

# iPulse

THE DAILY HEARTBEAT OF LYNN UNIVERSITY



Above: Final J-Term murals. Photo/M. Arsenault.

## LOOKING BACKWARD, MOVING FORWARD

### IPULSE PREPARES FOR THE FUTURE WHILE LEARNING FROM THE PAST

After a year full of masks, social distanced outings, Zoom dates and embracing “the new normal,” iPulse is ready for a fresh start in 2021. This year iPulse intends to explore new topics, produce fresh content, and learn new perspectives to liven up the

campus for students and faculty in 2021.

It is safe to say that everyone on campus and across the globe truly hopes that a year such as 2020 will never occur again. When looking back at



By: Emily Christensen  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

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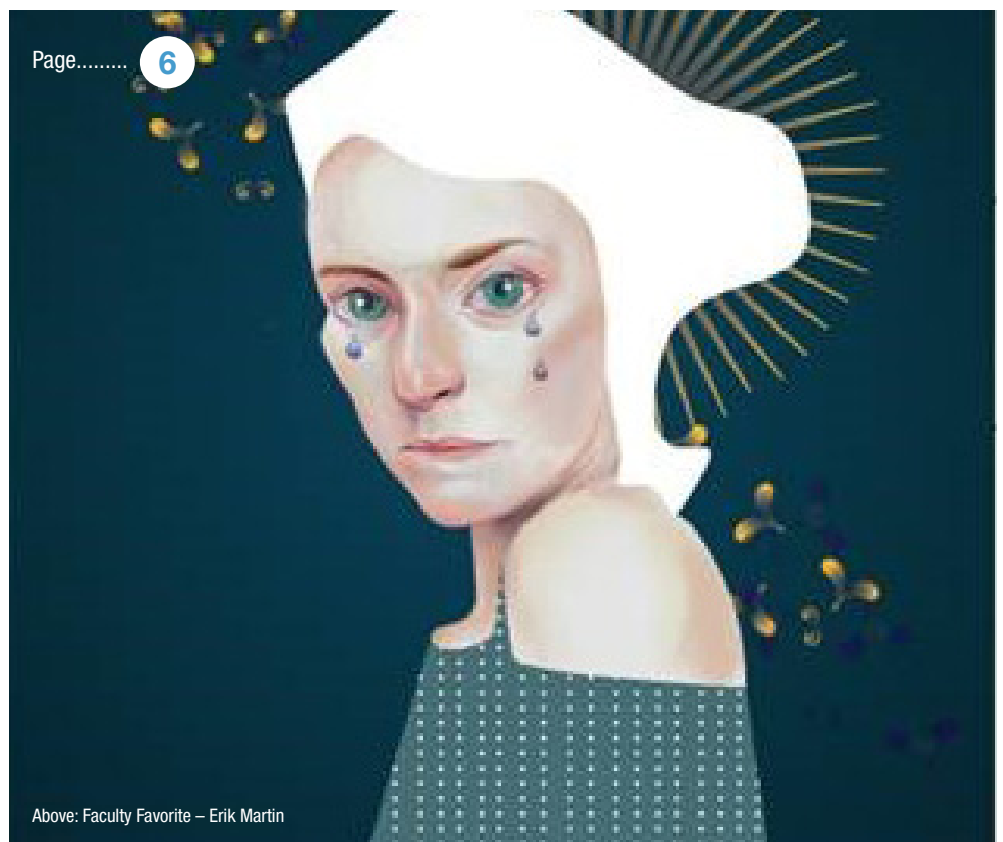
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2020, it is difficult to find a silver lining, but iPulse and the rest of the Lynn community learned a lot from this past year.

With the new block scheduling approach and the remote learning option, many students and faculty quickly learned to adapt to change. When events were canceled and toilet paper was gone from the shelves, the Lynn community learned to embrace the uncertainty. When the whole world turned

upside down, students and faculty learned to cherish each moment and enjoy the little things in life.

This year iPulse hopes to take all the lessons learned in 2020 and never look back. The news publication will continue to be the daily heartbeat of Lynn University so that the Lynn community can be informed on all the latest trends, on-campus events, athletic competitions and stand-out stars.



# RUNNERS RETURN

## LYNN CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK TEAM COMPETES AFTER NEARLY A YEAR OF NO COMPETITION

After nearly a year of significant hurdles due to COVID-19, the Lynn Cross Country and Track teams have finally been granted the opportunity to run in their first competition on Jan. 30.



By: Josh Skielnik  
Contributing Writer

coach. “We have been training, so we are probably physically ready. The mental side is probably lacking at the moment. It is going to feel different racing cross country in January with minimal preparation.”

