

CAMPUS NEWS

College  Paper



Volume 16, Issue 1 FREE!

Free college ... for some

BACK TO SCHOOL EARLY FALL 2017



ON TEACHING 5



IT'S NEW TO YOU! 22



WRESTLING 27



SEAGULLS 29

Only about one third of the 75,000 applicants for the SUNY/CUNY “free tuition” Excelsior Scholarship actually got the money to start this academic year, but the news isn’t as bad as it sounds.

While many community college students learned that they were ineligible over the summer because they didn’t average 30 credits in previous years (how could they have known this would end up being an issue?), others got better news – they didn’t qualify for the Excelsior Scholarship because it’s a “last in” program; the scholarship only activates if the student doesn’t get 100 percent of their tuition covered by other aid.

“Many of our students are eligible to receive full TAP and Pell so they would not be eligible for the Excelsior Scholarship,” said Mike Pedde, Financial Aid director

at Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, NY, “but they still can have their tuition and fees paid for through the Pell Grant and TAP Award Programs.”

50,000 students don’t qualify for Cuomo plan, but most still enroll.

Campus News called administrators at SUNY and CUNY community colleges and learned that they were cautiously optimistic about the new deal, and feel it has great potential. At the very least, administrators felt that Excelsior created a “buzz” that encouraged students who had been

procrastinating to try college again.

“The Excelsior Scholarship is still a work-in-progress from the state’s perspective,” said new SUNY Sullivan president Jay Quaintance during an interview mid-summer. “But we had gotten more applications in the first week by a lot compared to the same time period last year, including 30 applications in the first two days of open enrollment. ... All of our numbers are up – applications, acceptances and registrations.”

But other community colleges are unsure if Excelsior actually boosted their enrollments. Most expect to analyze the numbers this month. Enrollments seem to be up, but the past couple of years saw massive dips in new enroll-

continued on page 3

We’re a TV show!

Campus News has partnered with college-student-led Tank Media Network to bring you, dear reader, a series of vignettes aptly titled “Campus News” this coming semester.

As of press time, we have uploaded at least four short videos on our site via the link www.ccn.us/tv.

“Campus News,” the TV show, finds the troupe humorously playing various editorial roles at this



student paper.

Tank Media Network is an internet entertainment enterprise created by South Carolina natives

continued on page 7



'Restorative Nature' exhibit

Restorative Nature is an exhibit of paintings and sculpture by Gina Gilmour ranging from small ceramic sculptures to paintings up to six feet high.

Gilmour depicts transformations using the rhythms and images of nature and personal history. Some works are of lush jungle foliage unfurling an awakening figure, while others show a tiny swimmer enjoying her humble place in a vast rippling sea. Still others use a layering of images: animals, people, and places in patterned memory compositions. "I paint experiences that I am working through, and it often leads me to ongoing painting cycles and to some resolve or restorative place," Gilmour said.

Gilmour is the recipient of a

number of artists' fellowships that have taken her around the world, including the American Field Service Program in Okayama, Japan; The MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire; The Karolyi Foundation Fellowship in France; The Julia and David White Artists' Colony Fellowship in Costa Rica; and The William Steeple Davis Foundation Residency in Orient, NY. Gilmour has exhibited her work in various museums and galleries including the National Museum of Women in the Arts (Washington, DC); The Alternative Museum (New York, NY); and the Ron Feldman Gallery (New York, NY). Her work is in numerous public collections including The Newark Museum (Newark, NJ); The North Carolina Museum of Art (Raleigh,

NC); and the Bechtler Museum of Contemporary Art (Charlotte, NC). Gilmour received a B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY.

Restorative Nature will run from Sept. 5 through Oct. 24, 2017 at The Lyceum Gallery, in the Montaukett Learning Resource Center on the Eastern Campus of Suffolk County Community College, Riverhead. A public reception will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 13 from 4 to 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Gallery hours: Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.



The gallery is closed on Sundays and holidays (exceptions: gallery closes at 5:30 on Wed., 9/20 and 3:30 on Tues., 10/10; gallery closed on Thurs, 9/21 and Sat., 9/30).

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Free college ... for some (cont.)

ments, so enrollments were expected to be up this year regardless at many institutions; though Quaintance said that SUNY Sullivan actually projected the fall would see declines, unless they changed their marketing, which they did.

“While social media is nice, it’s not a recruitment savior; we needed more face-to-face recruitment, such as our attendance at college fairs, and our enrollment is now up both in-county and from the City.”

The president believes that community college downward projections were one of the impetuses for the legislature to approve Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s bold tuition plan – the money was there in the budget, because fewer community college students would need to be funded the old-fashioned way.

“After the semester starts, we will poll students who got the scholarship and ask if it was a deciding factor in their coming here,” Quaintance added. “But perhaps the reason the state approved the Excelsior Scholar-

ship was because their projections with anticipated lower community college enrollments meant the state would pay less in other aid and could better afford this.”

However, many students were disappointed that they did not qualify for the scholarship because the previous year they had failed to take 30 credits. Cynthia Rivera met the income requirements – a family income of less than \$100,000 a year (rising to \$125,000 in two years) – and applied for the scholarship on day one, but was crushed when she received word she was denied. “They’re advertising this scholarship as something that can help everyone, and yet they’re imposing terms on your past, before the Excelsior scholarship existed,” she said on the Campus News web site. “So, the only people who are truly eligible are people who have never been to school, or who are currently in school and happened to take 30 credits

every year. If you don’t fall into those two categories, you’re screwed. What about people who can only go to school part time because they have to work? What about the people who had to drop out of school? What about the people who were taking 12 credits a year (still full time) but didn’t realize they would be screwed over retroactively because they didn’t hap-

‘People who hadn’t thought about college previously are now thinking about it, and that’s a good thing.’

pen to take 30 credits a year? I don’t know why I had high hopes for something coming from the government. I should have known better.”

Though, for some students, not qualifying for the scholarship may be a blessing in disguise. For students who don’t pass 30 credits a year from here on, or who don’t graduate, or who leave the state upon graduation, the scholarship turns into a garden-variety student loan that must be repaid. Considering the high dropout and low graduation rates at typical community colleges, the Excelsior Scholarship might end up becoming a burden for those students who can’t stay on track. However, the scholarship can also be viewed as a carrot on a stick, with the ultimate promise of increasing on-time graduation rates.

“People who hadn’t thought about college previously are now thinking about it, and that’s a good thing,” added Dr. Nireata Seals, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City, Queens. She said that LaGuardia did see a surge in applications because of Excelsior and that the college has a plan in place to monitor its success, and to counsel students who end up not qualifying. Most students at the two-year college get aid and/or scholarships anyway, she said, and do not need to take out loans. “This will benefit four-year colleges more, especially those with a residential component.”

“We have not seen an increase in applications,” said Donna Rae Sutherland, a spokesperson for Genesee Community College in Batavia, NY. “The availability of the Excelsior application and the overall announcement came a little late in our usual enrollment cycle for this fall. Since community colleges are generally among the most affordable options in higher education, we believe the impact of Excelsior may be most noticeable at the four-year college level.”

“The Excelsior Scholarship did come late, but it created a positive buzz about the college and drove some students who had not thought about college to apply,” Quaintance said. “Most would have gotten pretty close to full aid anyway as far as tuition goes, and we [at SUNY Sullivan] will help students bridge the gap for books, room and board through our Foundation grants. ... Hopefully, the scholarship and our Foundation can help take away the pressure for students to take out loans.”

–Darren Johnson



Gov. Andrew Cuomo with Bernie Sanders at LaGuardia CC earlier this year.

Let's have a great semester!

Prof. John DeSpagna
Campus News

The summer has come to an end and the new school year is upon us. What I want to do with this column is focus on some of the actions a student can take to make this a successful year. We all face a busy schedule with school, work and other activities that draw us in different directions and make demands on our time. Let's stay focused and see if you can incorporate some of these actions into your successful school year.

One of the most common challenges students face is regarding time management. While advising students, I inquire as to how many hours per week they will be working and how many credits they want to take. If you are taking 15 credits and working 40-plus hours a week, it usually does not work. Try to make your work schedule more reasonable, and maybe you will have to cut back on the number of credits you register for.

Another aspect of developing

time management skills is to come to class. Being in class helps you learn the material and prepare you for the exams. Many professors have an attendance policy to enhance the importance of coming to class. Get to class a few minutes early, look over the notes from the prior class and complete the homework assignments on time.

Some of us face a challenge when it comes to certain courses. An example of this may be with math. Many schools have a math-learning center. Take advantage of this resource. The learning centers are there to help you with tutors, refresher classes and to answer your questions. Some colleges also offer learning centers in writing, accounting and many other content areas.

Professors also hold office hours for our students. We are here to help you with your studies, advisement for selecting a course and to help you with school. Go and talk to your professors. Professors are successful practitioners in their field

and they can also help you with career advice.

Being able to set aside time to study is important. Instead of trying to do your work in a single long block of time, break things up. I have come to realize that taking a break is important. Try studying in 45-minute blocks of time and then take a break. Walk around, get some fresh air, have a snack and then when you return to studying, you should feel refreshed. Studies have also shown that listening to quiet music in the background can also help.

As you think about your successful future, you should also imagine what area you want to pursue a career in. I would strongly recommend that you try to take an internship in a field that you are considering. You will obtain real-world practical experience that can only help you. Speak to your internship coordinator and see if you can find something that will work for you here.

You should also try to get involved in your school. Join a team or a club to gain some experience in a field that is of interest to you. Think of things that you like to do and find the club on campus that correlates to that interest.

You have to realize that with a college education, you are investing in yourself; and I can think of no better investment you can make. The people who are most successful in life understand this and are self-motivated with a passion to make their lives better. So let's stay focused and incorporate some of the above-mentioned steps into your successful school year. You can do this and be successful!

John DeSpagna is Chair of the Accounting and Business Administration Department at Nassau Community College in Garden City, New York.



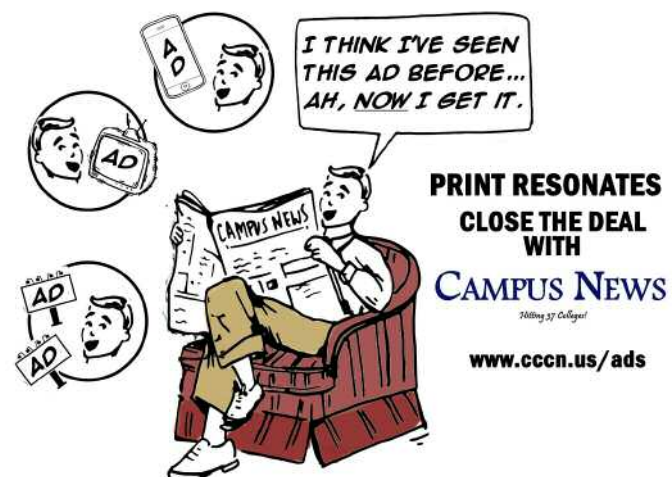
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On becoming an adjunct instructor...

