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FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE ONLINE STUDENT NEWSPAPER • FEBRUARY 2013

## Student Center Opens Its Doors

By Jason Plevik

Farmingdale State College President Hubert Keen welcomed students, faculty, and state legislators to the official opening of the campus's new student center on February 1, 2013.

The ribbon cutting ceremony began promptly on Friday morning with an impressive turnout of around 200 spectators and speakers. Senator Charles Fuschillo Jr., Assemblyman Bob Sweeney, and Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci were among those in attendance.

Keen greeted all attendees in the new 50,000-square foot building. "This is a center of activities for our students," said Keen.

As the first building dedicated to student life, the \$25 million structure boasts a large oculus along with a new bookstore, student lounge, dining amenities, and a ballroom with the capacity to hold 400 guests.

One highlight of the morning was when Senator Fuschillo who stood behind the speaker's podium with his arms raised up towards the ceiling and said, "This is amazing. Wow!"

Senator Fuschillo along with Assemblyman Sweeney helped the college to attain the funds for this construction, which is critically important to Long Island.

"I am delighted to play a part in rebuilding this campus," said Fuschillo, who expressed his dedication to the school and the Island. "Keep rebuilding,

keep moving forward," he said.

This is the most recent addition to Farmingdale's campus since 1983. The student center is part of the college's \$185 million renovation plan. FSC broke ground for a new School of Business and a new Children's Center last fall.

Assemblyman Sweeney also rose to the podium asserting that Farmingdale was a thriving, growing place for students.

"The best advocates for this campus are all of you," said Sweeney as he motioned to the audience.

The ceremony included student speakers as well.

Amanda Lundberg, president of the student government, said, "Farmingdale State College couldn't have asked for a better addition to campus life."

Junior Victoria Pagan is absolutely in love with the new center. As a commuter she is happy to see a broader selection of food that tastes good, as well as the center's late night hours. "The student lounge is the perfect place to kill time before class," said Pagan.

Prizes, including a mountain bike donated by Coca-Cola, were also raffled off to students; the grand prize being a Barnes and Noble NOOK Tablet Plus won by Jesus Medina.

The ceremony concluded with Keen cutting a green ribbon, officially opening the doors to the new center, an excellent example of Farmingdale's bright future.



## When Nemo Found Us

By Sarina Turbendian

This year has been filled with drastic weather changes. Whether it was Hurricane Sandy, the nor'easter that followed it, or Bilzzard Nemo, the East Coast has been rocked by many devastating and intense storms.

This past week, Nemo covered the East Coast with snow. It was reported that Suffolk County, the hardest hit area on Long Island, received more than 30 inches of snow in some towns. Nassau County had a reported snowfall of 18 inches or more in some areas.

As to how Nemo stacked up against other snow storms in the past, it did not reach record wind speeds but it is the greatest amount of snowfall to hit Suffolk County. With so many of these storms occurring on the island so close to each other, the damage has been piling up.

"The streets in my area are still not plowed," said junior, Olivia Stephens. "There's still a lot that needs to be done, and it's a hazard."

With damage from Sandy still being cleaned up, storms like Nemo are causing increased delays in the process. Although students like snow days, these storms have been disruptive and damaging to people's lives.



Attendees at the student center ribbon cutting ceremony.

**FIRST INDUCTEE OF  
AVIATION HALL OF FAME**

By Jason Plevik



Inductee Lou Howard courtesy of FSC website

Lou Howard was the inaugurated into the Aviation Hall of Fame.

Farmingdale State College is proud to present its Aviation Hall of Fame. The first ever event was held on December 19, 2012, at the Aviation Flight Center.

The organization has been established in order to commemorate individuals with exemplary work in the aviation field. Assistant Professor Dr. Jeanne Radigan said, "The goal is not only to honor those who fostered this program, but also to serve as a model and inspiration for current students in the program."

Howard is the first inductee to the Hall of Fame. As department chair from 1968 – 1988 he introduced the flight component to the program. He is regarded by many within the department as the father of the program due to his unmatched commitment and energy that helped keep the field alive.

