9/11 memorial to be built at FM

by Winnie Blackwood

A 33-foot antenna off the North Tower of the World Trade center will arrive at FM on Dec. 15.

This part of the Twin Towers is part of a program with the Port Authority. The program allows institutions and colleges to receive a part of history, according to Joel Chapin, a professor of Fine Arts at FM.

Once the antenna has reached its new home, preparations will begin to transform the mangled piece into a memorial and sculpture. Chapin, along with several others, have been working on multiple sketches for the design of the sculpture; an architect was also hired.

“The best way I can describe it, it’s almost like a living thing, like the spine and veins and it’s copper tubes and wires,” he said.

One of the design features is to have the shadow from the sculpture hit two markers on every Sept. 11 at the exact time the towers were struck.

Louis Pabon, an alumnus of FM and a construction worker called to clean up after the wreckage of 9/11, is the mastermind behind this.

Thoughts of actually getting a piece from the Twin Towers began to formulate between Pabon, Chapin and FM’s President Dustin Swanger.

After a trip to Hangar 17 at John F. Kennedy International Airport, the home to the Port Authority’s program, Pabon, Chapin, and a few others decided on the antenna.

Pabon said he feels lucky to get this particular piece.

Pabon said he originally came to FM in order to take part in a traveling national exhibition.

Pabon added he wanted to showcase the photographs he captured during this time of his life. His images will be displayed as a part of the final sculpture.

“My reasoning behind all of this was to send a message, but now we’re getting an antenna and that’s so symbolic of sending messages,” Pabon said.

See 9/11 on page 2

Be distinguished!

by Cara Bas

FM students, staff, alumni, and featured guests gathered at the Johnstown Holiday Inn for the 9th Annual Distinguished Alumni Celebration and Scholarship Recognition Dinner, Nov. 20.

Distinguished Alumni Awards went to Susanne Guttenberg, class of 1977, and Dave Northrup, class of 1966.

Guttenberg received a nursing degree, and began working at St. Mary’s Hospital shortly after graduation. She went on to become the owner of River Ridge Assisted Living in Amsterdam.

Dave Northrup began at FM and then earned a bachelor’s at SUNY Albany and a Master’s at University of Rochester. After retiring from a 30-year career as an English teacher, Northrup writes fiction and nonfiction about the Mohawk Valley.

“I am fortunate to have been an eyewitness to the humble beginnings of the school. The first year FMCC occupied only one building, and that was the former Johnstown High School,” Northrup said. “FM is the only community college in New York State whose name signifies its purpose in serving the populations of two counties – Fulton and Montgomery. Education as a shared experience serves me well. It informs the fiction and nonfiction about this area that I write today.”

FM Student scholarship recipients were invited to dinner. Business major, Odalis Roche delivered an inspirational acceptance speech.

“I have learned how to network, and what it means to engage in a professional setting. This is my See Be distinguished! page 2
9/11 cont.

he remarked.

Chapin said the antenna was the communication hub for TV stations in New York.

“If you think about this thing, it’s almost symbolic that it had been a tool of free speech and here, ironically, it’s all crumpled up and fallen down,” he added.

Pabon said one of the dedications of the memorial will be to John Vigiano; Vigiano lost both of his sons, one a firefighter and the other a police officer.

“When I found out who he was, I went up to him and I offered him my condolences, at which time I started to cry. He reached out and he put his arm around me and told me it was going to be all right,” Pabon said.

The sculpture is planned to be completed by Sept. 11, 2016 in time for a ceremony; its new home will be in FM’s new sculpture garden.

Be distinguished!

cont.

second year at FM and I have taken control of my independence,” Roche said.

“The Gateway’s” Winnie Blackwood and Catherine Hladik were among scholarship recipients who attended.

Another highlight of the dinner was a raffle. The prizes were eight different lavish gift baskets. Blackwood won a Yankee Candle Christmas basket, and Hladik won a Vera Bradley basket.

“We bought about 20 tickets!” Blackwood said.