Jonathan Lopes
Campus News

Becoming a professor was a wish list item versus a bucket list item. I see bucket list more as things you'll eventually attempt, if not complete. Whereas wish list are just that — wishes because they aren't realistic.

Serving as an adjunct professor almost didn't happen twice. I was offered a spot without an application or interview. I know, that is rare. I was driving home one night after an MA class during my last semester before graduation and an old professor/mentor called me. She mentioned a slot was open and she was in real need to fill asap. She thought of me because of my prior affiliation with the school as well as resume. I just kept saying, "Yes! Yes! Yes!" I was stunned and inarticulate, not a great look for an aspiring professor. She chuckled though and mentioned her details about the class and hiring paperwork. I told her I was 6 weeks away from graduating with my MA and actually didn't finish yet. She then stated I would be ineligible, but she would keep me in consideration for the following academic year. I continued driving home reflecting on what should've been

a typical day, yet I was inches from the proverbial brass ring.

Fast forward 6 months and she invited me as well as others to an adjunct open house for interested candidates. There was no need, but I brought in my resume, references and wore a Justin Timberlake like inspired suit and tie. I wanted this and was willing to make whatever impression necessary. She and two of her colleagues presented for 70 minutes on the class, detailed the application and interview process as well as which sections were even open to begin with. I listened, took notes, asked a few questions and applied that day. I had an interview, which wasn't guaranteed, two weeks later. I poured my

heart out when answering certain questions since I wasn't the traditional candidate. I had no direct teaching experience and knew the in-

terviewer. She informally offered me a position before the call ended and even mentioned something along the lines of, "I already had made my mind up about hiring you and wanted to do this to see if you'd prove me right." The official offer was given via email two weeks later.



Technically, when an adjunct professor hired, it only sticks if the class section fills up with a certain number of students. Otherwise, it isn't cost effective for the school to run the course. A few classes were in danger of being cut due to poor enrollment. Mine was specifically on the line because it was a Thursday 7 a.m. class. One week before the deadline, after months of worry and many texts and emails to supervisors on my potential fate, my class was confirmed.

Teaching at a school I once attended is surreal. It is the truly clichéd experience of coming full circle. As someone with a never-ending baby face, most think I should be sitting next to them as opposed to standing in front facilitating discussions. Quality educators of all levels, K-12 and college, make it look easy and this possibly causes a disservice. "Oh, it doesn't look hard. I could do that." People say versions of that statement a lot. Most people can't public speak. Try doing it for 90 minutes on a topic you are knowledgeable and confident in while using various mediums to engage others. It is tricky. I am still learning. Whether it is case studies, videos, textbooks, or even the

seating arrangements, many factors are in play for a successful weekly class. By the way, we have homework too. I am grading yours and trying to prepare to make sure the next class doesn't suck. Yeah, I said it.

This is my first attempt at

'This was on my wish list. I applied and poured my heart out.'

teaching and there will be growing pains. I enjoy the process. Students hold so much potential, yet many are either lazy and/or simply unaware of how to become polished.

Jonathan Lopes is a first-generation US citizen and college graduate with AA, BA, and MA degrees. He has worked at Raritan Valley Community College and Lafayette College, where he is now an adjunct instructor. Do you have a question for our adjunct-in-residence? Write adjunct@cccn.us.



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Regional NJCAA sports roundup

Peter Briguglio

Campus News

Classes have begun, and that means the onset of another NJCAA Region XV athletic season is upon us. Student-athletes excelling in soccer, football, cross country and volleyball will all vie for national recognition this fall, and many of the Region's top teams appear poised to repeat as champions in 2017.

This year, the Region welcomes new student-athletes as Monroe College's Bronx campus will be fielding a stand-alone Division III athletic program for the first time. The new team will be called the Monroe Express and will compete in women's volleyball, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's basketball, and baseball.

Looking back, in Division III Men's Soccer last year, Nassau and Suffolk represented Region 15 in the Championship. The Lions repeated with a 2-1 victory over Suffolk, propelling them to Nationals where they were defeated in the quarterfi-

Nassau and Suffolk restore rivalries; Monroe prospers

nals.

It was a similar result on the women's side, with Nassau eclipsing Suffolk after a scoreless tie during regulation. Nassau won the Region on penalty kicks and then knocked off Holyoke in the District finals in a double-overtime thriller to reach the NJCAA tournament yet again. The Lion women also saw their season end in the national quarterfinals at the hands of Montgomery.

As these two schools have met in the Region XV finals for three straight years on the women's side and four straight on the men's side, one would have to assume they'll be the teams to beat once again in 2017. Nassau and Suffolk rank fifth and seventh, respectively, in the DIII men's preseason rankings while the Nassau women just cracked the top 10 in ninth place.

In Division I action, Monroe made a run through the Region and District Tournaments last year, earning the #2 seed at the 2016 NJCAA Tournament. Their magical run saw them lead Pool C and advance all the way to the title game against Tyler. The Championship saw two undefeated teams play a tightly contested game, but ultimately Monroe came up just shy. With two consecutive National appearances, the Mustangs are again poised to be the class of Region XV Soccer this season as they ranked #2 in the sport's preseason ranking.

The Monroe women are ranked #8 in the nation's preseason poll following a season that ended without an NJCAA appearance, while the ASA Avengers checked in at #15.

Women's volleyball is the only fall Region sport where schools compete in all three divisions. In Division I last year, Monroe made a nationals appearance but bowed out of the tournament early. They enter as the favorites in 2017 following a top-25 preseason nod.

Ulster, the Region's only Division II competitor, will look for improvement following a 12-9 record a season ago.

Division III had the most success in 2016 with Queensborough qualifying for their first national tournament ever. Despite a 7th place finish, head coach Jason Demas' teams have

improved every season since his takeover, and the Lady Tigers are no doubt the favorites heading into 2017. Usual Region XV power FIT has hired new coach Deborah Hong, who hopes to overthrow Queensborough from their one-year reign, while last year's runner up Suffolk has vengeance on their mind this season.

It was a down year for Region XV Cross Country and Football. In both men's and women's cross country, perennial favorites Queensborough, Suffolk, and

Monroe are looking to restore their programs toward national contention. No Region XV football program reached a bowl game last year, and heading into 2017 the field is wide open as Nassau, ASA, and Monroe do not appear on the preseason rankings.

The regular season action has already begun, and games will continue through September with Region XV tournaments kicking off in mid-to-late October.

WCC hoops to return

Westchester Community College has announced the return of its men's and women's basketball teams with the new seasons beginning later this year.

New coaches have been hired and were introduced at a press conference on July 26 on the college's Valhalla campus. A national search attracted more than two hundred highly qualified applicants including former professional basketball players and highly touted coaches from a variety of competitive levels. Sean Kelly has been named the men's coach and NESTA Felix has been tabbed as the women's coach.

"This promises to be an enriching experience for many of our students, not only those who will field the teams," says Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President, Westchester Community College. "The student athletes will have an opportunity to showcase their skills on the court, while their fellow students will be able to show their enthusiasm and exhibit school spirit during the upcoming season. This will truly enhance the overall college experience for all."

"I am pleased to be able to announce that basketball is returning to Westchester Community College," says the college's Athletic Director Mike Belfiore. "We have begun to recruit players for both teams and look forward to the fall when our student-athletes will again be able to compete against other institutions in the region."



College troupe mocks Campus News (and we're okay with it) (cont.)

Brandon Lorick and Keith Millender, of Charleston Southern University in South Carolina. The players are students and alumni and also include Jordan Rudd, Ariel Ruff and Josh Kerr.

The troupe hopes to perform some TMZ-style vignettes this semester

based on Campus News student paper.

"We're taking journalism education to a hilarious new level," Campus News publisher Darren Johnson said. "This troupe has a lot of talent, and we look forward to working with them this year."

In stories posted thus far, "Questions With Cindy" mimics a newspaper advice column. A reader writes in, wondering how she can determine if her

boyfriend is a serial killer.

"Chief editor" Tom Levine – like Campus News, the newspaper – tries to dispense "useful" advice for students. For example, straight-faced, he advises students to "go to class" and "do assignments" to achieve success.

(Yes, we admit that occasionally our advice is, "Duh!" to some.)

In any case, Campus News is happy to pursue this partnership. *More entertainment to come, after a word from our sponsors...*



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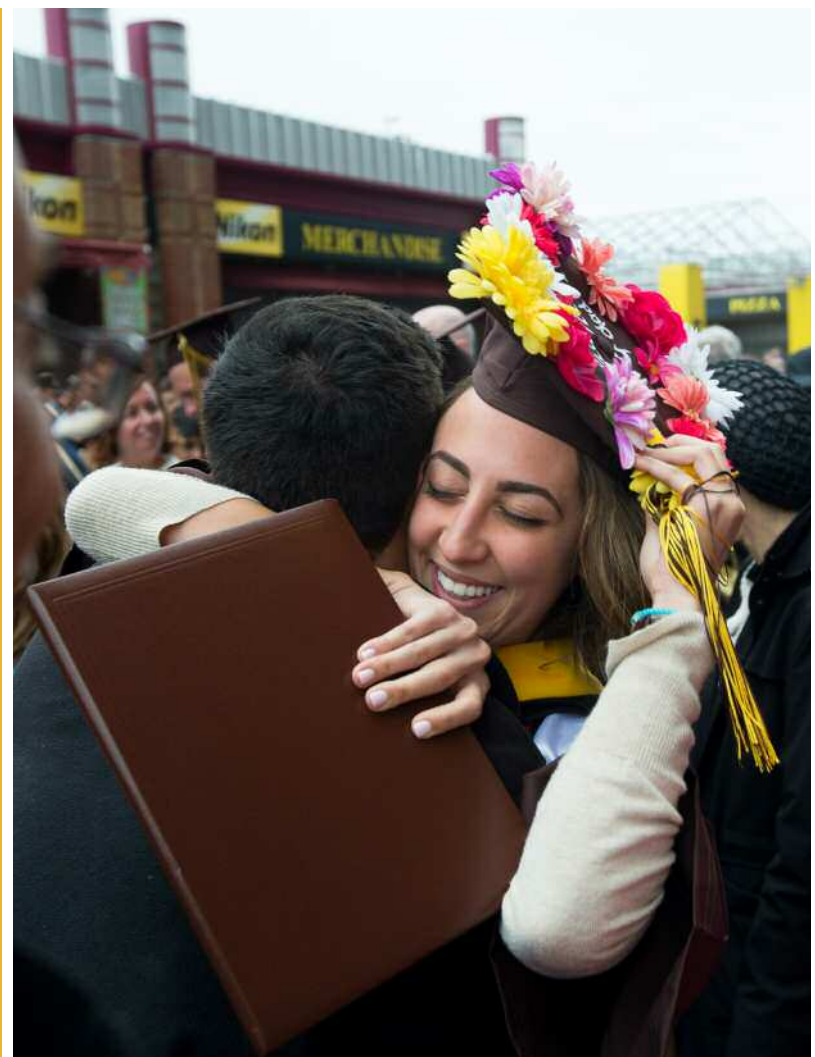
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St. Joseph's offers two locations; aims to make transfer 'seamless'