Aviation administration major, Nancy Kumar, express her happiness in Howard's being the first inductee. "He is the strong root that helped branch out so many opportunities for the future generations," said Kumar. "I am very proud of the fact that he is the first inductee."

Brian Harding, aviation program alumnus from 2002, said, "It should encourage the other students to go above and beyond their own expectations."

The aviation program hopes to honor those students and faculty that have shown extreme dedication, service, and skill within the program. In future years, as many as four candidates may be inducted in any given year.

**FALL  
SPORTS  
WRAP-UP**



**Men's Sports**

**Cross Country-** Finished fifth in the 2012 Skyline Conference Championship

**Golf-** Conference Champions for the fifth consecutive season

**Lacrosse-** Finished with a 6-9 record and appeared in conference playoffs

**Soccer-** Finished with an 9-9-2 record

**Baseball-** Captured their 5th Skyline Conference Championship

**Tennis-** Captured their second consecutive Skyline Championship

**Women's Sports**

**Cross Country-** Fourth place at the Skyline Conference Championship

**Soccer-** Captured their sixth consecutive Skyline Championship and finished with a 13-8 record

**Volleyball-** Finished with a 12-12 record and were 6-3 in the conference this season

**Lacrosse-** Finished at 8-0 in Skyline Conference

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**SANDY'S EFFECT ON STUDENTS**

By Jaime Torlincasi

Though it has been nearly three months since the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, Long Islanders are still rebuilding. Along with New York City and New Jersey, Long Island was affected more than anyone could have imagined. Sandy affected everyone in some way on Long Island. More than 8,100,000 homes lost power across 17 states, thousands were flooded, and an estimated \$25 billion was lost in business activity. Many Long Islanders have devastating stories of their own.

Returning to school last semester was a difficult task for many Farmingdale students and faculty members.

Homes needed to be repaired, electricity needed to be restored, and finding gas was nearly impossible. "My dad siphoned it out of my car for the generator since we had no power. With the gas shortage, it was almost impossible to get gas and the lines were just ridiculous," said Loryn Boscia, 22, who lives in Syosset. Matt Spataro, 20, from West Islip, said, "I felt like it was just all hype and that it was only going to be a little tropical storm, but I was completely wrong."

No one predicted just how damaging

Sandy would be, and unfortunately for many Farmingdale students, they experienced the worst of the storm.

"My house reached six feet of water," said Katie Newman, 22, of Amityville Harbor. "School was extremely difficult just because of the amount of damage; I had to help my family clean up and also the little gas

perspective on their belongings, electric, gas and life in general.

Many also realized how dependent they were on electricity. Boscia said, "I knew electricity was important, but, holy cow, I need heat."

During Sandy, Farmingdale State College, served as a Red Cross Relief Center, "To connect the generosity

of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni to those still in need," said the Farmingdale school website.

The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society on campus brought the New York Cares Coat Drive to the campus. Newman, an active member of the campus's new sorority Sigma Delta Tau, said, "The sorority had hosted a bake sale to raise money for a relief foundation."

Recently, however, Long Islanders are finally receiving some significant relief. As of January 28, the Senate passed the remaining \$51 billion dollars from the \$60

billion dollar federal relief package.

The total funds were delayed delivery, due to the House of Representatives failure to pass the bill in lieu of the fiscal cliff dispute four weeks ago. This can signify the beginning of true recovery for those who have been devastated by the infamous superstorm.

that was available was a problem."

As for Professor Campana, who lives in Deer Park, she had to cancel one day of her classes. "Not because I had water in my house or loss of electric, but because a tree fell on my house and pancaked my car," said Campana.

The overwhelming damage and stress Sandy created has many Farmingdale students changing their



David Davila in his backyard in Hapague after the storm.

