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Hurricane Sandy

Seton Hall Law grapples with destruction in the New York City area



An American flag hangs in the rubble of a destroyed neighborhood in Breezy Point, Queens, in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

Allison Martin
News Editor

Hurricane Sandy, dubbed "Frankenstorm" by the media, brought ample tricks and no treats to the Metropolitan area on Monday, October 29. The storm struck late on Monday night, and by the time the sun rose on Tuesday its devastating effects could be seen through the region. The coastal areas faced the brunt of Sandy's wrath, with storm surges causing many homes, cars, beaches, and businesses to be submerged in several feet of water. High winds overturned trees and dislodged power lines, which rendered millions of residents of the Northeast without power, some for nearly a week. On Wednesday October 31, 2012 President Obama flew to Atlantic City to meet with Governor Chris Christie to survey the damage. President Obama issued disaster declarations, which are necessary to give the state access to federal aid for the restoration efforts.

Seton Hall Law, along with numerous other schools and businesses including the New York Stock Exchange, closed for the duration of the week. A major contributing factor to the closures was the wholesale halt of public transportation. PATH trains, NJ Transit, and MTA subways and buses were all shut down for at least several days following the storm.

Seton Hall students were affected by the storm down the coastline. Hoboken residents watched as flood-water levels rose between two to five

feet in many neighborhoods, causing significant damage to students' basement and first-floor apartments. In addition to water from the Hudson River, the Hoboken sewage system overflowed, spewing contaminated water into streets. In 1L Justin Ferrone and 3L Mike Collins' building, the garage flooded with four feet of water, totaling every car in the parking lot and filling the building with fuel. Collins was one of the luckier car owners in the complex. "I decided to move my car out of Hoboken in advance of the storm, fearing the worst, but many others were not as fortunate," Collins said.

Students hailing from the Jersey Shore saw their beaches, boardwalks and shore houses disappear within 24 hours. "Half my town [Little Silver] is under water and towns by me hardly exist anymore," 3L Elizabeth Giblin said.

Similarly in Toms River, 3L Jessica Rey's family procured canoes to investigate damage incurred to family members' homes. In an attempt to bring a bit of levity to a very serious situation, 3L Ed Dabek noted that Hurricane Sandy was the worst thing to hit the Jersey Shore since the "Jersey

Shore."

Newark residents were left without power for several days, prompting 3Ls Jessica Zamora and Megan Maler to create "The Hurricane Sandy Project" to document the experience. After power was restored in Newark, residents of the Union Building and 1180 Building were stunned to see explosions of smoke and fire as transformers blew out in the area around Seton Hall.

While many of us were waiting out the storm from the comfort of our apartments, Elizabeth Giblin, a Little Silver Emergency Medical Services First Responder, was risking her own personal safety to protect those stranded by the storm. "There are literally no words to describe the unbelievable devastation in our

area," Elizabeth said. "We have run more calls in the last three days than we usually run in a month."

Other Seton Hall students also volunteered aid in this time of need. 3L Tom Moloney posted a photograph of damage done to Jimmy Bajrami's parents' business and urged fellow students in the area to help with clean up if possible. 3L Stevie Bauer volunteered to clear dislodged trees from people's homes in the Red Bank area. Numerous students offered up heat and shelter to their classmates.

Though Hurricane Sandy's wind, rain and tidal surge is now behind us, it is clear that the effect of the storm will be with us for quite some time.



A fleet of Hoboken taxis submerged in the water surge that hit Hoboken.

SHU Law student becomes sudden PATH train hero

Michael L. Collins
Managing Editor

During his routine commute to Seton Hall Law, 21 James Baber entered the Journal Square PATH station, heading down to Tracks 3 and 4 to catch the Newark-bound Train. Heading down the escalator, he spotted an elderly woman who had fallen onto the train tracks. And without hesitation, Baber ran down to the platform level to help the woman.

As other passengers ran to find the police, Baber instinctually took matters into his own hands. He jumped onto the tracks, grabbed the woman, and lifted her to safety.

He says that lifting the woman up onto the platform was the easy part. Because then, Baber realized that he needed to quickly get off Track 3, as a PATH train terminating at Journal Square was approaching the station.

He says that as he stood on the track, he quickly realized he needed to do something drastic, as the station platform was almost up to his shoulders. And this

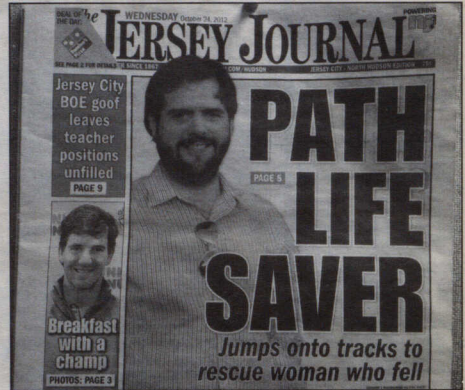
is for someone well over six feet tall.

