

CAMPUS News

College  Paper



Volume 16, Issue 4 FREE!

**IT'S COLD OUT!
MID-WINTER 2017-18**



IN THE PLAYOFFS 6



IT'S NEW TO YOU! 22



THE COURTS 19



ON GRAMMAR 30

To intern or not to intern...

To intern or not to intern? It's a pretty serious question for a community college student. Then the next question is, should you insist on being paid? Let's break down all the possibilities, and leave it for you to decide.

What Is an Internship?

An internship is a paid or unpaid work opportunity at an outside employer, usually done for credit (but not always), that is related to your major course of study and should give you a taste of what to expect when you graduate and enter the white-collar work world. Some students do an internship and realize they don't like this field, saving themselves valuable time as they can now alter their pursuits; others make professional connections and may even land a full-time job at the



place where they had interned after graduation. Internships help bolster your resume.

Your Internship Office

Community colleges usually

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Mid-year checklist

Spring courses were just posted online. Now what?

Here's our list of things you should do this winter break – before you get swept up by too much holiday cheer – to save time and lots of money.

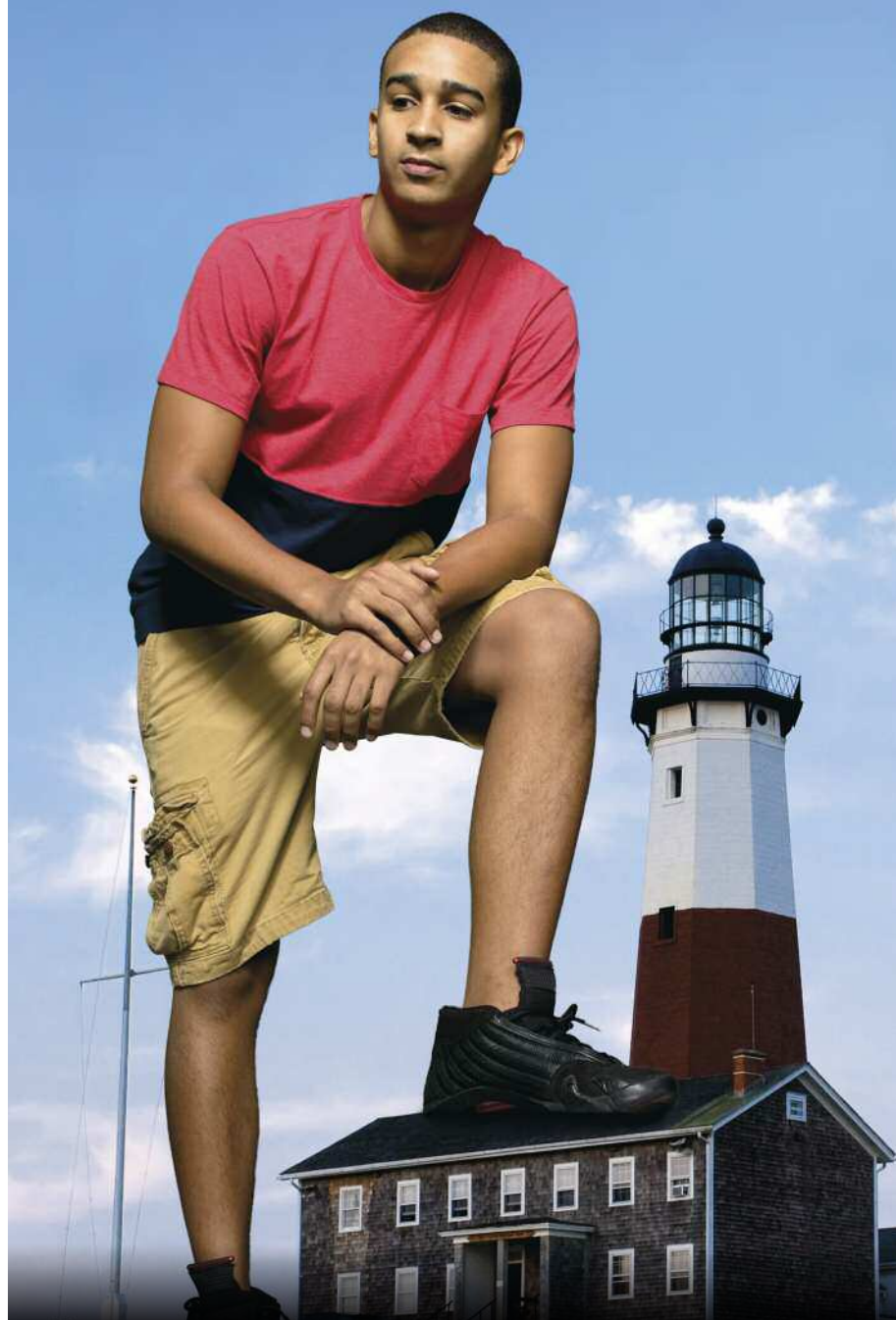
Sign Up for 15-18

In most states, 12 credits costs the same as 18 credits (though extra fees and book costs could add up). Why not sign up for the maxi-

mum credits, giving you some scheduling wiggle room in the weeks ahead? Now, if you are only sporting a 2.0 GPA, you may not want to take 18, but if you're otherwise academically strong, consider 15-18 credits. To graduate on time, you need to average 15 credits a semester. You may want to try the occasional 18-credit semester so that your final year will be easier. Also, by signing up for 18, you

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Checklist (cont.)

lock in your courses, guaranteeing your seat. You could always drop a course later.

Think of Your Sanity

Don't schedule a 9 a.m. class in the same day as a 6 to 9 p.m. class, and don't schedule a class at 7:30 a.m. the next morning after having had a late-night class the night before. Know your limitations and plan accordingly.

Contact Your Transfer College

Are you thinking of transferring to a four-year college next year? Then copy-paste and email your proposed schedule to the transfer counselor at your future school and make sure all your spring credits will be accepted there. You may also want to place a phone call there! If your goal is simply to transfer your community college credits to a new school, then don't get bogged down with the courses that won't transfer.

Check Out Your College Book Site

By law, college web sites have to post the textbooks each course will require, with exact ISBN. You can maybe ask for these books for holiday presents from parents and relatives. At the very least, starting early and checking out the various textbook web sites will give you a heads up on the best prices. "It's no wonder that colleges and students need to think outside the box when it comes to textbooks; they represent a staggering cost that just seems to get worse," says Chris Manns of the price comparison websites CheapestTextbooks.com and TextbookRentals.com.

On Renting

Remember, if you are renting, you can't order the book too soon; else, you will have to ship it back sooner, maybe before the semester ends. Also, remember to send back the books you had rented previously, to avoid late fees. "Renting might seem the obvious choice because of the price," Manns says. "But that's not always the case. When you look a little deeper, you could find you'd be better off buying the book and selling it later."

On Access Codes

You may want to see if the book your professor requires has an access code. If so, you may want to email the professor and ask if he actually uses the online aspect of the text. Many do not. If that is the case, you can save a ton on books by buying them used. If the course does use the access code, you can still buy the used book and then buy the access code from the publisher — or some enterprising student at another school may sell you his access code. Check online!

Ask Your Librarian

Once you know which books you will be required to read, contact the college library and ask if they will stock those books. Libraries take requests very seriously and may oblige. Then, the books will be there for free.

Read the Books in Advance

There's a lot of time between Fall finals and the start of classes in the Spring. Once you get your books, read them. Then, once the class starts, you will be ahead of everyone else!

Learn to read for pleasure

Kaylee Johnson
Campus News

It's easy to get enveloped into the world of "Stranger Things" or "This Is Us" over holiday break, but when spring semester begins you should be able to list some intellectual activities you had engaged in. I will admit that sometimes it is hard for me, as an avid reader, to wrap my mind around the fact that some people do not enjoy reading. I've talked to middle-aged adults who claim they have not read a book since high school; a claim like this perplexes me, because reading has so many wonderful benefits. Often, when I hear people say they don't enjoy reading, I want to tell them that they are reading the wrong genre, or that one dud does not define the wide variety of wonderful novels, plays, prose, short stories, and poems available online, in bookstores, and in libraries.

I think aversions to reading start in high school, when students start reading incredibly difficult and outdated plays and novels. Shakespearian language intimidates teens that are already on the fence about reading. I'm not implying that schools should lower their literacy standards, but there are plenty of great novels that are written in modern day language; also I would love to see newer pieces of writing popping up in high school English classes. Of course, there are instances where people simply dislike sitting down and reading, or they have trouble finishing books. My first suggestion is to not give up on reading, even if you have not found a book you like yet. Well meaning friends may suggest books they enjoyed, but the truth is everybody has different genre or sub-genre that they enjoy. When you do find a book that you love, stay in that genre for a while. Check out New York

Times bestseller lists and book reviews if you do not know where to start; the bookstore does not have to be a nerve-racking place. Also, do not be afraid to ask for help. Librarians, bookstore workers, and literature professors can help you find your genre based on your favorite books, movies, and television series.

Once you find books you enjoy you have to train yourself to finish the books, and read at a steady rate. During holiday break you should try to read for thirty minutes to one hour a day. Here's another tip, if you do not enjoy a book within your first few days of reading it, put it down. I would not recommend this to people who have been reading a long time, but when you are trying to learn how to read for joy, it is better to stick to books that you want to breeze through.

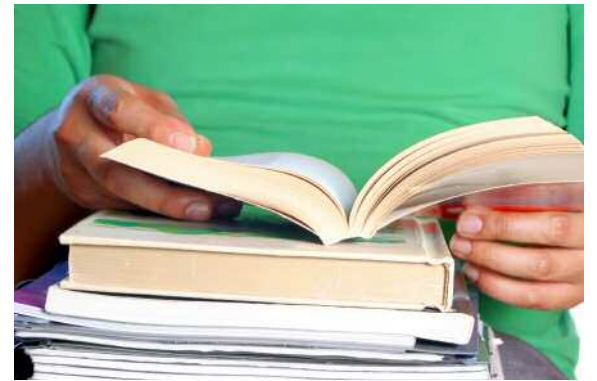
You should feel proud when you find yourself willingly walking around a bookstore, searching for your next great read. Plus, once you become an avid reader your vocabulary will grow and you will become a better speller. Personally, I view reading as an escape from reality and a walk in another character's shoes. It can also serve as insight into an author's writing style and emotions.

After holiday break, joy reading may seem like more of a luxury than a necessary part of your day. If your schedule is always full, consider joining a book club on campus or carry a book in your purse or backpack so you can read whenever you have free time. Read more newspapers and magazines, and subscribe for alerts from your favorite publications. Keep in mind that most English professors have more respect for students who are well versed in a variety of different

pieces of writing.

As a future elementary school teacher, I try understand the complexity of learning disabilities. If you struggle with reading comprehension or attention, I recommend audio books. In fact, sometimes audio books are better, especially if the author reads them! Audio books can also be beneficial to education students, because they teach you how to read aloud, and when to take breaths.

Once you start reading this holiday season, you can't judge yourself. If you see an unfamiliar word, look it up. If you feel bored while reading, stop and come back to it. After you unlock the door to joy reading you will forever be enchanted and surprised by all the new knowledge



you are acquiring. It's the kind of knowledge you can't acquire from television or movies. If you want to dive in, here are five of my favorite books:

1. "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald
2. "Commonwealth" by Ann Patchett
3. "On the Road" by Jack Kerouac
4. "The Girl in Cabin 10" by Ruth Ware
5. "The Zookeeper's Wife" by Diane Ackerman

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A literary journal leaves print, goes digital

Gianluca Russo
Campus News

In a time when print media is dwindling away, the magazine and writing industries have made the switch to digital platforms, staying up to date with the desires of the everyday consumer. Among these publications are literary journals: collections of gorgeous creative writing that range from simple poetry to extensive pieces of fiction. Still though, literary journals have taken a hit when it comes to readership. A group of students at Schenectady County Community College is aiming at changing that.

A small yet mighty group, SCCC's literary club, Rhythms, is working hard to spark creative writing on campus. The club has been active for many years, but as time went on, interest decreased. With the departure of its prominent faculty leader, the club was unable to publish a journal during the 2015-2016 school year. It was a sad time for members of the group, and the following year, they came back determined and ready to regain momentum.