Laura LaVacca
Campus News

With a large transfer population, St. Joseph's College welcomes students coming from other colleges with open arms. SJC is a transfer-friendly institution with about half of new students enrolling from other colleges. With two campuses, located on Long Island and in Brooklyn, students can choose to commute or dorm. Dorming is available at the Brooklyn campus. With classes having ratios of 15:1 and the wide range of undergraduate majors and minors, master's degrees and certificate programs, St. Joseph's is a great place to find a major that suits any student. There are online courses, dual degree programs and study-abroad opportunities.

Transfers are attracted to SJC's flexible credit policies, affordable tuition, and strong academics. Vice President for Enrollment Management Gigi Lamens acknowledges that the campus "recognizes that transfer students bring valuable learning experiences with them to our campus community and they enrich our student body."

Lamens explains that SJC strives to "keep the transfer process as seamless as possible." For example, students may apply online and use our online transfer credit system to review how their credits will transfer to SJC. Therefore, students have a leg up on knowing which classes are accepted and which they will have to enroll in. Furthermore, staff are always around to help with any issues that arise throughout the admissions and financial aid processes. Lamens also encourages students to visit the campus and meet one on one with counselors "to plan the

pathway to their degree."

A plethora of information about the process is available on their website. For example, SJC Brooklyn will accept up to 64 credits from a regionally accredited two-year school, and up to 90 credits from a regionally accredited four-year school. They will also accept comparable courses in which a grade of C- or higher was earned but some courses require a higher grade point and students should inquire further about specific subjects.

There are also quite a few special programs for transfer students. All new transfer students take a one semester class called SJC 200 which is designed to facilitate a smooth transition. This course introduces students "to the mission and goals of St. Joseph's College," Lamens continues. "Addi-

'SJC has the highest graduation rate on Long Island.'

tionally students explore learning and research skills, opportunities for campus and community involvement, and the nature of the liberal arts as envisioned by SJC."

Transfer students are also offered the opportunity to enroll in dual BS/MS, BA/MA and other combined programs.

They also have a special honors program in place — "in fact, former Congressman Tim Bish-ops teaches one of the honors

courses," Lamens proudly shares. As per their website, selected students will take courses with dynamic faculty, and have the opportunity to travel both abroad and in the United States. They will develop skills to help them excel in graduate school and their future careers.

Lamens wants prospective students to know that there are a multitude of reasons to consider SJC. "SJC has the highest graduation rate of any college on Long Island — public or private." Contributing to this could be the small class sizes and the mentoring relationships that exist between professors and students. All classes are taught by professors, "never a graduate or teaching assistant," she emphasizes. SJC strives to offer a full college experience both in and out of the classroom from student activities, to community service opportunities to athletics — even internships.

"Our focus is, and always has been, on student success and achievement, which is why our

graduation rate is so high and why our graduates are successful in gaining employment and obtaining entry into graduate and professional schools."

The campus has also won many awards. In addition to being ranked by U.S. News & World Report and Forbes as one of the nation's best colleges to offer affordable tuition, expert faculty, programs and small classes, the Washington Monthly ranked SJC in the top 10 of their "Best Bang for the Buck" colleges in the Northeast. Military Times and GI Jobs Magazine recently listed the college as a Best for Vets and US News rated their online programs among the best for 2017.

Changes to the campus are on the horizon with residence halls planned for Fall 2018 as well as new nursing labs opening in the fall of 2017. A new student center was just completed.

For more information, check out St. Joseph's website www.sjcny.edu or connect with them on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube.



I felt a bit guilty after requesting press passes to visit SeaWorld

Kaylee Johnson
Campus News

When I told a lady in line for the bus at Disney World that I was planning on going to SeaWorld, her jaw dropped and she began to list all of the reasons I should not support such a terrible corporation. This was not the first time I was attacked while talking about going to SeaWorld, so eventually I stopped. I will admit that I am a hypocrite. A few years ago I posted anti-SeaWorld material on my social media accounts and signed petitions to improve the conditions of the aquarium. I still consider myself an avid animal activist, and that is why it confused people that someone like me would ever give SeaWorld the time of day.

I wanted to write a review of SeaWorld Orlando, I thought that the “improvements” to the whale enclosures would be more extreme and it was my way of justifying something I knew was wrong. My first complaint about SeaWorld is their prices; it is outrageous that they are charging one hundred dollars per person to look at tamed sea-life. For the two miserable hours that I walked around SeaWorld not once did I feel good about being in a place that continually endangers and mistreats wild animals. I received two press passes, therefore we only had to pay for one person in our party. I was shocked by the lack of attractions in SeaWorld. I suppose I have been spoiled with the Bronx Zoo and The New York Aquarium, both of which are very humane to their animals.

I had a lot of emotions being in a place that I so passionately disowned. Those emotions mainly consisted of immense

guilt. I was holding back tears as I watched the whales fly out of a compact pool and act like circus dogs for food. I felt a humiliated for the whales and myself. There was a moment where I sat on the bleachers in Shamu Stadium and questioned why I was there. I regret going for a couple reasons, number one being that I supported animal abuse by giving the SeaWorld Corporation my time, number two being the aquarium was mediocre, The New York Aquarium provides a much more enriching experience, and for a portion of the price.

Before the orca show called “One Ocean” videos appeared over the pool that kept empha-



sizing that the show was made to be more natural than prior orca performances. There is nothing natural about orcas rolling over for food. I had spent a few days in Disney World before visiting SeaWorld, so I noticed the drastic differences between Disney’s cast members and SeaWorld’s miserable workers. I don’t expect middle aged people standing in Florida’s sweltering heart, all while earning minimum wage, to be overly charismatic, but I was snapped at a couple of times, and in



twenty visits to Disney Parks I never had a bad experience with a cast member.

I suppose the whole point of this article is to warn readers about SeaWorld by letting them know about my negative experience. I may be a millennial hipster, but I believe it is unethical to attend such a dishonorable establishment. SeaWorld may believe they are invincible, but once all of their whales pass away they will either go out of business or lower their prices. My heart hurts for the whales with the collapsed dorsal fins and the dolphins that were promised a release date that never came. I consider myself lucky that I live in the Northeast, where I live near wonderful zoos and aquariums, which make it their first priority to treat their animals with the upmost dignity and humanity.

So, I’m a hypocrite, but if I learned anything from my awful

experience at SeaWorld Orlando it’s to follow your gut, if it doesn’t feel right then don’t do it. It’s hard to pinpoint the exact feelings that fell from my storm cloud that day and drenched me in shame, if there is one thing I know for sure it’s that I know I’m never going back. When I looked into the animals eyes at

‘There is nothing natural about orcas rolling over for food.’

SeaWorld I saw my dog, who lies at my feet at night and wags her tail when I arrive home. My dog is also a free spirit, she enjoys rolling in the dirt on nature walks and wading in the Hudson River. These animals have a pool instead of the fathomless ocean, and they will never be able to wander the sea like my dog and I wander the forest. My suggestion is to continue to advocate and be outspoken, that’s the only way to encourage positive changes.

Beware ancestry DNA companies

Dr. Deborah C. Peel
Special to Campus News

Millions of Americans are using home DNA testing kits to discover their ancestry or uncover their risk of developing certain diseases. Unbeknownst to them, testing companies are selling or giving away the personal genetic information gleaned from these kits.

This information, though theoretically anonymous, can easily be traced back to specific individuals. In the wrong hands, it could be used to discriminate against or even persecute law-abiding citizens. Patients deserve stronger protections to prevent such abuse.

Genetic testing companies bury disclosures about data sharing in their user agreement forms.

Invitae is a particularly egregious offender. The firm's consent form promises patients that their sensitive genetic information "will NOT be used in FOR PROFIT research." But the form conveniently fails to mention

that Invitae donates the data to the ClinVar public database — where it and other companies can use the information to profit.

Companies say they strip genetic test results of personally identifiable information before they share it. Indeed, they're required to do so by the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. People's names, addresses, and other identifying details cannot be included in the shared files. Sounds good, but it doesn't work like that.

The scrubbed files still aren't anonymous — not by a long shot. With today's technology, tracing a genetic sample back to a specific patient takes little more than some Google searching. A scientist at MIT recently took five randomly selected genetic samples and identified the donors in just a few hours. He even identified nearly 50 of their family members.

Employers and insurance companies could use this power for nefarious purposes. If an employer knew a job applicant had

a health condition that would make him likely to miss work, would the firm extend an offer? In a post-Affordable Care Act world, would insurance companies sell a policy to someone at high risk of cancer?

Federal laws have attempted — and failed — to address such hidden corporate discrimination. Under the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2009, employers and health insurance providers are not allowed to discriminate against people based on their genetic information unless it happens to already be part of their electronic medical records.

GINA is riddled with loopholes. It doesn't cover disability or life insurance, or protect people serving in the military. It also doesn't apply to small businesses.

Even these feeble protections are under assault. The Preserving Employee Wellness Programs Act, a proposed bill under consideration in Congress, would allow employers to penalize workers and their families who

don't submit to genetic tests.

For a solution, policy makers could look to Europe. The EU's new General Data Protection Regulation ensures individuals have the right to control personal information and imposes severe penalties on corporations that violate patients' privacy.