Baber says he placed both his arms on the platform, and began to kick and push with all his might. Remarkably, he was able to pull himself up and onto the platform. "But for the adrenaline rush, I probably would have been in trouble," Baber said, noting the train arrived "in a matter of seconds" after he got himself to safety.

On the platform, Port Authority police began tending to the elderly woman. She appeared to be in good condition, and Baber said that onlookers quickly "ghosted" since the first responders had arrived.

Following the PATH timetable, the Newark-bound train followed the Journal Square-bound train and promptly pulled onto adjacent Track 4. And sure enough, Baber boarded that train, and continued on his originally planned commute to Seton Hall Law.

Baber says that he was at the time in "full fight or flight," and that he decided it was best to board the train and continue on his way. Given the gravity of



the situation, he said that best thing was simply "getting out of there."

This story did not end at the Journal Square PATH station, however. At the Hudson County Law Department, where Baber works, he shared his story with some co-workers. Those co-workers tipped off The Jersey Journal, a regional newspaper, which then ran a story on Baber.

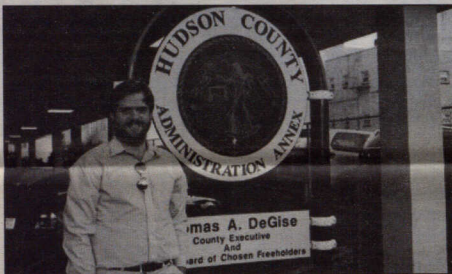
After sitting for an interview, Baber was amazed to pick up a copy of the next day's Jersey Journal, with his picture gracing the cover. "My picture is bigger than Eli Manning!" he says he exclaimed at the time, comparing his portrayal to that of the two-time Super Bowl winning New York Giants quarterback.

Since the newspaper cover, Baber says that he's "been hearing quite a bit about"

the incident. He says that between law school and his work, about ten people have come up to him proclaiming, "This is the hero!" Baber said his father, Superior Court Judge Mark Baber, has taken a more sarcastic response to the publicity. "I'm so sick of hearing about this," his father recently told him, smiling.

Reflecting, Baber says that he did not fully contemplate the danger of jumping onto the tracks at the time. When discussing the incident with co-workers, for instance, Baber realized he never gave that any thought when seeing the elderly woman. "The third rail...oh yeah...that thing!" he exclaimed.

He calls the "turn of events" "unlike anything else" he has experienced and a "bizarrely humbling experience."



Students reflect on the hurricane

Rick Halmo
Editor-in-Chief

Jason Angelo - 3L:

I made the very last minute decision the Sunday night before the storm hit to travel back home to Delaware, the thought being that if I was going to lose power for a long time, I'd rather be in the comfort of my own home without power than stranded in Newark, NJ.

Luckily, we did not get hit hard and did not even lose power in Delaware, so I was there for the entire week while school was out.

I was impressed by the responsiveness of all of the state and local governments, both in NJ and DE, to the storm and its aftermath and continue to be incredibly grateful

that I was not as personally impacted as some of my colleagues.

Josh Fischer - 3L:

I lost power to my apartment in Millburn for a week, but I was luckily able to stay in a place with power in nearby Westfield. I am very thankful that I did not sustain any damage to personal property. My heart goes out to those who did lose personal property.

Katie Ryan - 3L:

Asked how her experience was after Hurricane Sandy: "I was trapped in an apartment with Lily (Ericsson) for 4 days. How do you think my experience was?????"

A Note From The Cross Examiner Executive Board:

We would like to extend our thoughts and prayers to the many victims of Hurricane Sandy. Recognizing that it may be impossible for some, it is our sincerest

hope that everyone recover - physically and emotionally - as soon as humanly possible. To those who have given back, we offer our deepest thanks and appreciation. To those who are still struggling to undo the damage that the storm has caused, know that we are all behind you and we wish you nothing but the absolute best.

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This paper is produced for the benefit of students at the law school and is available at no cost for members of the greater Seton Hall community. However, copies should be taken only if they are meant to be read and enjoyed. In the event an individual or group presents these copies from being enjoyed by others, the cost to that individual or group will be \$15 per copy.

