The Muscarelle Museum of Art seemed like an anomaly on campus. Tucked away on Jamestown Road, the museum housed a permanent collection and various rotating exhibitions throughout the year. The museum was free to students, allowing them to view some art anytime they wanted.

The museum featured a variety of types of artwork. They boasted an exhibit on the Dutch Italianates, a photojournalism exhibit of the Middle East and Africa, and an exhibit on Tiffany Glass. This variety drew many diverse students and community members to enjoy the museum.

One particularly notable exhibit was The Century Project. Created by photographer Frank Cordelle, The Century Project was a series of 100 photos of women from ages zero to 100, photographed nude, with accompanying personal stories. While this was a controversial exhibit, many thought it celebrated women’s beauty. “I was touched by the women in the exhibit with their very personal stories and thought all the pictures were taken artfully and with class,” junior Aly Cockerill said.

Another event was the Music in the Gallery series. Student groups performed, using their music to complement the art. Junior Graham Trent was part of the Stairwells, an all-male a cappella group that performed. “It was a fun concert; not a venue at which we traditionally perform, but the acoustics are fantastic in the Muscarelle,” Trent said. “We’re excited about doing the concert again next year.”

“Recently, Glenn Lowery, Director of the Museum of Modern Art and the first director of the Muscarelle Museum came to the College to receive an honorary degree,” Assistant Director and Curator Odilia Bonebakker said. “In his acceptance speech, he said, ‘the Muscarelle was created as an institution that would disrupt and change the dialogue by introducing something contemporary, something modern,’” Bonebakker said. With their impressive collection, distinguished lecturers, and innovative new music program, it seemed the dialogue had indeed been changed.

After looking at The Century Project’s photos, students take time to read the accompanying personal stories, ranging from accounts of illness to more humorous topics. The Century Project attempted to change society’s attitude towards women’s bodies by including nude photos of over 100 diverse women displaying a variety of emotions.