# Tattoo Taboos

By Gina Fiorillo

Tattoos seem to be the more popular taboo lately, especially in regards to starting a new job. There are many professions as well as regular part-time jobs that have restrictions about tattoos. Many employers have rules and restrictions that employees abide by while other companies have a more relaxed approach.

Some tattoos seem to be just fads and are popular for a certain length of

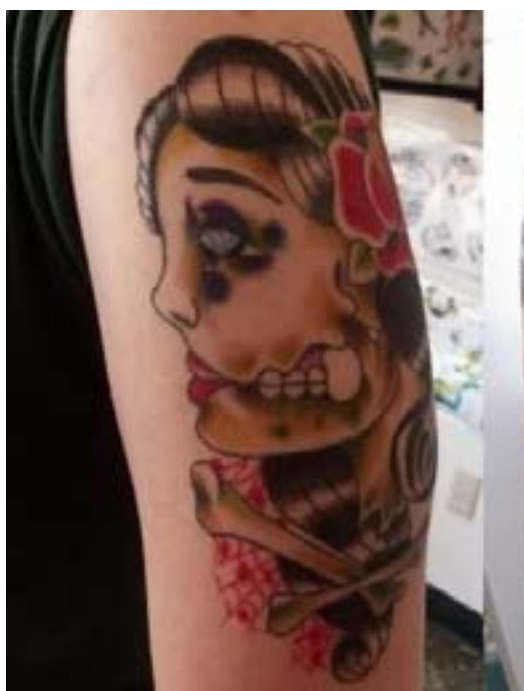
time, especially when it comes to the part of the body where the tattoo is located.

“Easy to hide areas on the body such as the foot and the back of the neck are very popular for women if they do not want them to be constantly visible,” said Alyssa Sudbrink, college student at Farmingdale State College.

“I think the lower back was definitely a fad, but many girls still get them. Most people like to show their art work and tell people what it means to them,” said Jamie Torlincasi, an FSC student, who has two tattoos, one on her wrist and one on her left side; Both are popular areas for tattoos.

“I work at Starbucks, and tattoos are not allowed to be visible. Anyone with visible tattoos must wear long sleeve shirts or turtle necks, I have to wear a wrist band, bracelet or watch to cover the one on my wrist,” said Torlincasi. “Just because someone has tattoos doesn’t make them any different as a person, except a little more awesome,” said Torlincasi with a big smile on her face.

“I don’t think that it’s right to discriminate against people with tattoos. The best worker should get the job regardless. My tattoo honors my parents, but, in general, tattoos are art, and they express who you are,” said Joe Cusumano, a student at FSC.



“I had always wanted a tattoo of a yellow cancer ribbon for remembrance of my father with his death date on the ribbon on my hip,” said Marie DiLeonardo, a student at FSC. “My main reasoning for not getting it was mainly because my mother said that my father would strike me down with lightning from Heaven if I had. The area that I wanted to put it is thankfully in a concealable area where

only I would be able to see it,” said DiLeonardo.

“I have 38 tattoos, on all different areas of my body and I am clearly running out of room. But my tattoos all having significant meaning to me in different ways,” said Eric Elenowitz, a construction management student at FSC.

Tattoos are a form of art and personal expression that in today’s professional world can affect a person’s career opportunities.

“I honestly don’t know if it will affect my future career goals, but it is never acceptable to discriminate against an individual for any reason. If a company chooses not to hire me based on my tattoos, it is their loss because I’m a great worker. One of my tattoos is a memorial to my grandmother. If a memorial to a loved one is wrong in the eyes of an individual without tattoos, then we seriously need to reconsider who the negative person is in the situation,” said Elenowitz.

According to CBS News statistics, 23 percent of college students have one to three tattoos and 36 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds have at least one tattoo. We hope the negative view of people with tattoos will change and all types of discrimination will end.

# Grand New Plaza

By Lauren Barnes



The Ralph Bunche Plaza is located in the southwest corner of campus, near Roosevelt Hall. The new plaza is coming along quickly and expected to be finished by 2013.