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3L Katie Rigler takes on law of child sexual exploitation

Michael Collins
Managing Editor

While there are undoubtedly laws to combat the heinous crimes of child molestation and child pornography, there are legal questions about the efficacy of Fourth Amendment search protections that cover evidence gathering in these cases. Third-year law student Katie Rigler discusses this topic in her comment, titled *Child Pornography and Child Molestation: One and the Same or Separate Crimes?*, which is being published in the forthcoming edition of the *Seton Hall Circuit Review*.

In an interview with *The Cross-Examiner*, Rigler explains that she chose this specific topic because it presented a circuit split that fits her interest in criminal law. Reflecting this, Rigler says she hopes to serve one day as a criminal prosecutor. Further, she explained that she has grown up in a family that has been dedicated to law enforcement. To this end, Rigler's father recently retired as a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), while her brother presently serves as a police officer in Wayne, New Jersey. Her boyfriend is also currently pursuing a law enforcement career.

In her Comment, Rigler discusses how there is "overwhelming evidence," according to some, that the crimes of child molestation and child pornography are "strongly correlated." For example, a Los Angeles Police Detective estimated

that nearly half of the 700 child molesters he oversaw being arrested over ten years had child pornography in their possession at the time of arrest.

Based on this reality, Rigler addresses a growing circuit split on how federal courts address the Fourth Amendment's warrant requirement in the context of crimes dealing with child sexual exploitation.

Currently, federal appellate courts are divided on whether proof of child molestation is sufficient under the Fourth Amendment to establish probable cause and obtain a search warrant for child pornography, with each circuit's decision turning squarely on the facts of each case.

After a thorough analysis in her piece, Rigler calls for an expanded probable cause standard that would apply specifically to cases of child sexual exploitation. In an interview, she characterizes her proposal as an "enhanced way to combat child predators."

She bases this conclusion on many factors, including the current case law, the high correlation of the crimes, and the inherent seriousness and wrongfulness of the acts.

Professor Jenny Carroll, who previously worked as a public defender, served as Rigler's comment advisor. Rigler noted that Carroll's "viewpoint helped create a more complete picture of the rights of accused." Further, she noted that Carroll was able to provide extensive background, given her "practical



Rigler (left) pictured with esteemed Judge Wefing (right).

experience in the field."

In the end, Rigler found that child crimes are an "ever-increasing problem in our society," due to technology and other advances. While child molestation and child pornography are separate crimes, she believes her paper helps establish that the distinction between the offenses "becomes meaningless in regard to attempts to combat the problem."

Child Pornography and Child Molestation: One and the Same or Separate Crimes? will be published in the Fall 2012 edition of the *Seton Hall Circuit Review*. It will be viewable upon publication at crepository.law.shu.edu.

Excerpt of the Comment (citations omitted):

"In order to resolve the disagreement within the federal circuit courts on this issue, the Supreme Court should develop an expanded probable cause standard limited to child sexual exploitation situations when certain requirements are met.

"This type of expansion would not be mere, as it is already used consistently and analogously in cases where law enforcement seeks to find evidence in the home of an individual suspected of association with drugs. Likewise, because of the severity of crimes dealing with child endangerment, an expanded probable cause standard, allowing evidence of certain child sexual exploitation crimes to support probable cause for a search for child pornography, is warranted by societal norms."

Election Law Symposium, a timely discussion

Joe Kenny
Managing Editor

On Friday, October 26, the Seton Hall Law Review held its annual Symposium. Organized by 3L Lauren Repole, this year's symposium was entitled "The Changing Landscape of Election Law" and focused on new developments in this field in anticipation of the presidential election.

The full-day event began with breakfast and opening remarks. Thereafter, the group participated in a panel discussion entitled "The Rise of Super PACs: Changes in Campaign Finance Law and the Impact on the 2012 Election and Future Elections." In this session, law professors and practicing attorneys discussed concerns about financial influence on elections.

Following a coffee break, participants began a second panel discussion entitled "Power to the People: Public Lawmaking and Direct Democracy in Theory and in Practice." Attorneys and academics, together with Assemblyman Reed Gusciora debated the role of the general public in formulating and developing new legislation.

The symposium's Keynote Address took place during a luncheon at the Newark Club. Professor Richard H. Pildes, the Sudler Family Professor of Constitutional Law at NYU Law School, spoke about the legal issues in the 2012

presidential election including early voting, campaign finance reform, and the role of political parties.

