



**ARTS & CULTURE**

**LIVE! CONCERT**

C.A.B.-sponsored concert will feature performances by four Fordham bands.

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**SPECIAL INSERT**

**MEET THE BOARD**

Learn fun facts about the people who are producing The Observer this year.

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# THE OBSERVER

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## Facing Criticism, Financial Services Defends Timeliness

*Some Students Still Without Financial Aid One Week Before Classes Begin*

By **ANDREW VACCA**  
News Co-Editor

The Financial Services office at Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC) has been criticized for what is being called “poor preparation” of the release of financial aid packages to students. As of August 24, some students had not received their financial determinations, leaving loans unprocessed and many students and parents concerned that they will find themselves unable to secure loans and grants. Financial aid officials say that this year saw little to no change in the time frame of the release of financial determinations, despite a heavier workload, and that Fordham is doing everything possible to remain an “affordable” education.

According to Financial Services’ official policy, students’ financial aid packages are assembled once all necessary information, including tax forms, W2’s and other financial documents are received. At this point, determinations are made and sent out to students, who are then required to accept or deny the financial aid offered before any Stafford or PLUS loans are processed.

Some students say that though they submitted all necessary information, they had to wait much longer for their determinations than in previous years.

Amanda Sadlowski, FCLC ’11, said she was still without a financial aid package two weeks before the start of classes.

“This [financial aid process] has honestly been one of the most frustrating experiences of my life,” Sadlowski said. “I sent in my FAFSA all the way back in March, way before the July 1 deadline. It wasn’t until late May that they notified me that I needed to send in my tax records because I was selected for random verification. This was fine, because that had happened to me both pre-



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX PALOMINO/THE OBSERVER

*Some students have said that they are “worried” about receiving a bill with no acknowledgement of financial aid, something that the Fordham administration says is nothing to “panic” about.*

vious years and I still got my financial aid package by early June. This time, however, not so much.

“I think it was late June when I started calling the office and asking them where my financial aid was,” Sadlowski said. “They kept saying they were still working on the packages and continually gave me dates when it would be ready. I kept calling them once these dates went by and they kept saying it would be another week or two.”

Sadlowski said she didn’t panic

over the delay in the release of her financial aid package until she was presented with a bill from financial services.

“Obviously [my family and I] can’t pay it because we don’t know what our financial aid is, so we haven’t been able to apply for a loan,” she said.

Bills from financial services were sent out in early August, and many did not mention any financial aid associated with the student’s account. Constantine Kokinakis,

FCLC ’11, received a bill before he was made aware of his financial aid. It was only after “panicking” and “navigating through my.fordham, trying to accept my awards,” that Kokinakis was made aware of his financial aid package.

Peter Stace, vice president for enrollment at Fordham, said that the Office of Financial Services released packages on a schedule comparable to previous years. “As

see **FINANCIAL AID** pg. 2

## New Study Abroad Options Are a Success



**BRIANNA STEINHILBER**  
Features Editor

Fish and Chips. The Tube. Drinking ale by a fireplace in a pub. Dodging traffic coming from the wrong direction. None of these are things New Yorkers are accustomed to experiencing on a daily basis. But this summer a group of Fordham University students traded in the hustle of Manhattan to experience London first hand. Not only did we have student representation in the England, but Fordham also premiered its first ever Study Abroad in Rome program, giving students the opportunity to study the arts in the ancient city.

With June serving as the launch date of Fordham’s new Liberal Arts Program in Rome and London Centre at Heythrop College, the group (made up of both Rose Hill and Lincoln Center students) served as the guinea pigs for Fordham’s study abroad summer program. For the first time ever, Fordham students were able to study abroad with their home university,

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COURTESY OF BILL DENNISON

*Fordham students said they quickly adjusted to life abroad.*

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**REMEMBERING CASEY**  
A memory-filled tribute to The Observer’s former News Editor, Casey Feldman.

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**BANNER: LOVE IT OR HATE IT?**

Co-Opinions Editors Liz Bowen and Ashley Tedesco sound off on the successes and failures of Fordham’s new registration portal.

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## Fordham Silent On Swine Flu Policy

*Health Officials Say H1N1 Virus Will Put Young Adults At Risk*

By **ASHLEY WENNERSHERRON**  
Editor-in-Chief

Fordham University has yet to officially and publicly offer guidelines to returning students or incoming freshmen on how to avoid contracting the H1N1 influenza virus, commonly known as the swine flu, in the coming school year. The fast approaching cold and flu season could be especially dangerous for people younger than 25 years old, according to an updated

guidance report released on Aug. 20 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The H1N1 virus differs from the common influenza virus as young children and the elderly are not at an increased risk, while college-aged people are. While the reason for the increased risk in those that are 18 to 25-years-old is unknown, the CDC has hypothesized that people over the age of 65 years old may have antibodies against this particular strain of influenza.

Other schools in the area, such as New York University (NYU) and Hunter College, are offering worksheets to prepare students for possible outbreaks on their Web sites. The worksheets explain what the H1N1 virus is, what the symptoms are, how to avoid contracting it and what to do if a student suspects he or she is sick. Fordham published a press release explaining much of the same information on May 1 on

see **SWINE FLU** pg. 4