The shortened and the modified cross country season will be happening in just a couple of short weeks and will be unlike anything that the Fighting Knight runners have experienced. Cross country is typically a fall sport. However, the Sunshine State Conference decided to cancel the season last fall and allow the teams to compete in the spring when things settled down. The Fighting Knights track season will come a week after the conclusion of cross country.

“The biggest thing is the limited practice and facilities. We are only allowed to practice Wednesday to Saturday, and Covid precautions do not allow us to travel off-campus for practice, so we do not get to do much trail running,” said Wood.

It is no secret that the training situation and the altered upcoming seasons are less than ideal, but the team hopes to emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever. The challenges that the athletes have faced are similar to the difficulties other Fighting Knight programs and programs around the world endured. The team is ready for things to get back to normal again with their upcoming competition season.

“Covid has made me think about how much we take for granted,” said Julian Yescas, Lynn Cross Country & Track Athlete. “I think through this break, I have been able to work in a lot of things from nutrition to form training, and I would say I have never been more ready to start back up.”

Due to NCAA guidelines, there will be no spectators allowed at competitions; however, fans can follow along with the cross country and track team at [lynnfightingknights.com](http://lynnfightingknights.com).

Coach Wood and his athletes have traversed into the unknown as they attempt to continue running despite the pandemic. Unfortunately, many things are different for the team, such as losing three coaches, losing training facilities, and losing competitions. The team and its sole coach are now eagerly preparing for their upcoming seasons regardless of the challenges that COVID-19 has manifested.

“It’s impossible to be fully prepared for something that we did not know was going to happen,” said Chris Wood, head



Above: Chris Wood, head coach of the Cross Country and Track Team, smiles for his annual headshot. Photo/Lynn Fighting Knights.



Above: Julian Yescas, junior, competes in sunshine state conference meet at South County Regional Park in 2019. Photo/Lynn Fighting Knights.

# PROFESSIONAL INSIGHT FROM A SEASONED ARTIST

MARK SPARACIO ILLUMINATES HIS EXPERIENCE  
IN THE ART INDUSTRY AND TEACHING PROCESS

Right: Illustration of Mark Sparacio.  
Photo/M. Sparacio.



Professor Mark Sparacio, a professional illustrator who worked for Marvel and D.C. comics and is a self-published comic book artist, offers professional insight to enlighten students going into the art industry.



By: Andrew Saavedra  
Staff Writer

"I graduated from The School of Visual Arts in Manhattan, New York," said Sparacio, artist in residence, fine arts. "I studied under industry professionals, not professors, and was taught real-world practices, not theory."

Initially, Sparacio's intent was not to become a teacher. However, an opportunity arose 11 years ago to teach at Digital Media Arts College, which Lynn University subsequently acquired. Although he had not received a formal education in teaching art, he realized his real-world experience in the industry offers more value to his students.

As the arts industry is ever-changing with advancements in computer graphics technology, new media being developed and becoming mainstream, the illustration curriculum has changed.

"The industry has changed quite a bit in the 11 years since I started teaching,"

said Sparacio. "In my experience as a teacher and as an active Illustrator/Comic Book Artist, it is that today's students need to have skill sets in both digital and traditional art to compete in today's industry successfully."

Sparacio hopes to teach his students everything he learned from his 38-year professional career. His way of bringing knowledge and good fortune to young, eager artists.

"I teach my classes how I was taught at the School of Visual Arts, in a professional manner, which is to get the student prepared to enter a very tough industry," said Sparacio.

Sparacio speaks highly of Lynn's teaching process, as the program allows him to be himself simply. He has raw professional experience and knowledge that he takes great joy in passing down to young aspiring artists.

"And most importantly, I do what most of, if not all, my teachers at the School of Visual Arts did: I bring my commissions and professional assignments into class. Explain to the students the entire process, some background on the job and the client, and work on the assignment in class," said Sparacio. "[The students] hear my insights firsthand and see for themselves that it is

possible for them to reach this level, with the correct work ethic and persistence."

Sparacio shares that teaching has improved his learning process and philosophy. He finds it exciting to pass on information, knowledge and experience to his students, whom seem to appreciate it greatly.



Above: Chelsea Dagger Cover. Photo/M. Sparacio.

# RESILIENCE

# IS...

**REALIZING OUR  
POTENTIAL TO DO  
AND BE MORE.**

**IT FEELS AMAZING WHEN WE  
ARE ABLE TO REACH SUCCESS.  
BUT IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, WE  
CAN LET OUR PAST KEEP US  
FROM TRYING NEW THINGS.  
OUR PAST SUCCESSES SHOULD  
BE THE CATALYST AND  
CONFIDENCE THAT PUSH US  
TOWARD NEW CHALLENGES.  
DON'T GET STUCK IN YOUR  
COMFORT ZONE; IT'S OKAY TO  
HAVE A POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON  
THE UNKNOWN.**

**What past success can be your confidence to take on a new  
adventure?**

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# CELEBRATING CREATIVITY

## THE WINNERS OF THE SECOND ANNUAL STUDENT ART SHOWCASE

The College of Communication and Design invited the Lynn community to the annual Student Art Showcase, held from Nov. 23-Dec. 4 on the third floor of the Lynn Library. The Student Art Showcase featured student artwork from the BFA in Computer

Animation, BFA in Graphic Design and the BFA in Visual Art and Design programs. More than 70 new pieces of artwork were on display, and two awards were given: the Faculty Favorite and Student Selection. Each winner was given a \$50 gift card.