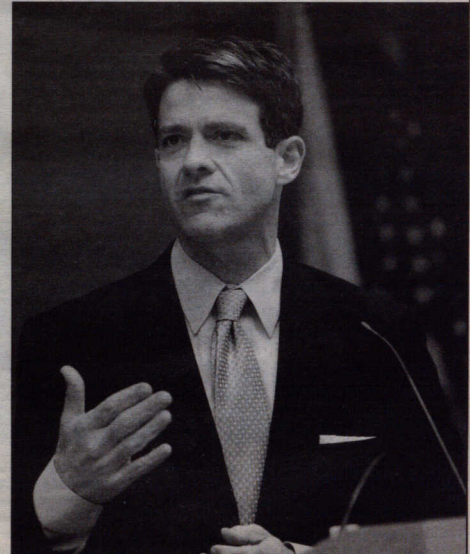
After lunch, the group finished the day with a panel entitled "Modernization of the Ballot Box: Voter Registration and Ballot Access in the Modern Era."

The panelists, including government and private sector attorneys, discussed the implementation of election reform methods such as voter identification and the legal implications thereof.

The panel was moderated by Seton Hall Law Adjunct Professor Bill Baroni, who is teaching Election Law this semester and previously practiced law in this field as well as serving as a state senator.

Symposium Editor Lauren Repole remarked that the event was successful because "we were able to bring together leading legal scholars, policy experts, and on-the-ground practitioners who provided insight into timely issues critical to the design, implementation, and regulation of our democratic institutions in an intimate academic setting."

"In doing so, we were able to propel the discussion forward and better understand opposing arguments in an intimate academic setting on issues related to the law of democracy that no doubt are hugely important in this year's presidential election and to future elections."



Adjunct Professor Bill Baroni, a former state senator, addresses the symposium.

FEATURES

Rodino Society hosts another successful event



SHU Law students and Professor Franzese pose for photos in the Newark Club during the Annual Peter W. Rodino Celebration of Excellence ceremony.

Victoria Gonchar

Advertising Editor

The Annual Peter W. Rodino Celebration of Excellence held by the Rodino Italian Law Student Society took place on October 17, 2012 at the Newark Club.

The dinner is held each year and honors four individuals: two attorneys who have contributed in various ways to their community and their fields of law, and two law students who embody the characteristics of both Peter W. Rodino and Luigi Franzese.

This year, two SHU Law 3Ls won the student awards. Jason Angelo, Co-President of the Rodino Society won the Peter W. Rodino Award and Dominic Ianarella won the Luigi Franzese Award. Both students earned the awards because of their constant dedication to their educations, their goodwill, and their compassion for others.

The evening was run as a collaborative effort between the three 3L Rodino board members, Co-Presidents Jason Angelo and Ed Kerins, and Vice President

Regina Douglas. The night began with a networking and cocktail hour followed by a buffet of Italian favorites such as eggplant parmigiana and chicken piccata. There were many influential attorneys, members of the judiciary, and SHU Law faculty in attendance at the event to celebrate not only their Italian heritage, but also the amazing accomplishments of the four award recipients.

Paula Franzese, SHU Law Professor and Faculty Advisor started off the festive evening with, "Buona Sera," or "Good Evening" in Italian. Franzese, ever the charming and uplifting host, regaled guests with tales of both the late Congressman Rodino and also of her father, Luigi Franzese. She also, while introducing Rodino Co-Presidents, Jason Angelo and Ed Kerins, made reference to their 1L talents – Angelo, for turning 1960's "I.L.O.V.E." songs into legal tunes, and Kerins, for his work as the Section A wordsmith during their 1L year at SHU Law.

Before the award ceremony began, guests

of the event were treated to a lovely version of "O Mio Babbino Caro," written by Giacomo Puccini and sung by the multi-talented Seton Hall Alumna, Lori Zeglarski, Esq. After the song was over the ceremony began and the honorees were presented with their awards. Michelle Capezza, Esq., a member of Epstein Becker Green was presented with the Excellence in Achievement Award for her work in the field of Employee Benefits, Health Care, and ERISA Law.

Gina Calogero, Esq. received the Humanitarian Achievement Award for her work in both the areas of Animal Law and Family Law/Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy. Angelo was then awarded the Peter W. Rodino Award by the Congressman's wife, Joy Rodino, and Dominic Ianarella was awarded the Luigi Franzese award by Professor Paula Franzese herself.

Co-President Ed Kerins stated, "I was very pleased with the way the Rodino Banquet turned out this year. The honorees were well deserving and represented the best that the Seton Hall community has to offer."

The Rodino Society was lucky to be able to honor them." Co-President Jason Angelo also added, "We had the opportunity to honor two outstanding attorneys who exemplify our values both as future lawyers and members of the SHU Law community. The night was full of family, friends, and reminding ourselves that at the end of the day, our profession is about service to others, with integrity, character, wisdom, and compassion being the foundation upon which success rests."