"Creative writing and literary journals help us express hard-to-talk about topics or things that might not come up in normal conversation. Especially the pieces published in literary magazines; they bring light to things we wouldn't normally talk about," said Lindsay Buell, current President of Rhythms.

Planning began at the start of the fall semester to ensure a literary journal would be published in Spring 2017. The question arose as whether the magazine should stay in print or go digital. The choice was made to publish it electronically.

"Since more magazines are being published electronically (as was the case of Rhythms for

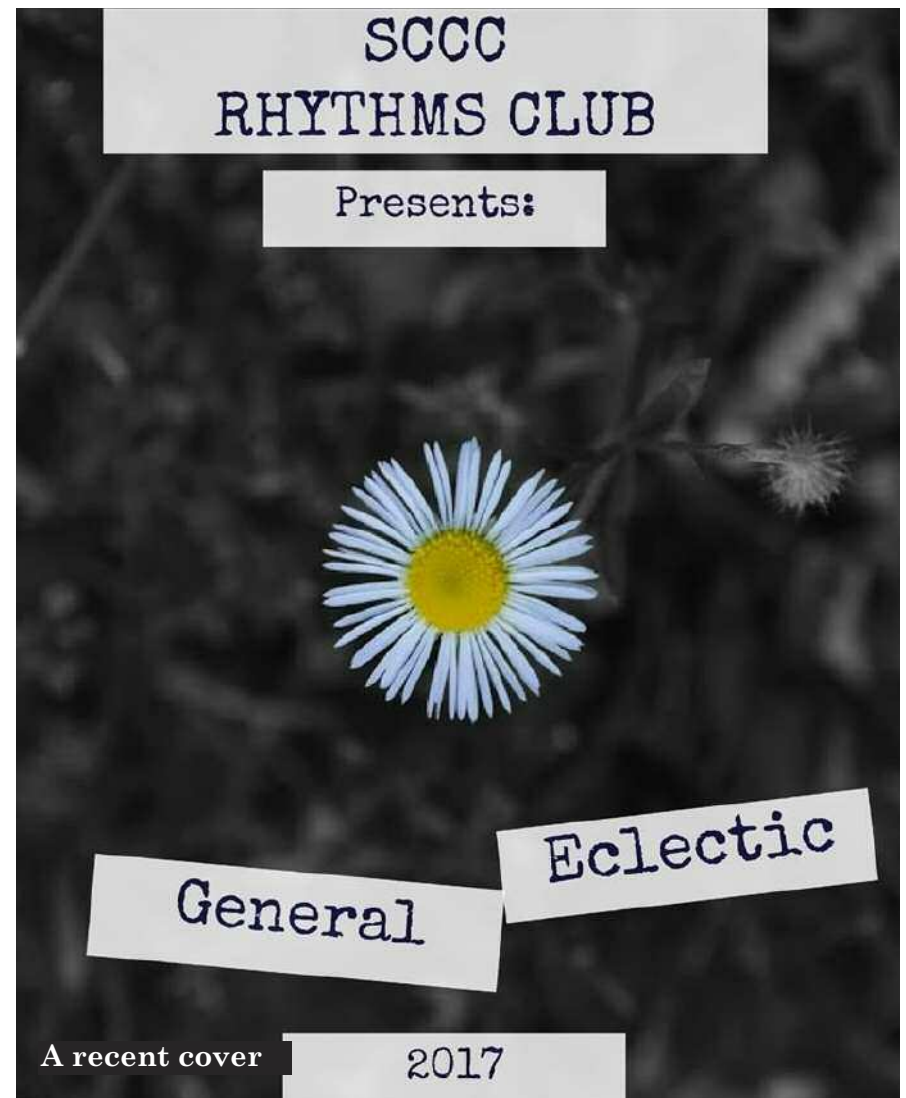
these last two years), students definitely prefer the accessibility of online magazines," said Yesenia Coello, a member of Rhythms during the 2016-2017 school year.

From photos to poems to short stories, the members of Rhythms were able to pull together a large group of students to submit their original work. There were downfalls and bumps in the road, of course, but the group powered through, determined to bring the magic of creative writing to the SCCC community.

"Literary magazines are a place for anyone's voice to have the spotlight and college students are interested in seeing how others view the world as well as discovering new pieces which fascinate them. Furthermore, literary magazines are another way for hopeful writers and poets to get published, something that most yearn for," said Noah Smith, former Vice President of Rhythms.

Coello added, "When I first joined Rhythms as a freshman I was determined to take the opportunity to work with literature. Having come from a high school where there were no literary magazines or monthly publications, you could say I was a bit deprived. Literary magazines are a great way for budding writers to acquaint themselves with the editing and publishing process. In Rhythms we would regularly review submissions and send them back for revision for grammar mistakes, etc. Even working as an editor under the guidance of fantastic professors has made me a better editor!"

The group received great feedback upon publication, both from students and faculty. Many reached out about joining the team, and the group, currently led by Buell, is gearing up for its



2018 issue.

Buell, along with other members, refused to accept that "print is dead," however. So, after digitally publishing the literary journal last May, they released a limited copy of printed journals as well.

"There's just something so intimate about physical literature. Since most of us live our lives behind a screen it's nice to take a break from it and physically interact with the fruits of someone's labor," she said.

As the group continues to grow and flourish, they look forward to elevating their journal and increasing the amount of students interested in creative writing on campus.

"The goal of Rhythms was never to just publish a literary magazine. Sure, we were able to

start that up again which was fantastic, but that was not our aim," explained Smith. "Our aim was to spark creativity upon college students and to get them to explore a side of themselves they may not be familiar with. With the small group we have assembled, we were able to help each other grow upon our skills and learn to view life from many different angles."

Regular contributor Gianluca Russo is a freelance writer who attended Schenectady County Community College and now attends UAlbany.



Internships (cont.)

have a person or multiple people in charge of internships; however, they don't publish nearly as many opportunities as a four-year college, so you may have to be more proactive to land a "dream internship." Second, it may be harder to negotiate credits for a community college internship, and, if you do, these credits may or may not transfer cleanly when you head to a four-year college. You may decide to just intern less formally, not for credit, in community college and more formally upon transfer. Some students also find informal internship opportunities through their professors — ask them for advice! On a resume, whether or not an internship was for credit does not matter; though some college majors require you perform a credited internship.

'Employers should examine their legal and moral obligations to these young people.'

Should You Get Paid?

Experts we contacted were adamant that you should seek a paid internship. However, this question isn't as easy to answer as that. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, approximately 40% of internships are unpaid; non-profits and government agencies do not have to pay, by law, though many do. Private companies are required to pay at least minimum wage, unless they can prove that their internship experience is 100% education related and aligns with a college academic program. Some private companies may be skirting the law a bit.

"Most interns are still in col-

lege or recent grads. Many hold down part-time, low-paying jobs as waiters, baristas, cashiers, etc. The internship is a needed financial adjunct while they are in school," said Susan M. Tellem, a partner in Tellem Grody PR, Inc., a firm that does pay interns. "Today, when college expenses are skyrocketing, doing an unpaid internship on top of a minimum wage job seems just plain mean."

According to the NACE's "Class of 2017 Student Survey Report," the typical paid internship offers \$18/hour. For those private companies that do pay at least minimum wage, however, you may be re-

quired to do non-academic-related work — say fetch coffee, clean up or park cars. For private companies that offer unpaid intern-

ships or stipends — and follow the law — you won't have to do any of that menial labor. Though the problem is, many private employers are offering unpaid internships and then treating the students like a slave labor pool.

Tellem added: "With the economy in the toilet and college grads trying desperately to find jobs that do not exist, employers should carefully examine their legal *and* moral obligations to these young people."

Too, many people believe that unpaid internships favor students from wealthier families, who not only can allow their children to essentially work for free, but to also pay for their room and board in some place like Manhattan. Unpaid

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Regional NJCAA fall season closes

Peter Briguglio
Campus News

The Fall athletic season came to a close with many of Region XV's programs achieving national success. Let's take a look at how each sport's postseason ended up.

Women's Soccer

ASA had a once in a lifetime opportunity heading into the Division I women's soccer National Tournament. The #6 ranked Avengers entered the main event a perfect 11-0 on the season after marching through the Region and District tournaments. The team had no issues whatsoever in pool play, defeating Moraine Valley 5-0 and Laramie County 7-3, setting up a semifinal match against Phoenix. The Avengers earned the 2-1 victory, setting up the chance to end their year 15-0 with a national title to their credit. The title match was set against Tyler Junior College. After withstanding 85 minutes of defensive, scoreless play, it took a perfectly executed free kick by Tyler to open and ultimately conclude the scoring as the Avengers were denied their storybook ending. Kaylane Araujo, Sara Suarez Quevedo and Tamara Queiroz all earned All-Tournament honors for their performances.

In the Division III tournament, Nassau finished sixth overall after entering as the tournament's 8th seed. They fell into the consolation bracket after losing 4-2 to top seed and eventual runner-up Herkimer. Then, they earned a tournament victory by defeating 5th ranked Madison 2-1. In the 5th place game, Erie Community college edged the Lions 2-1, ending their season with a 16-8-1 overall record in 2017.



Men's Soccer

Suffolk advanced to the Division III national tournament while Monroe won the District Tournament to earn a berth into the Division I dance. Neither team found much success though, failing to advance into their respective tournaments' semifinal rounds. Monroe placed second out of their three team pool while Suffolk lost to Camden in the quarterfinals by a score of 2-1.

'Suffolk's Dabalski earned Second-Team All-American honors.'

Volleyball

After winning the Regional title and returning to the NJCAA DIII Women's Volleyball tournament for the second straight season, the Queensborough Tigers didn't have their best performance. The Tigers pulled the tournament's #8 seed, earning them a first-round matchup against top seed and

eventual runner-up Harper. After being swept by the tournament's top seed 3-0, Queensborough fell to #5 St. Cloud Tech and #7 Jamestown in the consolation rounds to finish 8th overall in the tournament.

Monroe's women also had a quick exit at the DI national tournament. The Mustangs earned the #12 seed in the 16 team event and got beaten 3-0 by #5 ranked Hill. #4 ranked Western Nebraska then edged Monroe 3-2 in the first round of the consolation bracket. They ended their season with a 20-11 overall record.

Women's Tennis

Suffolk and Kingsborough both made appearances at the DIII Women's Tennis national tournament in Peachtree City, Georgia last month. The Sharks placed 4th overall with 14.5 points while Kingsborough earned an 8th place finish with 3 points in the 10 team field. Suffolk's Joan Dabalski earned Second-Team All-American honors after finishing runner up in the 6th flight singles event. She was the only Region XV performer to earn a berth in a

Championship match as Oxford Emory swept all matches en route to winning the tournament by a 16.5 point margin,

Women's Cross Country

Kingsborough and FIT placed 3rd and 4th respectively in this year's Division III Women's Cross Country national tournament. The Wave's Tyesha James finished 4th individually in the women's 5k race with a time of 19:22.0, earning herself First Team All-American honors. Nassau's Catherine Matteo, who ran as an individual, finished 14th overall, which earned her All-American Honorable Mention status. On the Division I side, Monroe's women finished 14th out of the 44 team National event.

Men's Cross Country

It was a similar result on the men's side as two of the Region's teams placed in the top 4 at the Division III Tournament. Suffolk finished second with 100 points, narrowly missing out on a National Championship by 16 points to Harper, who swept both the men's and women's

continued on page 10

Internships (cont.)

internships may also skew to favor white students, based on such economics.

Can You Get Internship-Like Experience in Other Ways?

Sure. You could volunteer your degree-related efforts for a local non-profit during winter and summer breaks. If you would like to get paid, you can do work such as freelancing. On campus, you can join any hands-on club or class that is relevant – the school paper, the auto repair class, the radio station, etc. These experiences can be written up on your resume in a way that shows what take-away skills you gathered from these practical experiences.

Internships and Transfer

It's particularly hard for community college students to

transfer and still fit in a decent internship. First, usually a community college student transfers in liberal education courses – not major courses – so will have to be brought up to speed by the four-year program first – that may make graduating on time more difficult. Second, community college students largely have to work hourly service jobs to help pay their expenses – the idea of doing an exotic internship – especially for free – may not be feasible.