Above: Faculty Favorite – Erik Martin



Above: Student Selection – Jaelin Forestier

# NEW YEAR, NEW STUDENT BODY GOVERNMENT

## MEET THIS YEAR'S MEMBERS OF KNIGHTS OF THE ROUNDTABLE

Knights of the Roundtable is Lynn's student body government. This organization offers leadership opportunities to the student body, promotes school spirit and serves as hosts to campus visitors for important events.



### STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

Name: Massimiliano Biancardi  
Year: Freshman  
Major: Entrepreneurship  
Hometown: Avella, Italy

A peer-described cheerful friend, Massimiliano Biancardi, is the new Student Body President at Lynn University, committed to helping people and communities achieve their potential.

His mission is to enable every student to have the opportunity to make vital changes to improve their academic journey.

By day, he devotes his time and effort to address relevant issues students may encounter in the community. By night, he is busy engaging with peers and relating with them on a personal level.

Massimiliano is confident of producing positive results for the Lynn family because he is result-driven and extremely passionate about giving back to the community.



### VICE PRESIDENT

Name: Laura Fakhoury  
Year: Freshman  
Major: International Business Management  
Hometown: Delray Beach, Fla.

I'm excited to be part of the KOR. I look forward to showing all of you that I care about your interests and your voice.



### SECRETARY

Name: Camila Garcia  
Year: Freshman  
Major: International Business  
Hometown: Miami, Fla.

Hello, my name is Camila Garcia. I'll be your 2021 student-body secretary and I can't wait to bring in new and fun ideas.



### PARLIAMENTARIAN

Name: Dulcie Sonique Fynn  
Year: Freshman  
Major: Political Science  
Hometown: Ghana

Hi, my name is Dulcie Sonique Fynn, and I am honored to be part of the KOR as a parliamentarian knight at Lynn University. I am from Ghana, a peaceful and culturally enriched country. My major in political science. I look forward to working hard with the KOR team to achieve our goals. Thank you.

# EMBRACING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

## STUDENTS SHARE THEIR FAVORITE PARTS ABOUT THIS YEAR'S J-TERM

**Co-Editor-in-Chief**

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**Faculty Support**

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This January term, students engaged in community service, language and culture immersion as well as career preparation.



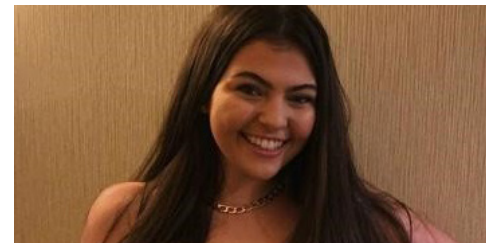
By: Kathryn Hubbard  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Lynn community not only learned to give back to their community and embrace other cultures, but they also learned valuable insights about themselves through classes such as “Identifying Passions,” “Roadmap Careers” and “Stay Motivated.”

iPulse set out to see what students learned about community service and various cultures in their J-Term class, and this is what they had to say:



“This year for J term, I ended up taking Italian. I found out that I’m part Italian in the summer, so I took this course to learn more about the culture and language,” said Kathryn Feldmann, sophomore.



“My class worked on raising money for Boca Helping Hands and we also attended a talk from Comfort Cases founder, Rob Sheer. We spent the rest of our week posting on Instagram to spread awareness of our campaign and we have almost reached our goal of \$1,000,” said Sydney Burke, freshman.



“Taking the Peruvian language and culture class has exposed me to a culture I would have otherwise known nothing about. I learned some of the basics of Spanish, and I now feel equipped to one day travel to the country on my own,” said Josh Skielnik, junior.



“I did career prep for Psychology and I enjoyed having Kevin M. Lynch speak to us. In 2015, he created the Quell Foundation with a mission to reduce the number of suicides, overdoses and incarcerations of people with mental illness. They give out scholarships for survivors and for people going into mental health services,” said Haley Gielbeda, sophomore.



“I chose the Italian course because I love learning about Italy. My parents were stationed there for a few years in the military. I have learned about a lot of the culture differences between the Italian regions, food and customs that the people share,” said Jayden Reece, senior.



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