It is obvious that the legacy of Congressman Rodino lives on in these attorneys who were awarded at the event." Angelo and Kerins both extended their thanks to the members of the e-board for their hard work and dedication, especially Vice President Regina Douglas, as well as Faculty Advisor Paula Franzese and Director of Student Services Molly Marmion.

Congratulations to both Jason Angelo and Dominic Ianarella for winning the student awards, as well as our Alumnae Michelle Capezza, Esq. and Gina Calogero, Esq.

An open letter from "Seton Hall Law Cares"

Dear Seton Hall Law Student, Faculty, Administration and Alumni,

We could pen pages upon pages about all that Hurricane Sandy took away. She stole homes from our peers and professors, leaked the convenience out of our travels and from school, and robbed us of the tangible anchors that tethered our sweet summer memories at the shore from the back of our minds to the boardwalk. Sandy was selfish, and our community felt it, and continues to feel it, firsthand.

But that is not what this letter is about. This letter is about what Sandy gave us, and all you have generously given each other.

Seton Hall Law Students Care, www.facebook.com/shulawcares, started quickly and aims to move help to those in need even faster. The administration called the group a student-started "grass roots effort" to help those impacted by the storm. We called it doing the right thing.

What Seton Hall Law Students Care really is, though, is simple: It's you. It is simply the mechanism that underscored what an exquisitely charitable, bighearted community Seton Hall Law houses, and enabled that community to do perhaps the most basic and beautiful act one human being can do for another: Give.

And give you did. You donated coats to those without heat or living in shelters. You volunteered your time digging sand out of homes in Manasquan and wadded chainsaws clearing downed trees throughout the northern counties. You opened your homes to others, drove students without cars to classes, and contributed more clothing donations than eight able-bodied law students could carry. You found a wheelchair for a peer's mother. You gave old case books to friends, and donated more than \$3,000.00 and counting to be divided equally between the Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund and the Red Cross.

We write today to thank you all for those generous donations; but we wish to thank you, perhaps even more so,



Seton Hall Law Students Care (left to right): Lauren Glozzy, Liana Nobile, Courtney O'Brien, Colleen Faherty, Victoria Gonchar, Kaitlyn Stone, Justine Abrams, and Alaina Caliendo

for those contributions that didn't pile up in the Attium or land in a cashbox. We thank you for listening to the stories of your peers, lending them a caring ear, and your willingness to comfort them. We thank you for asking how you could help, even when you were one in need. Most significantly, however, we thank you for taking actions that truly define the Seton Hall Law community as one we are exceptionally proud to be a part of.

This community is not just giving, it is capable. We all come to law school knowing that the skills we learn have the ability to change the world when put into practice, but that

simply feels like another theory when you think it over in class. These past few weeks, however, have proven it: You have already created change. You wanted to help, and you implemented drastic improvements in the lives of fellow SHU Law students, and throughout New York and New Jersey. You are not only selfless, but dedicated, and we thank you for it.

With the kindest regards,

Seton Hall Law Students Care

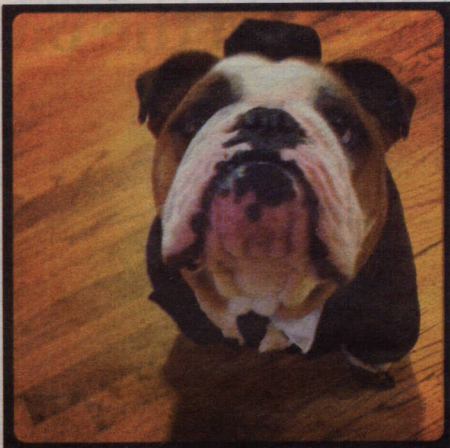
Students stay busy over fall break

Victoria Gonchar
Advertising Editor

Fall break—it sounds very enticing at first to the busy, over-worked law student, but does it actually wind up being a time of relaxation and reverie? For some, yes. For others, it simply is a week free of class to catch up on work, everyday tasks, and to start preparing for the finals that are steadily approaching at the end of the semester.

For many 1Ls, fall break offered them a chance to catch their breath, to reconnect with friends and family, and to look back on the new experiences they'd had since starting at SHU Law in mid-August. 1L Samantha Latif had the opportunity to spend a few textbook-free days with her daughter, Nyla, carving pumpkins and doing various seasonal activities. She also had the opportunity to participate in the Courtroom Advocates' Project without having to miss a full day of classes. Ashley Lebrun, another busy 1L, used the break to spend some time with her friends and her new husband. Lebrun, like many others, also found time to squeeze in a few hours of studying just to stay on top of the reading load that would start right back up again as soon as break ended.