“[We believe] that all interns should be paid, whether they work for corporations, non-profits, or government agencies,” said Steven Rothberg, President and Founder of College Recruiter. “To the employers who claim they cannot afford to pay their interns, they need to un-

derstand or admit that the vast majority of students cannot afford to work for free. They need to pay for school, rent, and food. The Fair Labor Standards Act is in-place to protect these and other employees from each other and employers who are willing to pay less than the minimum wage.

If you can't schedule an internship during your first four years of study, you may have to perform a post-graduation internship instead – essentially, this is an apprenticeship the summer after you graduate.

However, if you can fit in an internship, whether paid or unpaid, formal or informal, during your college years, your job prospects may widen upon graduation.

According to a 2014 report by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, 65 percent of students who did a paid in-



ternship for a private company got a job offer prior to graduation, and it was a higher salary offer than for others. This compares to just 40 percent for those who did an unpaid internship and 39 percent who did no internship.

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There's more than just Christmas

Telijah Patterson
Campus News

Winter in the Northeast is closely associated with cold temperatures, school recesses, shopping sales, broken bank accounts, and Christmas celebrations. Ancient cultures across the globe revered the winter solstice, viewing this as a time of renewal and rebirth of the sun. Today, it is still a time for families to reunite and bond. However, housing two of the most ethnically diverse cities in the country, New York City and Jersey City, Christmas isn't the only holiday that will be observed in the Northeast. Find out about a few of the other multicultural holidays taking place this winter:

Festival of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Tuesday, December 12. Guadalupe is the most exalted saint in Mexico. She is known as the virgin who gave birth to Jesus. According to Catholic tradition, the Festival of the Lady of Guadalupe commemorates Guadalupe's apparition appearing in St. Juan Diego in Mexico City where she requested a church be built on the Hill of Tepeyac. Today, the church is one of the most popular pilgrimage sites for Catholics. Following the command of Guadalupe, Juan Diego brought a tilma with roses from the hill back to the bishop whereupon opening it he saw the roses had been transformed into an image of the Virgin Mary in traditional Aztec garments. It is also believed that she spoke in Nahuatl, an Aztec language. This led to mass conversions numbering into the millions. This holiday is observed all across Mexico and in Mexican communities by attending special celebrations at church.

Kwanza. Tuesday December 26 - Monday, January 1.

Kwanzaa was founded in 1966 to reconnect African Americans to their ancestral roots and promote stronger family ties. It is Swahili for first fruits of the harvest. Kwanzaa is celebrated over a seven day period and each day is named after a different African principle referred to as the Nguzo Saba. The celebrations promote self-determination, collective work, and sharing. Music, food, dancing, and cultural education are signature features of this holiday.

Where to celebrate: The American Museum of Natural History will have its celebration on Saturday, December 30, 2017 from noon - 5pm in the Milstein Hall of Ocean Life. Tickets are free for members or with museum admission.

Mawlid is the celebration of the Birthday of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad. It is observed in all majority-Muslim nations and across various Islamic denominations with the exception of Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The festivities include street parades, special home and mosque decorations, food, gift-giving, offering of prayers, and storytelling of the Prophet Muhammad.

Where to Celebrate: Join the New York Sufi Center at their main event on Sunday, December 3 from 4-8 pm for Sufi songs and Mawlid Celebrations at Church of Holy Apostles at 296 9th Ave, Manhattan, NY. For more information email: sufinycnj@gmail.com.

Hanukkah, Tuesday, December 12 - Wednesday December

20. Known as the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday to commemorate the rededication of the holy temple. A popular feature of the festival is the nightly menorah lighting which is placed in front of windows and doorways. During the holiday fried foods are customarily eaten such as latkes, chil-



Kaylee Johnson photo

dren play with dreidel, and cash gifts are given to encourage positive behavior in children.

Where to Celebrate: Kick off the first day of Hanukkah by observing the World's Largest Menorah Lighting on Tuesday, December 12, at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn at 5:30 pm.

St. Nicholas Day, Wednesday, December 6. Often recognized as being the predecessor of Santa Claus, St. Nicholas day is a time of gift giving. It is mostly observed in Europe and in the United States, where there are strong German influences. Children are often rewarded with small presents such as candy for their good behavior. In some countries, children receive a gift under their pillow as they sleep at night and in others children may find gifts in their shoes.

Where to Celebrate: Partake in the Dutch holiday celebrations on Saturday, December 2 at the Philipse Manor Hall located at 29 Warburton Ave, Yonkers, NY 10701. There will be live music, storytelling, craft making, baked goods and re-

freshments. The event starts at 12:00 pm and admission is free.

Three Kings Day, Saturday, January 6. Also referred to as "The Feast of the Epiphany," Three Kings Day marks the end of Christmas for many in Latin America. The celebration memorializes the arrival of the three kings, also known as the three magi or wise men who were led by a star in the sky to welcome baby Jesus. The kings brought gifts of gold and fine fragrance to the baby's family. Celebrations vary across the globe, but gift-giving and family dinners are always included.

Where to Celebrate: The 41st annual El Museo del Barrio Three King's Day Parade travels from 106th Street and Lexington Avenue to 115th Street and Third Avenue in New York City on Friday, January 5, 2018 at 11:30 am. Admission is free.

Dongzhi, Friday, December 22. Dongzhi is the celebration of the Winter solstice originally observed in China, but also extending to Korea, Taiwan, and Japan under varying names. Dongzhi means "extreme winter" and is a time for reflection and unity. It is a public holiday in Macau and held in high regard in China, Taiwan, and Korea.

Where to Celebrate: Although there are no official celebrations in the Northeast region for Dongzhi you can try the staple food of this holiday, called Tangyuan, a sweet glutinous rice ball at many Chinese bakeries. The best can be found at Sheng Wang at 27 Eldridge Street, New York, NY 10002.

So you want to be a Philosophy major?

Aumma Begum
Campus News

Asking “what is your major” is a popular question that many college students ask one another upon meeting. As students from more “practical” majors such as Business and Engineering try to grasp why others major in the Humanities, conversations often get heated. One of the most looked-down upon majors within Humanities is Philosophy. When Philosophy majors utter their major, people often ask, “What are you going to do with philosophy?” The worst of all is when they ask “everyone knows how to think, so what is the point of philosophy if it only teaches how to think?” The aim of this article is to emphasize how philosophy helps us in our everyday lives.

The word “philosophia” derives from Greek and it means the “love of wisdom.” It is considered the mother of all sciences, as thinking rationally and providing evidence for claims is required for all the other sciences. Philosophers made the first attempt to understand the world and make sense of our universe.

A philosopher who sums up the purpose of life is Aristotle, who makes it clear that the purpose of life is to be happy. In other words, we wake up, wash, and eat. Some of us go to school to get a degree so we can have better-paying jobs after we graduate because we want to be financially secure and enjoy comfortable lives all to be happy. It is, then, clear that behind every act of inquiry lies an attempt to be happy. Whether we are aware of it or not, behind every act lies advantages, even if some of it turns out to be harmful in the

long term.

According to Aristotle, there are three criteria that should be met to judge if something makes us happy or not. The three criteria are (1) chosen for its own sake, (2) self-sufficient and (3) choice-worthy. If we can say that we are in college because (1) we genuinely want to be in college, (2) the reason we are in college is independent of its own, and (3) that being in college is the best thing to do at this time, then we are fulfilling our human function – to be happy. Otherwise, we are wasting our time and money when we could be doing something meaningful. In addition, when we are happy, we contribute to the overall happiness of our community. If what we are doing right now does not make us happy, then we should reconsider our duty and do what would make us happy. This very simple yet essential philosophical idea can take us a long way to a better and happier future for all.

Another thing that philosophy teaches is to broaden our

‘Descartes slowly realized that facts he thought to be true were false.’

horizon by opening our minds to different perspectives. Consider Rene Descartes, who came up with a few basic rules for what counts as knowledge. In the 1600s, Galileo disproved the geocentric theory by providing evidence for the heliocentric theory. Descartes slowly realized that facts he thought to be true were false. He then decided to make up axiom that anyone can use to justify true knowledge



from false claims. In his “Meditation on First Philosophy,” Descartes writes that since much of our dreams seem so vivid, how do we know that we are not actually dreaming in this life? The answer he gives is that he must exist for him to doubt his existence. Therefore, even if he does not exist in reality, he must exist somewhere else metaphysically where he is dreaming of the known world. Descartes concludes with complete certainty that he exists. From this singular knowledge, he continues to search for truth and shows us how hard it is to prove something with solid evidence. By the end of the Sixth Meditation, he claims to prove many things as facts such as the existence of God and the concern of evil.

Descartes teaches us something very simple: not to judge so easily. He reminds us that many of the claims made by experts can be mere assumptions, yet we put our faith in them anyway. If we take Descartes’ advice, then we would be more

open-minded to being wrong and appreciate other ways of thinking. Accepting that we are wrong is not a crime. Philosophy would lead us to have more tolerant leaders who would make political decisions based on evidence instead of whim, bias, and assumptions. Everyone knows how to think, but some ways of thinking are better than others just as some opinions are worthier than others.

Philosophy gives us the skills to make wise decisions, which makes this major very practical because making wise decisions via critical thinking are necessary for all jobs. Some of the jobs that best fit this major are working in law firms, civil services, publishing companies and much more. Majoring in Philosophy would be excellent for people who wish to go to law school. In addition, Philosophy is good preparation for graduate school as it teaches intense analytical writing. For these reasons, every college student should take an introductory philosophy class to gauge interest.

Sports (cont.)

competitions. Kingsborough had a strong showing on the men's side as well, placing 4th with 177 points.

Individually, Kingsborough's Humberto Wallace finished 3rd overall with a time of 26:26.7 in the 8K race. The Wave's D'Andre Mighty (7th), Nassau's Gabriel Dasilva (10th), and Suffolk's Ilya Wilson (13th) and Steven Beyer (15th) also placed in the top 15 at the national race to earn All-American recognition.

Football

ASA football posted an 8-1 record this fall and has earned a bowl bid for the second straight year. The nation's #16 ranked program will travel to Mesa, AZ to take on Mesa in the Valley of the Sun Bowl.

Women's Wrestling

Earlier this season, Nassau announced the formation of the Region's first ever women's wrestling program. The team features two wrestlers this season and expects to grow their roster to 8-12 participants next year. Kristen Walsh, one of the team's two inaugural members, competed in Nassau's first ever tournament back on November 18th in Missouri. While Walsh left the event with a losing record, she did record the first victory in program history at the tournament.

"I wanted to win," Walsh said. "It's the first female team from New York."

The duo will continue to compete in tournaments nationwide as they continue to grow Nassau's recognition both on Long Island and nationally.

New baseball coach

Cayuga Community College has announced the hiring of Auburn native TJ Gamba as its head baseball coach. Gamba and the Spartan staff will immediately start recruiting for baseball, which will begin play officially in the Spring of 2019. The College recently announced a partnership with the City of Auburn for the use of Falcon Park that is the current home of the Auburn Doubledays minor league baseball team.

Gamba has a wealth of playing and coaching experience that will be very attractive to prospective baseball



talent. Gamba played collegiately for Ithaca College's legendary coach George Valesente and was drafted by the Indians' organization out of Ithaca College in 1986. He played professionally for three years in Batavia, Waterloo, Iowa, and Kingston, N.C., and later coached the Ithaca Bombers as an assistant for three seasons. He also served his alma mater as varsity coach at the Auburn Enlarged School District and has spent the past two summers working in professional baseball as an assistant coach for the Miami Marlins Single A affiliate in Batavia.

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Understanding mutual funds

Prof. John DeSpagna
Campus News

As you continue on the path to earning your community college degree, you will be preparing for a successful future. A four-year degree, your first job as a college graduate and perhaps a master's degree are in your future. As you move forward, you will also be striving to generate sufficient financial resources to reach your financial goals. These may include buying your first new home and saving for retirement.

In order to achieve these financial goals, you will need to develop the necessary financial literacy to know how to invest your financial resources. One of the investment vehicles that you can utilize to help your money grow is a mutual fund. Let's learn a little about mutual funds now to help you in your future.