Our genetic code is a treasure trove of identifiable personal information. When testing companies make it readily available to outsiders without patients' knowledge or meaningful informed consent, they expose them to a host of threats. To prevent rampant discrimination patients need far stronger protections for their genetic information.

Deborah C. Peel, MD, is founder and president of Patient Privacy Rights, a non-profit human and civil rights organization.



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‘Dunkirk’ from a Directioner’s POV

Kaylee Johnson
Campus News

When I was a freshman in high school I went to a Big Time Rush concert at a local theater. I decorated a tank top the night before with neon paints and burned my hair with my straightener. What I really remembered from that concert was the opening act, a young group of boys named One Direction that swept me off my feet. After that night I bought their albums, attended their concerts, hung their posters on my walls, and tweeted them how much I loved them. I am nineteen now and to be honest I created a new Twitter account because I was so embarrassed about my borderline obsessive tweets about 1D.

Today I watched “Dunkirk,” as a 1D Harry Styles fan. I still enjoy listening to his music and watching him in interviews, but I am not the same crazed super fan I was half a decade ago. “Dunkirk” does not have a clear plot, but it definitely told a story that many may not have known about before entering the movie theater. There was no wasted dialogue throughout the movie; words weren’t needed in many scenes because viewers could see

the color leaving the soldiers’ faces when they heard bombs explode and the look of dread as many drowned or nearly drowned to death. The movie was incredibly moving and well made. I did not recognize any of the actors, except Styles, of course, but I found them to be gifted in a way I had not seen in a while. They simply worked well together; they expressed emotion that appeared so authentic that I often found myself flooded with fear, despair, and anxiety during the movie.

Styles’ character in “Dunkirk” is extremely bold and heroic. He did a wonderful job portraying a character who was so different than the boy who sung “Little Things” and “Best Song Ever.” He may never act again, but I think he should because he evidently has the looks and the talent to make it as a famous actor. I believe he took this role to break out of that boy band typecast and show the world that he is not seventeen anymore. He made an appearance on “iCarly” many years ago, but I cannot recall seeing him acting since then, except in an “SNL” skit where he played Mick Jagger. When 1D broke up, my heart took a beating. Styles became a large suc-

cess, and Niall Horan is surely working his way up the ladder, but the rest of the guys are stuck under the radar. Louis Tomlinson and Liam Payne are fathers and Zayn Malik is dating Gigi Hadid. “Dunkirk” was like a coming of age celebration for Styles.

In this era it is hard to find good, authentic action in war movies. Everything in “Dunkirk” was true to its time — a retelling of the British evacuation of France early in WWII. Without this evacuation of over 300,000 men, Britain would have had trouble regrouping and eventually helping defeat Germany with the Allies. Also interesting is how private British yachtsmen and fishermen also crossed the Channel to help with the evacuation. This is an important subplot of the film.

The wardrobe, weapons, and Spitfire planes acted as a time machine; these elements contributed to the beautifully



Harry Styles, left

poignant recreation that was “Dunkirk.” I would recommend doing a little bit of research on the Battle of Dunkirk before you buy your movie tickets. I hope to see some of these actors in upcoming major motion pictures.

Sometimes I leave the movie theater wondering why I paid ten dollars for a ticket and an additional ten dollars for popcorn and water. Today I did not feel that way; instead I felt as if I left the movie with new knowledge and a heavy heart. It is seldom that a movie moves me as much as Dunkirk did. It takes good, quality acting, experienced directors, and authenticity to create such a memorable movie. I have a feeling this movie will be adored by people of all ages for decades.

Human services instructor

Herkimer College appointed Grace V. Ashline of New York Mills, NY, to the position of instructor of human services. Ashline will teach human services courses on-campus and online.

Ashline was an adjunct instructor at Mohawk Valley Community College. She also served as an MCP (mentoring children of prisoners) Coordinator and Support Counselor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region; Masters of Social

Work intern at Ellis’ Community Day Treatment Program, Schenectady, NY; prevention supervisor at Community Maternity Services, Albany, NY; and director at The Youth Advocate Program, Albany & Schenectady County, NY.

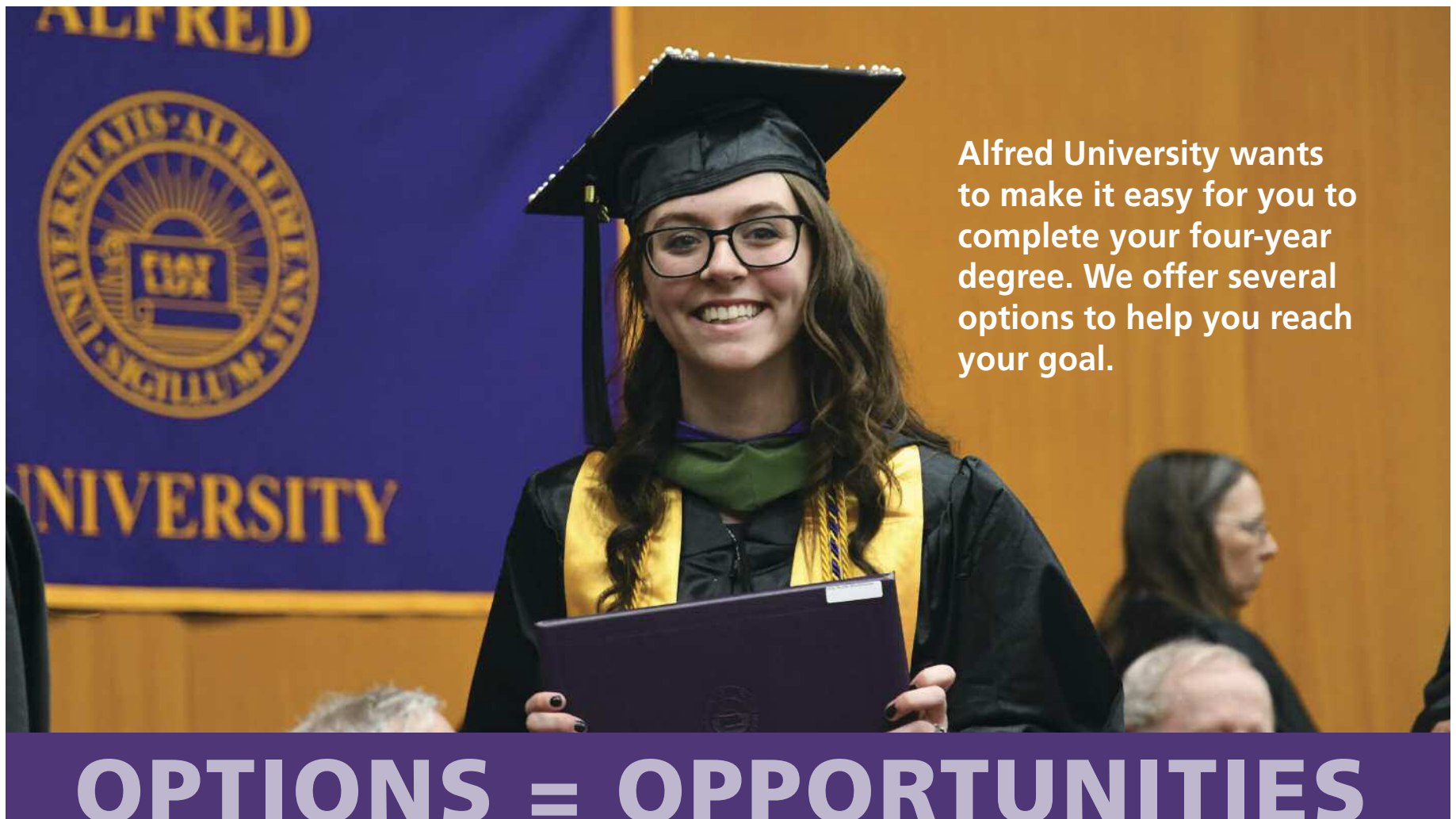
She is founder of youth support groups at YAP, Inc., chairperson for the Single Point of ACCESS Committee, and founder of the Resurrected Together initiative to honor

women and mothers through adversity. Ashline holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology/criminal justice from SUNY Albany and a Master of Social Work, clinical concentration, magna cum laude, from SUNY Albany. She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers.

Herkimer College’s Human Services curriculum is designed to prepare students for a careers as case managers, social work



assistants, family advocates, and residential counselors. Transfer opportunities are available with several four-year institutions.



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SCCC faculty protest Trump visit

Suffolk County Community College students and faculty have condemned a speech delivered on campus by President Donald Trump that demonized immigrants and traduced the values of a school dedicated to helping a diverse student body transform their lives.

At a community protest outside the speech venue on July 28, attended by hundreds of students and faculty, participants highlighted the contradiction between the values of a school rooted in unity and opportunity for all, and Trump's message of division and distrust.

The Faculty Association of Suffolk Community College joined the Long Island Progressive Coalition, the Long Island Federation of Labor, New York State United Teachers, United

University Professions, the Professional Staff Congress and the community, to stand united in solidarity against Trump.

FASCC President Kevin Pterman said: "This speech is a slap in the face to our diverse student body, who come to Suffolk to transform their lives. Rather than speaking for the working people he pretends to represent, President Trump instead decided to further an offensive and divisive political agenda. The students at Suffolk, many who work two part-time jobs and have a full load of classes, and the professors who teach them, are raising their voices to say that Donald Trump's hateful rhetoric has no place on campus."

AFT President Randi Weingarten said: "I was privileged to

be honored by Suffolk Community College this year, and I know firsthand that the president's noxious speech stands in direct contradiction to the values that Suffolk Community College students and faculty hold dear—that no matter who you are, no matter where you come from, you deserve the opportunity to learn and succeed. And when our students succeed, America succeeds.

"Rather than standing up for working people, Donald Trump used a college campus today to peddle the worse kind of divisive dog-whistle politics to further divide an already divided nation. Long before Trump became president, many of us worked on successfully attacking gang violence—and it doesn't take a wall

and it doesn't take defaming immigrants. And rather than investing in our students' future, the Trump administration has slashed education funding to the bone. The AFT stands united with the Suffolk students and greater community to fight for our values of justice and opportunity, to fight for our students' safety and well-being, and to confront the hateful rhetoric we heard today."



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Maidens and Squires Make for a Nerd-Fest at the Renaissance Faire

Dave Paone
Campus News

Princesses and wenches. Knights and knaves. Damsels and jesters. It's the time of the year they all descend upon Tuxedo Park in New York. It's the Renaissance Faire.