“I can’t wait to sit outside in between classes when the warm weather returns. It’s going to be absolutely relaxing!” said Alyssa Cummings, a junior. This seems to be a common reaction among students and faculty when asked about the renovation of Ralph Bunche Plaza.

The \$1.6 million budget will allow for a complete restoration of the plaza, which will include the installation of a fountain, the addition of seating, the creation of a seat wall made of dedication brick from the wall of honor, and the raising of the lower level to make the plaza handicap accessible. New lighting, sidewalks, and landscaping will also be part of this major renovation.

This makeover is right on time. The original plaza was built in the late 1960’s along with Laffin and Hale Hall.

“Maybe the commuter students will stay on campus for more reasons than waiting for their next class,” said Versania Feliz, a Farmingdale Technology Studies student, with a chuckle.

Farmingdale’s Director of Communications, Kathy Coley, confirmed that the updates to the campus were not only to improve the aesthetic feel of the campus, but to also improve student interaction and activities on campus.

If you want to find out more on how construction is coming along, go to [www.farmingdale.edu](http://www.farmingdale.edu) and click on the Physical Plant link.

# Dental Deals for Students

By Geena Pandolfi

The Dental Hygiene major has two-year and four-year programs that are accredited by the Commission of Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. The program prepares students to receive their license and enter into the profession of dental hygiene, as well as certification in the administration of local infiltration anesthesia and nitrous oxide.

The students also gain clinical experience that takes place at the Dental Hygiene Care Center and at other local health care facilities. Many students don’t know the complete array of services that the Dental Hygiene Care Center offers.

“I never booked an appointment because I thought they only cleaned your teeth,” said Alexa Catiana, a senior.

The Dental Hygiene Care Center offers free and discounted services to students and staff. Dr. Laura Joseph, chair of the Dental Hygiene department said, “We welcome all faculty, students, and staff at the Dental Hygiene Clinic. For students and staff all of the following

services are free; comprehensive dental hygiene therapy (cleanings), complete oral exam, gum treatments, oral cancer screenings, non-surgical periodontal therapy, polishing, fluoride treatments, nutritional counseling, home care products and instruction, desensitizing procedures, dental

**“I never booked an appointment because I thought they only cleaned your teeth” said Alexa Catiana**

x-rays, dental sealants, and DNA sampling for record identification.”

Along with these free procedures, the Dental Hygiene Care Center also can provide teeth whitening for students and staff for \$100. Students should feel confident to book an appointment with the dental hygiene

students.

Dr. Maureen Tsokris, a professor and assistant chair of the Dental Hygiene department, said, “Our student’s provide care under the supervision of dentists and registered dental hygienists with advanced degrees who work very closely with the dental hygiene students. We have a state of the art dental facility that provides top notch care not only to people from the local community, but to the members of our campus as well.”

All of the students are supervised and there is a 5-1 student to trained staff ratio on the floor during the consultation to ensure that the proper care is given.

The Dental Hygiene Care Center is also beneficial to people in the community who do not have dental insurance. They provide the services for free to Farmingdale students and staff and at a discounted rate to the public.

Dr. Tsokris said, “The fees collected for services are used to defray the costs of operation of the care center. Patient fees are essential to maintain the services of the care center.”

# OMG LOL DEAD

By Samantha Cesario

The simplicity of being able to drive from point A to point B has changed drastically over the past years. New technologies have made their way into the hands of drivers, and its distraction is undeniable.

In the campus parking lots, students are constantly looking down at their phones while walking to their cars, and don’t stop once they get into their cars and start driving. While some students walk to their cars, only paying attention to their phones, while others are doing the same but behind the wheel.

“I try not to text and drive, especially on campus. I have to be more aware because there are so many reckless drivers,” said Jessica Micallef, student.

It’s not just texting that becomes a problem for people though. “I do admit to changing songs on my iPod while I’m driving,” said Micallef.

A solution to being on the phone while driving is using a hands-free headset. Professor Campana uses one.