One of the last things on your mind right now is "how am I going to have enough money to retire?" To reach that goal, you are going to have to save and invest over decades, and you have to be ready to start while in your twenties.

When you start a full time job, you will probably be offered the opportunity to invest in a 401k. This is a retirement plan where part of your paycheck will automatically go pretax into the account. Hopefully, your employer will provide a matching contribution. The money then has to be invested and this is where your financial knowledge of a mutual fund comes into play.

A mutual fund is a diversified portfolio that is professionally managed. The portfolio manager will decide which stocks, bonds or money markets to invest your money into. They will in many cases select hundreds of different positions to invest in. The diversification limits your risk and helps you enhance your rate of return.

The portfolio will also be professionally managed. Just as a CPA has an expertise in preparing tax returns, a portfolio manager has an expertise in managing your money. They will have an extensive background to develop their money management skills, which may include an MBA degree and in many cases a CFA designation.

They have to prove themselves in order to reach the position of a portfolio manager. All you to do is make the decision to select a certain mutual fund and they take over from there.

In order to learn more about mutual funds, I would suggest that you take a course in investments or personal finance. The course will help you learn more about how to invest your money covering stocks, bonds and mutual funds. You can also enhance



your investment knowledge by reading the Wall Street Journal every day. This is something I did during college and this became a hobby that I turned into a job at Merrill Lynch as a Financial Consultant. The knowledge I attained has helped me in my investing for my future and retirement.

To get started, I would suggest that you look at the mutual fund offerings of some of the

'It's a diversified portfolio that limits your risk.'

most well known mutual fund families such as Vanguard and Fidelity. You can find their information online and take some time to read through the websites. Take a look at the offerings and then select a few that you can research at a resource called Morningstar. Morningstar is located in the reference section of a library and they can give you a brief one-page write up on your mutual fund.

You will also need to keep your portfolio diversified with more than one mutual fund. Select some large, middle and small capitalization mutual funds. You should also keep

20% to 30% of your money invested outside the United States in International mutual funds for further diversification as world markets move in different directions.

Select five different mutual funds and place them into your phone so you can follow them on a daily basis and research them. This will get you started and give you some experience.

Part of the college experience is learning about new things to broaden your horizons and prepare you for your future. You are learning how to think critically and creativity to develop your skill set. Part of this should include developing the requisite financial literacy so you are prepared for the future that awaits you.

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



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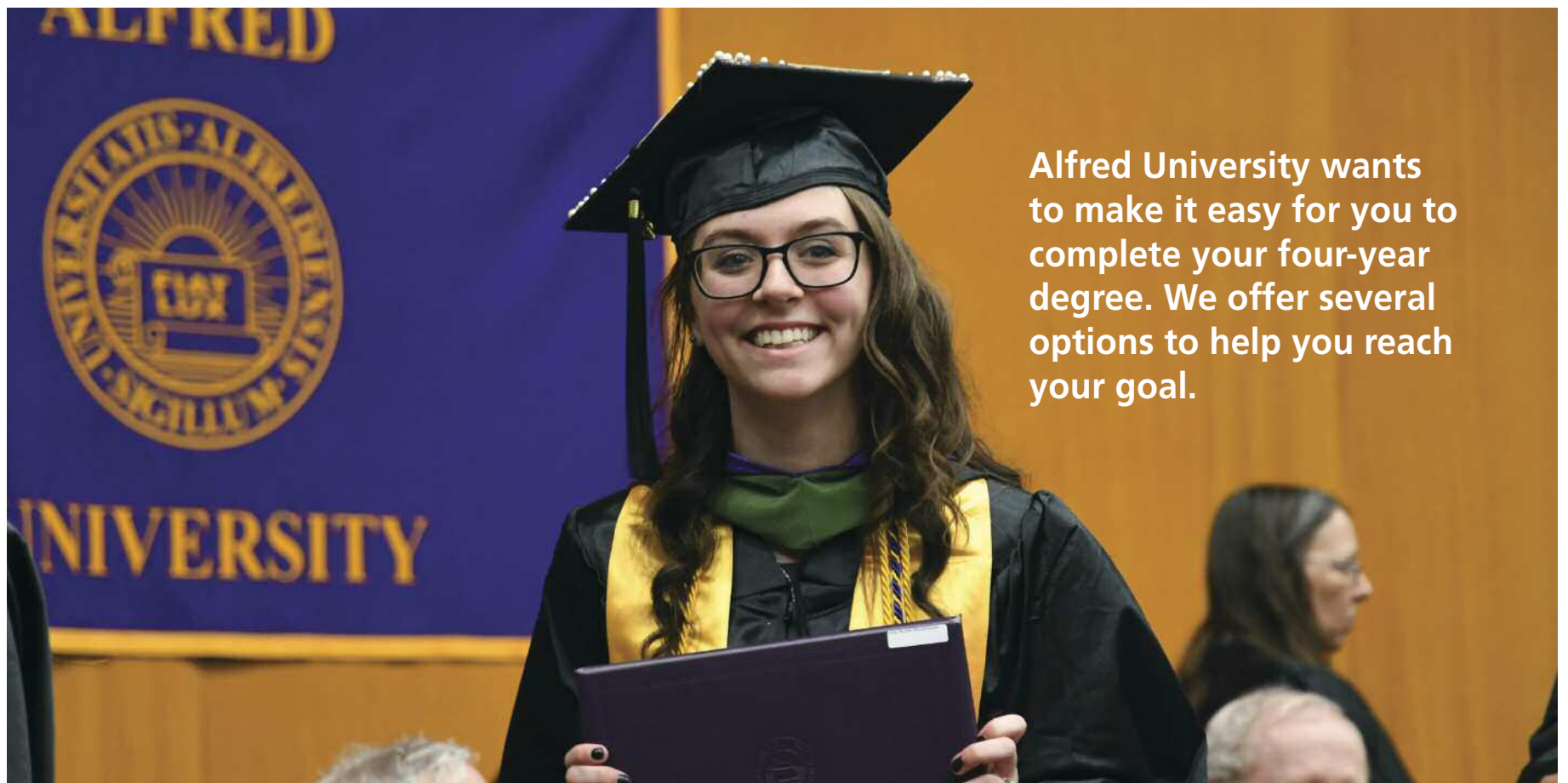


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Basketball returns to Westchester

Westchester Community College welcomed the return of men's basketball with a home win over Monroe College (Monroe Express) on November 2.

When all was said and done, it was a terrific basketball game for the Vikings. Over forty exciting minutes of dramatic end-to-end play with fans in a packed, raucous gym roaring at every turn, this was a sweet victory for the home team to open the season. For the administration, staff, and student-athletes who worked tirelessly to make the Westchester Community College Men's Basketball team a reality this season, it was the culmination of years of exhaustive planning and preparation. Ultimately, it was a night during which the entire community claimed victory. When the

Vikings closed out a 101-74 win over visiting Monroe College, the applause, hugs, and handshakes meant one thing: Westchester Community College Men's Basketball was back.

After several seasons of dormancy, the Vikings opened the 2017-18 season 1-0, and can now go about the business of redeveloping a program capable of competing with the very best in Region XV.

The game opened with a defensive stand that saw sophomore Tremaine Frasier steal an errant Monroe pass, and blast down the middle of the court for an uncontested lay-up to give Westchester a lead. From there, the Vikings dominated, opening up a 10-2 run that never let up.

The only drama remaining was whether or not WCC's team

would break 100 points, which they did when Derrick Hamlin converted a three-pointer from the corner with just under a minute of play.

Frasier led Westchester with 19 points, while sophomore Brandon Martin added 14 points, and Hamlin chipped in 12. The Vikings dominated all statistical categories, and shot an incredible 14 for 17 from the free throw line.

"This season promises to be an enriching experience for many of our students, not only those who field the team," says Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President, Westchester Community College. "The student athletes now have an opportunity to showcase their skills on the



Brandon Martin

court, while their fellow students are now able to show their enthusiasm and exhibit school spirit during the season. This will truly enhance the overall college experience for all," she adds.



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SCCC's radio station

Playing “your fresh new variety of hits from yesterday and today,” Suffolk County Community College’s first-ever radio station began streaming on Wednesday, November 15, at 11:15 a.m. when College President Dr. Shaun L. McKay threw the switch to make the station live.



The new station was constructed over the summer adjacent to the college’s radio and television production studios. Programming will be pre recorded by students and streamed 24 hours per day at scccir.com.

“This is a unique opportunity that provides our radio and television production students the opportunity to work with state-of-the-art technology that is incorporated into our curriculum,” McKay said. “Our faculty, staff and especially our students worked very hard over the summer and

through the first half of the semester turning what started out as a storage room and a dream into a fully functional, live internet radio station,” McKay added. “This dream has finally become a reality.”

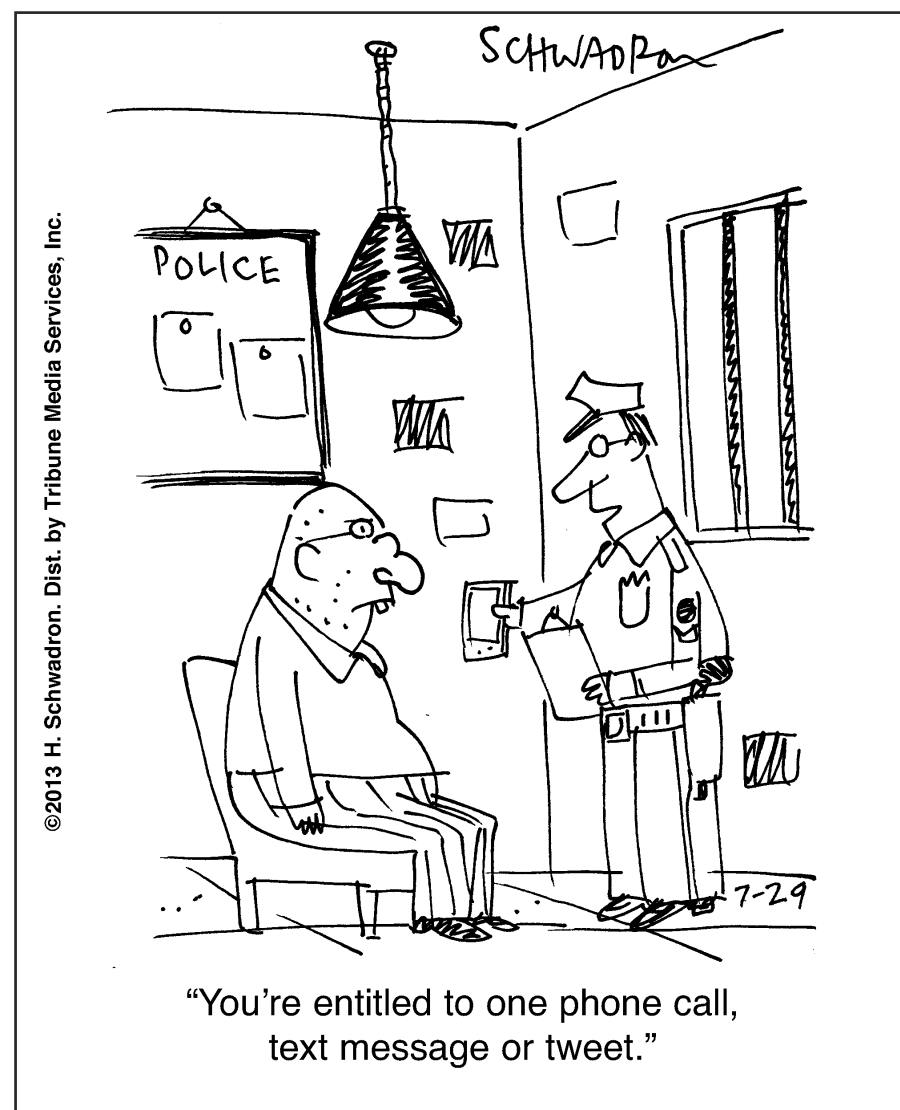
“Accessibility is the key to our station,” said Alan Bern-

stein, assistant academic chair and professor of radio and television production.

“The greatest aspect of this new station is that we are here to stay. We will be on the web, 24/7, 365 days a year, from this point forward. So settle back and enjoy us.”



