality of the video indicates how to avoid it in the future.

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The 2012 election is right around the corner and I am sure many of you are planning on voting on Election Day. However, before you venture out to the polls, there are a few things you need to know.

Six months ago, a new voter ID law was passed in Pennsylvania. Under this new law, all registered Pennsylvania voters were required to present a photo ID prior to voting. All IDs needed to be current and have an expiration date. However, on October 2, Pennsylvania Court Judge Robert E. Simpson Jr. ruled to postpone enforcement of the new ID law until after the November election.

The law was passed back in March by Governor Tom Corbett and a Republican-controlled legislature, who claimed the law was an effort to combat voter fraud. Democrats and others in opposition to the law believe the law was designed to keep certain groups, including students, minorities, and low-income voters, who generally vote Democrat, from voting.

Initially, Simpson supported the law but is now concerned that too many voters would be unable to obtain proper photo IDs in time. By waiting for the law to be put into effect after election, Pennsylvania voters will still be subject to presenting photo ID at the polls in future elections but without the risk of the potential disenfranchisement of many voters in this election. Although this latest ruling puts the voter ID law on the back burner for now, this is certainly not the last time we’ll hear about it, which is why it is important for voters to stay informed. Remember, every U.S. citizen is an important right to have and it would be foolish for that right to go.

It is important for you to do your best and help your fellow citizens go out and vote to combat voter fraud. Democrats and others in opposition to the law believe the law was designed to keep certain groups, including students, minorities, and low-income voters, who generally vote Democrat, from voting.

If you haven’t been in the bookstore lately, you may want to check it out because over the summer, the Moravian College Bookstore got a makeover! The store now has a new layout, new merchandise, and new management: Barnes & Noble.

With these new changes come new options in the bookstore, including renting textbooks online or in the store, the “Nook Study” app, which gives access to Barnes & Noble’s e-Textbooks, selling textbooks back to the store for an up to 50% cash payout, and the ability to reserve and order textbooks right after class registration.

While the new partnership between the student bookstore and Barnes & Noble has brought a price increase on some merchandise, it has also made available a larger network of options for students to purchase textbooks. Kari Jackson, director of the student bookstore, says that the partnership gave Moravian a larger market to obtain textbooks, while keeping prices the same.

“We can pull [books] from either Barnes and Noble if they have used book,” she said.

The students at Moravian seem to be enjoying this new partnership as well. “I think the partnership with Barnes & Noble was a smart choice because it made buying textbooks this easier,” senior Jessie Ervin said. “The online system was simple and it seems like there are more rental and e-book options than ever before.”

Textbooks might be the same price but other merchandise at the bookstore has seen a price increase. Jackson explains that this is because Barnes & Noble works with better vendors to bring the bookstore higher quality items. The bookstore also doesn’t supply as much merchandise anymore due to a corporate standard for keeping the clutter down and the store looking pristine. Magnets and other merchandise are still being shipped, however, and will be in stock shortly.

A new addition to the bookstore is the Nook Study Program. This is a free eTextbook application that allows the owner to download e-books to their computer to highlight and save notes. While it is a nice feature, the student bookstore does not offer Nook support. Students will be redirected to a local Barnes & Noble store where they can have all technical questions answered.

Along with the Nook Study Program, the student bookstore will also have gift cards available to different stores for last minute gifts. Jackson added that the transition has been a hectic one and hopes students will bear with the bookstore while these changes take place.

“We are getting there. Please be patient,” Jackson said.

### Bookstore Partners With Barnes & Noble

**by: Alyssa D’Ippolito**

**Reporter**

The following article was written by Alyssa D’Ippolito, a junior at Moravian College.

**College is rough. Even if you don’t think so now, it’s likely you will at some point in your college career but college doesn’t have to be all rough. Here are five helpful tips from upperclassmen here at Moravian that will help you survive and stay abroad.**

1. “Don’t screw up or mess around. Your life depends on it.” - Justice Siskel ’14

He is right. This is not high school. Future employers will look at what you accomplish in college and don’t let this scare you. Just do your best!

2. “Go to the gym. It will make you feel good about yourself and that will help you do your best.” - Adam Rinaldi ’15

It is a proven fact that working out boosts confidence and self esteem. If you feel better about yourself, you will be able to work more effectively and efficaciously. (The gym is also brand new, so do not take it for granted!)

3. “Keep track of your schedule and advisors. While they may seem of small importance now, they could solve big questions down the road.” - Johnny Pavia ’13

Time management is key. It will all fall behind and become overwhelming easily. Stay on top of everything and don’t be afraid to ask questions.

4. “Do not hide in your room all day. Be sociable.” - Don Sanchez ’15

Yes, homework takes up a lot of time but give yourself time to take a break and get some fresh air! It will make you feel better and help you from going stir crazy.