While it may not be as nerdy as Comic-Con or a Star Trek convention, the Renaissance Faire attracts its own category of geeks, some of whom are full-time college students.

One such student is 26 year-old Caroline Lenz, an art history major at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Caroline is one of the hundreds of actors employed at the Faire each season, who perform in costume and take on personas.

Caroline plays Viscountess Lætitia Hereford, in service to Her Majesty The Queen. She's also The Queen's cousin and Lady of the Privy chamber.

This is Caroline's third summer working the Faire, and she has no reservations accepting both its and her own nerdiness.

"My parents were scientists, so I have always had a streak of nerd within me," she said. "I

grew up watching 'Star Wars' and 'Star Trek' and when I was a teenager my father introduced me to 'Doctor Who.' And I've always loved history, so this was a clear beacon of light for me. I suppose nerdiness has always been in my blood. I never shunned it."

In addition to the Faire, Caroline has gone to Comic-Con every year for the past five years, with her two regular costumes being Black Canary and a "Star Trek" science officer's tunic.

Now here's the shocker: Caroline was a cheerleader in high school.

Yes, this Renaissance Faire-working, Comic-Con-cosplaying nerd was at the top of the social pyramid in high school.

However, she maintains she wasn't as cool as one might think. "I was never what you would call popular," she said, and participated in cheer "mostly for the athleticism."

For her, the Renaissance Faire is where she belongs.

"In describing the camaraderie to my stepmother my first year, she said, 'Oh, you found your tribe!' and I realized, yes, that is exactly what I have done... I have found a family."

Let's call it a blended family.

Caroline met the fellow cast member who would soon become her fiancé at the first rehearsal on the first day of work three years ago. "We fell in love very shortly afterwards," she said.

Joe Di Donato has

a similar story. Joe is a sophomore at Ramapo College in New Jersey and is working his second year at the Faire in the hospitality department. He wears a peasant costume but also carries a walkie-talkie.

Joe cosplays at conventions throughout the year, with the New York Comic-Con as his favorite. He foam-fabricates his own superhero costumes, including Batman and Ironman.

Another shocker: Joe played football in high school. And track.

Another Renaissance Faire-working, Comic-Con-cosplaying nerd was a wide receiver and a defensive cornerback as well as a varsity relay anchor.

That means Joe ran with two crowds in high school: the popular jocks and the unpopular nerds.

"I don't look at it as one's on top of the other; I just look at it as they're two different kinds of people. They're both equal but I'm definitely a mix," said Joe.

Even the general public is encouraged to attend in costume. (Not that nerds need an incentive to cosplay.) If you just don't have the time to design and tailor your own Renaissance costume, the Faire has some you can rent for the day.

At age 17, Brooke Simone was dragged to her first Renaissance Faire. She went with her boyfriend, 17 year-old Sam



It's the third year working the Faire for 18 year-old maiden Annie Voss, a freshman at Rockland Community College. Photos by Dave Paone.

Copeland, along with his parents and two older sisters.

Sam's parents had run the Kansas City Renaissance Faire for many years and Sam and his sisters had been attending them all their lives. His parents forced Brooke into attending in full costume or they weren't going to take her. She went kicking and screaming.

"I felt really ridiculous," she said, "but 10 minutes after being here I was having the best time of my life." A year later she was getting paid to be at the Faire in costume and has worked each season since.

Brooke, a 21 year-old student at Suffolk County Community College, plays Rosemary Thyme, the Shire Herbalist and Sam, a 22 year-old student at Nassau Community College, plays Auric

continued on next page



While you can't get any mutton, you can get a sausage on a stick.

(cont.)

Deslagge, the Alchemist.

Both reside on Long Island so the Orange County fairgrounds are a long way off. They spend Friday and Saturday nights in on-sight tents, camping with the rest of the cast who don't live locally.

The couple's association with Renaissance Faires won't end in a few years, as it will for others. They're considering making the national Renaissance Faire circuit their full-time professions.

The New York Faire is celebrating its 40th season this year, so one might argue that

the Renaissance Faire is the original home for cosplay.

"It's definitely dressing up and it's definitely pretending to be someone you're not, someone from a different time," said Joseph, but he maintains it's different from cosplay, which has to do more with characters from movies, comics and TV shows.

Skyler Wulfson, a sophomore at the University of Hartford, found a way to parlay his time at the Faire to his academic and financial advantage.

Skyler interned with Deborah Grosmark, the Faire's staff photographer, for his junior and senior years in high school.

During that time he built a portfolio of photographs, most of which were shot at the Faire, which enabled him to pursue

photography as his major in college. Additionally, he received an \$84,000 merit-based scholarship because of that portfolio.

The common thread that runs through the tapestry of Renaissance Faire lovers is that at some point they've all embraced their nerdiness and have found the Faire the perfect venue in which to revel in that nerdiness.

"This is my core group of friends," said Caroline. "One of my dearest friends in the world actually is The Queen, and I stay in touch with her all year."

"This is probably the least judgmental place in the world," said Joe. "It's my favorite place to be. It's just a fantastic place



Brooke Simone of SCCC and Sam Copeland of NCC consider making Renaissance Faires a full-time career.

to escape and to get away."

"I make no secret of who I am," said Caroline.

It's no secret. She's a nerd.

If you go...

If you'd like to get your geek on, the Renaissance Faire runs weekends through October 1. Visit www.renfair.com/ny/ for tickets.

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Entrepreneurship 101:

Knowing your business plans and model

Prof. Steven Levine
Campus News

In the last article, I discussed some of the key attributes that define the Entrepreneur. After reading the last article, you perhaps began to realize that you actually have what it takes. That idea that you had about that earth-shattering new product concept, could actually happen. But how?

You have heard about the *business model*, watched “Shark Tank,” and read about the *business plan*, but are they all pretty much based on the same idea? The answer is “NO.” Here is the difference: The business model can be defined very simply as how the business is actually going to make a profit. As an example, suppose you came up with an idea for a new app for your phone. You discussed the app with your friends, and they were very excited about it, but the real question is: how are you going to make any money? Having contacts, networking, and getting people to actually want this app, is wonderful, but if you can’t make any money, your business will die very quickly. A

very real example of this was Facebook. When Facebook went public a few years ago, everybody

wanted to buy shares in the company. In response, the stock surged in value when it was introduced. Then investors started to ask that basic question: How are you going to make money? The share price dropped until Facebook solved that issue.

Now, we come to the business plan. Not only is this the docu-

ment that you create, to see if your business is viable, but if created properly, this will serve as your blueprint that will help make your business sustainable. The business plan is a living document. It is not something that you spent time on, and now that your business is up and running, you put in your desk drawer; rather it will be revised to reflect the dynamic environment that your business operates in. There are many sources that will help you create a business plan. There are templates that you can use, and articles that you can download, as well as usually constituting a major piece in a Marketing, or Introduction to Business course. Let’s start to speak about some of the basic building blocks for this plan.

The first piece that we should tackle is the Mission Statement. This is the glue, the unifying force that keeps the other items working in harmony with each other. The mission statement is a declaration of the reason that the business exists. What is its’ purpose? It should be specific enough to communicate this to

‘You must think about the thing that differentiates your product or business.’

the investors and the customers, but general enough, so that if the business decided to embark in a new direction, it would still be true to its mission statement. As an illustration of this, if you were to research McDonald’s mission statement, you would see that it says nothing about burgers. Why? Because if they decided to sell salads, vegan



fare, or anything that might attract customers, they would still be true to their mission statement.

You have spent many hours trying to come up with the mission statement that satisfies the purpose of your business, but now you have other issues to deal with. Even if your idea is truly earth-shattering, you have to investigate your competitive landscape. Are there businesses or products that are similar to yours? If so why would a customer purchase yours? You must start to think about the thing that differentiates your product or business from your competitors’. Price is not the way to do it, since you must always realize that if you start to take business from a competitor, one of the first strategies they will use is to drop their price. As a new business, trying to establish a foothold, and become profitable, you never engage in a price war.

Now comes questions: Who are your customers? How will you define them? Where will your product be sold? Usually the standard response to this is, “I will sell to everybody.” If everybody is your focus, you will sell to nobody, since customers have defining characteristics, and it is up to you to be very specific and focused in order to discover these. More about this in the next issue.

Steven Levine teaches Accounting and Business at Nassau Community College. He has an MBA from Baruch and has owned his own business and worked for Charles Pfizer and Mobil Oil, as well as very large electrical distribution firms.



Being an older community college student

Purnasree Saha
Campus News

Community colleges are a haven for many older students, with flexible schedules and a wide spread of academic offerings. According to the article “Adult Friendly Degree Programs” on the Community College Review website (www.communitycollegereview.com) the job market appears to be evolving at a rapid-fire pace in recent years, as the Great Recession has caused a shift and even nearly a complete disappearance of many industries. This evolution then caused many adult workers to go back to school and find a new career, which is more stable for them.

Individuals are able to expand on their skills at a later stage in life, or pursue new interests that may vault them into a career or a job. Accounting, computer science, pharmacy technician, and business administration are the fields in which older students could find jobs easily. There are many hospitals, grocery stores, and drug stores that require Pharmacy Technicians and this involves giving service to patients and dispensing medication. When older students earn an associate’s degree in Accounting, they could become an accounting clerk or a bookkeeping clerk. Computer Science or technology is another option for

older students because they will be able to know about the ever-evolving technology field and find out about different career options. Business Administration reinforces older students’ work skills and then helps them move up to a managing position in human resources, accounting, and international business.

Based on an older student’s responsibility with their family, such as supporting or caring and working full-time, older students are capable of doing online programs. Online programs include business, dental studies,

‘They are able to expand on their skills at a later stage in life or pursue new interests.’

criminal justice, computer information technology, public administration, and teaching assistant.

The career-oriented aspect of these institutions is the big selling point: There may also be workforce training involved in the programs, with avenues for older students to volunteer in community or social services. But the jump back into education can be jarring as well. When some older students come back to study at community colleges, they could face serious barriers such as lack of computer skills, trouble recovering transcripts for admission needs,

placement exams, and applications for financial aid. Community colleges do provide computer training in cases, but overall, the experience can be daunting.

Before an older student enrolls in a community college, they should find out which school will cater best to their needs, educationally, vocationally, and lifestyle-wise. To do so, they should figure what they want to study and how many hours of classes they can and need to take to qualify for the job or career they want. Next, they should put in time researching college websites to learn what courses are offered, the admission requirements, and various semester schedules. Finally, if the choice seems good so far, students should visit the campus and then talk to advisors, counselors, and current enrollees who are familiar with the campus. Also, they should crunch the numbers and compare the total semester cost (tuition, fees, supplies) with their personal budget. If that number exceeds what they can pay, they should apply for financial aid or scholarships right away.