9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



Weatherman to play Scrooge on GCC stage

The Genesee Community College History Club is excited to kick off the holiday season as Charles Dickens, played by WKBW-TV’s Meteorologist Mike Randall, presents “A Christmas Carol.” All are invited to the Batavia Campus on December 18 at 7 p.m. to enjoy this heart-warming storytelling experience.

A multifaceted actor, Randall studied both theatre and meteorology in school and since 1983, Randall has reported the weather on WKBW-TV in Buffalo. An award-winning reporter, his interview repertoire includes such talents as Willie Nelson, Jerry Lewis, John Candy, Steve Allen, Gregory Peck and Robert Goulet.

Back in 1868, Charles Dickens toured the country bringing his classic novel, “A Christmas Carol” to audiences everywhere. Nearly century



and a half ago, Dickens’ performances were completely sold out in Buffalo. For the last decade, with only a replica of Dickens’ famous velvet, fringed reading lectern and a copy of “A Christmas Carol,” Randall has been transforming himself into Dickens, recreating the original tour atmosphere in stages, halls, and classrooms. Randall performs in a period costume with a beard and wavy hair.

Proposal for military students

Sometimes, there aren't any choices in life. For all the State University of New York students with mandatory military drills and training their obligations to their country come before classroom attendance policies. But SUNY's University Faculty Senate is looking to help them.

A UFS resolution calls on the SUNY chancellor and Board of Trustees to adopt a policy that takes into account all absences from class during military exercises as excused absences. What that means is that time away from class will not count against students who are attending formal drills or training exercises. Sometimes such absences are counted as unexcused ab-

sences and can negatively affect a class grade.

If, however, too much time is missed to effectively and efficiently make up any missed course work then the resolution calls for the students to at least be allowed to withdraw from the class without penalty and that it would also not affect any financial aid.

"We feel it's important to show our students in the military that we support them in the classroom and in life," said UFS President Gwen Kay. "The SUNY Student Assembly and our own UFS Student Life Committee overwhelming support the idea. Helping our students in the military is the right thing to do."

Academic freedom allows


professors to set their course schedules, which means that setting guidelines on how many classes can be missed is standard on many syllabi. Military students will be held to the same policies on grading and course work, but letting them take excused absences during training and drills gives them the chance to get a degree while also serving their country. The students will still be held to the same rigor and expectations on course work and deadlines as all other students in their classes.

The University Faculty Senate is a deliberative body that serves as a resource on educational policies. It is comprised of representatives from each of the 64 campuses.

Nassau profs garner grant

Nassau Community College Profs. Georgette Grier-Key and Stephanie Sapiie have received a \$49,000 Long Island Community History Initiative Grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. The grant kicks off a three-year initiative engaging students, the public, local historical societies—including the Association of Suffolk County Historical Societies and historical societies in Queens and Brooklyn — and others in an effort to preserve their community history.

The grant will provide space and resources for participants to record oral history, scan family documents and help preserve personal collections and family genealogy for public access.



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Branding – how are you perceived?

Prof. Steven Levine
Campus News

You have created, what is in your mind, a breakthrough product, like no other. There have been products similar to yours, but your product takes this particular field to a whole new plateau, leaving your competition in the dust. You are excited about your breakthrough and feel that your customers will feel the same way, but will they?

This is where Branding and perception enters into the picture. A definition of Branding might be: When people hear or think about your product, these are the images that hopefully will come into their mind: dependable, expensive (what does that say about the individual who purchases it?), an emotional attachment (when I use this product, it makes me feel good, makes me happy?) good quality, great design, reliable ... features that people always wanted, but were never able to find in an available product up to now. One of the biggest issues of Branding a product or a business (think McDonald's) is name recognition in the particular target market (the people who will purchase your product) where you are going to penetrate and expand. Does the culture of the market that you are trying to penetrate fit with the concept and benefits of your Brand? The Branding process can be expensive, because you are trying to get your product into people's thinking, without any real conscious effort on their part. When people see the golden arches, at two or 90 years of age, they have a certain expectation of the quality of the product, the price and the service. This concept of Branding and name recognition, is why many individuals who want to start their own business chose the franchise concept, since one of the most important factors is the name recognition.

There is a trap associated with Branding and perception that many manufacturers and business owners often overlook. One of the critical factors in developing a successful business often is volume and the profitability associated with it.

As an example of this trap, let's take a product that most people are familiar with; the Rolex watch. People purchase a Rolex, not to tell time, since you can purchase a

watch for five dollars which will do the job, but rather for the perception. This company has spent huge amount of money and time promoting the concept that when you have a Rolex, you have achieved great success in whatever field you are engaged in. But supposing, in an effort to increase their sales volume, Rolex introduced a watch that retailed for \$300. As soon as that happens two immediate results occur; the first thought is that there must be something wrong with

'How you price the product affects how people see it.'

the watch, or something is missing. But the biggest impact is on perception. People that used to purchase a Rolex, because of what it represents, will look to other brands. The perception that "you are successful so that now you

can finally purchase a Rolex" is seriously damaged.

The conclusion from this brief introduction to Branding should be that before you price your products, promote their attributes, and think very carefully about what the effect these decisions will have on how people, and not you, view the product.

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 Pfizer and Mobil Oil, as well as very large electrical distribution firms.





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CUNY court interpreter program grows

Alex Wieckowski
Campus News

With a growing demand for qualified language interpreters, New York's state court system is teaming up with The City University of New York to launch an internship program to prepare multilingual college students for the state's court-interpreter screening exams, the first step to attaining full- and part-time jobs as court interpreters.

A piloted internship program ran last spring with 42 students and received positive feedback from the interns. Past interns have said that the program and mentors were amazing. Student Maria Maldonado said, "I never knew this could be a career, and I love it."

The program is particularly attractive to the students of schools such as LaGuardia Community College because the school has language interpretation and translation programs, and a diverse range of multilingual students.

Students at LaGuardia speak a wide range of languages including Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Polish, as well as rarer languages such as Urdu, Nepali, and Thai. Rare languages are in especially high-demand for New York State courts.

The program officially launched this semester as the Unified Court System Intern Program in Court Interpreting, and has a total of 37 students from LaGuardia Community College, Hunter College, and John Jay College for Criminal Justice.

One reason that may help explain why the partnership was formed with CUNY is that "thirty-nine percent of CUNY students speak a native language other than English," said Chancellor James B. Milliken.

The students of CUNY make up an unbelievably diverse student body with a total of 174 languages spoken by students.

Chancellor Milliken goes on to say that "these internships offer an exciting way for our students to capitalize on their language skills and to benefit the city and state."

The internship program offers 20- and 100-hour internships. The 20-hour internship is an introductory program while the 100-hour internship is a more comprehensive full-semester program. Students will have the opportunity to observe proceedings in Family, Civil, and Criminal Courts while learning about the role of a court interpreter.

The 20-hour internships have been especially popular with students from LaGuardia since it doesn't require students to

'LCC students speak Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Polish, Urdu, Thai and more.'

major in a specific language to participate. Undergraduates from all majors and school years can apply. The internship also only requires a high school diploma.

Both internships are expected to expand and attract more students next semester. The program will also expand to more campuses in the spring of 2018.

With two million New Yorkers who are not fluent in English and five million state residents that speak one or more of 150 languages other than English, there is high demand for court interpreters.

Dr. Habiba Boumlik, who is an associate professor in the De-



In Kings County Family Court: Omar Reyes Macias (John Jay), Miguel Miranda (LaGuardia) and Paloma Rios (Hunter) with staff Blanca Alonso and Kwok Ng.

partment of Education and Language Acquisition at LaGuardia, says that the New York Court system has visited LaGuardia twice this semester to recruit students.

Professor Boumlik believes this is an excellent opportunity for students to market their knowledge of a second language and make a possible career out of their language skills. She adds that this internship will allow students to improve their oral and writing skills while learning the many aspects of the legal system.

The CUNY-court system partnership presents multilingual college students a chance to gain hands-on experience in a court setting, while serving as a gateway to a fulfilling career as an interpreter.

In addition to sharpening their language skills, interns learn legal terminology, theory, protocol, and the boundaries of a court interpreter. Interns may even shadow current court interpreters in ongoing cases and assist with interpreting in settings such as Help Centers and information windows.

Due to New York's diverse culture with people coming from

places all around the world, courts in New York provided interpreters in 119 languages in the last 12 months.

According to the New York's court system 2017 "Ensuring Language Access: A Strategic Plan for the New York State Courts," court interpreters are needed all over the state. There is high demand for interpreters in suburban and rural areas, where interpreters are far less available than in cities.

Court interpreters play a vital role in New York's State courts. They ensure that everyone, regardless of the type of case or the economic status of a person, is given equal access to legal proceedings. Courts hire interpreters for a variety of services including trials, conferences, and interviews.

Interns from the program are encouraged to apply for the interpreting exam, the first step in becoming an interpreter for the New York State courts. Those who pass the exam could earn up to \$170 for half a day and \$300 a day for translating in the courts.

For students that want to learn more or are interested in the program, visit www.nycourts.gov or email Courtinterpreter@nycourts.gov.

Cassidy, a legend ... lovingly manufactured

Prof. Alan Williams
Special to Campus News

The passing of musician David Cassidy on Nov. 21 appears to have resonated for a far larger number of people than one might have expected, given that his last Top 40 chart appearance in the U.S. was more than 25 years ago. But for folks coming of age in the early 1970s, David Cassidy, and his alter-ego Keith Partridge on “The Partridge Family” – a sitcom about a fictitious family rock band, the Partridges – was the very model of a modern, major rock star. He looked good, he sounded good and he good naturedly suffered scripted jokes at his expense every week on national television.

Television, with its proven power to market pop music, was the *raison d'être* of “The Partridge Family,” and by extension Cassidy’s career. With the massive success of The Monkees – the pre-fab four whose records outsold The Beatles during their commercial peak years in the mid-1960s while starring in a TV show of the same name – the entertainment industry had found a way to reclaim their dominance over the popular music realm that had been completely upended by upstarts like The Beatles, Bob Dylan and the finely honed outlier machine that was Motown Records. Television made money from its sponsors. Musical acts on TV sold records to the millions of viewers who tuned in to variety shows like “The Ed Sullivan Show.” Songwriters earned decent money from record sales, but earned far more income from the negotiated royalties that came from network broadcasts. Record companies maximized their return on investment by hiring highly skilled professional musicians who could deliver gold-record performances at the rate of one

hit single per hour (compare the time taken to record the entire Monkees catalog to that of the Beatles who spent more than 100 hours just crafting the album “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band”). The Monkees pulled together all of these strands in a coordinated effort to keep middle-aged industry pros employed by tapping the piggy banks of young listeners not yet turned on and tuned out.

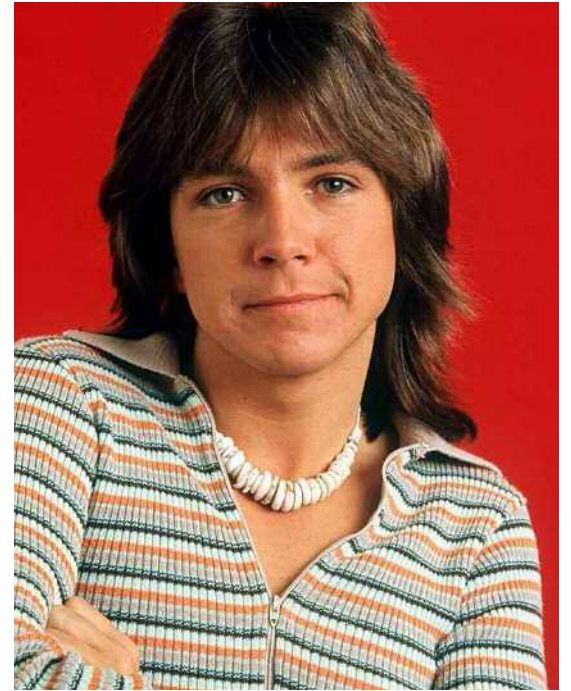
As a TV show, “The Partridge Family” was conceived to work in exactly the same manner as “The Monkees” – to sell records by these artists. Sometimes, both shows used the same songwriters and publishers and hired the famed L.A. session musicians referred to as “The Wrecking Crew” to record the pop hits featured on these broadcasts. It was crass commercialism without apology. But a funny thing happened on the way to the bank – David Cassidy, who sang lead on Partridge Family songs. The miracle of Cassidy was that for all of his good looks and comedic talent as an actor, he somehow managed to convey a sense of authenticity in his vocal performance, under the most contrived circumstances imaginable. And his ability to do so meant that millions of listeners not only tuned in weekly and bought the records according to plan, but developed a true bond with the performer.