5. “As an incoming freshman I looked up to the seniors and thought they were the gold standard. We were heavily involved, had tons of friends, always smiling, and seemingly successful. I never thought I’d be there but now, as a senior walking though the HUB, I’m constantly thinking ‘I won’t regret risks I’ll take here in college but I promise you’ll regret sitting in your dorm all four years.’” - Kyle Goodbred ’13

Yeah, I think he said it all. Follow these tips and you’ll be sure to have a fun and successful time at Moravian!

### Moravian Music Faculty Perform in Recital

**by: Sevé Guzel**

**Reporter**

The following piece was written by Sevé Guzel, a junior at Moravian College.

The faculty gala “A Night of Moravian Stars” featured Moravian faculty Dr. Arianna Goldina (classical piano), Dr. Neil Wetzel (saxophone), Allison Gillespie (fiddler), Frank Giasullo (piano), Lou Lanza (voice and piano), and Paul Rostock (bass).

The recital began with the Frank Giasullo Quartet, which featured Giasullo (piano), Rostock (bass), Wetzel (saxophone), and Ron Clink (drums). The first two songs, “M. Renault” and “Until Next Time,” were composed by Giasullo. Lanza (voice) then joined the quartet to perform the classic jazz tune “Take Five.”

Transitioning from jazz to classical, Dr. Goldina then performed “Ricordanza” from Franz Liszt’s Twelve Etudes d’Exécution Transcendante. After intermission, the Celtic group Banna Lach performed, which featured Gillespie (fiddle) and her husband Tom (guitar and keyboard), MaryJoan Gaynor (flute, whistle, and recorder), Pam Kalapay (voice, guitar, whistle, percussion), and Alan Keller (tenor banjo and mandolin). Banna Lach also performed several original compositions by Gaynor, including one titled “Puffins.”

All of the featured faculty members not only teach at Moravian but they also all have professional credits as well. Giasullo has his B.A. in Music from Rutgers University and his M.A. in composition and performance from Goddard College. He has recorded his third record until November in London with Art Tegment and David Green. Lanza wrote the libretto for The Ring Book of Gig, the film option that premiered at the Moravian last fall. Rostock has performed with such performers as Frank Sinatra, Olivia Newton, and Stevie Allan. Wetzel has his Bachelor of Music (Jazz/Modern Master of Arts in Teaching degrees from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and his EdD at Teacher’s College, Columbia University. He also has his recorded his first solo CD Missunderestimated and his next Leining is Jazganz Language will be released later this year. Goldina has her M.M. degree from the Juilliard School of Music and her Ph. D in Piano Performance from New York University and she has performed in the U.S., Canada, England, France, Italy, Germany, the Baltic States, Russia, and Scandinavia. Gillespie has performed for such Celtic music venues as the Celtic Classic Highland Games and Festival in Bethlehem, PA, Philadelphia Celtic Society’s Irish Festival, Irish Arts Week in the Catskills, New York, he Combarnis Cootebri Evirr National Convention in New York City, Scottish Week at the Augusta Heritage Workshop at Davis & Elkins College in West Virginia, and the All-Ireland Music Championships and Scoll Eige Ireland. It was a filled with wonderful music and served as a great end to Family Day at Moravian.

### Barnes & Noble

**by: Kayla Smull**

**Editor-In-Chief**

The following piece was written by Kayla Smull, a sophomore at Moravian College.

Barnes & Noble has brought a price increase on some merchandise, it has also made available a larger network of options for students to purchase textbooks. Kari Jackson, director of the student bookstore, says that the partnership gave Moravian a larger market to obtain textbooks, while keeping prices the same.

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THE CAMPAIGN

by: Maritza Strunk

The presidential election right around the corner, one may find an interest in seeing "The Campaign" which stars funnymen Will Ferrell and Zach Galifianakis. The film, directed by Jay Burach, takes a comedic look at the nature of politics with an extensive amount of exaggeration associated with our democracy.

"The Campaign" shares the story of North Carolina's Congressional election. The adhurorous and unopposed Cam Brady (Will Ferrell) is finally challenged by Marty Huggins (Zach Galifianakis), the newest fashioning comic of Beverly Hills. Marty is supported by two wicked Mitch Brothers (John Lithgow and Dan Aykroyd) who are scheming to secure\Chinese labor" to the candidate's district of North Carolina. Things turn ugly when Cam reveals Marty's deficiencies. This causes the two candidates to resort to dirty tactics.

With appearances of Chris Matthews, Wolf Blitzer, Mika Brzezinski and Joe Scarborough, the film achieves its goal of mocking political media. The audience also receives the harsh reality of our political system, yet, the film movie lampoons the ridiculousness of our political system. The film takes jobs at the real-life Koch Brothers through using the Mitch Brothers as the villains in the film. Dick Cheney's infamous shooting accident is also incorporated into the film.

With the film acquiring such a star-studded cast, I went into the cinema with high hopes. However, I found myself leaving somewhat disappointed. The movie had a great opportunity to make this movie into a classic, like other Ferrell or Galifianakis films. Unfortunately, this film did not make the cut due to its overreached comedic performances.

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