They are safer for not only the person who is driving the car, but also for all drivers on the road. “You should never text while driving, and if you’re ever



behind someone who is texting while driving, you notice that they’re always going under the limit and veer from side to side because they are distracted,” said Campana.

Another important concern is people eating or drinking while driving. Everybody today is rushing to get

around; nobody has the time anymore to stop for a few minutes to eat. Fast food restaurants, the key word being fast, all have a drive-through for people on the go. “I feel like I never have time to just sit and eat, I’m always running around and always find myself snacking in the car,” said Kiersten Daly, a student.

Texting and driving is very serious, but many people still insist on doing it anyway. Some new prevention commercials have tried to show the harsh realities that come from texting while driving, showing pictures of destroyed cars and telling stories of fatalities that occurred while texting and driving. These commercials have been opening people’s eyes to the severity of this matter, in an effort to prevent texting and driving and to avoid any further accidents and deaths.

# Farmingdale's Angels: FASHION COMMITTEE'S FIRST FASHION SHOW

By Karla Rosa-Romero



The lingerie collection provoked a cheerful reaction from the audience.



Model Marta Kristic backstage before the show



The Beach Collection by Anu Belle

Clad in angel wings and lingerie reminiscent of Victoria's Secret, the models of the Fashion Committee (FC) walked the Roosevelt Hall catwalk for a crowd of 400 people.

"Wilma Wonka and the Fashion" was the theme for the FC's first show. The seats were adorned with candy and attendees received golden tickets to participate in a gift card raffle. Two volunteers danced to compete for a Kindle Fire. The audience cheered to choose the winner.

Six collections were modeled. They included club, professional, and beach attire.

Rebecca Francois, president of the FC, organized the event. She had previous experience as she organized the Inter-dormitory Council (IDC) show last year. "Everyone enjoyed [the show], so I'm happy," she said.

Francois and most of the people involved are pursuing a career in

fashion after graduating.

The first collection was co-designed by Marshall Davis, an architecture student. After joining the FC, he wanted to pursue a fashion career. "Architecture is about codes, regulations and rules," he said. "But with fashion you can be free to do what you want."

Naanki Jasuja, 15, and her family attended the show to support her brother Deshpyar Jasuja, who modeled for two collections. Her brother, a business student, wishes to pursue acting and modeling.

"My brother said there would be some R-rated moments," said Naanki Jasuja. "It would be awkward to watch [with parents]."

She was referring to the lingerie collection in which models danced seductively for three male models.

Some attendees stood and cheered for their performance.

Designers for the show were found

through social websites like *Model Mayhem*, while models auditioned to join the show.

Model Marta Kristic stood out in high heels that added to her 6-foot-1-inch height. Kristic, who lives on campus, is close friends with the people in the show. "Rebecca [Francois] encouraged me to audition," she said.

Francois enjoyed organizing the show, but she doubts she will organize another one. "The school makes it too hard to have another [show]," she said. "There are too many problems."

For example, Student Government required three chaperones for the FC's after party at Governor's Comedy Club in Levittown. They only had two chaperones so the party ended early, at 2:30 a.m. "We're all adults," said Francois. "Chaperones are a ridiculous thing to have." Francois said the budget was another problem.

# Master Chief's Call to Arms

By Jason Carroll

Several elite titled video games were released this past year, including *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3*, *Assassin's Creed III*, and *Mass Effect 3*. However, many people were anticipating the release of a particular game that was boasted to be the greatest game of the year. In Fall 2012, *Halo 4* was released for the Xbox 360 by its developer, 343 Industries.

*Halo 4* is set in the futuristic year of 2557 with the users playing the protagonist master chief, a surgically enhanced super soldier. The game is a first-person shooter (FPS) and is fit with several game types, including campaign and online multi-player. Gamers have the option to play the campaign alone or cooperatively with other Xbox users or on Xbox Live.

Players are eventually introduced to a new enemy, called the Promethians, adding more of a challenge to the game play. The newly added antagonist allowed 343 Industries to develop new weapons, increasing the size of the *Halo* armory.