Various types of scholarships are offered for international, older students at community colleges. On February 2017, there was an Asian scholarship offered for students at Bergen Community College, which was sponsored by the Asian Heritage Committee. The main purpose of the Asian scholarship was to inspire creation through ethnicity and culture. There were no talents required for this scholarship because it was an art contest in which students presented a creative and artistic expression. There were three separate levels of recognition of this scholarship. The first-place winner was awarded \$300, sec-

ond place received \$200, and third place earned \$100. Older, international students at BCC were also capable of applying for scholarship on the Bergen Community College Foundation website. When applying for scholarship, the student had to fill out a general application with necessary skills and aptitudes.

Beyond all these logistics, there’s the matter of relocating. Out of Bergen’s populace, many of the older ranks earn their Bachelor’s or Master’s degrees internationally, and then come to the United States to continue their studies at a community college. Parveen Sultana is one of those far-traveling students; she earned her B.S. in Information Technology and Engineering from Bangladesh. “I want to earn an Associate’s degree in Math from Bergen Community College because it will help my career and to refresh my knowledge,” Sultana says. Outside of her coursework, she teaches high school students math at Huntington Learning Center part-time. Sultana doesn’t think she will continue on completing her Associate’s degree because she enjoys her work with Huntington, and wants to dedicate herself to being a one-on-one tutor. The courses that she’s taking at Bergen can be challenging, she says, but what’s even more tricky for her is juggling the time and responsibilities of studying, working, and tending to family. Still, Sultana says she’d recommend the experience to others. After working in a computer-related job for 10 years in Bangladesh, community college opened up new opportunities after she moved to the United States with her husband and two children.

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Study-abroad program heads to England

Westchester Community College's Cambridge Summer Study Abroad Program, an educational opportunity for Honors students is now in its 15th year. 170 students have been selected since 2003 to study for two weeks in July at the prestigious Cambridge University in England. This year's group of 13 students includes those studying Liberal Arts, Business, and Nursing.

Meeting with the faculty member teaching either Cambridge Studies in History (Honors), Cambridge Studies in Literature (Honors) or Cambridge Studies in Science in January, the students develop an individual learning plan of activities before, during, and after Cambridge.

During the spring semester, the students also participate in seminars to orient them to living and studying at Cambridge University. Competitive scholarships to help defray the cost of the program are provided by the Westchester Community College Foundation.

After flying from JFK airport in New York to Heathrow Airport in London, the students live in single rooms in one of the Colleges at Cambridge, taking their breakfast and dinner each day in the College Hall. In the living and dining facilities, as well as in their classes, the students will meet other students from all over the world who have come to study at Cambridge. The distinguished faculty for these courses and plenary lectures are from

Cambridge University, from other Universities in Britain, the Commonwealth, and the European continent.

During the two-week program, the students will learn about the customs, currency and culture of this foreign country.

Also, WCC Gets Funds

The Westchester Community College Foundation has received a \$100,000 grant from the Westchester Community Foundation to establish the James R. Johnston Scholarship Fund. The



donor, the late James R. Johnston, wished to ensure that youth had no barriers to graduating from a community college. Significant scholarships will be offered to financially needy full-time students at Westchester Community College. These awards will provide one-half the cost of tuition and an additional stipend to cover half the cost of textbooks.

9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



Top NJCAA golfer

Mohawk Valley Community College Men's golfer Dante Migliore was named the 2017 NJCAA Region III Male Athlete of the Year.

Migliore, a graduate of Frankfort High School, is a two-time NJCAA National Golf Tournament medalist and is only the second player in the history of the championships to accomplish such a feat. His four-day total this year was 282, 6 under par, only one shot off the all-time tournament record.

Migliore also is a two-time Region III medalist. He was the medalist in eight of nine regular season events. This year's scoring average of 69.66 is believed to be the lowest in Region III history, and his 65 at the Jamestown Invitational is believed to be the lowest round in Region III history. He has been the MVP for



Men's Golf for past two seasons at MVCC. Migliore also broke his last year's scoring average and college record of 73.22, with a new MVCC school record of 70.2.

"These achievements are attributed to Dante's dedication to strong practice and work ethic," said MVCC Head Golf Coach Ruth Weydig.

‘Last Chance U’ and the anti-hero

Darren Johnson
Campus News

It took “Last Chance U,” the Netflix docuseries embedded in one of the country’s top junior college football programs, only two seasons to do what it took other boss-driven dramas like “Dance Moms,” “Breaking Bad” and “The Sopranos” at least five seasons to do — give us a likeable tough person who transforms into a bullying anti-hero. Amazing work by directors Greg Whiteley and Adam Ridley!

“Last Chance U” takes us to backwater Scooba, Mississippi, and East Mississippi Community College (EMCC) where enterprising football coach Buddy Stephens has taken advantage of a loophole in NCAA rules — if a player leaves one NCAA college, for whatever reason, they cannot play for another NCAA college for at least one full year. The rule is in place so that players don’t go from team to team, but some players are let go for criminal or other behavioral issues, or bad grades.



So the best chance a banned NCAA player has to get back to the big time — and a shot at the pros — is to take that year and play at a decent community college, do well — both athletically and academically — and then hopefully be recruited by a new Division I NCAA college. Other players don’t have the minimum SAT scores to get into DI schools to begin with. They can go to a community college as freshmen to bypass the SAT requirement.

Stephens knows this desper-

ation — of mostly poor black youth — and uses that to fill his roster with some of the most talented castaways in the country. He constantly reminds them of the opportunity he is providing them.

Unlike HBO’s “Hard Knocks,” which is based on the NFL but has a similar theme, “Last Chance U” isn’t near-real-time. Season 1 was filmed in 2015 and released last year and Season 2 was filmed last year and was just uploaded this July. Each episode ends with a game, and it’s hard not to Google the outcomes beforehand. There will be a Season 3, but considering what transpired in Season 2, Whiteley and Ridley will move on to another junior college.

In Season 1, we find a relatively relatable Stephens, coming off of yet another national championship season, and we meet several likeable players, assistant coaches and an academic success advisor, Brittany Wagner, who is charged to make sure the players go to class and

do their assignments — a herculean task, considering how much these students rebel against academics, as easy as the classes seem to be at EMCC. She has to counsel these students on the basics many elementary school kids have already mastered and broker deals with their browbeaten professors.

Wagner becomes a breakout star in this series, and, by Season 2, she’s understandably disillusioned and burned out. As for Stephens, we realize — like Abby Lee Miller, Walter White and Tony Soprano — we’re not rooting for a hero but an anti-hero. A person who becomes a bully, using people for his own



gain. Miller, for example, recently was interviewed on television before her jail sentence for bankruptcy fraud, and revealed that she doesn’t keep in contact with any of her former students. Her “tough love” really had no love in it. It was just posturing and manipulation. The same went for Walter White when we find him turning on Mike and then Jesse. And in the final season of “The Sopranos,” we find Tony’s psychiatrist canning him when she finally realizes his going to her office was just narcissistic validation for his sociopathic behavior.

Hence, we find out that Stephens is much like these other TV anti-heroes. Former and current players are interviewed in Season 2 with no kind words to say. He doesn’t keep in touch with them. He forces out his defensive coach as well as his wonderful offensive coordinator, Marcus Wood, the coach who seemed to really relate to the players on a personal level, including bringing them to his house for bible study.

Season 1 ends with the coach losing control of his emotions and team, turning on them and calling them “thugs,” and the team having to forfeit their last game after a brawl when Stephens decided to call a time out so that he could further run up the score on a hapless team.

This brawl bleeds into Season 2, because EMCC is forced to play their first game with only 30 players, several of them out of position, due to the one-game disqualifications from the previous season. They lose that first game, and by the end of Season 2, the loss keeps them from being allowed to compete in the national championship game.

Season 2, during President Trump’s election year, also explores the white-black relationship between the town and the players (Stephens’ second-season team is virtually all black, compared to more of a mix in the first season; and he adds on some players with legal, disciplinary and behavioral issues). Particularly poignant is when the directors visit winless Coahoma Community College and a comparison can be drawn between a team with very limited resources and the football-proud EMCC, which pretty much runs like an NCAA DI program, with extensive game films, a stadium, band, cheerleaders, branded uniforms and buses, artificial turf and Ms. Wagner — and why do only football players get such an academic liaison — don’t non-athlete community college students need such academic coaching, too?

Lightweight Disney-inspired costumes

Kaylee Johnson
Campus News

I have appointed myself with a very prestigious title, Disney Parks Expert. I am also known as a “Disney drill sergeant,” but because of that perseverance I have never planned an un-magical vacation. In August I attended Mickey’s Not So Scary Halloween Party for the first time. Normally the Halloween Party’s days collide with my academic calendar, or I have another trip booked. This year Disney added a couple of August dates to the Halloween Party schedule, and by chance it was the same week we had booked our vacation.

After finding out I will be attending Mickey’s Not So Scary Halloween Party, the first thing I did was endlessly browse Pinterest in search for the most obscure and elaborate costume. All of these costumes had the same issues. If they were not overpriced, they only carried small sizes. Of course there were the ones that required hours of heavy duty DIY work. I have tried to DIY many things before, and I end up spending more money at the craft store to make a mediocre version of what I actually wanted than I would have if I ordered it online.

Somewhere along the line I came across a wonderful Etsy shop called KawaiianPizzaAp-

parel. I was in love with their lightweight and beautiful costumes. They were kind enough to send me a Belle costume to sample, and I was very pleased with the results. Throughout the whole process of picking a dress and shipping it, the shop owner, Alec Dale, was friendly and accommodating. The costume was better than anything I could find in retail stores, and it’s not over the top. I did not want a ball gown for the Halloween Party; it was going to be late August in Orlando, therefore I would be sweaty within ten minutes after leaving my air conditioned resort. The costume is lightweight, and the material it is made out of seems like a thicker version of the shirts that runners wear to absorb sweat. The dress I received costs about \$50, which is very affordable compared to some of the other costumes I was looking at online, and also considering how much work goes into making each dress or shirt.