I was one of those fans, and while the deaths of John Lennon, Marvin Gaye, David Bowie, Prince, and Tom Petty all impacted me predictably, I was somewhat taken aback at the sadness that overcame me with the news of Cassidy’s passing. Over the week since his death, in conversation with people in my age group, eventually the subject of Cassidy and the Partridge Family would come

up, and in hushed tones, folks would reluctantly reveal that they had been big fans, and truly mourned the loss of someone they had not listened to in decades.

The guilty pleasure. The cognitive dissonance one feels when trying to reconcile an attraction to things that should not be attractive. Things one didn’t admit in public, but might secretly harbor an abiding love for. As an 8-year-old, I loved the Partridge Family without hesitation, without shame. But as my far older (three years) cousin mocked me mercilessly for my lowbrow tastes, I began to understand that there was good music and bad music, hip and unhip, cool and uncool. And David Cassidy was decidedly uncool. All of my cousin’s friends knew it. And all the critics that wrote for the magazines he and his friends read knew it. And sadly, it turns out, David Cassidy knew it too. That’s why he agreed to an interview with the then ultra-hip magazine Rolling Stone, and posed nude for the accompanying article – to prove that he knew his records were garbage, that his career was the result of big money pulling big strings. And gradually, his audience accepted this as truth and stopped listening.

But while the costumes and arrangements now look and sound as dated as one might expect, re-watching a “Partridge Family” episode demonstrates the near-magical power of Cassidy to transcend the prefabricated TV sets and scenarios. The records themselves make that even easier to experience – and why not? The same musicians played on the now revered Beach Boys album “Pet Sounds”



and a host of classic pop Phil Spector productions. And acts like Miley Cyrus, Britney Spears, and Justin Timberlake, all children of the same type of TV-based “package” as Cassidy, are considered serious, worthwhile pop acts.

In the 1970s, having hits on the radio was a scarlet letter, proof of an inauthentic collaboration with the evil pop music industry. But in our current era, pop hits are legit. Taylor Swift, Adele, Beyoncé – pleasures without guilt. And had David Cassidy come on the scene as part of the Disney Channel empire of the 1990s, he might have actually become the serious artist he knew he could never pretend to be. And his fans would champion his music – their music – with the pride and joy of an innocent 8-year-old. Come on, get happy!

Alan Williams is the chairman of the Department of Music at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and records and performs with his band, Birdsong At Morning. He traded in his Partridge Family LPs back in middle school, but now owns the complete series on DVD.

Winter music, plays

Suffolk County Community Theater will present some seasonal shows.

"Snowkus Pocus" will be staged at the Van Nostrand Theatre on the **Michael J. Grant Campus**, Brentwood, on Sunday December 10, at 2 p.m. Think Cirque meets The Nutcracker! Partake in a fully adaptable journey to a fantastic winter wonderland of circus spectacle and icy derring-do. See the Nutcracker guard juggle snowflakes and balance icicles. Award winning magician and host, Eric Walton, creates an afternoon of pure delight. Tickets are \$18. Students 16 years of age or younger: \$10. Veterans and Suffolk County Community College students with current ID are entitled to one free ticket.

Suffolk's **Ammerman Cam-**

pus in Selden will also have offerings:

In conjunction with the Suffolk County Community College Department of Music, a Winter Concerts series will present special common hour concerts and master classes in the Southampton Building rehearsal Hall, H-20. Two concert nights featuring student performance ensembles are on December 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. Concerts are free and open to the public. Tickets not required.

Over in **Ammerman's Shea Theatre**, Islip Arts Building, a "Tournament of Plays" will be staged. These are a student directed and produced 10-minute-plays competition taking place December 15 and 16 at 7 p.m. and December 17 at 2 p.m. Admission is free. Tickets are not required. May contain mature

content. For theater information call, 631-451-4265 or visit sunysuffolk.edu/spotlight.

SUNY Ulster in Stone Ridge will host a series of concerts, including:

"Honors Recital" on Friday, December 1, 3:00 p.m., Quimby Theater. Faculty-selected solo and chamber performances by students in the applied lesson program, chosen based on outstanding performances at the convocation series.

"String Ensemble" on Monday, December 4, 7:30 p.m., Quimby Theater. The College String Ensemble performs its winter concert under the direction of Anastasia Solberg.

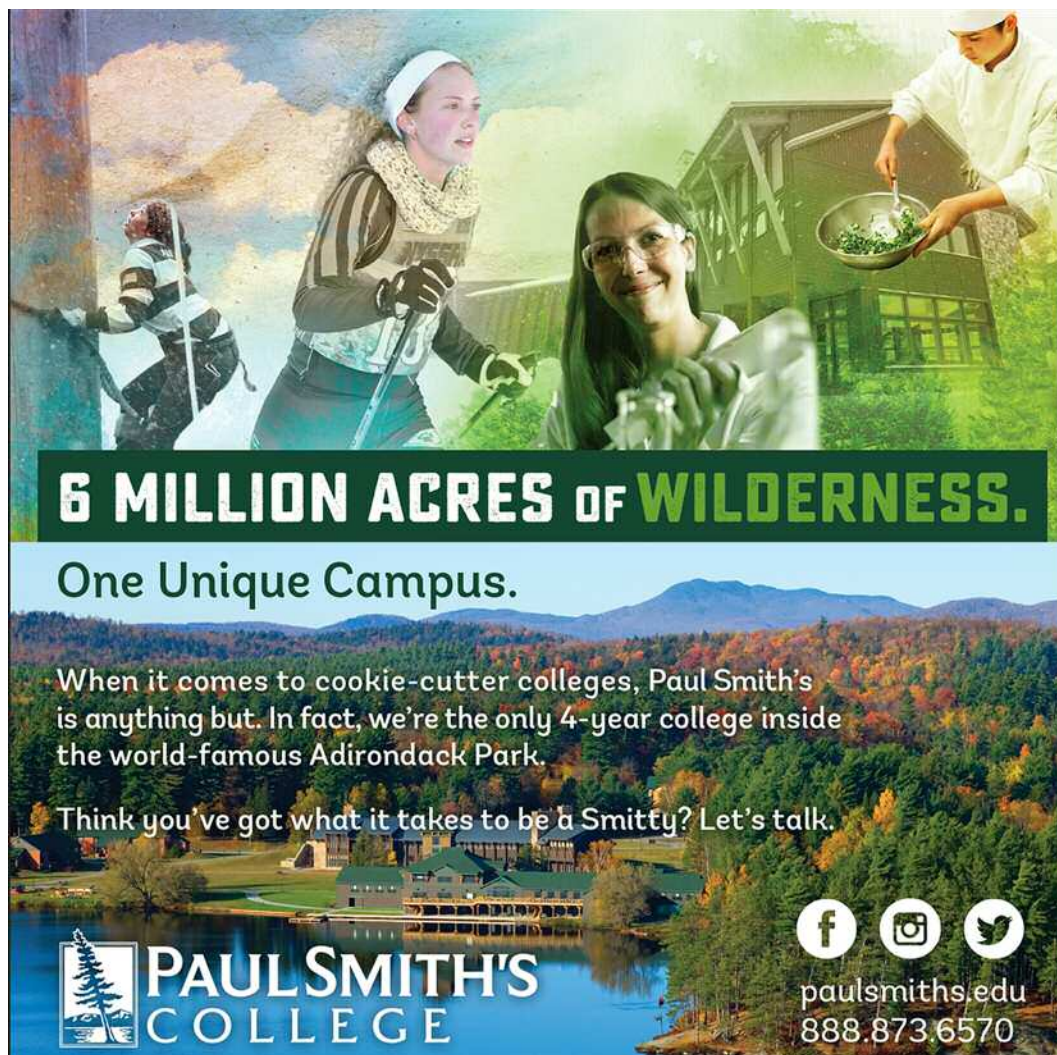
"Community Band/Jazz Ensemble" on Wednesday, December 6, 7:30 p.m., College Lounge. Members of the SUNY Ulster Community Band under the direction of Victor Izzo, Jr. join members of the SUNY Ul-

ster Jazz Ensemble under the co-direction of Robert Shaut and Dan Shaut in this invigorating annual concert.

"Choral Concert & Guitar Ensemble" on Thursday, December 7, 7:30 p.m., Quimby Theater. A tapestry of many moods, musical genres, and themes performed by the College Chorus and Vocal Ensemble under the direction of Janet Gehres and accompanied by Edward Leavitt, and SUNY Ulster's Guitar Ensemble under the direction of Greg Dinger.

"Tuba Christmas" on Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m., Clinton Hall. Tuba and euphonium players of all ages perform Christmas music from around the world. Participants perform the free concert beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The SUNY Ulster concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, contact 845-688-1949.



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It's time we talk about Courtney Love

Darren Johnson
Campus News

I've never accepted the all-around hatred for Courtney Love. Nirvana fans scorn her for allegedly corrupting Kurt Cobain. Conspiracy theorists even say she hired a hitman to murder him. Some people just don't like her bold persona. It's tall and loud and full of thigh bruises.

But one of my favorite movies is the underappreciated 1999 Andy Kaufman biopic **"Man on the Moon,"** where also underappreciated Jim Carrey plays the late comic and Love plays his girlfriend, Lynne Marguiles. Carrey, at the peak of his abilities, does an amazing job as

ter. But Nirvana albums continue to sell and get played on the radio while Hole has never cracked the Billboard Top 40. Love at this point makes most of her money from her husband's estate. Cobain's universal adoration and Love's scorn may be a double standard.

In the paranoid 2015 documentary **"Soaked in Bleach,"** star Tom Grant, the ham-and-egger private investigator Love hired to check on Cobain when he became incommunicado, says that the Nirvana estate is the motive for Love arranging for the alleged killing of Cobain. He believes he was hired as a stooge. She'd found him via the phone book. This documentary falls into the trap of "conspiracy

theory" reporting, as so many documentaries on Netflix do. Lots of unreliable witnesses and fake science – for example, suggesting that

Cobain had ingested too much heroin the night of his suicide to have had the physical strength to pull the trigger on his shotgun.

However, at the time of Cobain's death, it was not clear what this estate would become. There were comparable bands of that era. Maybe, without the suicide, they would have faded into predictability like Pearl Jam. And maybe Hole was a casualty of this death, as well.

The 1998 documentary **"Kurt and Courtney,"** now on Starz and Amazon Instant, is much better – though certainly Love is not happy with this one. At least filmmaker Nick Bloomfield doesn't buy into the conspiracy theories, though he addresses them. Love is portrayed as a very controlling, irate woman, but we learn to understand why,



**'Cobain's universal adoration
and Love's scorn may be
a double standard.'**

when we meet her moon-unit father, who tormented her with pitbulls as a kid and now makes money writing books about Cobain, including buying into the conspiracy theories. We get to meet their former drugged-adled friends. And we find some of the people Love had stepped on on the way up, including a former boyfriend, Rozz Rezabek, a Portland musician Love first dated and who she tried to brand into a Cobain until it broke him, apparently.

Then Love and Cobain met in Seattle as the grunge scene was just starting out; two opposite personalities, for sure. In the

doc, we meet the nanny, who took care of their child, Frances, and who had few kind words for Love. The nanny says Love was always asking him about his will. We meet Cobain's first and only other significant girlfriend, whose messy house is a shrine to him (Cobain's art hangs on her walls; it's excellent and probably worth a fortune). Most notably, we meet his aunt, who sheds light on Cobain's own lousy childhood, and plays some of his early recordings. She says he was always suicidal, so does not buy in to the conspiracies. His suicide note was written to his

continued on next page

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Kaufman, for sure, but Love also conveys a glowing, genuine excitement in that movie that portrays a deeper artist.