However, it was not only the 1Ls burning the midnight oil at their computers typing away over break. The 2s, 3s, and 4Ls also kept extremely busy with their schoolwork and the ever-daunting job search. Sarah Gargiulo, Samantha Bell and numerous other 2Ls enrolled in Appellate Advocacy spent a serious chunk of their break working on the drafts of their briefs that were due the week following break. Other 2Ls worked on drafts of their journal notes and worked at externships throughout the state. But



3L Isabella Pitt's dog was dressed up for dinner—and a marriage proposal.

as much as we students plan to do work and get ahead over break, sometimes, rest and relaxation is a non-negotiable remedy. 2L Clarissa Gomez had good intentions to spend some of her visit to North Carolina studying for her Federal Income Taxation class, but the Tax Code unfortunately got left by the wayside during her trip. Gomez said, "Eventually I regretted bringing the book with me because I never opened it and it ended up being a waste of luggage space!" Gomez said. Well at least she had fun!

3Ls Matt Dolan and Jessica Buffman

also devoted part of their time getting work done over break. Dolan and Buffman, both members of the Center for Social Justice Family Law Clinic, used their free time to rack up their clinic hours and prepare for their busy cases. Not having a class schedule to worry about made it easier for them to plan their hours and complete the many steps necessary before heading to court. 3L Jason Angelo, Co-President of the Rodino Society, spent time preparing for the annual Rodino Banquet on October 17, 2012 while many other organization

members also worked on preparing their events for later in the semester.

Other 3Ls were able to find some time to squeeze in short vacations to exciting places. 3L Pat Murray visited the historic city of St. Louis and did a little sampling at the Anheuser-Busch Brewery. Jessica Zamora jetted off to California to visit her sorority sisters at UC Davis. 4L Chelsea Miller also tried to mix business and pleasure during her trip back to Florida. "I graduate in December, so I spent my break preparing for the Florida/NJ bar exams," Miller said. "I spent my free time at the beach, hanging out with my family, and filling out my bar applications. It was not too exciting, but I found a little time to have fun."

Overall, fall break lends itself to a wide spread of activities for students. Some manage to find time for fun while others just keep plugging away at clinic, schoolwork, and jobs. Some even manage to find balance between work and play!

For one student though, fall break offered an extremely memorable event: 3L Isabella Pitt got engaged to her boyfriend Chris of seven years. After her friend distracted her with a busy day of running errands in order to keep her out of the house, Pitt came home to a home-cooked meal and her two dogs dressed up in tuxedos.

Although she had to take an unplanned break during the romantic dinner to discuss an upcoming case over the phone with Clinic Professor Jessica Miles (law students never stop, do they?) by the end of the meal, Pitt was engaged! While others may be happy to get back to the every day life of classes, for Isabella, this fall break will be forever memorable.

SHU Law scores more "Goals For Justice" than Rutgers Law

Christopher Rivera
Contributor

On October 19, 2012, Seton Hall Law took on Rutgers Law in the first annual "Goals For Justice" charity soccer game. The game was a joint effort by Seton Hall Law's Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA) and Rutgers Law's Association of Latin American Students (ALAS). The charity game helped raise more than \$600 for a local Newark community charity, La Casa de Don Pedro, an organization which offers comprehensive social services to the City of Newark and its surrounding areas.

The hour-long match was a barn burner. Seton Hall Law twice recovered from one-goal deficits to tie the game 2-2 at the end of regulation. After a scoreless overtime, Seton Hall Law secured victory by defeating Rutgers Law in penalty kicks, 4-2.

The level of competition was quite high for two law school soccer teams. "Both teams were very talented and surprisingly athletic," Elis Prendergast said. Seton Hall Law's goalie, Dana Gieser, was easily the team's Most Valuable Player, practically standing on her head to block a multitude of shots both in regulation and overtime. With great positioning and decision-making, she became quite the headache for a strong Rutgers Law front line. "She was in the zone and helped seal the victory for Seton Hall Law," Christopher Sloan said.

Despite the rainy weather, over 40 students and members of the community



were in attendance. The energy and excitement between both schools was intense. The players saw it as a respite from the rigors of school work, and a worthwhile opportunity to participate in friendly competition. Fullback Rick Halmo explained, "It's always nice to take a break from school with your friends.

But when that break also benefits a great organization, it really makes for a special occasion."