"The campaign feels more in-depth than the last *Halo* games. I've had to

play through it a few times to make sure I caught everything," said Gabrielle Roman, a nursing student. Since the game's release, Roman played the campaign once and is preparing to play a second time to find the hidden Easter



eggs, little jokes that the developers place throughout the game.

In addition, *Halo 4* brought back their online multiplayer feature, allowing gamers to play with people all over the country. Although 343 Industries wasn't the developer of the predecessor, *Halo: Reach*, the developers used similar features while adding their own innovation.

In *Halo: Reach*, players choose what

they want their character to be equipped with from a set list of character loadouts. 343 Industries took this idea a step further, allowing the players to customize their loadouts, and added other features to the list, including tactical packages and support upgrades to accompany their characters' armor ability.

"I was at the midnight release, and since I picked it up, I haven't been able to stop playing it," said Joseph Blum, a criminal justice student. "It's been so addicting, I've almost had a tough time keeping up with my schoolwork."

The *Halo* franchise has been the prodigy of Microsoft in the video game world. 343 Industries has continued to keep the dream for the best first person shooter game alive. On the day of its release day, Microsoft calculated \$220 million in global sales, which dominated past records set by its predecessors, according to Reuters.

"I love it. A perfect way to complete the story, for now," said Matt Dachenhausen, a law enforcement technician student. "It's as much a love story as it is an action story."

## 30TH ANNUAL

## MADD CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

By Ariel Costakis

This winter marks Long Island's 30th Annual Candlelight Vigil for the victims of drunk driving accidents. Over 200 people gathered to pay respect and enjoy this important day while they gather around to listen to poetry and a beautiful guitar solo from artist Frank Saladino.

Drunk drivers who have caused fatalities affect most of the people who came to the event directly and indirectly. The victims there that day were fathers, brothers, sisters, daughters, mothers, and friends. Most of them either knew or were the victims, who have been injured or lost their loved ones.

FSC hosted a candle lighting ceremony along with a walk to the Garden of Awareness to place a white carnation on the Wall of Remembrance.

"It is very peaceful, I am glad there are events like this to keep these victims names alive," said Cuinn Schneller

a friend of a student at FSC. She lost her best friend during a drunk driving accident three years ago.

"This is my second time that I came to this event. Last year there were as many people that there are today," said Gina Marie. She appreciates all the efforts that MADD, Farmingdale, and the organizers have put into the event.

Standing by the Wall of

"It is very peaceful, I am glad there are events like this to keep these victims names alive," said Cuinn Schneller

Remembrance, Casey Longstein experienced a meaningful day. It was her first time here with her sister. "I would never want anybody who I love so much to go that way. Just the thought

that they would never be able to share their life with us again is unthinkable," said Longstein.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Web site said, "In the United States, the number of drunk driving deaths have been cut in half since MADD was founded in 1980."

Based on the demographics of drunk drivers the information given is important and geared towards younger drivers. "In fatal crashes in 2010, the highest percentage of drunk drivers was among drivers ages 21 to 24, followed by ages 25 to 34 and 35 to 44.

It was an emotional and heartfelt effort from all the people who have taken time and effort to educate young drivers of the severity of driving under the influence of alcohol.

## Strong Season for Men's Basketball

By Randy Stephens



Senior Forward, AJ Matthews #5

Thanks to the Division III "Top 25" voting panel, Farmingdale State remains one of the best kept secrets in men's basketball. It's anyone's guess how the Rams have stayed under the radar entering this season, but they ought to be excited. This is the time of year when every college kid outside of the Skyline Conference sneers, "Who is Farmingdale?" and four quarters later they're sorry they asked.

Throughout head coach Erik Smiles' tenure, the Rams have become a legitimate contender to both conference and non-conference opponents. In those eight seasons, the Rams have qualified for three NCAA tournaments, and have never once suffered a losing record.