Then, let's admit that while Nirvana is great, their legacy does benefit by Cobain's sad entrance into the 27 Club, and they really only have two all-time great albums **"Nevermind"** and **"In Utero."** Love's band, Hole, also has two great albums, as well, **"Live Through This,"** which is hard-edged and energetically persistent, and **"Celebrity Skin,"** more polished and subdued but still with a commanding female voice and lyrics. In fact, Love was railing against the hypocrisy of sexually harassing men in entertainment from the very beginning. Over the years, I have given both Nirvana and Hole a lot of listening time, and usually prefer the lat-



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**CAMPUS
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Love (cont.)

childhood imaginary friend, Boddah.

So, can one come away from this film still liking Love? Sure. We're all products of our environments to a degree, no? If one sees her moreso as a wife who also had her own problems, and not as a calculating killer – which I also don't believe – one can give her a pass on what happened.

Then, almost by accident, I caught the 1986 film **"Sid and Nancy"** on Epix (it's also on Spectrum on Demand). It's about the Sex Pistols' Sid Vicious and his girlfriend, who had a heroin-fueled relationship that ended with him stabbing her to death, and then his suicide.

Now, the Sex Pistols, who

only had one real album, are one of the most overrated bands of all time. They had a cool name and band members took on personas like Vicious and Johnny Rotten, which has helped their legacy. Vicious (played ably in "Sid and Nancy" by Gary Oldman) was a very minor member of this short-lived band, playing bass for a stint. Whether this topic deserved a whole movie is debatable, but the character of Nancy Spungen (Chloe Webb) was interesting – though played a bit over the top and not as alluringly as archival photos of Spungen suggest. While watching the film, I imagined that Courtney Love would have been perfect for the Nancy role – and then Love appeared as a minor character in the movie.

Odd, considering how her re-

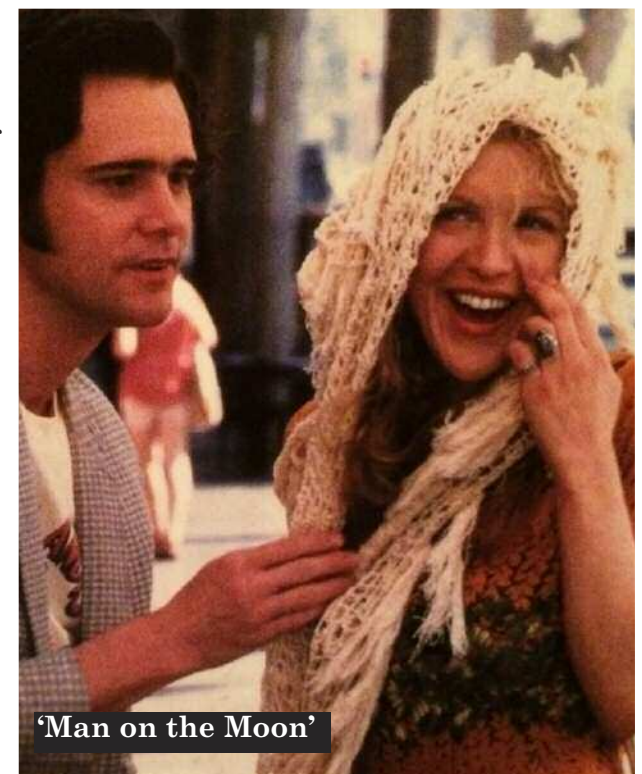
lationship with Cobain mirrored "Sid and Nancy's," to a degree, and this movie came out well before Nirvana and before she even knew Cobain.

Watching and listening to all of these works shows us Love has a sense of destiny, however tragic.

Earlier this year on Lifetime, Love made a comeback of sorts – and was quickly offed, playing Mary Menendez, the sick mom in **"Menendez: Blood Brothers."**

She also makes an appearance in the interesting new documentary on Netflix about Car-

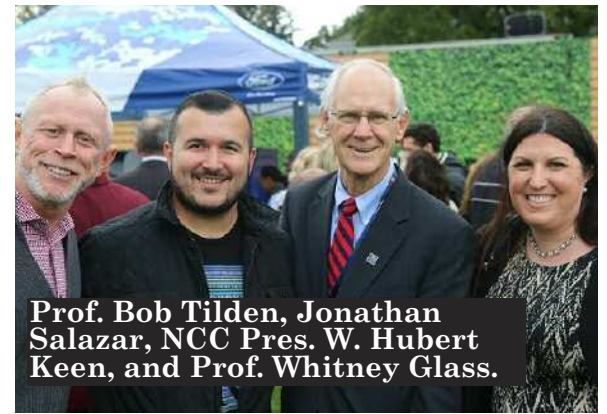
rey and his role in "Man on the Moon," titled **"Jim & Andy: The Great Beyond."**



'Man on the Moon'

Top marketer

The Marketing Club at Nassau Community College selected its brand new club President, Jonathan Salazar, as the Marketing Club Member for the month for November. Jonathan is a determined marketing honor student who has already managed to accrue nearly 5 years of work experience working as a Sales Consultant at Great Neck Nissan and is currently employed at Powerhouse Solutions, Inc. where he helps manage all marketing campaigns for the company including press releases, newsletters, social media platforms, and business development projects. His ambitious goal as the new President is to lay a new foundation for the club in order to grow and enhance the clubs mission to the NCC campus and community. When asked what he hopes to do for the club during his last year at NCC Jonathan replied "In this global market of digital experience, marketing has grown



Prof. Bob Tilden, Jonathan Salazar, NCC Pres. W. Hubert Keen, and Prof. Whitney Glass.

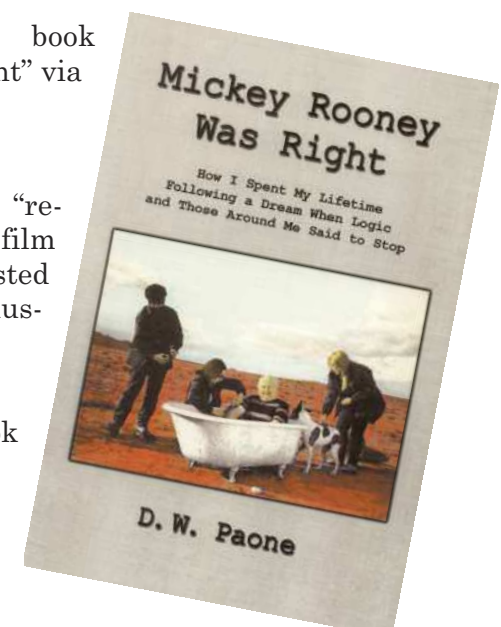
into a stronger and endless industry. Helping students recognize the importance of creativeness, networking, and social responsibility will benefit them and allow students to reach their self-actualization goals in their careers." Jonathan has been instrumental in increasing membership and bringing attention to the Marketing Club and he is actively pursuing volunteering efforts for the club. Anyone who is interested in knowing more about the Marketing Club, volunteer for events, or are interested in joining can email the club at studentmarketing.ncc@gmail.com for more information.

Campus News writer pens film book

Find DW Paone's book "Mickey Rooney Was Right" via **AuthorHouse.com**

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By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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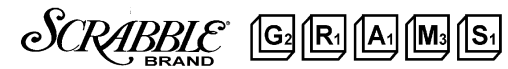
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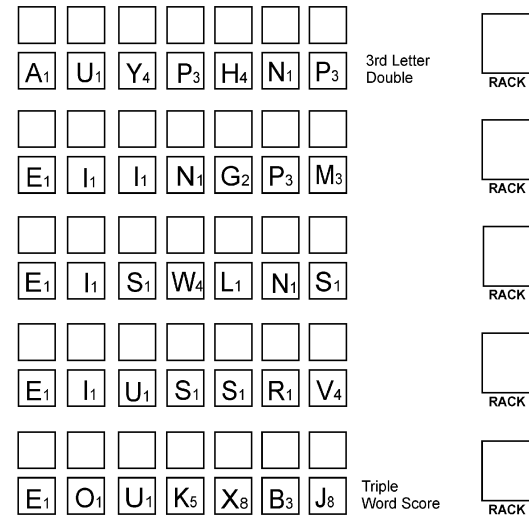
We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?

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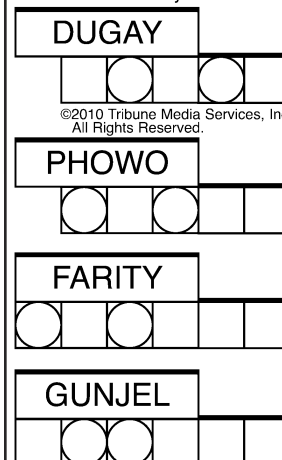
DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 4th Edition. **SOLUTION page 30**

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07-13

JUMBLE

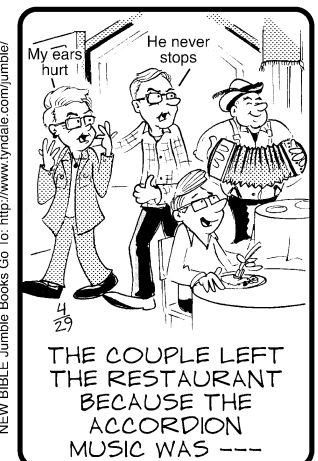
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: "DUGAY" "PHOWO" "FARITY" "GUNJEL"

Answers:
 Jumbles: GAUDY WHOOP RATTIFY JUNGLE
 Answer: The couple left the restaurant because the accordion music was "DRAWN" OUT

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
 by Mike Argiron and Jeff Knurek



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



By: L. A. Bonté



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Nassau CC gets clean bill of health

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (“the Commission”) has granted Nassau Community College, (“NCC”) full compliance with regional standards of institutional accreditation. Upon determining soundness and compliance with its standards, the Commission reaffirmed NCC’s accreditation.

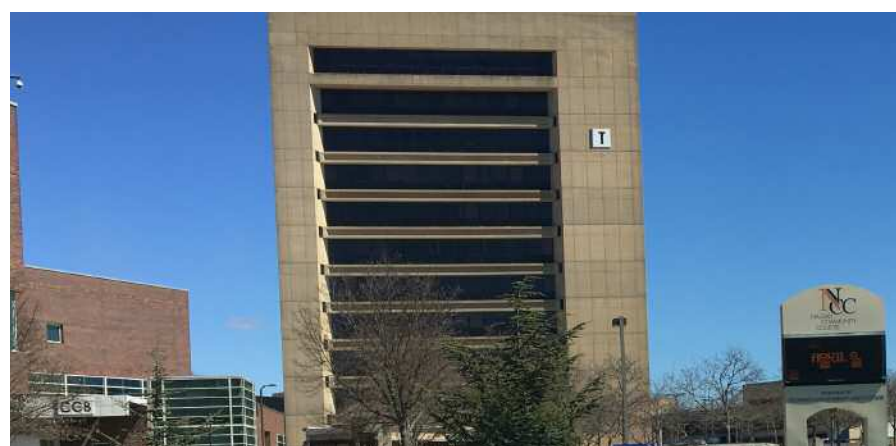
After a visit and assessment by the Commission in April 2016, NCC was in compliance with 7 of the 14 standards. The College’s incoming President Dr. W. Hubert Keen—formerly the President of Farmingdale State College—working with the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and administrators, mounted a collegial and committed effort to attain full compliance. An extensive report was submitted in September 2017 to the Commission for its

review. After a team of peer reviewers visited the campus in October 2017, the team recommended to the Commission that the College was in compliance with all standards of institutional accreditation.

An official vote by the Middle States Commission’s Board at its meeting on November 16, 2017, found NCC to be in full compliance with the standards of accreditation.

‘NCC is in full compliance with the standards of accreditation.’

Dr. Keen stated, “I am pleased that in the relatively short period provided by the Commission to gain uncondi-



tional accreditation, the faculty, administration, staff and the Board of Trustees have pulled together in a monumental effort to present the true greatness of NCC to our accrediting agency. I am deeply gratified that the campus family has demonstrated to the Commission that NCC provides excellent educational opportunities at a cost that leaves most students debt-free and in possession of a highly

respected associate’s degree.” Dr. Jorge L. Gardyn, M.D., Chairman of the Board of Trustees noted, “Words cannot describe the gratitude that I have for Dr. Keen and the entire campus family for the tremendous effort, cooperation and team spirit that have been harnessed over the past year to move NCC to its rightful place amongst the very best community colleges anywhere.”