At the end of the festivities, both LALSA and ALAS stated that they plan on partnering with other law schools from the metro area to participate in

the charity game next year. Some law schools that may participate include New York Law, Brooklyn Law, Fordham Law and Cardozo Law. Regardless of the challengers, Seton Hall Law's talented team will be ready for them next year.

In a rout, the President defied the odds – and the pollsters



Rick Halmø
Editor-in-Chief

After a bitter election season that got progressively more negative as Election Day drew near, President Barack Obama secured re-election by defeating Republican challenger Mitt Romney in what turned out to be a stunningly lopsided affair. While President Obama narrowly won the popular vote (51%-48%), his victory in every swing state ensured a blowout win in the Electoral College, with the final count 332-206.

It was an election result that very few saw coming, save for the Obama campaign and its internal pollsters. Every major polling organization – from Rasmussen to Gallup to Public Policy Polling – indicated that the election was going to be incredibly tight.

In fact, Rasmussen's final national poll showed Romney ahead 49%-48%. Within the last week of the election, roughly ten states were polling within the margin of error. The conventional wisdom leading up to November 6th was that the election would come down to Ohio's eighteen electoral votes, signifying a razor-thin battle for the White House.

In the end, however, all of the swing states swung in the same direction. Of the eleven states in which both candidates made significant appearances during the year – Nevada, Colorado, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and Florida – Obama was projected to win five (WI, MI, IA, NV and PA), Romney was projected to win four (CO, VA, NC and FL), and Ohio and New Hampshire were truly toss-ups. After the votes were tallied, however, only

the state of North Carolina went to Governor Romney.

The biggest surprises for Romney had to be Florida – where Romney was six points ahead in the final week – and Virginia – a state with popular Republican Bob McDonnell as their governor and where Romney enjoyed a three point lead in the final week.

A number of factors played a role in the blowout. Despite a sense that the GOP base would be energized to vote against President Obama, Governor Romney received three million less votes than Senator John McCain did in 2008.

The Republicans may have mistakenly assumed that the base's dislike for Obama's policies meant that their vote was a given. It turns out, however, that the base of the Republican Party may have viewed Governor Romney as either too moderate or too fickle on the issues to garner their vote. This was sobering news for the Republicans, and assuredly frustrating given the fact that President Obama received seven million less votes in 2012 than he did in 2008.

Another factor contributing to President Obama's victory is the large bloc of minority voters who overwhelmingly favored him over Governor Romney. Exit poll data indicated that Latino voters nationally favored the Democrat incumbent by a staggering 69%-29% margin, while among African Americans, President Obama garnered 93% of the vote.

These numbers have led to claims that the Republican Party needs to change its stance on demographically sensitive issues such as immigration reform. It will be a hotly contested topic inside the GOP as to whether the party should move further to the right ideologically to

energize the base or pull left to attract minority voters.

But for now, and for the next four years, the focus remains on President Obama. He survived his reelection bid despite historically difficult numbers for an incumbent to overcome. The unemployment rate of 7.9% in October was the highest for any re-elected president in history. Median household incomes had fallen during his term by roughly \$4,000 (more than 8%).

On election day, only 43% of people felt that the country was on the right track, and a majority of Americans disliked President Obama's signature piece of legislation, the Affordable Care Act.

The fact that President Obama survived such bleak prospects is a testament to an incredible get-out-the-vote campaign in battleground states, his ability to maintain the aura of hope and change despite no longer being the challenger, and the ability of his campaign to successfully portray Mitt Romney as an out of touch businessman with no understanding of the middle class.

Though the election is behind us, there is still a lot of political drama on the horizon. To this point, the President will be facing a number of difficult issues in the coming months, including backlash for the terror attack in Benghazi, Congressional negotiations to resolve the "fiscal cliff" of automatic tax increases and spending cuts poised to take effect January 1, and the continual focus on an economy that is still far shy of where the White House projected it to be upon taking office.

Now that the jubilation of election victory is over, it is back to work for the two-term, President Obama.

Love what we have to say? Hate what we have to say?

Please send letters to the editor to
TheCrossExaminer@gmail.com

Reflections from a Hunter – The Far Hills Race (“The Hunt”)

Kevin Long
Staff Writer

I didn't mind the early morning train ride. I came prepared, warmly dressed in my yuppie uniform: rhubarb pants, a navy blue fleece over a pink oxford shirt. The bagel sandwich I bought at the deli would be the only fuel I needed for the day. The case of beers on the train would be a good warm-up for my friends and me.

How foolish of me. In twelve short months since Hunt '11 I had forgotten.