Some students were chosen for scholarships, others applied and won. Financial aid coordinator Becky Cozzocrea explained the process, “I try to place as many applicants as possible into scholarships they fit into – based on need, merit, major, high school, or location. If I haven’t filled all of them, and no applicants are left, then I try to match students with the best-fitting scholarships.”

Scholarship applications are accepted between February and June. For more information please visit http://www.fmcc.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships-grants-awards/.

“Damien the Hidden”

by Benjamin Earley

“Damien the Hidden” is an adventure comic series which focuses on Damien, a boy who protects humans from monsters only he can fight.

Favorite place at FM?

“My favorite place on campus is the Television Studio. It’s where I can express myself. It encompasses the career I want to pursue and being down here is very comforting to me. The people I get to interact with and hang out with down here are always fun, even talking to the professor is easy to do. It has a different tone to it versus the usual “Student vs. Teacher” setting.”

by Jennifer Tran

It’s not the one Marty McFly used in “Back To The Future II”, but if you have a new Hoverboard on your wish list, you might want to think again.

The latest design of the “Hoverboard” is a spinoff of the Segway. The Hoverboard is controlled by the rider’s shifting weight; many celebrities have even been seen riding them. Hoverboards can be spotted around the campus at FM too, but instead of making transportation easier, they can sometimes result in injuries.

The Hoverboard was introduced last year, and quickly become extremely popular. However, safety concerns have resulted in them being deemed illegal to use.

“You get to feel cool. But you can hurt yourself, too. If you go too fast, it’s very hard to stop,” said Ruben Laurence, student and Hoverboard owner on campus.

The Hoverboard has several other drawbacks. They have great difficulty on inclines and aren’t intended for use on snow. FM Safety Committee and Public Safety suggest not using hoverboards inside the buildings. Tricks and other performances are also not recommended.

When making out that Christmas wish list, keep in mind, safety first!
“Hands on” with ASL

by Amea Hammonds

FM’s campus not only offers students the opportunity to learn American Sign Language, but also for the Deaf of the community to interact with these students.

Many students signed up to take ASL I and II this semester, with some put on a waiting list. Josh Barmen is a unique student, studying both ASL I and II during the same semester with a passion for ASL and the club.

“I love the Deaf community and the welcoming feeling they give to ASL students. The Deaf community has impacted me to help bridge the gap between the Deaf and hearing communities. We can do this by breaking the language barrier and encouraging more people to learn the beautiful language of ASL,” Barmen said.

“Each semester more and more students become eager to learn ASL and it is difficult to find room to accommodate them,” said Cheryl Schiemer during one of her classes.

Schiemer is not only an ASL professor at FM, but also a certified ASL interpreter, and is heavily involved in the Deaf community. She advises both the ASL club and Deaf Chats.

“FMCC ASL club’s mission is bridging the gaps between the Deaf and hearing worlds through American Sign Language. The only thing a Deaf person cannot do is hear,” Schiemer added.

Deaf chats are gatherings held on FM’s campus that allow students and the Deaf to come together and engage in conversation through ASL. This semester, Deaf Chat has experienced the highest ratio between students and the Deaf. These meetings are held the first Friday of each month starting at 6pm at Mondo’s.

“I love staying long after most people are gone [at DeafChat]. It has allowed me to get one on one time with Deaf people and shows me what Deaf culture is really like. I loved it,” said ASL I student Aliyyah Thomas.

Tutor Emmilee Phillips assists students who need extra help with ASL and is a support system for them to get through this semester successfully.

“Going to a peer for help makes them feel more at ease. I have seen only a few people come to both tutoring and the club meetings. After they leave, there is just a small amount of confidence that they are able to accomplish this. That confidence is why I became a tutor,” said Phillips.

The club is growing, as is the amount of students interested in learning American Sign Language. The club meets every Monday and Thursday at noon in room C-108.

“Star Wars” expected to break records

Get ready “Star Wars” fans! “The Force Awakens” is about to hit theaters and many believe the film will shatter all box office records.

Box-office analyst Phil Contrino predicts the seventh installment of the “Star Wars” franchise will surpass Avatar, which currently holds the record as the highest grossing film of all time. He’s so confident in the film that he told “The Hollywood Reporter,” “It’s in the same spot as Avatar, which played and played and played. ‘The Force Awakens’ will hit $1 billion without blinking. If it’s really good, it could gross $2 billion.”