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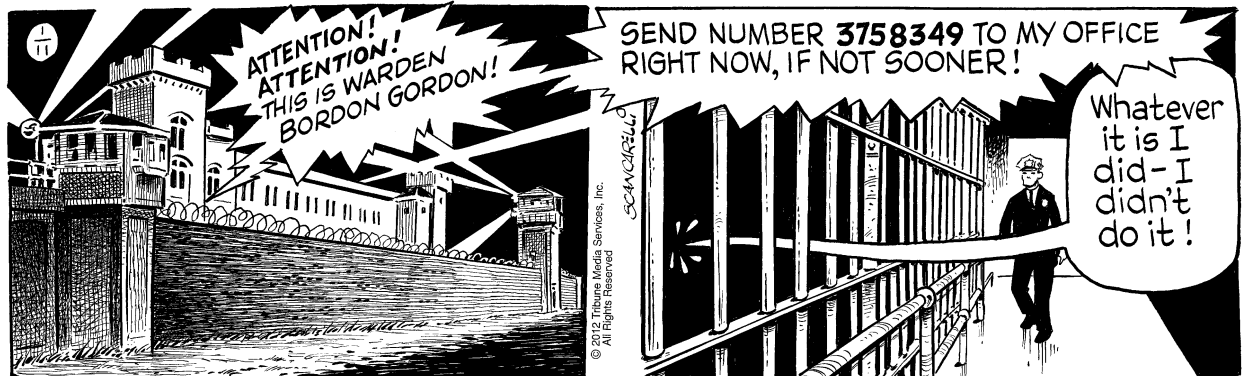
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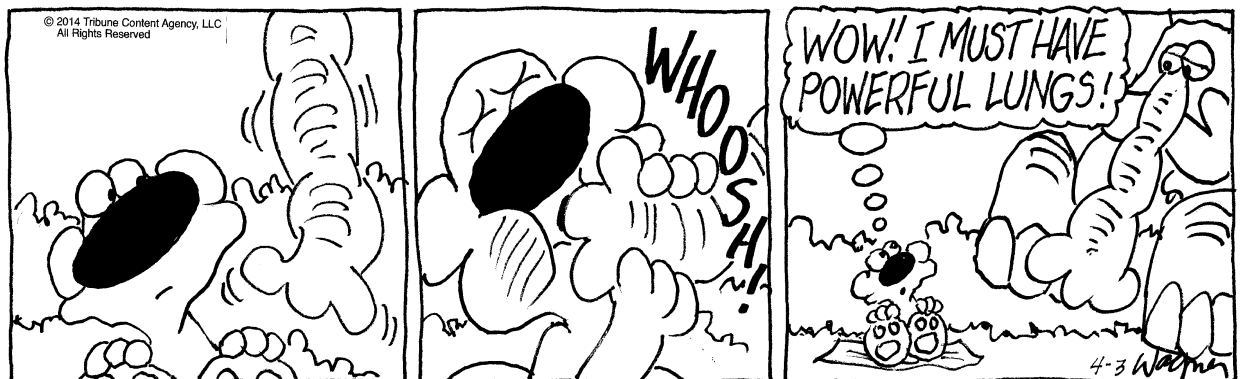
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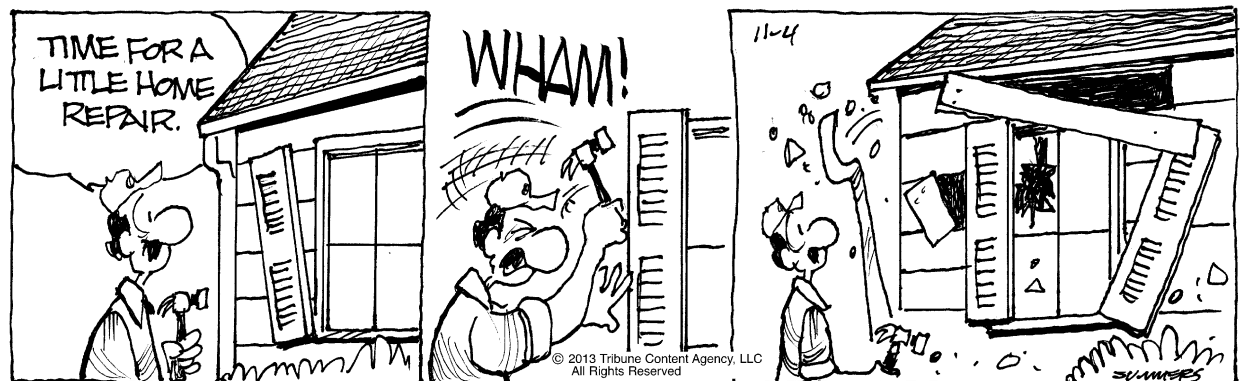
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Hudson names president

The State University of New York Board of Trustees recently announced the appointment of Dr. Roger A. Ramsammy as the seventh president of Hudson Valley Community College.

Ramsammy comes to Hudson Valley with more than 30 years of higher education experience, including academic and administrative leadership positions at three of the largest multi-campus colleges in the US. He is the former president of the West Campus of Miami Dade College and previously served as provost and chief academic officer at Northern Virginia Community College. Prior to that, at Palm Beach State College, he was professor

of Microbiology and Anatomy and Physiology, chair of Biology, associate dean of STEM and dean of Academic Affairs.

Ramsammy has earned numerous awards for leadership, effective and inventive teaching, online instruction and academic program development, including the Virginia Governor's Award for the most innovative STEM program; the Florida Association of Community Colleges and Palm Beach State College "Professor of the Year" awards; and the Adjunct Professor of the Year award at Broward College.

Ramsammy is an American Association of Community Colleges past Commissioner for Diversity, Inclusion and Eq-

uity and recently served as the organization's Commissioner for Academic, Student and Community Development. He also was awarded the Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Foundation Outstanding Educator Award for his dedication to educational services for underserved populations.

Ramsammy is a first-generation college student. Prior to a post-doctoral fellowship at Georgetown University's Lombardi Cancer Center, he earned a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and a master's in Genetics from Howard University. He holds a bachelor's in Biology from the University of the District of Columbia.

"It is a great honor to be se-



lected as president of Hudson Valley Community College, an institution with a national reputation for academic excellence and exemplary service to its students and the greater community. I am excited to begin working with the college's faculty and staff, community and government stakeholders and SUNY leaders to advance this already exceptional institution," said Ramsammy.

Suffolk culinary students give back

This past Thanksgiving, Suffolk County Community College's Culinary Arts program students prepared about 200 dinners for Community Action Southold Town's (CAST) Greenport food pantry in what has become an annual and happy undertaking for the college's culinary program and its students. This marks the ninth year Suffolk County Community College students and faculty have happily volunteered their culinary expertise to support the holiday cooking.

"We celebrate Thanksgiving by cooking and sharing our favorite foods, being with the ones we love and giving thanks for all that we have. Our college and students, faculty and staff enjoy giving back to our com-



munity," said Suffolk County Community College President Dr. Shaun L. McKay.

About 40 students and faculty chefs from the college's culinary program prepared the meal whose ingredients are provided by CAST -- more than 20 turkeys; 100 pounds of mashed potatoes; 50 pounds of sweet potatoes; 80 pounds of stuffing; 25 pounds of assorted vegetables and 20 each of apple and pumpkin pies. And, of course, gravy -- more than 5 gallons of it!

STEM Expo at MassBay

MassBay Community College will hold a Fall STEM Expo on Wednesday, December 13, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. at its Wellesley Hills location. Students in the Engineering, Math, Computer Science and Biotechnology fields will be presenting.

The STEM Expo is an opportunity for MassBay students to showcase their creativity and innovation through the projects they have completed during this semester. Guests learn about the students' research as well as the processes that went into the creation of their work. At a time when businesses are clamoring for employees who have skills in the high-demand STEM fields, MassBay is providing a much needed source of "middle-skills" workers.

Tips to improve your grammar

Laura LaVacca
Campus News

Grammar. A word that makes students cringe. The English language is so complex that once a rule is learned, there's quickly a rule that undoes it. The approach to grammar and writing should be more about giving students tools rather rules that are often confusing or, worse yet, boring.

Roy Peter Clark's "Writing Tools" strives to do just that. A key text for any freshman to reference, Clark breaks down grammar into digestible "tools" — 50 to be exact.

On the most basic level, students should be aware of punctuation and how it affects the pace and rhythm of one's own writing. The various punctuation marks are confusing but Clark likens them to the flow of traffic. A period is a stop sign; a semi-colon is a speed bump; a dash is a branch in the road.

Grammar do's include varying the use of punctuation to show control but also to ensure the reader reads your writing the way you intended them to. A period is more of a dramatic pause than a comma would be, for example. Punctuation don'ts include excessive exclamation points, especially in serious pieces like academic research papers. Also, using more than one exclamation point or question mark, perhaps as students are used to doing in text messaging for emphasis, has no

place in academic writing. One punctuation mark is sufficient.

Text writing is just that — artless, abbreviated and reserved for these casual technological exchanges. Understanding audience and the type of piece should be acknowledged first. In correct writing, lowercase i's do not exist nor do lowercase letters beginning sentences. Avoid "LOL" or smiley faces. These are faux pas that professors certainly don't want to see.

Another helpful tip from Clark includes being mindful of verb choice. Often, students write passively with their verbs coming first and subjects second. Clark urges, "Use verbs in their strongest form, the simple present or past. Strong verbs create action, save words, and reveal the players."

Start with the subject of your sentence and let him do the action. Be forceful and assertive. These are your sentences; this is your story. Get rid of weak adverbs or modifiers like "sort of" or "kind of." These do not enhance the verb nor enrich your sentences. Good writing is concise and to the point.

Enhance writing by "seeking original images," says Tool #8 in "Writing Tools." Simply put, avoid clichés. The very definition has the word "over-used" in it. These cheapen writing and are unoriginal. Strive for original plays on words. "Never use a metaphor, simile, or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print," writes George Orwell.

With a similar approachable tone, the Grammar Girl of QuickandDirtyTips.com, offers up some equally helpful grammar



advice. Mignon Fogerty, author of "101 Troublesome Words You'll Master in No Time," breaks down her website into approachable grammar rules and topics. These range from ending a word with a preposition to using quotation marks correctly. This is a website every college freshman should have bookmarked.

Other common grammar area to be mindful of are indefinite pronouns. Understand that some are plural and some are singular. Don't shift them halfway through an essay. Using "one" is a neutral pronoun that is often used in college writing. It doesn't cause confusion and is certainly more sophisticated than "you." Reserve the second person for letters, emails, texts — when you really are talking to that specific reader.

Understand that it's and its are two different words with very different agendas. The former being a contraction for "it is" and the latter showing possession. There's no such word as its'. Other homophone errors include to/too, their/they're/there

and new/knew.

The apostrophe, therefore, is used in two different ways — one being contractions and the other being possession. Leaving an apostrophe off a word indicates pluralization and changes the meaning of the sentence entirely, often resulting in nonsense. Take the sentence: "The teacher's students were passionate about grammar." The students belong to the teacher, as indicated by the apostrophe. Remove the apostrophe and suddenly there's more than one teacher in the sentence and the meaning is unclear.

‘Get rid of weak adverbs and modifiers like “sort of” and “kind of.”’

Small errors lead to big problems — unclear meaning, incorrect sentences and loss of points.

The list of grammar do's and don'ts is extensive. Get down to the basics. Understand why it matters. Hit up your college's Writing Center and any free workshops if you're struggling. Good grammar helps far beyond the college years when you're in a career setting, sending mass emails to colleagues or when applying for a job and fixing up your resume. Knowing how to write and write well matters, inside and outside the classroom.

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A photograph of two young Black women with long, dark hair, smiling warmly at each other. The woman on the left is looking down at a pink folder or book she is holding. The woman on the right is looking towards the camera with a bright smile. They are both wearing gold hoop earrings. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with a clock on the wall.

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