It was very difficult for me to decide which costume I liked best. Any of them would surely turn heads at Mickey’s Not So Scary Halloween Party, but I wanted a costume that represented my personality. I chose Belle, because, like her, I am a reader, introvert, and, most of all, a dreamer. I did not want the typical Ariel costume that every twenty-something buys

from grungy stores like Hot Topic or Spencer’s. Kawaiian-PizzaApparel is also a wonderful shop to buy family costumes from. They have obscure costume shirts like Cogsworth, Lefou, and Lumiere.

Now, I’ve looked at pictures of brave hearted men and women who wore heavy costumes to Mickey’s Not So Scary Halloween Party, and wonder how they survived all night. I wanted to be able to move freely and ride on Splash Mountain without worrying if my hoop skirt is going to pop up just as we are falling down the mountain, although that would make a very interesting ride photo. Since I was going to stay up until midnight partying with my favorite mouse, I knew I needed something comfortable, yet festive. I was always the girl with a wardrobe full of Christmas sweaters, Halloween leggings and sparkly shamrock shirts.

KawaiianPizzaApparel is hardly a newbie; they are closing in on 5000 sales, which is extremely successful for an Etsy shop. They have also earned five-star reviews from their customers, who rave about the quality of the products. The shop is family run from Eureka, Calif. Their apparel can work as costumes, or Disney-bounding outfits. Every Disney lover has attempted to throw together an outfit that kind of resembled the



dress their favorite Disney character wore. The issue is that the outfits are usually unrealistic for a day in the unforgiving sun. Sure, they look good in photos, but they are not comfortable. It’s so much easier to have a dress that is comfortable, lightweight, and photogenic. I couldn’t wait to show off my charming Belle dress at Mickey’s Not So Scary Halloween Party.

I hope you have as much fun as I did browsing for the perfect Halloween costume from Kawaiian-PizzaApparel. Just don’t show up to the Halloween party wearing the same costume as me. That would be a catastrophe. Here’s a link to KawaiianPizzaApparel: www.etsy.com/shop/KawaiianPizzaApparel.

Federalism talk



On Tuesday, September 19, Dr. Stephen Schecter, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Council for Citizenship Education at Russell Sage College will deliver the Fall Katt Institute Lecture at SUNY Ulster. The title of his lecture will be “American Federalism Today: Constitutional Principle or Po-

litical Pawn?” Schecter’s will speak at 7 p.m. in the College Lounge, 203 Vanderlyn Hall, Stone Ridge Campus.

The textbook definition of federalism is a system that divides and shares powers between federal and state governments. But federalism is more than that. It is a philosophy not just of governments but of relationships and organizations. The Framers

of the Constitution understood this philosophy. They designed the Constitution around it. How do we understand federalism today?

Schechter has been at Sage since 1978 with a leave of absence from 1986 to 1990 to serve as Executive Director of the New York State Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.

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Prof helps make lit 'great again'

Gianluca Russo
Campus News

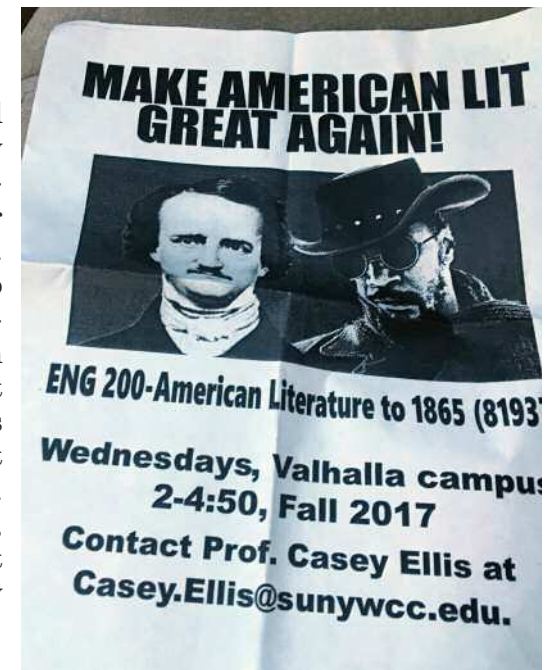
Mention of Donald Trump and his presidency no doubt evoke strong emotions in many, whether for or against his policies. While some have chosen to refrain from any discussions that may result in conflict due to the current political climate, others have chosen to embrace it for their own opportunity. One of them is Casey Ellis, adjunct professor at Westchester Community College.

After a previous professor's departure, Ellis was asked to teach ENG 200 – American Literature to 1865. While the course had been laid out, he knew he needed to find an interesting way to get students to sign up for the fall semester. "Because I'm an adjunct and because electives don't fill up, I needed to do a lot of advertising for the class to make sure it runs," he says.

It was then that he came up with the perfect slogan for his class flyer: "Make American Lit Great Again."

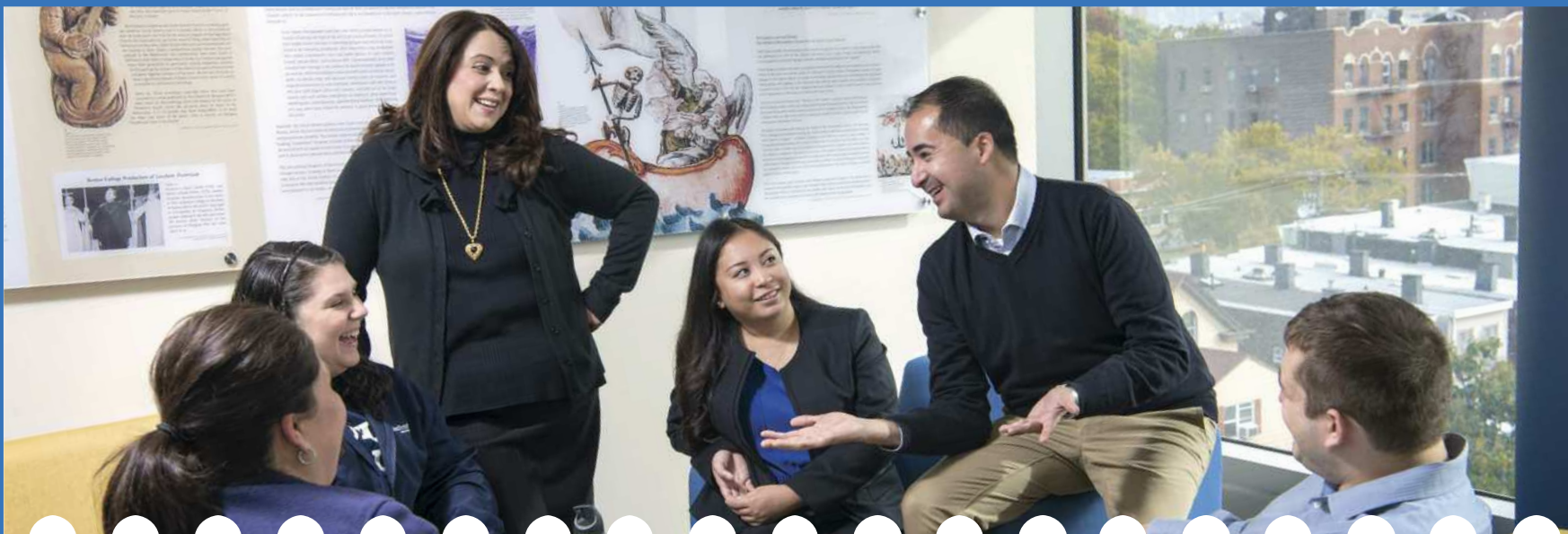
"Donald's slogan was definitely contemporary and eye-catching, so it seemed like it might be guaranteed to catch the attention of anyone who might actually look at flyers," he explains.

As expected, the flyer worked and students began taking interest in the class. No need to worry, however, as Donald Trump and modern day politics won't be a focus point for the course. "While contemporary politics and such may come up in discussion, it's not totally structured around that. Basically,



what it tries to look at is ... how does the literary history of the 18th and 19th centuries continue to inform the present moment for how we imagine the American literary task? We're trying to look at how various strands and motifs have existed in the United States and how they continue through today."

Still though, American literature? Many students might find the class to be more boring than fun, especially as it is an elective and not a required course. Ellis assures, however, that the class will be just as intriguing as the poster. "What I would say to them is that there is so much more to it, like any literary period," he says. "It's so much richer than causal perception, and that's why Poe is on the poster. It's interesting that students don't perceive him as a large part of American literature when he was very much part of the literary scene. There's a lot more to it that is more relevant and interesting to students than they would imagine from their perfectly understandable awareness of it."



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By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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5 letters = 3 points
6 letters = 4 points
7 letters = 5 points
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0-10 = Try again

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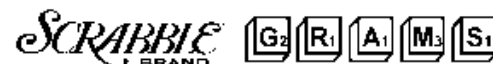
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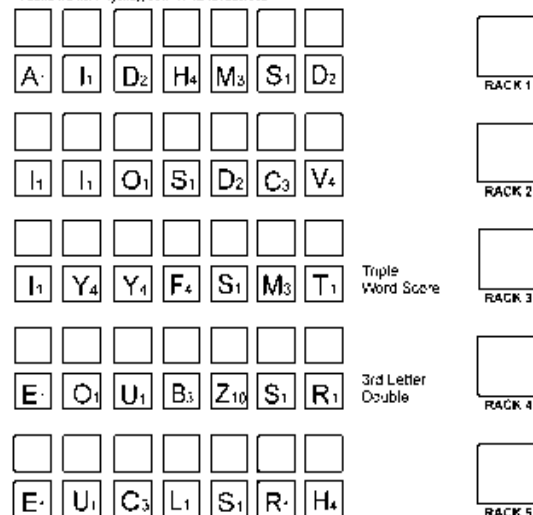
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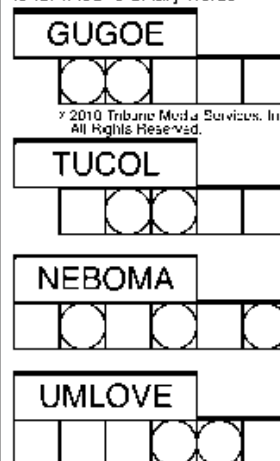
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GG-08

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: A

turn into — A MONOLOGUE

Answer: What a conversation with a teenager can

Jumbles: GUGOE CLOUT BEGOWN VOLUME

Answers

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike A'Hearn and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

WHAT A CONVERSATION WITH A TEENAGER CAN TURN INTO.