The film has already broken presale ticket records. According to IMAX Corp, the film brought in more than $6.5 million for U.S. screenings.

Presales far outpaced first day sales for “The Dark Knight Rises,” “The Avengers,” and “Hunger Games: Catching Fire,” all of which were in the $1 million presale range.

It’s no doubt the film is one of, if not the, most highly anticipated movies of the year. Anticipation and excitement has been brewing ever since the first trailer was released, with more than 1.1 million tweets made in the hours following, according to Twitter.

While record-breaking success is not guaranteed, all signs point to the film becoming one of the biggest films of all time.

“The Force Awakens” hits theaters on Dec. 18 everywhere.

Photo by Catherine Hladik of Robert Collender teaching ASL I and II students during the Deaf chat on October 2.

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Photo by Devin O’Shaughnessy of FM’s new sign across campus.

“There have been so many great improvements to the quad including signs, lights and sidewalks. As a new instructor, I’m most excited to see the wayfinding signs. They are incredibly helpful,” Elizabeth Press, instructor of Media Communications, said.

Photo by Devin O’Shaughnessy of FM’s new sign across campus.

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Welcome to Wall Street
by Cara Bas

FM’s Wall Street Club took its annual trip to New York City on Nov. 13. About 30 students, along with professors Laurence Zuckerman and Frank Yunker toured financial institutions, saw historical landmarks, and dined at cultural hubs. Professor Yunker designed a walking map for the trip.

Students traveled into Manhattan on a Brown Coach which left campus at 6 a.m.

Their first stop was at Argosy Financial, a two-year-old financial currency trading firm on Wall Street. Students learned how the firm operates, and received advice on financial careers.

At The American Museum of Finance, Zuckerman showed students a 1980s QUOTRON stock terminal display. Zuckerman said he had used the same system when he was a stockbroker with Shearson Lehman Brothers.

While wrapping up with dinner in downtown Manhattan, the group learned of the Paris terror attacks, which occurred that day. Zuckerman noted that on last year’s Wall Street trip, the city was locked down due to the search for the Boston Marathon bomber.

“This was a sad version of déjà vu all over again,” Zuckerman said. “That said, the Wall Street Club remains and will return to the financial capital of the world,” he added.

Professor Yunker said that the club has discussed changing the agenda for future trips. “We’re thinking of going to the center of the universe – Times Square,” he said.

The Wall Street Club visited Philadelphia last spring, but there may not be room in their budget for a trip this spring. Zuckerman said a possible solution would be a collaborative trip with a club that has surplus funds.

“We’re looking to partner with another club for a trip to Philadelphia. We can do joint fundraisers,” he said. Zuckerman added “If we can’t go to Philadelphia this spring, we might start alternating New York and Philadelphia every fall.”

Five funny gifts for the Holiday season
by Ejerlin Reinoso

1. Introverts Unite Hoodie: For your anti-social friend, this hoodie is perfect. Introvert hoodie available at lookhuman.com, $37

2. Desktop Punching Bag: This desktop can help out those friends who are usually filled with rage. Desktop punching bag available at vat19.com, $19.99

3. Grow-a-boyfriend: For that friend that always complains that she is single. Available at funslurp.com, $4.99

4. Lazy Mop Slippers: Ever have that lazy friend that claims to have ‘no time for cleaning’ this gift shows them that they have no more excuses. Available at funslurp.com, $7.97

5. Unicorn Mask: For the friend that aspires to be a unicorn, or is that unique. Available at stupid.com, $31.99

Favorite place at FM?

“ITI like the dance room in the gym, it’s next to Mondo’s. That room is just beautiful, all the mirrors, the pretty floor. That’s where we [the Cheer Club] go to practice…It echoes, so it’s just a beautiful room.”

“My favorite place at FM has to be the ceramics room. Very peaceful. Everybody that goes in there is very friendly, and they all have the same mindset. They want to create something with their own hands. My second favorite place - the drawing room. I find myself losing thought of everything else that bothers me.”