One Farmingdale student, Herman Reyes, indicated that Farmingdale's dominance for nearly a decade is testing the composure of rival fans. "Last year some people in the stands got a little crazy when Old Westbury lost. They wanted to fight us," Reyes recalled. Coach Smiles and his staff have been fundamental in bringing this winning culture to Farmingdale State College. Each year they have assembled a roster of highly talented, disciplined athletes from top to bottom.

This season continues that pattern,

and leading the way is AJ Matthews. The 7'1 senior forward, whose school records can be counted on two hands, has stunned his opponents with an unbelievable combination of size and athleticism. Matthews' ability to excel in all facets of the game has made him a match-up nightmare for opposing coaches.

"This year, the biggest challenge for me will be handling double and triple-teams," said Matthews. "I have to help my teammates get the ball without turning it over as much as I did last year." While the fans love to see him throw down an alley-oop, or stuff an opponent's shot, he still plays fundamentally sound basketball. Don't be surprised when you see Matthews making his free throws and sinking shots outside the paint.

Still, Matthews' talents should not overshadow the contributions of his teammates. He is surrounded by a carefully selected supporting cast whose abilities complement each other. According to Coach Smiles, a key component of this roster is sophomore guard Ryan Davis.

"Davis is a major piece of our offense," said Smiles. "He is a tremendous play maker, potentially the

best in the region." Davis led the Rams in assists last season while impressing his coaches with his ability to handle and distribute the ball. This year, he'll have a new weapon in his arsenal, sophomore guard Justin Bailey.

With the departure of seniors Josh Smith and Dyshaun Flournay, Bailey inherited the responsibility of scoring from long range. Coach Smiles voiced his confidence in Bailey, explaining what sets him apart from his predecessors. "It's his job now," affirmed Coach Smiles. "Justin's a pure shooter, one of the best three-point shooters the program has ever had."

It is clear that Coach Smiles knows how good this team is, but he stressed the importance of staying focused.

"What's important is just to get better in each part of the game, one day at a time. No team is great right away," said Coach Smiles.

This may be true, but with a career record of 162-64, and eight Coach of the Year titles under his belt, perhaps greatness is not far out of reach. With 16 wins and 5 losses in the season thus far the team is demonstrating its strength.

## Back Into the Swing of Things

By John Grillea



2012 Farmingdale State Rams

After a heroic 2012 season for the Farmingdale State Rams Men's baseball team, it is clear that they are playing with a little extra fire-power for this upcoming spring because of the way things ended just a season ago.

With a comeback victory in the ninth inning that sent the team to the regional finals, followed by a heart breaking finals loss in the ninth, the men of the Rams baseball team are destined to be victorious this season. After capturing a fifth consecutive Skyline Championship, the Rams look to make it a sixth, along with a trip to the World Series for the season to come.

Since last season, the Rams have proved to be more ready than before. An emotional loss in the finals has given them a greater desire to win.

"We never gave up and fought because we had heart every single year, we were so close and just missed making it to the College World Series. We wake up and leave to practice at 5 a.m. everyday and work so hard to achieve our goals, we are not just a team. We're a family," said relief

pitcher Chris Dragone.

"Only 25 guys in the nation are



Relief Pitcher #25 Chris Dragone

happy because of the way it ended last season, and those are the champions," said outfielder Michael Scarlato. Dragone and Scarlato both made it clear that the Rams want this more than

ever this year.

The team's confidence and will to win is at another level. "I'm not worried about too much. I know my role on the club and if everyone does his part, we'll be a fine-tuned machine and are going to do some serious damage," said Michael Scarlato. The Rams have their eyes on a national title and will give it their all to achieve their goal.

Former big slugger catcher and older brother of Scarlato, Frank Scarlato graduated last season and has a lot of confidence in his former team. "I think that the team still has a great chance of winning the conference even though they lost Phelan, McAllister, and myself. I wish them all the best of luck and believe that they will keep their winning ways."

After the way things ended a season ago, this 2013 Rams team is fired up and ready to give all they've got this upcoming season.