Answers

Jumbles: GUGOE CLOUT BEGOWN VOLUME

Answers

NCC adds women's wrestling

Peter Briguglio
Campus News

The Nassau Community College athletic department has inserted themselves at the forefront of women's equality in sports once again as the school has officially introduced women's wrestling as a varsity sport.

Nassau's Men's wrestling team has earned national recognition over the last 30 years under head coach and National Wrestling hall-of-famer Paul Schmidt, who was instrumental in bringing the women's program to the school. His men's teams have yielded national champions, All-Americans and even professional fighters, and now former assistant coach and NCC alum Sam Thomas will look to have similar results as the new women's head coach.

"I am very excited about incorporating the women's program into the Nassau Community College wrestling family," said Schmidt. "We are looking for great things down the road and I know it's not going to happen overnight, but we expect to have a women's program up and running and competing at a national level within a few years."

"What makes me really excited about running the women's program is we will be starting our own history," said Thomas. "We are looking to create our own history, and when I am out recruiting, each member I add is going to be part of history, not just for our team or for NCC but this is a new step for the country."

Thomas has tapped long-time men's assistant coach Vougar Orounjov as his new associate



head coach. As an athlete, Vougar has earned Olympic medals, European Championships and World Championships, and will now share his expertise with the young women who will finally get the opportunity to hit the mat as Nassau Lions.

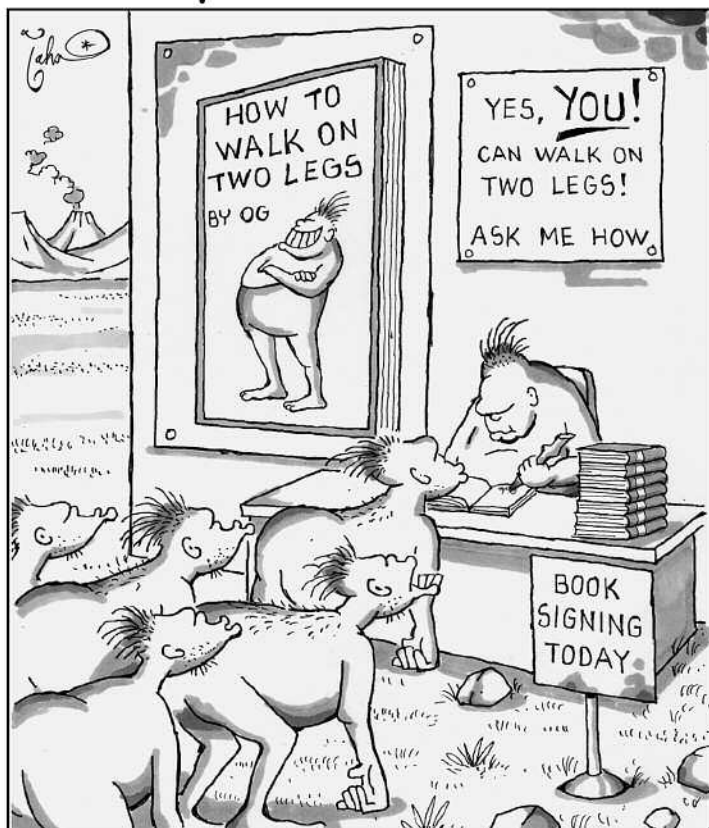
"We don't have women's wrestling on Long Island; we have the athletes, but not a program for them," said Orounjov. "I am very excited that we now

will have a place for them to compete and I'm eager to start the new program."

With women's wrestling gaining participation nationally and support growing for it to obtain varsity status in the NCAA ranks, Nassau's move is truly ground-breaking and puts them in the forefront of a sport that is just starting out in the junior college ranks.

The team has not released any scheduling information yet.

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L. Taha



Og signing copies of his best-selling new book.

Longest-serving

When Joel Fatato and Jim LaGatta were students at Hudson Valley Community College, the average cost of a house in America was under \$17,000, and fans of the Beatles were still hoping the band would get back together. Now, both Fatato and LaGatta, have retired from full-time employment after 46 and 48 years of service, respectively, and were honored by the Rensselaer County Legislature on July 11.



Fatato, a 1971 graduate, started his career at Hudson Valley as a work study student and

went on to become an account clerk, financial analyst, comptroller, and chief fiscal officer at the college before being promoted to vice president for finance in 2000.

LaGatta, who graduated with his associate degree in 1967, began his Hudson Valley career as a chemistry instructor two years later, and eventually rose through the academic ranks: chairperson for the department of chemistry and then dean of the college's school of health sciences, school of liberal arts and sciences, and school of business.



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Seagull program at NECC

Seagulls squawked as Northern Essex Community College Natural Science Professor Sarah Courchesne and a half dozen of her students chased them across Appledore Island in Maine as part of a seagull banding project, funded in part, by the Verizon Foundation.

Over the last two summers, about two dozen Northern Essex students under the tutelage of Courchesne, coordinator of the project, have trapped and banded Great Black-Backed and Herring gulls and collected blood samples at the Shoals Marine Laboratory on Appledore Island. Each year, the Verizon Foundation has donated

\$10,000 to the field science program that brings NECC students out of the classroom and into nature where they gather data that is then brought back to the classroom so biology and lab science students could perform diet analysis and necropsies of dead gulls.

Last year the funds were used to purchase GPS technology to tag the individual sea birds to track their movements. This year's grant funds the purchase of additional tags and a base station used to monitor the individual seagulls throughout the year.

"We know that allowing students to experiment, ques-

tion, and practice science themselves is the best way to stimulate and maintain their interest in science not only as a subject, but as a verb," said Courchesne, NECC natural sciences professor who oversees the project. "Opportunities for students to participate in and perform their own research are limited at community colleges...on-campus research opportunities are slim...By expanding our campus outward to include work at the Shoals Marine Laboratory we bring our students into a community of world class scientists, and by bringing that work back into the classroom students can analyze the material in our labs and we



broaden their understanding of what being a science student means."

While seven NECC students participated in each of the two annual Appledore trips, a total of 48 students in the fall and spring semesters participate in the microbiological and DNA analysis of the summer samples collected in the field.

"In order to be prepared for jobs of the future, it's essential for every student to have access to experiential learning, which is why the Verizon

Students show Pride

Student leaders from the SUNY Student Assembly marched in the 48th annual New York City Pride Parade. The parade, a celebration of the LGBTQ+ community, kicked off at noon in Midtown.

"Showing the world that SUNY is an open and accepting system is critical, especially in today's polarized political climate," said Student Assembly President and SUNY Trustee, Marc Cohen. "It's exciting to once again march in the parade with more than 300 of my colleagues from SUNY in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community!"

The NYC Pride Parade is the largest in the world, with tens of thousands of people expected to march. Led by four grand marshals, the theme of this



years parade, "We are proud," will aim to unite those marching, watching, and supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

The members of the SUNY Student Assembly marched in support of the "We are proud" movement. As the biggest Pride celebration in the world, the annual civil rights demonstration brings together a variety of activists, politicians, and communities to march for a common cause.

Gabby Douglas speaks

The Cultural Series at Mohawk Valley Community College once again is bringing an exciting and diverse lineup of talent to its campuses in Utica and Rome this fall. Tickets for all events go on sale at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 21, at <http://www.mvcc.edu/tickets>.



Headlining the series is Olympic Gold Medalist Gabby Douglas, who will take the stage at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, in the Robert R. Jorgensen Athletic and Event Center Field House at MVCC's Utica Campus. Admission is \$15 general, \$10 for MVCC employees, and free for MVCC students (limited supply). Douglas was selected at age 16 to be a member of the U.S. Olympic Women's Gymnastics team to compete in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, England. There she became the first African-American woman, as well as the first woman of color of any nationality, to win an Olympic Gold medal as the All-Around Individual Champion. In addition, while winning a Team Gold medal, she became the first American gymnast to win Gold in both the All-Around individual and team competitions at the same Olympics. At the 2016 Rio Olympics, Douglas won her third Olympic Gold medal in the Team competition.

Take 18 credits, if you dare

Darren Johnson
Campus News

When I was in college, I had a roommate who was put on academic probation mid-year after pulling a lousy GPA. So he figured he'd do himself a favor by signing up for "fluff" courses like Basket Weaving for the Spring, thinking he'd get great grades and out of probation. It didn't work — turns out, making baskets is kind of hard for a slacker. I never saw him again.

But — and, as a former college administrator, I don't say this lightly — if you are a college student in New York State and your parents aren't rich, you might want to fill out your schedule to the full 18 credits for the upcoming semester. There surely are some courses like Tennis, Zumba, Music or Art Appreciation — even Basket Weaving — that, while not a sure-thing, may be pretty hard to fail if you give your best effort.

Colleges in New York State charge the same whether you take 12 credits or 18 credits each semester, though there may be some added fees and book costs for taking more credits. Still, the added fees and book costs are a tiny fraction of what 6 extra credits would cost

if taken separately.

I'm not saying to get off your major track by taking impertinent courses — I'm just suggesting to fill out your schedule with more enrichment courses to ensure your success.

New York State's new Excelsior Scholarship and related programs insist a student average 30 credits a year and make "satisfactory academic progress," so if you only take 12 credits Fall and Spring, you will need to take 6 during the Summer to keep your scholarship. And that's hoping you get at least a C or better in those courses — easier said than done, as every student seems to encounter the occasional impossible-to-please instructor.

(The Scholarship provides free tuition to SUNY students and up to \$6000 for many private college students whose parents earn less than \$100,000 a year; the income threshold will rise to \$125,000 in two years, so even if you don't qualify now, you may in future years.)

instructor.

If you take 18 credits each semester, you will have wiggle room. You can drop or fail a course and still get 15 credits — and be on pace to keep your scholarship.

Also, if you take tough in-

structors as Pass/Fail, you can better maintain a high GPA (check Rate My Professors as to a professor's toughness rating — the site is sometimes right). Ask your academic advisor about Pass/Fail grading options.

certain professor who "gets you," maybe take some of his/her courses as electives.

Now, some students at community colleges are placed into developmental English and Math courses, and while these courses usually offer no credits, they do take work and time. It may be hard to take 18 credits if you have a developmental course on your schedule.

Otherwise, when you are registering for the next semester, you may want to insist on taking the full 18-credits. If you've already registered, log into your student portal and maybe add a course or two.

Don't be like my old college roommate and take your schedule lightly — more may be better!

And that's the last word...for now!

Darren Johnson has an MFA in Writing and Literature from Southampton College of Long Island University and currently teaches PR courses, when he isn't running Campus News. Reach him at darren@cccn.us.



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