The lines for the portable restrooms already stretch to the infield when I arrive. The ground, once soft from the previous night's rain has become a gladiatorial pit, rife with crushed cans and muddy footprints. Signposts designating the direction of numbered lots lay strewn about the infield like memorials of a more civilized, decent time. Avicii blares from what seems like every speaker system, and liquid refreshment is available without taking more than three steps from my lot.

Atlantis? Avalon? Paradise? Nay – New Jersey.

The Hunt is evocative of a different time. For a few hours on a field in Far Hills, my cares are erased. Instead of being a troubled 1L, teeth chattering at the thought of the upcoming exams, I am transported back to my undergraduate years. I'm dancing to music I've never heard before. I'm talking to people I've never met, and whom I certainly won't remember tomorrow. Stresses disappear as quickly as the dollars I spent on a race card. But, like all good things, my joy is stripped all too soon. Before I know it, the sun is going down, and I'm being herded to the train. Still, I'm trying to gulp down the dregs of a bottle of Jameson. Far Hills is the speakeasy to the law school's Volstead Act – the mongoose to Civil Procedure's snake. I fight it, but I finally succumb



Seton Hall Law students enjoy themselves at the 2012 “Hunt” in Far Hills, New Jersey.

to my fatigue – several hours of raucous debauchery has proven too much to handle. As I drift off to sleep next to a seemingly unconscious twenty-something, I try to remember the elements of the Doctrine of Respondent Superior. Not altogether unsurprisingly, I fail at this task.

Suddenly, I'm awake. My mouth is painfully dry. The sunshine streaming through my open window is now my enemy. I rub my bloodshot eyes and try to ignore the pounding in my hydration-starved brain. Pulling on my boots, I notice the mud encrusted on the nubuck, and

memories come galloping through my thoughts.

The coffee I'm drinking today is recovery coffee – headache-curing, life-giving deliciousness. It's different from the cup I started with in Hoboken on Saturday morning. That cup was preparation coffee. Coffee for energy. That coffee came with dreamy anticipation – today's comes with a side of painful memories of yesterday's joy.

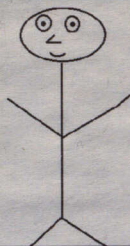
It's only twelve months until the next Hunt. I can't wait to forget again.

“Stick Stickley, Esq.” by Jamie Manganelli



The Honorable Judge Judgerson

Counselor, your client is charged with reckless endangerment, criminal mischief, wanton destruction of property, and aggravated assault. How does he plead?



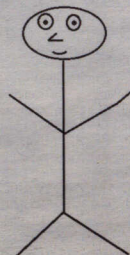
Your Honor, my client is 100% Not Guilty. These charges are completely frivolous and the definition of malicious prosecution.



Oh, jeez!
I've seen this
before...

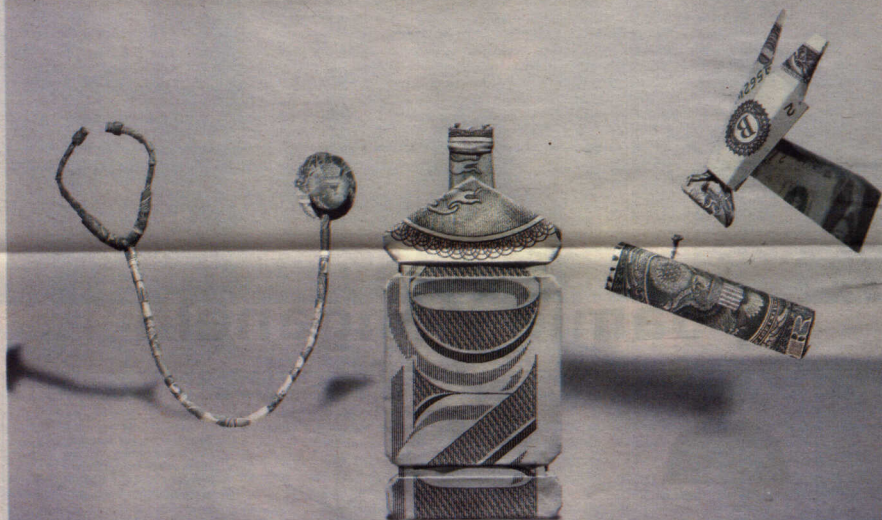


HULK BORED! HULK
SMASH ENTIRE
COURTHOUSE AND
EVERYTHING IN IT!!!



Uh... Your Honor, purely in the interest of saving the Court's time and the taxpayers' money the Defense will, however, consider some sort of a plea bargain...perhaps some anger management.

IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE SANDY YOUR DOLLARS ARE HARD AT WORK



help where it's needed most.

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